

people of Keonjhar are not able to see the programme shown by either of these two television centres. If a television relay centre is set up at Keonjhar, it will go a long way in the promotion of its culture and education. Besides providing entertainment programme, it will create awareness among the people. The poor and illiterate people will have clear idea of the centrally sponsored programmes which are being implemented in the backward area for the upliftment of those people. As such, I request that a television centre should be set up at Keonjhar during the 1988-89 financial year.

[*Translation*]

(iv) Need to supply raw material at cheap rates to the weavers in the country

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT (Barabanki): The weavers in the country are facing great hardship due to excessive increase in the prices of yarn. The prices have risen by 30 to 40 per cent whereas Government has not made any arrangements to provide raw material to the weavers particularly silk yarn. So the non-availability of raw material and the high prices is creating great difficulty in selling the finished products. Due to steep rise in the price of yarn, weaving work has almost come to a stand still and the families of weavers are on the verge of starvation. The yarn merchants are recovering loans advanced to the weavers, by auctioning their looms. We urge the Government to provide raw material to the weavers at cheap rates and make provision for the purchase of finished products.

(v) Need to introduce a train between Delhi and Lucknow via Chandausi

SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ (Moradabad): The Railways has progressed a lot in the last few years and has started some new trains. But Moradabad Division has remained neglected in this regard. No addition in trains has been made here since long. There is a grain market and a Railway Training College in Chandausi, in my constituency. The people of that area have been demanding for years that a train should be introduced between Delhi and Lucknow via Chandausi. It would not only immensely benefit them but the

earnings of the Railways will also increase thereby.

Therefore, I urge the Central Government to introduce a train from Delhi to Lucknow via Chandausi, for the benefit of the people of my constituency.

[*English*]

(vi) Need to tone up the working of Public Sector Undertakings

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): These days, privatisation is looked upon as a solution to many problems. The country is following the concept of mixed economy, but at the same time, it is well understood that in certain spheres private sector will have no role of significance to play. Principles in our industrial policy resolutions, adopted from time to time are also quite indicative of the areas earmarked, by and large, for the two sectors. Yet, even in service-oriented areas, where profitability is not and should not be a criterion, people are seen recommending privatisation.

The State cannot and should not shirk away its responsibilities of playing its role in the mixed economy. In a particular field, if public sector has failed to deliver the goods, there is no rationale in handing over the job to private sector and admit the inefficiency of the public sector. If private sector can succeed in a given area, the public sector has got to succeed. Identification of causes and finding remedies to the same is what is required rather than introduce private sector, the moment a public undertaking fails. Failure of public sector, it is now well known, is basically on account of human negligence and lapses besides the element of extravagance prevailing therein. All these matters are curable. We should not burn the house in order to kill a rat.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to tone up the working of public sector undertakings.

(vii) Need to amend Plantation Labour Act, 1951 and Rules made thereunder

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI (Kaliabor): The Plantation Labour Act, 1951 and its subsequent amendment and the rules made thereunder by the State

Government need immediate amendment in respect of certain provisions like, housing accommodation, drinking water, medical facilities, maternity benefits, creches, sanitation etc. The Government have totally failed to implement the Plantation Labour Act and the Rules made thereunder in the country, more particularly in about 800 tea estates in Assam, as a result of which, the tea garden labourers who have been employed in the tea estates in Assam have been deprived of the benefits provided under the said law. The said law is so lenient that the Government cannot compel the managements to implement the same. The labourers have lost all confidence in the said law as it is not being properly implemented. The labourers have been frustrated and there may be agitation by the labourers at any time. It is requested that the said law should be amended drastically by providing compulsory fine of rupees fifty thousand and imprisonment for minimum two years for violation of the said Act by the Managements of the tea industry.

(viii) Need to improve service conditions of
Coffee Board Employees

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Coffee Board Employees are agitating since long for their genuine demands for rationalisation of Pay Scales and reservation of posts for SC/ST community. But unfortunately these problems have not been settled so far. The Board is only adopting dilatory tactics by appointing Committees, sub-Committees, staff grievances Committees, vigilance enquiry etc. The reports and recommendations of these Committees are gathering dust in the archives of the Board but no action has been taken on these reports and recommendations. These documents are merely being forwarded to the Central Government.

The Coffee Board employees are neither treated as Industrial employees nor like Government employees thereby depriving them of benefits available to Industrial workers and also the benefits of Fourth Pay Commission available to the Central Government employees. Coffee Board employees have no scientific basis of work evaluation. They are even deprived of the benefits available to their counterparts

in the Tea Board and in the ICAR. Although they were paid bonus as per Bonus Act still they are not being treated as Industrial Workers for all purposes. Similarly their wages remain stagnant despite continued rise in prices of essential commodities. The mechanism available to Central Government employees to partially counter the price rise problem is not available to Coffee Board employees. As such nearly 4500 coffee board employees are suffering and agitating for a fair deal. I urge upon the Government to intervene and end their exploitation by the Coffee Board.

12.37 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA—
Contd.

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :

- (i) In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 1988, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sittings held on the 21st March, 1988, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill.
- (ii) In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 1988, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 21st March, 1988, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill,