

You have also enacted the Jute Packaging Material Act for mandatory usage of jute packaging material for certain sectors. Important public sector undertakings such as the Cement Corporation of India, Fertilizers Corporation of India, etc. are under the control of the Ministry of Industry. Even though this legislation has been enacted, the Cement Corporation and the Fertilizers Corporation are floating tenders to get the high density polythene bags. How can there be such double standards? On the one hand, you say that you want to control the import of synthetic bags into the country. And on the other, public sector undertakings under your control float tenders to get these synthetic bags. Due to lack of coordination between the Ministry of Textiles and the Ministry of Industry, this problem is continuing.

Now I come to exports. Recently Russia has given an order for about 22,000 tonnes of jute bags. Instead of channelising it through the State Trading Corporation, the order has been given to a private person. Where did this private exporter place his orders to procure the jute packing material? Did he place his orders with any of the sick mills? Did he try to solve the problems of the Ministry of Textiles even to some extent?

Now, coming to the international market, Bangla Desh is able to export jute at the rate of Rs. 225 per 100 metres. Unfortunately, we are not able to compete in the inter-national market because our price is Rs. 253. We are failing in the international market, particularly in the USA, because of this high price. You are giving certain cash compensatory support to increase exports of jute. I want to know how much cash compensation is given to the exporters of jute.

There is also a temporary problem of payment of gratuity, salary etc. to the workers in the jute industry. I request that the Minister should sit with the Minister of Labour, Government of West Bengal to solve this problem. Both the Ministers

should sit together and find out a solution. Rather than giving a false picture and saying that you are trying to solve the problem of jute industrial workers, you may please give specific answers to the queries raised.

13.04 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.*

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*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after lunch at three minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE  
—Contd.

[*English*]

**Closure and lock-out in large number of Jute mills in West Bengal**—Contd.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Members who, had taken part in this discussion because it has brought out some of the basic and important issues concerning jute which is a very important industry in our country.

The jute industry is one of the oldest industries, and occupies a significant position in the national economy—particularly in the eastern and north-eastern regions of the country. This was traditionally an export-oriented industry, but the predominance that we had in the export-world is considerably diminished now, and I will presently go into the causes as to why it has happened.

It has been mentioned by hon. Members that whenever the subject is discussed, the response from the Government is on the same lines. Maybe it is so because the

[Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha]

problems are the same, and the remedies that the Government has been trying to find for them cannot be very new and novel. But in the last year, Government has taken some very positive measures to improve the long term health of the industry. We have taken a very general and comprehensive view of the situation, and have come out with positive schemes to implement those.

Much has been mentioned about Rs. 150 crores Modernization Fund and the Rs. 100 crores Special Development Fund. The Modernisation Fund is nothing new, because we had a soft loan scheme before also, and the purpose of it is to modernise the industry. Not much progress has been made in this, because the nodal agency which has been entrusted with the task of scrutinizing the loan applications is rather strict, as it should be; and only those propositions which will add permanently to the improvement in production and productivity, get through

Up till now, 18 companies have applied for loans under this Modernisation Scheme, and only three have been sanctioned up till now.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: How much amount have you spent on it?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: The total sanction for the three companies is Rs. 8.28 crores. *(Interruptions)* I have given the reasons why. We do not want to squander this money, so that the mills can take this money, modernise in a half-hearted way, and after a couple of years they are not able to pay it, they come and tell us: 'We are sick.' So, every proposition in this respect is very seriously scrutinized, and only those schemes which are found viable really, are taken up; and this is why this has been going at this slow pace.

It has been asked as to what is our policy regarding technology, and it has also been mentioned as to why we have allowed customs-free imports—hon. Member Shri Indrajit Gupta has mentioned it—to the detriment of our local industries: TEXMACO and LAGAN.

