

comes from the South Central Railway. But, the Railway Minister has totally neglected the State of Andhra Pradesh to allot funds in regard to many proposals of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, like new line, doubling and electrification, merger of Waltair Division in the South Central Railway, etc. To complete all railway lines in Secunderabad Division, an amount of Rs. 3,000 crores was required. But, in the recent Budget, only Rs. 141 crores were allotted. Rupees 800 crores were required for the ongoing doubling projects. But, only Rs. 71.03 crore were allotted in the Budget. The 2SS.4 kilometre new railway line will cost Rs. 1000.23 crores. The survey was completed on this line in 2004. It has been agreed in the current Budget, but no amount has been sanctioned against this. The Jagtial-Nizamabad line cost is Rs. 300 crores. But, the allotment made is only Rs. 15 crores. The cost of Mahabubnagar-Munirabad line is Rs. 300 crores. But, the Budget allotment is only Rs. 15 crores. The expected cost of Mahabubnagar-Munirabad line is Rs. 497 crores. But, the Budget allotment is only Rs. 50 crores. The expected cost of Jaggaihpeta-Mellacheru line is Rs. 88 crores. But, so far an amount of Rs. 39.06 crores has been sanctioned.

The raichur-Guntaka! doubling work requires Rs. 145 crores. But, no amount has been allotted.

Hence, I request the Government to consider the feelings of the people of Andhra Pradesh and do the justice.

#### **Request to Re-assess Wheat Stock in the Country and Revise its Minimum Support Price**

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI (Maharashtra): Sir, on the 7th February, 2008, a global meeting was held at Bangalore to discuss the situation of the wheat stocks the world over at a seminar entitled 'Vision 2020' in which delegates from various countries, including Canada, France, Germany and the United States, took part. Speaking at the seminar, the Minister of State for Consumer Affairs made a categorical statement that the country would not need to import wheat during the year 2008-09. On the other hand, from the same platform representatives of the United States forecast that India would be importing 30 lakh tonnes of wheat this year, urging that considerations of quality should not come in the way of the United States bids being treated as an instrument of price discovery.

It may be recalled that last year, as late as in June 2007, the Minister for Agriculture had categorically stated on the floor of the Rajya Sabha that there would be no need to import wheat as the country had enough stock to last till the end of the year. He maintained that position even when it was pointed out that the American market expected to export around 30 lakh tonnes to India. As it came out, in the end, the American market intelligence was better than the calculations of the Minister for Agriculture.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to re-assess the situation of the stock of wheat, and revise the minimum support/procurement price in the light of the price of rupees 1600 per quintal prevailing in the international market even today as also lift the ban on the futures trading on and of wheat with immediate effect.

#### **Need to Provide Connectivity to the New Greenfield Airport at Devanahalli in Bangalore**

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Sir, the new Greenfield Airport facility at Devanahalli near Bangalore promoted by the Bangalore International Airports Ltd. (BIAL) has already undergone trial runs and is expected to be commissioned soon.