

affected areas of Zaskar in Kargil district and Lingshed area of Leh district at the earliest.

[*Translation*]

(v) Demand for immediate payment of 'Interim relief to the staff and workers of IDPL

SHRI MADAN PANDEY (Gorakhpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to raise the following matter under Rule 377.

The amount of interim relief given to the officers and staff of the Government of India Undertaking has provided some relief to the workers in this era of rising prices. But there are still some Government undertakings where this interim relief has not been paid. It has caused discontentment among the employees. If no immediate attention is paid towards it, there is every likelihood of spreading of industrial unrest. The I.D.P.L. is one among such undertakings where the management has refused to make payment of interim relief to the employees despite their repeated requests. The employees of the I.D.P.L. unit at Rishikesh have started a peaceful agitation to invite the attention of the management towards their demand for payment of interim relief. Without stopping production, the workers have though adopted legal methods to knock at the doors of the Manager of I.D.P.L. and other such officers from whom they were expecting justice, yet they have not been successful so far.

But it is clear that the 4000 workers of the I.D.P.L. unit at Rishikesh will not keep quiet with an empty stomach. More or less this is the position of the other units of the I.D.P.L. In this situation it is necessary for industrial peace that the hon. Minister of Industry may give immediate orders to the management of the I.D.P.L. to make payment of interim relief to its employees and ensure that this amount is paid immediately.

[*English*]

(vi) Need for more stringent measures to check smuggling in the country

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY (Visakhapatnam): Smuggling has assumed the proportion of the biggest industry.

According to an estimate the smuggled polyester fibre and fabrics come to a few thousands crore rupees per year. Together with smuggling activities in gold and electronics the total will be slightly over 1/3 of the exports. With the continuous smuggling of Narcotics etc., this evil has assumed alarming proportions. Therefore, suitable strategy may have to be formulated to effectively counteract this malady, if necessary, by strengthening and arming the administrative machinery with necessary powers by stringent legislation by securing the consensus of all sections and parties in the House.

(vii) Need to provide more funds to Uttar Pradesh to meet the situation created by drought

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah): The State of Uttar Pradesh is one of the States currently in the grip of unprecedented drought conditions in various parts of the country. 50 of the 56 districts of the State have been severely affected. The estimated loss suffered by the State due to failure of rains in 1987-88 is Rs. 3,000 crores. On the agriculture front not more than 40% of the target of 116 lakh tonnes of Kharif foodgrains is likely to be harvested. The fall in sugarcane production is estimated to be 20% of the target.

The cost of drought relief programme is estimated to be Rs. 1300 crores whereas a meagre amount of Rs. 140 crore has been given by the Union Government to meet the situation. The State is facing serious paucity of funds to implement its drought relief schemes and is on the cusp of economic crisis.

I would, therefore, strongly urge the Government to reconsider the matter and to meet the State Government's demand of Rs. 1300 crores so that the affected population is covered under the relief programme.

(viii) Need for steps to remove the apprehensions of the people regarding biological warfare and joining Paris Convention in view of Indo-US Vaccine Pact.

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna): The recently concluded Vaccine Action Programme Pact between the Governments of

[*Sh. Aziz Qureshi*]

India and U.S.A. has become the cause of many misunderstandings among the intellectuals, scientists and other citizens of the country. Some time back 20 senior scientists in a signed statement expressed their doubts over several of its aspects and legal complications.

Even a British Biologist Maurice Wilkins has openly stated that the United States is financing 40 genetic engineering programmes ostensibly to develop vaccines, but ultimately aimed at promoting their capability in the field of biological warfare. There are most serious apprehensions concerning the testing of what are called high-tech or genetically engineered vaccines on human subjects in India, the possibility of epidemiological (study of the cause of epidemic diseases) data being misused for biological warfare and the protection of intellectual property, copyright and patent rights of the two countries.

It appears that under the cover of Article VI of this Treaty an attempt is being made by Multi-nationals to bulldoze India into signing the Paris Convention, in spite of the categorical statement earlier made by the Government that it would in no way tamper with the Indian Patent Act 1970 and has no intention to join the Paris Convention.

The Government of India may kindly initiate action to remove the fear and apprehensions of this large and important section of people regarding article VI of this pact.

(ix) Need for live telecast of Car Festival in Puri

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : The temple of Lord Jagannath at Puri attracts pilgrims from all over the world. Temple is of monumental magnitude. The cult of Jagannath is pervading everywhere. The temple of Lord Jagannath is prevailing everywhere. The temple of Lord Jagannath is of international fame. In this temple no caste barrier is maintained. All castes from Brahmin to Harijan are allowed entry in his temple. Lord Jagannath is worshipped

by one and all. There is a conglomeration of religions in this temple. Lord Jagannath symbolises the synthesis of all religions. Every one must have heard about SALBEG, a muslim devotee of Lord Jagannath. The car festival of Lord Jagannath is not only celebrated in India, but also in America and other countries of the world.

Many foreigners visit Puri to witness the car festival. The temple is magnificent edifice of great significance architectural splendour. Jagannath Dharma preaches universal peace, progress and brotherhood. It is high time that direct telecast should be made of the car festival which has international significance.

(x) Agitation by Purbanchaliya Rail Karmi Sanstha for revocation of Punitive action against certain railway employees

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI (Kalia-bor) : The Purbanchaliya Rail Karmi Sanstha has again staged a Charma in the Boat Club, New Delhi on 17, 18 and Hunger Strike on 19th November, 1987 in connection with their 25 point of charter demands. Earlier, the Santha had staged Dharna and hunger strike at the Boat Club, New Delhi on 13.8.86 and 10.7.87 respectively and submitted memorandum to the Hon. Minister of State for Railways on 13.8.86 and 13.8.87 urging for revocation of punitive action on 10-11 of their employees. But the same has not been considered as yet. The Santha was a partner in the agitation on Foreign Nationals issue in Assam led by the All Assamese Students Union and Assam Gana Sangram Parishad in a democratic manner for last seven years. Ultimately the Government of India came out with an agreement with the Movement leaders considering their demands. But unfortunately the Assam Accord has remained a scrap of paper. In view of the Assam Accord, the State Government has considered the grievances of the State Government employees and all punitive actions have been withdrawn against the employees. But surprisingly the Central Government employees like the Rail employees, oil employees and others have been kept in the darkness as yet and no actions in their favour have been taken.