

[Dr. Ramvilas Vedanti]

cularly elderly persons and children experience a lot of difficulty in crossing the railway tracks there and it takes considerable time to cross over. Besides, many accidents occur due to sudden arrival of trains while crossing the tracts.

Therefore, through you, Sir, I would request the Government to sanction construction of an over-bridge at this railway station in order to safeguard the general people crossing the railway line from falling a prey to accidents.

(iii) Need to Enhance Quota of Cereals for State of Orissa under Public Distribution System

[English]

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur) : The sudden reduction of PDS quota to Orissa from 1.5 lakh metric tonnes to 35,000 metric tonnes per month out of the Central pool under the new TPDS by Government of India has put the people of the State in a great hardship. The public distribution system has virtually collapsed and the TPDS has adversely affected the market condition. The supply of wheat is completely stopped at a time when people have been habituated to consume 'roti' at night.

As many as 43 lakh families in Orissa are living below the poverty line. All these people were drawing ration through fair price shops. Now Government of India has put this figure at 32 lakh by a sample survey. Thus 11 lakh poor families straightway remain out of the ambit of TPDS. This has caused a serious discontentment among the people.

I, therefore request the Central Government that the defective sample figure of the people living below the poverty line be rectified as 43 lakh and the quota of cereals for the State of Orissa under PDS may be enhanced keeping in view the actual demand of the State.

(iv) Need for early setting up of Monitoring Committees Represented by MPs and MLAs for Central Rural Development Schemes in U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (Dumariaganj) : Mr.

Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Government have covered each and every block in the rural areas under their Employment Assurance Scheme and every block gets a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs for expenditure on developmental works in the same block. Time and again, the point has been raised by the MPs that their voice is not heard at all in implementation of the Centrally Sponsored schemes for poverty eradication and rural development. They are not associated at all in such developmental works. The same view has been expressed by the Standing Committee on Rural Development which has recommended the Government to associate the elected representatives of people in such developmental programmes. It was only in view of these recommendations that the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment issued certain guidelines in this respect to all the State Governments and a copy thereof was also circulated to the Members of Parliament.

It was mentioned in these guideline that the MPs and MLAs be associated with several schemes like Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Indira Awas Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme and their suggestions and proposals in such developmental schemes be given due importance and

It was recommended in the guidelines that district and block level Monitoring cells be set-up for Employment Assurance Schemes and MPs, MLAs and other officials be associated with these cells. It was also said in these guidelines that suggestions made by the MPs and MLAs be given priority. But so far nothing has been done in this regard in Uttar Pradesh by way of setting up such committees either at the district or block levels. Directives have been issued vide an official letter for construction of approach roads to the Ambedkar village by releasing the amount earmarked therefore. It has also been said that top priority be accorded to the suggestions made by the Advisory Committees in this respect.

It is, therefore, requested that directives to set-up immediately the district and block level Monitoring Committees consisting of MPs and MLAs for above developmental schemes be issued without any further delay and the suggestions made by the MPs and MLAs in this regard be accorded top priority and in case any State fails to comply with these directives, the development funds should not be released to any such State Government.