

Sir, more than two thousand kilometers long holy river Ganga has now become highly polluted by the wanton discharge of waste which plays havoc with health, agriculture and marine life. The big public sector industries like BHEL and IDPL at Hardwar along with almost all industries at Varanasi and more than 70% industries in and around Calcutta, Patna and other cities and towns located on the banks of river Ganga are discharging their untreated effluents into this river which damage the crops, poison the fish and spread epidemic to the millions of users. Besides, half burnt dead bodies and carcasses of animals are thrown into this river in thousands everyday. Lakhs of cows, buffaloes and other cattle take their bath in this river which is another factor for pollution of the holy Ganga water. The industries both small and big are using this holy river as a sewer line.

The entire nation is very grateful on the decision of the present Government under the stewardship of the Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi for the taking timely action for making this river free from pollution.

I would, therefore, request the Ministry for Environment to take expeditious steps for providing required funds for the purpose to complete it by end of 7th Five Year Plan and save millions and millions of users from various diseases. Crops over millions of hectares will also be saved from ruin every year.

- (vi) Need for sanctioning the project by the Centre for construction of a road from Itchapuram to Thada (A.P.)

**SHRI P. PENCHALLIAH (Nellore):** Along the east coast there is only the grand trunk road passing through the Southern region. During the monsoons, a series of cyclones hit this road and make it very accident prone. Since this happens to be the only road in this entire region, it is very much congested. Many accidents take place round the year. Since the Buckingham Canal is sand casted because of the frequent cyclones, the entire transportation which was being carried on through the canal is now being diverted to this road making it still more congested.

To ease the pressure on this trunk road, a new link road from Itchapuram in Srikakulam district to Thada in Nellore district in Andhra Pradesh was suggested. Proposals were submitted during 1981-82 by Government of Andhra Pradesh to Government of India to take up the construction work of this important link road.

This issue was raised in Parliament several times. But so far no decision has been taken by the Government for constructing this vital link road.

Itchapuram Thada Road is important not only because it eases the unberable congestion of traffic, both passengers and goods, it is important also because it serves the needs of our Defence for purposes of supervision by Coast Guard.

Therefore, I request the Ministry of Shipping and Transport for sanctioning and taking up of the construction work of Itchapuram-Thada Road in Andhra Pradesh.

- (vii) Threatened token strike by R.M.S. and M.M.S. Employees' Union on 6th June 1985

**SHRI ANANDA PATHA (Darjeeling):** Posts and Telegraphs Administration has decided to abolish the Rail Mail Service which had an age old reputation for efficiency in quickest and safest delivery of postal articles. As a first step, it has abolished the Sorting Sections and introduced bulk consignments of accountable articles causing insecurity in safe delivery of such articles besides creating surplus in staff strength blocking absorption of RTPs in permanent establishment and future recruitment. The Department is also doing away with checking work by abolishing SROs and thus reducing promotional prospects of the employees and also reducing the posts of checkers in disregard of the recommendation of the Third Pay Commission. The department is also contemplating to enforce a greater outturn of work setting aside the findings of Bewder Tarapada and Marathe Time Test.

In protest against this policy, the All India RMS and MMS Employees Union have decided to organise one day's token strike all over India on 6th June 1985.

I call upon the Government to discuss the issue with the Union concerned before implementing their decision.

(viii) **Installation of T.V. Station Birpur, Bihar.**

DR. G. S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : Birpur is a very important place on Indo-Nepal border. The people of Birpur (Saharsa) and of neighbouring areas have been demanding the installation of a TV Station here.

It is really unfortunate that whereas smaller and less important places in the country have been provided with TV Station, Birpur's case has always been ignored.

If a TV station is set up at Birpur, it will have a very healthy effect on Indo-Nepal relations since a large number of Nepalese population who live on the other side of the border, will like to see Indian programmes. It is, therefore, requested that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting may set up a TV station at Birpur as early as possible.

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13.33. hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS  
 (GENERAL), 1985-86—Contd.

[English]

Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies  
 — Contd.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will now take up discussion on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies and I also oppose all the cut motions moved in this House. I must congratulate our Hon. Minister for Food and Supplies for bringing about a decline in the Wholesale Price Index to the extent of 4.1 per cent by August 1984 and also a further decline to the tune of 7.5 per cent by December 1984. There was also a fall of about 5.1 per cent, compared to the index a

year ago. The index for wheat in December 1984 was lower by 3.8 per cent compared to that in the corresponding period of the previous year. It was possible due to the record production of wheat, rice and other cereals and also because of easy open-market availability. I must congratulate the present Minister for Food and Civil Supplies because he was the then Agriculture Minister and during his time only, the food production could be improved.

I am grateful to our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Ji that he has given the portfolio of Food and Civil Supplies to the present Minister perhaps after taking into account the fact that he as the Minister of Agriculture, had produced sufficient foodgrains for the country, making it self-sufficient in food. In his present capacity, he can distribute the foodgrains so produced, in a proper manner to our people.

The Ministry also deserves praise for bringing about a record procurement of 17.7 million foodgrains, surpassing the previous figure of 15.51 million tonnes of foodgrains procured from the 1982-83 crop. As on 16th March 1985, a quantity of 8.5 million tonnes of rice could be procured, which is an all-time high. Similarly, the procurement of wheat from the 1983-84 crop has touched a new high at 9.30 million tonnes, surpassing the earlier record of 8.29 million tonnes out of the 1982-83 crop.

The covered storage capacity available with the FCI stood at 9.26 million tonnes, which is not adequate to store the foodgrains. Even though the general warehousing facilities are provided to some extent, they are not adequate to cover the entire foodgrains produced. I would, therefore, request the Hon. Minister to look to this aspect on a priority basis, so that more general warehousing facilities are made available to the growers.

Even though 17 Save grain Teams operated to motivate farmers to adopt scientific storage godown practices, and to educate the farmers on this issue, they have had very little impact on the farmers in our country side. The Hon. Minister may kindly make necessary arrangements by which the farmers may have their own storage godowns, by taking loans from the nationalized and coope-