Our policy regarding modernisation is that we should get whatever latest looms that are available. We do not believe in what they call appropriate or intermediate technology, because if we go in for that, we are again left behind in the international trade, which is very important, so far as jute industry is concerned. The list that has been drawn up, and the notification which the hon. Member had in mind was prepared after proper consultation with all the interests concerned, interests involved, and it has been ensured that these are essential and are not indigenously manufactured here. But here also, the policy is not to go very far, because unless modernisation funds are sanctioned, they cannot be imported. This import facility is valid for two years only and is subject to be revised thereafter. The Members should therefore not fear, firstly, that the imports would be at the cost of the local industries making textile machinery, and secondly that indiscriminate imports would be allowed, which would be detrimental to our national interests. Both the things are not correct.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Both the things are happening.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: They are not happening because, as I said, only Rs. 8.28 crores have been sanctioned. I do not know which of them will be... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU: You are importing huge quantity of cotton.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: I said, we have drawn up the list after looking into various aspects and interests. Not only this, the modernisation fund is being used to modernise Lagan also. We have asked them to draw up a scheme by which this special fund, maybe modernisation fund, or the

other fund, is used to strengthen Lagan manufacturing capacity. For that, they can explore some foreign collaboration and things of that nature. We want the local manufacturing industry to manufacture jute machinery items to be strong and viable; and particularly Lagan is a nationalised company; we would like to be strong so that it can help in our modernisation in a very indigenous way. I think, the new scheme that we have, with Rs. 100 crores special development fund, I regret to say, has not been really understood in proper perspective. Our approach has been that jute as such, right from the agricultural side, etc., has been neglected uptill now. We had a break through—a green revolution on cereals, on cotton, on rice and on wheat. Cotton is really another successful story for our agriculture and agriculturists. Some eight years back we were importing cotton worth Rs. 200-300 crores, but, during the last few years, because we have also evolved some new seeds and some new practices in the National Extension Services and the Kisans responded, there was marketing support and the minimum price support; and the result today is that this year we are exporting cotton worth Rs. 200 crores. (*Interruptions*). But nothing of this kind has happened in jute.

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura):** Having we achieved self-sufficiency in it?

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA:** Self-sufficiency is not necessary. Our quality of jute is very poor; it was mentioned. I really bemean the fact that even at the fag end of the season, we are selling raw jute below the minumum support price. But the good quality jute has all along commanded premium and it is out of stock. (*Interruptions*). No, friends. We want good rain and a high yielding variety so that the income of the agriculturist could improve; we want good quality fibre so that it can be used for diversification without which the industry has no future.

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa):** What has been done by the government for that? It is important.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Let him finish it.

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA:** The important point is that agriculture...

(*Interruptions*)

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** You go on putting supplementary questions, but he is not answering them; you are putting them in the middle; that is why he is not able to answer them; that is not the way to put them. Clarification, if at all is necessary I will allow, not in the middle. If you go on interrupting like this, I cannot allow you.

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA:** Clarification should not come on every sentence. This is a State subject and due to lack of interest on the part of the State Governments over the years, if you see allocations of the State Governments for research, extension, agricultural production, seeds, improved seeds, you will find that even seeds, improved seeds are coming from Maharashtra for West Bengal. Whose fault is this? It is the fault of the West Bengal Government. (*Interruptions*) That is why we have started right from there and we will, out of the fund, give money to the State Governments for discharging some functions which are specially theirs under our constitutional set up, but we are not trusted. (*Interruptions*) We have formulated a scheme of agricultural development. Even this year a few crores of rupees have been given to the West Bengal Government and we want them to strengthen their extension machinery; we want them to strengthen their cooperative societies for marketing; we want to strengthen other marketing set up of theirs. Normally, these functions should be done by the State Governments under their own plan allocations, but, because it has not been done for various reasons, we have started right from that point onwards.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Balpur):** What has been the function of the Jute Corporation?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: The Jute Corporation does not produce jute; it buys jute at the minimum support price. Here also we have not been able to play the role we want to because of the weaknesses of the cooperative societies in the States. If as many cooperative societies as are possible are prepared to come and become buying centres, we are prepared to give it to them. (Interruptions)

This is not the type of question to be asked. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You finish your speech, and say whatever you want to say. Do not answer the other questions put in the middle.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: In short, what I say is that the present scheme is one that we have given, for the first time, we have taken a comprehensive view of the whole industry right from the agriculture stage, and even now we are giving them for getting buyers, because we think that it is important. We want to see that the whole industry is modernised, particularly the quality of jute that comes is important, so that diversification is undertaken, realisation for the jute cloth is much more than what it is with poor quality jute, and for this, as I said in my reply various schemes have been formulated and I have given the other details already.

