

**DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS
(RAILWAYS), 1976-77**

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):** Sir,
I beg to present a statement showing
Demands for Excess Grants in respect
of the Budget (Railways) for 1976-77.

**SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR
GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 1978-79**

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):** Sir,
I beg to present a statement showing
Supplementary Demands for Grants
in respect of the Budget (Railways)
for 1978-79.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

**(i) REPORTED SUPPLY OF BAD QUALITY
OF WHEAT BY FOOD CORPORATION
OF INDIA TO HIMACHAL PRADESH**

SHRI BALAK RAM (Simla): Mr.
Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to
you for permitting me under Rule 377
to mention this matter of urgent public
importance regarding supply of soiled
and rotten wheat unfit for human con-
sumption to Himachal Pradesh by the
Food Corporation of India.

There is widespread resentment
among the people of Himachal Pradesh
regarding supply of soiled and rotten
wheat to Himachal Pradesh by the
Food Corporation of India. The wheat
is not at all fit for human consumption
and the hilly backward people of that
State have been, it appears, mocked
at and reduced to inhuman status with
the supply of this type of sub-stand-
ard wheat which is worse than cattle
feed. The District Food Advisory
Committee in its recent meeting on
18th November, 1978 and various news
papers have voiced their concern and
anxiety over this question of vital
public importance I therefore, request
you to kindly ask the hon. Agricul-
tural Minister to give a categorical
statement in the House about punish-

ing the guilty persons and assuring
supply of good quality of wheat to
Himachal Pradesh in future.

**(ii) REPORTED STRIKE WARNING BY THE
JUTE WORKERS' UNIONS**

**SHRI SAUGATA ROY (Barrack-
pore):** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, under
Rule 377, I rise to mention the follow-
ing matters of urgent public impor-
tance, namely, strike warning by the
jute unions.

Six Central Unions had in Calcutta
decided on 26th November, 1978 to or-
ganise an indefinite strike by two lakh
jute workers from 8th January next
if their negotiations with the jute mill
owners for a new wage scale failed.
Such a strike would cause enormous
loss in production and foreign ex-
change earnings at a time when inter-
national jute market was looking up.
In such previous instances of industry-
wise strike threat, the Central Com-
merce and Labour Ministries had in-
tervened to bring about a solution.
In the present case also, the Industry
Minister should call a meeting of the
workers, The Indian Jute Mill Asso-
ciation, along with the officials of the
State Government and Central La-
bour Ministry immediately to settle
the very just demands of the wor-
kers.

**(iii) REPORTED DELAY IN INTRODUCING
THE CENTRAL MARINE BILL TO PRO-
TECT THE INTERESTS OF TRADITIONAL
FISHERMEN.**

**SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA
(Serampore):** Sir, under rule 377, I
wish to raise the following matter:

"In spite of repeated assurances
given by the Minister that a Central
Marine Bill to protect the interests
of traditional fishermen community
of India will be introduced in the
winter session, the Government are
least concerned about the problems
of poor fishermen. The Govern-
ment have not yet given any indi-
cation to bring the Bill in the cur-
rent session. More than 6.5 million
fishermen are facing acute hardship
specially in the coastal areas of Goa.