

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR:
Under Rule 198. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Overruled. Please sit down. Not allowed. Now, Matters under 377. Shri Chitta Basu.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) REPORTED MOVE TO DE-LINK CALCUTTA FROM HALDIA PORT

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat):
With your permission, Sir, I want to bring a matter of urgent public importance.

It is a matter of grave concern to learn that the Ministry of Shipping and Transport are contemplating to de-link Calcutta from Haldia port.

It is to be noted in this connection that Haldia port was developed with the object of supplementing Calcutta Port by handling bulk cargo. It was never meant to operate as an independent unit. An earlier team of the Central Government in 1976, expressed their considered opinion against the de-linking proposal.

A Central Team was sent to Calcutta to study the issue recently. It is surprising to note that the said team did not meet the representatives of the Government of West Bengal.

The basic problem of Calcutta Port is assured minimum of supplying 4,000 cusecs of water from Farakka during the lean season. Mere de-linking of the two ports cannot solve the basic problem facing the Calcutta Port.

Since considerable misgivings have been created in the mind of West Bengal Government by the recent visit of the Central Team, it is essential, that the Minister of shipping and Transport makes a statement clarifying the matter.

I urge upon the Minister to make such a statement at the earliest opportunity.

(ii) NEED TO LOCATE OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CEMENT CONTROLLER AT HYDERABAD

SHRI T. DAMODAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Andhra Pradesh is facing great difficulty in making available cement to the needy persons. It is extremely difficult to get cement at the reasonable prices, though it is available freely at a much higher price. The farmers, people in rural areas, small house builders and those who require it for ordinary repair find it very difficult to get cement. It is a common experience that genuine persons do not get cement at a reasonable price in time. It is indeed a travesty that about 12 major cement plants and 4 mini cement plants are located in Andhra Pradesh, yet the people are facing difficulty. There is need that distribution of cement should be arranged properly. It should be made available before the monsoon. There should be ample provision for the rural areas and the tribal regions of the State. Unless we provide basic essential material to the tribals and other backward people all other development works will come to a standstill. It is therefore necessary that a regional cement controller's office be located at Hyderabad so that the distribution could be assured. I, therefore, request the central Government to set up a Regional, Cement Controller's office at Hyderabad. It will fulfill a long felt demand of the people. It would prove a boon to the State. The distribution of a commodity is as important as its production. I am sure some positive measures will be adopted in this matter.

(iii) RESERVATION OF CANCELLED TRAIN SERVICES ON WESTERN RAILWAY

श्री मोतीबाई आर० चौधरी : (मेह-साना) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, वेस्टर्न रेलवे ने