

(v) Demand for implementation of provisions of Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 by the Food Corporation of India, Madhya Pradesh region

SHRI K.N. PRADHAN (Bhopal): The contract labour in Food Corporation of India, Madhya Pradesh is on strike for the last so many days. After great struggle the contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 was enacted so that the contract labour could get justice and be saved from exploitation

But, unfortunately, the F.C.I. Madhya Pradesh Region is neither abolishing the contract labour system in the depots where it can be abolished, nor it is providing the benefits available under the Act, thus it is violating provisions of the Act.

According to the said Act and Rules made thereunder the Workers employed by F.C.I through their appointed contractors in the food storage depots having been performing same or similar kind of work as the workers directly employed by the establishment are entitled for the same wage, rates, holidays, hours of work and other conditions of service as applicable to workers employed directly by the F.C.I. But they have been denied the said benefits since the day they were employed. The contractors are working without being registered in violation of the Act.

I request the Government to look into the matter so that to ensure that there is no violation of the Act.

[Translation]

(vi) Demand for preventing eviction of Harijan families settled on either side of the railway line between Raxaul and Birganj

SHRI RAMBAHADUR SINGH (Chapra) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, under rule 377, I want to raise this important matter in the House.

In 1929, the then Government of India had given about 30 acres of land to Government of Nepal with a view to introducing rail service from Raxaul in India to Amlekhganj in Nepal. But the rail service from Birganj to Amlekhganj was discontinued in 1965 and the rail service between Raxaul and Birganj has almost been discontinued because a diesel engine train comprising two boggies is being run from Raxaul to Birganj once or twice in a month.

The only aim behind running this type of rail service in that area is that the Government of Nepal wants to keep this land in its possession.

The most painful aspect of the matter is that the concerned officers have now issued eviction orders to those Harijan families who are Indian citizens and Indian voters and who were settled along with the railway line many years ago under a Government order.

Therefore, I forcefully demand that the Government should take immediate steps to prevent eviction of Harijan families from that land.

[English]

(vii) Need to bring the nationalised banks under the purview of the Committee on Public Undertakings

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): The National Banks together have a huge turnover amounting to Rs. 40,000 crores. Banks are vehicles of economic development and the Banking system is one of the most important indicators of a country's level of development. India has an organised Banking system and its Nationalised Sector has yielded tremendous advantages to the economy. Our Banks created enormous supply of credit and helped to sharpen the people's propensity to save and invest, offered tremendous employment potential to the society and contributed in a big way to

[Prof. Saifuddin Soz]

increase the country's national income. This is the bright side of the picture. There is a dark side too which has escaped notice of the Government and the people at large.

The Nationalised Banks do not seem to be accountable to anybody. If there is corruption in this sector, it goes unchecked as the Government does not exercise direct control over it. There have been complaints against banks way of advancing loans, but the system has not been remedied. The Chairmen of the Banks are not accessible to common people.

I would therefore strongly plead for bringing the nationalised banking sector within the purview of the Parliamentary Committee on Public Undertakings, in addition to other controls that the Government may consider necessary.

[*Translation*]

(viii) Demand for a train between Gwalior and Mathura Junction

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV (Morena): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, a shuttle train, should be introduced between Gwalior and Mathura. Mathura, Brindaban, Dauji Govardhan, etc. are the places of pilgrimage. Gwalior is the old capital of Madhya Pradesh. Passengers going from Gwalior to Mathura experience so many difficulties because express trains are running on this section and they do not stop at these places. The poor people remain deprived of the facility to visit these places. Therefore, I request the hon. Railway Minister to introduce shuttle trains between Gwalior and Mathura twice a day to enable the poor people to visit these places of pilgrimage.

14.46 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE: DROUGHT SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY—Contd.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we will go to next item, i.e. further discussion on the statement made by the Minister of Agriculture in the House on the 30th July, 1987 regarding drought situation in the country.

I request all the Members to cooperate with me because already we have exhausted the time of 2 hours which is allotted. But still I am having a list of 50 Members who are yet to speak.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please listen to me. Then you can speak. Listen to me.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar): What is the next important item before Parliament?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There are so many items

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV: This is the most important item.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If you feel, you can discuss this item only throughout the session!

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is why, I am telling, listen to me. All Members are feeling that they want to participate in the discussion.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Yadav, please take your seat. I can understand your feeling. All the Members are interested to participate in the discussion.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV: The House is to decide about it.