

12.08 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

- (ii) Demand for investigating into delay in returning by National Museum Authority Sculptures hired from Museum in Orissa for exhibition in Festival of India in the USSR.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Cuttack) : Five sculptures from the Konark site museum and four Budha images from the Ratnagiri site museum were taken for exhibition in the Festival of India in the Soviet Union. It is a matter of great regret that two of the sculptures sent abroad have not yet been returned to museums in Orissa. These sculptures were hired by the National Museum Authority.

I urge upon the Government of India to investigate into the matter and take necessary steps to ensure return of these sculptures to the concerned Orissa Museum without any further delay.

[*Translation*]

- (iii) Demand for starting production in Ashoka Paper Mill in Samastipur Bihar

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH (Chapra) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ashoka Paper Mills in Samastipur, Bihar was set up by Darbhanga Raj in 1957. In 1970, the Governments of Bihar and Assam and IDBI decided to run the mill jointly in the joint sector. It was managed by a Board of directors consisting of the representative of Assam and Bihar Governments and the IDBI. Production started in 1975, but unfortunately the mill suffered a loss of Rs. 26 crores due to inefficient management. In 1982, the production in the mill came to a dead halt and also the payment of wages to the labourers was also not made. Though the Mills has not been closed legally and there has been a constant demand that the mill should be restarted and payment of the wages be made to the labourers but till todate nothing has been done in this reg-

ard. It may be recalled that under the Assam Accord it was decided that this mill will be treated at par with the Assam units. Accordingly the Central Government has provided all the facilities to the units working in Assam and as a result of that, the workers of those units are getting their wages and production work has also been resumed. But nothing has been done for this unit. When Shri Umadhar Singh, an MLA from Bihar went on fast unto death, the Union Minister of Industries said that the matter was pending with the VIFR and anything could be done only after the decision of the VIFR. But whenever a date is fixed by the VIFR for the disposal of the matter, the Central Government seeks an extension.

So I would urge upon the Government to get the production in Ashoka Paper Mill restarted without any further delay, and to get the wages paid to the workers alongwith the settlement of the issue of its ownership, so that 1200 workers working in the Ashoka Paper Mills, may be saved from starvation and the economic development of Bihar may be undertaken.

- (iv) Demand for providing more halts to recently converted fast/superfast trains in Gujarat

DR. A. K. PATEL (Mehsana) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I want to present a matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377 in the House.

Recently, all the trains passing through Gujarat, Saurashtra and the adjoining areas have been converted into fast, mail & express trains. Speed of all the passenger trains has been increased and thus these trains have been converted into fast trains. It has created a problem for the poor people, generally the farmers, workers, common man and particularly the service class people who used to go by train to their places of work from their small villages or towns. Their only means of transport was the trains of which they have now been deprived. As all the trains have been converted into fast trains, these trains do not halt at the small railway stations depriving them of the train

facility and resultantly of their means of livelihood. It has posed a serious problem for the service class people.

The railway authorities should particularly keep in view the interests of the poor people, farmers labourers and the service Class. How will they be able to manage to go to the place of their work in case the local and passenger trains are cancelled or converted into fast trains ?

I would like to urge upon the Minister of Railways that either on all such sections where passenger trains have been converted into fast trains these fast trains should be provided a halt or the facility of local trains or shuttle trains may be given there. The poor, the labourers, farmers and the people of service class should not be made to suffer for the convenience of a small number of people. Appropriate measures should be taken in this regard

- (v) Demand for inquiry into Railway Department's remissness in removing sand from rail tracks in Jodhpur and Jaisalmer area due to which several trains have been cancelled.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, following trains of Northern Railway remained suspended for about a month i.e. from June to July 1988—between Balotra and Barmer, Jodhpur and Jaisalmer and between Barmer and Minawar respectively.

- (1) 1 JB UP (2) 2 JB DN (3) 207 UP (4) 208 DN (5) 1 JPJ UP (6) 2 JPJ DN (7) 4 JBJ DN (8) 3 JBJ UP (9) Barmer to Minawar.

These trains were suspended due to dust storms which had accumulated sand on both sides of the railway track. The railway authorities and the engineers should have engaged the extra number of labour for this job which they did not engage. Adequate number of Buldozers was not arranged and pushed into service at the proper time, which resulted into the cancellation of trains and resultantly the

passengers had to perform their journey by bus and had to incur extra expenditure and had to face a lot of inconvenience.

So I would urge upon the Railway Department to conduct a high level enquiry into the reasons of delay in clearing the sand from the railway track and to take disciplinary action against the officers found guilty in this regard. The Government should formulate a scheme of planting trees as a permanent solution of the problem so that trains may not have to be cancelled due to the accumulation of sand on the railway track.

- (vi) Demand for measures to safeguard the honour of women

SHRIMATI USHA RANI TOMAR (Algarh) : It is a matter of great regret that now-a-days the incidents of atrocities on the women folk are on increase and these women folk are forced into various evil ways. They are murdered for dowry. The most regrettable thing in this regard is that hardly in 10% of the rape cases, the accused are punished. In spite of various laws in this regard, the number of incidents of exploitation of women have increased during the last ten years. Legal powers should be given to the voluntary organisations to curb the excesses on women. It has also come to notice that the women in the tribal areas are still accursed to live the life of a slave. In this country, the women have always been held in high reverence and yet their respect is being put to a stake. I urge upon the Government to take some concrete measures in this regard

- (vii) Demand for Governments' recognising the electropathy system of treatment.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khaiilabad) : In a densely populated country like India, where 80 percent of the total population still resides in rural areas, there is acute shortage of medical facilities. Innumerable people die untimely due to the shortage of cheap medicines and doctors. Since last several years, NEHM of India, New Delhi is successfully utilizing the beneficial, harmless