

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) REPORTED AGITATION OVER THE
CONTRACT LABOUR SYSTEM OF THE
FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA.

SHRI BALDEV SINGH JASROTHIA (Jammu): Sir, about ten thousand food handling labour at about 280 FCI Depots are agitating for the last so many months against the contract system, which itself is against the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, at various places such as Faridabad, Siliguri, Ashok Nagar, Jammu and Okhla. The labourers are on relay hunger strike: the wages of the labourers, about Rs. 50,000, have not been paid, besides restoration of all other rights, giving rise to great unrest among the labourers.

The FCI has adopted a new technique by stopping work at depots to abort the peaceful movement of the food handling labour, though the Minister of State, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh, in reply to a question in the last session, admitted in the House that the Government is against the contract system and that they are to take up the direct payment system. A year back, Shri Barnala, Minister of Food and Agriculture, in a statement which appeared in the press also assured the abolishing of the contract system, but no effective steps have been taken. The labourers, under the aforesaid circumstances, are now on dharna before the residence of Shri Barnala, numbering about 2,000. The *Indian Express* and the *Times of India* in their issue of 1-12-1978 speak of the situation.

It is unfortunate that the authorities have not allowed the poor labourers to make use of shamiana, tents, water, electricity etc., which is inhuman, and all this is happening under the very nose of the Central Government in its capital of Delhi.

I felt it my honest duty; in reference to my earlier statement made in this august House, to state that the Government should be wise enough, and not

be wise after the event, to take into consideration the labour unrest in the country, and come forward without any reservation or sense of prestige to accept the genuine demands of the labourers. Otherwise, the position of food supply can come to a halt, which can create multifarious complications and intricacies, inclusive of a law and order situation.

(ii) REPORTED AGITATION IN ETAWAH,
U.P., DUE TO ALLEGED RAPE OF A
HARIJAN GIRL.

श्री बलदेव सिंह जसरोथिया (इटवा) : 9 नवम्बर 1978 को जिला इटावा, उत्तर प्रदेश में वहाँ के एक प्रभावशाली अधिकारी के पुत्र श्री राजेश उर्फ राजू ने उसके यहाँ काम करने वाले सफाई कर्मचारी को पुत्री के साथ बलात्कार किया। बलात्कार करने के बाद वह अपराधी तीन दिन तक लगातार अपने घर में छिपा रहा। उपरोक्त अपराधी पैरोल पर छूट कर आया था और उस पर एक हफ्ते अपराध की ज़ात 307 हत्या के प्रयास में एक दूसरा मुकदमा भी चल रहा है। इस कुर्म के विरुद्ध पूरे शहर में सनसनी मीर रोष पैदा हुआ। सभी बाजार बन्द रहे और सफाई कर्मचारियों ने हड़ताल की। पुलिस ने इसे गिरफ्तार न करके अपनी निम्नतम कृत्यहीनता का परिचय दिया है। इस प्रकार की कर्मनाक घटनाएँ देश और समाज के लिए विशेषकर हरिजन बालाओं के साथ रेष, बलात्कार एक गम्भीर चिन्ता का विषय है।

(iii) REPORTED SHORTFALL IN THE
VOLUME OF WORK IN THE OFFICE
OF CONTROLLER OF ACCOUNTS, DE-
PARTMENT OF SUPPLY, CALCUTTA
DUE TO WHICH A NUMBER OF POSTS
WERE NOT BEING FILLED IN.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY (Barrack-pore): The office of the Controller of Accounts, Department of Supply, Calcutta; handles the stores bills submitted against various contract placed by the DGS & D. New Delhi, in relation to purchases made by various Central Government organisations/State Governments/quasi-public bodies/both Central and State Government undertakings. The staff strength of this office is primarily dependent on the volume of the above work handled by this office. To justify the present staff strength, as many as 24,000 bills approximately are required to be handled by the Calcutta office. Other similar offices under the Central Government viz., the Office of the C.C.A., New Delhi, D.C.A., Bombay