

considered to be the mother plant was inaugurated by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who described it as a giant leap forward and the first temple of modern India. Over the years, the technology adopted by the Sindri factory has become obsolete and the plant has become outdated. This has affected production. The Government had, some years ago, taken a decision to discontinue production of fertiliser based on pyrites as it had become uneconomical. The Government also appointed a high power Committee headed by Pant Pothan to study the health of Sindri plant and equipment and suggest appropriate measures for their effective and productive utilisation. The Committee also suggested several steps in this direction. The Government has given a go-by to all suggestions to modernisation of the plant and has decided to stop it and go in for retrenchment of thousands of staff.

I urge upon the Government not to resort to such extreme steps but to take steps to modernise the outdated plant as suggested by the various Committees. The plant can be made viable if proper investment is made.

(viii) **Need to fix realistic procurement price for the jute crops by the Jute Corporation of India**

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : Despite reduction in jute acreage, the grower of raw jute in all jute growing states is facing a situation of distress sale. In the Purnea district of Bihar, as in other places, the JCI Centres were not operational until the end of September 1986, while raw jute begins to flow into the market by early July. Even when the JCI entered the field, it set up too few centres, not even one in each jute growing block. Even the few set up, were some times unwisely located and did not function throughout the week. In brief, the JCI has not been able to organise itself to be in a position to fulfil the Prime Minister's assurance that all raw jute offered by the jute growers shall be purchased at the statutory price.

The assurance can be fulfilled only if JCI opens at least one procurement centre in every block, either at the block headquarter

or in the traditional *hat* in the block; such centres should be operational by the first week of July; they should function throughout the week and work overtime, if necessary, in order to complete all transactions relating to the raw jute offered by the jute grower at the centre by midday on the same day. For this, the planning must begin now so that the staff required, the physical infrastructure, the transport and ware-housing arrangements and above all the money for purchase are in position at all centres in every block by the first of July.

The Government should set a target that the JCI must purchase at least 90 per cent of the jute crop after it has announced a realistic procurement price which should take into account not only the increasing value of land, the rising cost of agricultural inputs and the minimum wages for agricultural labour, but also a minimum level of profit for the sake of incentive as well as dignified living. This year, if the Government takes stock of the situation block by block it shall find that the JCI and its associates have not purchased even 50 per cent of the estimated jute crop. To that extent its assurance to the jute grower remained a dead letter. This must be avoided in future.

[Translation]

(ix) **Need to provide more railway facilities to the residents of Kanpur**

SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI (Bilhaur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Kanpur is a big industrial city of north India. Thousands of passengers daily travel by rail from Kanpur to nearby small towns as well as big cities like Delhi, Bombay and Howrah. The various transport facilities available to the passengers at present are insufficient and all the offices at Central Railway Station do not have sufficient accommodation. The number of platforms is also inadequate. I would like to put forward the following suggestions in this regard :

1. If it is not possible in the near future to introduce a new train from Kanpur to New Delhi, then the present 11 UP and 12 Down trains should be terminated at Kanpur Central Station and trains