

[Shri Harikesh Bahadur]

attention of the hon. Minister and the House is this. These items are being very badly misused by the Government machinery also today. Diesel is being misused by the Government machinery. There must be some restrictions imposed by the Government on them also so that this cannot be misused. I don't know what steps have been taken in this regard. Sir, the large-scale blackmarketing and hoarding of diesel and kerosene has really created great difficulty for the poor people of the country and the farmers—especially in U.P. particularly in the region to which I belong, Eastern U.P. Sir, in Eastern U.P. people are not at all getting kerosene oil. Wherever it is available it is being sold at Rs. 8 per litre. (Interruptions) Even more than that. I would like to know from the Minister as to what steps the Government proposes to take to impose some restrictions on the use of diesel in the Government machinery also. I would like him to spell out the steps taken in this regard. My second point is this. In spite of the fact that the Centre has asked State Governments to take stringent action against black-marketeers, and also hoarders, I am sorry to state that the provisions under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Essential Commodities Act, are not being properly enforced. Will the Hon'ble Minister let the House know what he is going to do in order to activate the State Governments in these matters?

15 hrs.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: The hon. Member has brought to my notice that even the Government officials are misusing the diesel that is supplied to them. So far as our Ministry is concerned, we have not received any such complaints so far. If Government officials in a particular state are misusing diesel oil, we can only tell the State Government

to take stern action against the Government officials. (Interruptions) We from here cannot take any disciplinary action and it is very difficult to find out whether any particular Government official is misusing the diesel that is supplied to him. About blackmarketing, I have already replied. (Interruptions) Sir, so far as Eastern U.P. is concerned, I agree that there is a shortage of these items. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions) **

15.02 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) WORKING AND ADMINISTRATION OF FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): I beg to bring the following matter of urgent public importance to the notice of the House under Rule 377.

The Food Corporation of India is being run at staggering operational cost which is almost equal to procurement price of foodgrains and the marginal profits in the Balance Sheets of the Food Corporation of India is a manipulated picture to cover huge losses covered through large subsidies from the Government. The budgeted subsidy for 1978-79 was to the tune of Rs. 570 crores. The top-heavy administration, the high cost of sale of procured foodgrains lead to a 95 per cent mark-up on the procurement price paid to the producer making the entire system commercially non-viable. The F.C.I. is deriving more margin out of the grain sales than officially allowed. These are clear indications that the manpower in F.C.I. is not fully employed and productivity per person has gone

down. I therefore call upon the Government to make an indepth study of the working and administration of the F.C.I. and tighten up its efficiency to serve the public purpose for which the Corporation was formed.

- (ii) NEED TO SHIFT RAILWAY LINE FROM CITY OF BIKANER AND CONSTRUCTION OF AN OVER-BRIDGE TO FACILITATE THE TRAFFIC.

श्री मनकल सिंह चौधरी (बीकानेर) राजस्थान म बीकानेर शहर के बीच से रेल गुजरती हैं। इसके लिये वहां फ्रांसिंग बने हुए हैं। ये फ्रीसिंग रेलों के गुजरने के लिये काफी समय तक बंद रहते हैं और कभी-कभी तो तीन-तीन घंटे तक यही स्थिति रहती है। फलस्वरूप लोगों का आवागमन अवरोध हुआ जाता है और शहर का संपूर्ण जीवन अव्यवस्थित हो जाता है। नागरिकों की असुविधा दूर करने के लिये रेलवे लाइन शहर के बाहर से निकाली जानी चाहिये। इसके अतिरिक्त ओवर ब्रिज पर भी विचार किया जाना चाहिये। लम्बे समय से चली आ रही इस समस्या को दूर करने के लिये रेल मंत्रालय को तुरन्त कदम उठाने चाहिये।

15.06 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

- (iii) NEED FOR TRANSPORT FACILITIES FOR ORANGE GROWERS OF VIDARBHA REGION OF MAHARASHTRA.

SHRI R. K. MHALGI (Thane): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the famous Nagpur orange is rotting at the Narkhed Mandi in Amravati and in Nagpur's santra market. And more is likely to get waste on trees, since growers find it worthless to pluck the fruit.

The local demand for orange has always been meagre, but the current season's excellent crop after a succession of lean years, has caused a glut with transport facilities just not available.

Amravati can load at least 20 wagons a day, and Nagpur half that number, but the railways do not provide adequate wagons. Diesel shortage has made road transport too costly even when vehicles do turn up which also is rare.

Vidarbha (Maharashtra) earns annually about Rs. 7.5 lakhs on this rich citrus fruit but the virtual destruction of this year's bumper crop might impose a loss of about Rs. 10 crores. And this is not all.

Allowing the fruit to rot on the trees will adversely affect the next 'Mirga' crop which in fact is the major crop. And the plan to plant 60 lakh graftings in the next season, for which the grafts are ready, will be thrown to the winds.

The hon. Railway and the Agricultural Ministers should come forth to make statements in the House to explain what steps their Ministries have taken or propose to take urgently to save the economy of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

15.08 hrs.

MOTION Re. TWENTY-EIGHTH REPORT OF UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): I beg to move:

"That this House do take note of the Twenty-eighth Report of the Union Public Service Commission for the period 1st April, 1977 to 31st March, 1978, together with Government's Memorandum on the cases of non-acceptance of the Commission's advice mentioned in the Report laid on the Table of the House on the 30th January, 1980".

Article 323 of the Constitution provides for the laying of the Annual Reports of the Union Public Service Commission before each House of Parliament and it is in accordance with this that the Report was laid before the two Houses on the 30th January, 1980.