

[Sh. Bir Singh Mahato]

garding conversion of this line into broad gauge. As a matter of fact, earth work was started in 1984, but was stopped after a few weeks.

The present Railway Minister has also assured that this line would be taken up for conversion as soon as possible, when he visited Purulia.

I urge upon the government to immediately take up the project of conversion of this line in order to ensure the socio-economic development of Purulia.

(VII) Need to supply adequate quality of boiled fine rice and Palm oil of Kerala

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (Ernakulam): Kerala is the only State where statutory rationing is prevailing. Central Government has to supply rice, wheat, palm oil and kerosene to Kerala for distribution through Public distribution system. For giving full ration at the rate of 220 gram/person/day, Kerala needs 2,40,000 M.T. rice. But only 1,45,000 M.T. rice is being provided. The people of Kerala are accustomed to take only boiled rice. But F.C.I. is supplying raw and inferior quality rice which cannot be distributed through Public distribution system. As a result of this, within one month, the price of rice has increased from Rs. 3.50 to Rs. 7.20 per kg. in the open market. Similar as against the requirement of 10,000 M.T. of palm oil by Kerala, only 1,000 M.T. palm oil is being supplied. The unprecedented rise in the price of rice and palm oil has created problems for the people of Kerala. So, I request the Government to supply boiled, fine quality rice and palm oil in adequate quantities immediately to Kerala.

14.25 hrs.

**SICK INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL
— CONTD.**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We shall now take up further consideration of the motion

on Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Amendment Bill - moved on 2nd December, 1991.

Dr. Debi Prosad Pal may speak.

DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL (Calcutta North West): Sir, I support the Amendment Bill which has been introduced by the hon. Finance Minister.

The Bill propose to amend Section 3 of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, by deleting the words "But does not include a Government company as defined in section 617 of that Act" in clause (d) of sub-section (1). In other words, the Sick Industrial Companies Act of 1985 hitherto was applicable only to the companies which were not Government Companies. A Government Company has been defined in Section 617 of the Companies Act to mean a company in which 15 per cent shares are held by the Central Government or the State Government or by the Central and State Government and include also subsidiaries of the Government Company. This amendment has been necessitated as a result of the introduction of the New Industrial Policy which has been introduced in this House by the Government.

Hitherto the public sector undertakings which were incurring losses could not be brought within the purview of the Sick Industrial Undertakings Act for a proper study and also the analysis of the causes of such sickness and the remedies which are available to such sick industries. The public sector undertakings undoubtedly play an important role in our industrial growth and economy. As a result of the policy of the Government of India, the public sector undertakings are complementary to the private sector, they act in cooperation and not in competition and they are complementary with each other. But it has been found when the Bureau of Public Enterprises in 1983-84 took up the matter of examining the causes of sickness of the public sector undertakings—it was found at that time, it was in 1983-84, that out of these 229 public sector companies, 59 companies were having their net-