Another unique thing that we have done is this reservation law. (Interruptions) There was no law like this earlier. I am really sorry that hon. Member Shri Indrajit Gupta says that we have done it due to pressure from the mill owners. Does he mean to suggest that this is not a good law? Does he mean that we should withdraw this because it helps the mill owners? (Interruptions) Is it not a great help to the jute economy?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Before the law came it was you who had permitted so

much imports for setting up of this synthetic plant. Why did you allow that?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: The short point is, is this law good or not?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: It is a corrective law.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Whatever it is, we have taken corrective steps. You have to compliment us.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: You want compliments!

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: But you say that it has been done under pressure from mill-owners. It is a travesty of facts.

[Translation]

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore): You made the people suffer in the past and now again you want to make them suffer.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Should we do away with this law? A good thing will be called a good thing.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: You made the people suffer in the past and now again you want them to suffer.

[English]

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: This law, again for the first time we have enacted and we have taken legal steps to help the industry in spite of great resistance from other sectors of industry. Even now they are protesting, and even Ministries are protesting. This has been done consciously because the jute growers' interests have to be protected.

That is what we are going to do.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: What about the other problems?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: These are some of the steps that we have taken. One panacea that is always suggested is nationalisation.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Panacea

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Nationalisation can be done by the State Government also.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: If it is such a good medicine why do you not make some special treatment?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Then why do you have Minister for Textiles here? If everything is to be done by the State Government what for is the Minister here? Wonderful!

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: I am stating the constitutional position. You may deny. The State Government has the right to undertake nationalisation. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: If it is so, why do you not yourself do it?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: On a point of information, how is there a Minister for Textiles in the Centre if it is so *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: This is the factual position.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: You cannot put the blame on the State Government. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: If taxes are imposed, the Central Government comes in. For constitutional obligations....

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Without the President's assent, can it be done? *(Interruptions)*

We will recommend that.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Let us pass a unanimous resolution in this House for the nationalisation of jute industry and request the State Governments to take over. Will you support? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: We do not believe in nationalisation for the sake of nationalisation.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: That is the thing. You do not do it.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: You never made any serious attempt to nationalise it.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Do not blame the State Governments.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Who has passed the nationalisation law?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Take your seats. Sit down.

AN HON. MEMBER: What about NJMC?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: In NJMC the accumulated losses have almost reached Rs. 700 crores. *(Interruptions)* We did not want to increase the costs, the working costs of the NJMC to the extent possible. We want to modernise NJMC. We want to make it more viable. We just do not think that nationalisation is a panacea for all this. Even after nationalisation sick units have been revived. That is exactly what we are doing under various schemes.

So, Sir, in short what I mean to say is that the Government of India has made this scheme and we are taking a very comprehensive view of the whole thing. I would request that this should be appreciated in a proper way. Something was mentioned about the purchases made by the Government—D.G.S.&D. and an impression was created that the reservation order is not being followed by the Food Corporation of India, etc. This is not true. An

[Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha]

impression was created from the speeches of certain Members that the reservation law is being contravened by the Food Corporation and the Government Corporation. This is not true. What has happened is that because of the poor monsoon and poor crop this year, the procurement programme of the Food Corporation and other State Corporations has slowed down. We are in constant touch with them and we are meeting them almost every week or ten days to see what the requirements for this season and the ensuing season would be. They have told us that they cannot just give more than an X quantity. Hence, as the situation improves, I think, we will place more and more orders so that D.G.S.&D. could make the purchases. Even in the D.G.S.&D. purchases, the pricing formula that we have arrived at is cost plus, which is not being done in any other Government purchases. There are other ways. They go for open tenders. If we go for open tenders, prices will get depressed and land us in problem. So, what we call, Palekar formula has been evolved for Government purchases, which is a very favourable formula so far as the industry are concerned, so that the prices do not get depressed and the jute crop gets its due share.

As regards diversification, it is another plan in our new programme. The Hessian position as the hon. Member has said is not correct. The world prices are such that we cannot compete. Bangladesh is always there. We are in touch with the Bangladesh Government. They have after so many years responded slightly and they want to have a dialogue with us as to why we should avoid competing with each other in the international market and only the foreign buyers should benefit by this. Over the years, they are not willing to talk to us because they say that their jute exports are very vital for them and they would not like to have any sort of discussion with us. But now we have received encouraging reports. I have invited the Bangladesh Minister for Jute also for discussion. He has

agreed to come. I think that this dialogue in the jute area would be in the interests of both the countries.

Then, I come to diversification. As I said earlier, diversification is very necessary. One of the reasons we have given customs freeze is mainly for diversification. For example, jute carpets. Bangladesh make jute carpets. But we do not make jute carpets. This is one area which we want to explore. There are other things. A good quality jute can be made into a blanket also and research for this will also be funded out of the special development fund. So, we are funding research first to see what alternative uses of jute could be developed. Secondly, how diversification will take place through modernisation with assistance from the Government so that modern needs like curtains, soft luggage and things like that could be explored. One serious attempt we are making is to develop chests for tea and apple packing. We find that this would help in saving a lot of wood. We are going to invest quite a substantial fund in making proto types of these things. We are having continuous dialogue with the big tea companies also through tea Boards. I would like to say that they are also responding. So, we want that at present the tea chest which are made of plywood and other wood would improve our environmental situation.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY:  
Whether any progress has been made.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Progress has been made. For example some of the Companies have shown positive interest and for others we have given some samples to try and test, what sort of thing they want—collapsible, size and things like this. Then, we had sent a team to Himachal. We want to undertake packing of apples in jute chests. We are studying their requirements and trying to evolve certain packages which could be useful here also. So, if we wove the traditional usage zone step by step it would be more profitable for the producers and secondly it would save a lot

of wood, which is very scarce in our country and more and more expensive. One of the basic approaches of our Department is to have diversified uses of this like curtains, furnishings, blankets. Anything could be done. And we are having massive research effort in that respect. We are making prototype and supplying it free to them for testing. A very serious effort is being made. This has also been provided for in our new scheme. This is the way how we are tackling the whole thing. I would like to tell the hon. Members that we are very much conscious of the importance of this industry because it involves the interest of millions of people. We are particularly concerned about the interest of jute growers and the organised labour which is getting unemployed as a result of these things.

Another good item in it is this. Firstly, we do not believe that there should be any rationalisation or retrenchment without consent or consultation with the labour. This is very clear. We are not supporting any unilateral action by anybody and we would never support that.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: But you are not consulting them.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: But if somehow it happens either by agreement or otherwise, and the labour is displaced, we have a very elaborate scheme to look after their interests. Again this has never been before. This is of a unique nature ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: You are not coming to the point...

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let him finish first. Then you can raise your points.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: What steps are you taking to re-open those closed mills?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: The supplementary to that is that the calling attention

was mainly on the question of closure. Am I to take it that after all that you have said, you still hold that these closures are mainly due to labour trouble? Is that your contention?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: I never said that.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Then how do you solve that problem? Are you justifying these closures? With all the difficulties which you say the industry has got, are you justifying these closures where 75,000 people are locked out?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: I went further and said that we were not only not justifying closures but we wanted that any retrenchment or rationalisation that took place should only be done with the agreement and consent of the labour.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: We are talking about re-opening of mills.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: The West Bengal Government is carrying on a dialogue. And if there is anything that needs to be done from our side, we will certainly do it. It is basically the West Bengal Government which should bring the two parties together and have some sort of an agreement.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: West Bengal Government has declared the lock-out as illegal. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If all of you speak, he will not be able to answer anything. *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Apart from this question of lock-out, I wanted to know whether they never asked about this tripartite agreement unilaterally terminated by IJMA. In that case, what is their attitude? Are they prepared to bring a foolproof Bill against lock-out or to make lock-out illegal? What is the answer?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: The Minis-

ter of Labour is concerned with that and he is not here.

SHRI BASUDEB AOHARIA: Why is he not here? Here 75,000 workers are involved. Why is he not present?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Let me finish.

There was a three-year tripartite agreement which, under the Industrial Disputes Act, ended at a certain time. The information that we have got is that the Jute Mills Association gave them two months notice as required by law and they have terminated the agreement. Firstly NJMA is not part of the Jute Mills Association. I can very clearly say that. Secondly, we are also a part of the tripartite agreement. We have no separate agreement. We are still bound by it and we will continue to be bound by that for the time being till another agreement comes. So the NJMC's position is very clear. They are not part of the Association at all. We are not siding with the jute mills in this respect. We are not a part of the Association at all.

