

[English]

- (vi) Need to make arrangements to carry drinking water from Trichy to Dindigul by train.

SHRI K.R. NATARAJAN (Dindigul) : Sir, there is acute scarcity of drinking water supply for residents of Dindigul town in Madurai district in Tamil Nadu. The population of Dindigul town is about three lakhs. Apart from this, there is floating population of about one lakh. It is the headquarters for a number of district offices. It becomes capital city of a new district called "Anna District" shortly from 15th September, 1985. Dindigul is the important railway junction between Tirudhi and Madurai Railway Junctions. This city has been getting drinking water supply from Kamaraj Sahar. Now it has got dried up. About 160 bore wells have been sunk. Now the subsoil water also has got diminished. 40 lorries have been engaged to bring drinking water to Dindigul. Yet there is acute scarcity of drinking water supply in Dindigul. So, the Government of Tamil Nadu has made a request to the Minister of Railways to arrange to carry drinking water by trains from Tiruchi to Dindigul. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Railways to solve this problem by arranging for the trains to carry drinking water from Tiruchi to Dindigul as requested by the Government of Tamil Nadu immediately and to protect the people of Dindigul by providing drinking water in this critical situation.

- (vii) Need to fix minimum price of cotton at Rs. 600 per quintal and stop the proposed import of cotton.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda) : The cotton industry is day by day vastly developing in our country. The present rate of production of cotton in our country is sufficient for our needs and export.

But unfortunately in some of the States the cotton industrialists are suppressing real production of cotton with vested interest and seeking import of cotton from outside just to deprive the cotton-growers of their claim for a reasonable and better price for their production.

The Government is not able to take into consideration the total production of cotton in some of the States because

the cotton-purchasers and industrialists are not showing the real production of cotton. For example, the cotton-growers from Adilabad district of Andhra Pradesh sell the cotton at border market, i.e., at Nagpur for want of better price and the purchasers will not show the account of cotton which they have purchased. Likewise, the cotton-growers from Warangal and other districts sell the cotton at Raichur in Karnataka since there is no Cotton Corporation centre ready to purchase it there.

So far as export of cotton is concerned, only two States, i.e., Maharashtra and Gujarat, were allowed to export the cotton, and Andhra Pradesh was allotted only 10,000 bails of cotton for export, though the State of Andhra Pradesh is capable of producing more cotton.

It is, therefore, requested that the Government may immediately fix a minimum price for cotton as Rs. 600/- per quintal and stop the idea of importing cotton and take initiative in starting Cotton Corporation centres for purchasing cotton at better price. The Cotton Corporation should also set up a purchase centre at Warangal where the cotton-growers are very anxious to improve their production of cotton if they can get better price for the same. I further request the Government to take steps to have a check and take serious action against the persons and industrialists who are suppressing the real production of cotton.

- (viii) Need to take immediate steps for protecting the "Great Indian Bustard" specially the "Sorsan" Bustard sanctuary.

SHRI JUJHAR SINGH (Jhalawar) : Sir, as a result of reckless shooting and unsafe environment for breeding, the Great Indian Bustard has become a very rare bird and it is on the verge of extinction as a species at present. The Government of India has declared this bird as a National Bird and has even published a stamp on it to draw public attention for its protection. One of the breeding places of the Great Indian Bustard is located around village Sursan in Tehsil Anita of District Kota in Rajasthan. With the advent of rainy season, the birds have started migrating to this place for

breeding as usual, but they are not safe there as the Government of Rajasthan have not provided wire-fencing around the breeding area. Nor has the Government provided guard to protect the bird from the intruding animals and humanbeings in spite of the fact that the Wild Life Department has declared 'Sursan' as a bustard sanctuary. The Government of India should direct the Government of Rajasthan to take steps early for the protection of breeding places of the Great Indian Bustard and specially the Sursan breeding area of District Kota in Rajasthan.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN (AMENDMENT) BILL-Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri T. Anjiah on the 7th August, 1985, namely :—

“That the Bill further to amend the Employment of Children Act, 1938, be taken into consideration.”

Mr. Mool Chand Daga, please be brief.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) :
“Buds That Never Bloom”.

[Translation]

If the buds are destroyed how will the flowers bloom. In spite of the Directive Principles laid down in Article 39 of the Constitution, a good number of children are still employed in the country. This impedes their development.

[English]

“Despite constitutional provisions and several legislations banning child labour, 17 million children in this country are still forced to work because of persisting socio-economic conditions. The fact that they work illegally, says the author, a trade unionist, opens them to severe exploitation. In an accompanying piece, the author points out the lacunae in the laws that relate to children and the fact that the complete abolition of child labour would throw open 17 million jobs for the adult unemployed...”

[Translation]

This article was published in February, 1985, in the Indian Express. Are so many children still employed in the country? If the children are subjected to hard work, their development will be hampered. The hon. Minister's intentions may be good but how many persons have been awarded punishment under section 4 of the Act till today.

[English]

“Whoever employs any child or permits any child to work in contravention of the provisions of section 3.”

[Translation]

Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state how many people have been punished under section-4A and under section-4C? If these figures are not supplied, it would be difficult to know whether this Bill has been brought forward for enhancing the punishment or for other purpose. According to this Bill, if a worker is exploited he cannot go to the court direct for seeking justice. Only a Labour Inspector can go to the court. If a child worker is being exploited and he is not getting his due, he too cannot go to the court, without he prior permission of the Labour Inspector. This law should also have been amended.

[English]

“No prosecution under this Act shall be instituted except by or with the previous sanction of an Inspector appointed under section 6.”

[Translation]

The worker will have to go to the Inspector. A reference has been made about the certificate. Who are the prescribed Doctors? Whosoever has a certificate of age issued by the doctor will be treated above 14 years. These days the Inspectors obtain fake certificates from the doctors by offering allurements. It is not possible to give a genuine certificate of age. Even after an X-Ray, the age of the boy cannot be determined. You must have seen the provision in the Act of 1938. If you wanted to amend this provision, you should have amended the whole Act. You said that the offenders would be punished, but because