As for the larger issue that there could be another law that could do something, well, that is not immediately the concern of this discussion. Law Ministry is certainly considering a new industrial relations law and when it comes before you, you can discuss it.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Sir, I said that the Textiles Ministry does not have any inter-Ministerial coordination. Indeed I asked four questions and not even one has been answered. I said there is no coordination between the Ministry of Textiles and the Ministry of Commerce. They are importing so much of high density polythene granules in the country that synthetic manufacturers are manufacturing synthetic bags, with the result that jute manufacturers are not able to get any market. This is the basic problem. They are importing lot of granules and that is causing lot of con-

cern. Secondly, there is no coordination between the Ministry of Textiles and the Ministry of Industry. The Ministry of Industry has ... (*Interruptions*). Let me finish my question. I am on my legs... (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, I cannot allow. Nothing will go on record. I cannot allow.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, if Calling Attention questions are not replied to.... (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has not completed his reply? How can you say that he has not answered? Let him finish first.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, he is very unusual Ram Niwas Mirdha today. Today he is avoiding.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: I am not avoiding anything. There is no question of lack of coordination. The other Ministry can have different views from us. They have a right to do so... (*Interruptions*). Please wait. Or you say and I listen first. So, Sir, there is no lack of coordination between us. The Industrial Development Ministry and others feel that synthetic packaging is also necessary for certain type of packaging. It is a new industry that is coming up, a new technology that is coming up, and we cannot completely shut ourselves from that. But we in our Ministry... (*Interruptions*) Please wait. So, there is no lack of coordination. We know each other and we are in constant touch with each other. The Industry Minister had a big meeting when my colleague was there and we discussed it again. So, there is perfect coordination... (*Interruptions*).

PROF MADHU DANAVATE: Lack of coordination is by agreement it seems.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: And we have brought this law, which again is an unprecedented measure I tell you, to prescribe seriously and in specific terms

how much amount of a particular packaging would be of jute....(Interruptions).

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Has this measure helped in reducing the use of synthetic bags?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Of course.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: How?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Because we have reserved many areas which are at present being used by synthetics, etc. and those industries want synthetics to continue. That is why our law has sought to tackle synthetics aspect. It will increase the consumption of jute goods and is going to help the jute growers and the jute industry. So, I will end by saying...(Interruptions)

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Your policy is not clear.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: My policy is very clear.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: If your policy is that, your own Minister is not accepting it.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: He is accepting it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is this? This is not the way. You finish your reply. I cannot allow a dialogue like this to go on. Whatever you want to say you finish it because there are so many other things which I have to take up, not only this. Have you finished?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: No, Sir. All that I say is I have spelt out the measures that we want to take in the long-term interest of the industry and we will see that the industry becomes strong, jute growers' interests are protected, the JCI plays its due role, and the whole industry works in such a way that it helps the jute growers as well as the organised sector of the industry.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we go to

the next item—Matters under Rule 377.

14.35 hrs.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

(I) **Over invoicing of Rifampicin drug used for treatment of leprosy and T.B.**

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi): I am making a statement under Rule 377. RIFAMPICIN is being used for the treatment of Leprosy and T.B. According to Import Trade Control policy, before the import of this drug, the companies have to register the indent with department of Chemicals, Ministry of Industry. The department has not allowed any import since last year. The import price is \$ 160 per kg. The indigenous price has been fixed at Rs. 3,000/- per kg. The indigenous production is based on penultimate i.e. first stage. The foreign exchange involved per kg. is \$ 209 i.e. around \$ 50 per kg. more, hence there is an element of over-invoicing of the order of \$ 50 per kg. On the total production from penultimate, the amount of over-invoicing comes to \$ 35 million approximately. I, therefore, request the Government to look into the whole matter and fix up the responsibility.

[Translation]

(II) **Demand for laying railway line between Kashipur and Ram Nagar and Rampur and New Haldwani in U.P.**

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): MR. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in order to connect the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh with the remaining parts of the country and also for their development, it is very essential that railway line between (i) Kashipur and Ram Nagar and (ii) Rampur and New Haldwani should be laid. Last year no allocation was made for the construction of Kashipur-