

इसके अलावा और कोई तरीका नहीं है। लेकिन उन्होंने जो आन्ध्र प्रदेश के पड़ोसी राज्य हैं उसमें एक राज्य के तत्कालीन बड़े प्रभावी मुख्य मंत्री से पहुंच की जो आज भारत सरकार में एक बहुत बड़े प्रभावी मंत्री हैं और इन दोनों के माध्यम से भारत सरकार को पहुंच की गयी तथा यह कहा गया कि यह तो जमीन भारत सरकार ने अध्यापित की है। इसलिए मुद्रावजा क्यों न भारत सरकार से लिया जाए और आपके ताज्जुब होगा कि 25 लाख की जगह 60 करोड़ रुपये का मुद्रावजा भारत सरकार में तय कराया गया है जिसमें बताया जाता है कि 15 करोड़ की दलाली बीच में लोगों की तय हुई है। मुझे बताया गया है कि इस मुद्रावजे का अभी पैमेंट नहीं हुआ है। मैं आपके माध्यम से चाहूंगा भारत सरकार और गृह मंत्री जी से कि इस मुद्रावजे की रकम का स्थगन उस वक्त तक रखा जाए जब तक इसकी जांच नहीं हो जाती है। कहां 25 लाख और कहां 60 करोड़। जमीन आसमान का अंतर है। उसमें 15 करोड़ घोटाले में जाएंगे। इसलिए सरकार को इस हानि से बचाया जाए। इस प्रकरण की जांच कराई जाए और यदि ऐसा हुआ है तो इसमें जो लोग भी बीच में बिचौलिये शामिल हैं उनको नंगा किया जाए। धन्यवाद।

**THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA):** At 5 there is a statement. I would therefore, request the hon. Members to be brief.

**Need to release additional quota of essential commodities to Kerala by Central Government on the Occasion of Onam**

**SHRI N. E. BALARAM (Kerala):** Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for allowing me this opportunity to mention about a particular thing, a very important thing concerning my State. Perhaps, you may be knowing that Onam is a big festival throughout Kerala and Onam is being celebrated this year in the month of September, first week of September. Yesterday I received a

letter from the hon. Minister of Civil Supplies in Kerala stating that the attention of the Central Government should be drawn immediately to a particular question, the question of non availability of sufficient food-grains, sugar, oil etc., to be distributed at the time of Onam festival. The stock at present is very very, what should I say, short. It would not be possible to distribute on this Onam holiday the required quantity of rice, sugar or oil to all the families in Kerala. This festival is usually celebrated by all the communities, all people belonging to all religions, all sections throughout Kerala. So this year if we want to celebrate this festival we will need the help of the Central Government. Since the Public Distribution System was in some difficulty the Minister found it very difficult to supply enough quantities of rice, sugar etc. to the people. That is why, he has written a letter to me asking me to draw the attention of the Central Government to this particular matter. I think, the Government will take note of it and enable the people of Kerala to celebrate our annual festival in a big way.

**SHRI M. A. BABY (Kerala):** Sir, with your permission, I request the hon. Minister, Shri M. M. Jacob, to assure the House that the feeling of the Member of the House would be conveyed to the Government. It is a very serious matter.

**Need to include the sethusamudram Ship Canal project in the eighth five year plan**

**SHRI S. MADHAVAN (Tamil Nadu):** Sir, I rise to invite the attention of the Government to the urgent need of including the Sethusamudram Ship Canal Project in the Eighth Five Year Plan in the context of increasing conflicts with the Sri Lankan Government and the growing importance of the Indian Ocean area. This provides a short-cut route connecting the West Coast and the East Coast of India. This project has a history starting from the year 1860 when Commander Taylor drafted this

[Shri S. Madhavan]

canal idea, in 1862, when Sir John Coode prepared a plan and in 1921, when a strong plea for the laying of the Rameshwaram Ship Canal was made by the then Government of Madras. The commercial and business importance of this project were being highlighted from the time of the British regime. Now this project will have a strategic importance for our country. The Sethusamudram Project Committee, constituted by the Government of India in 1955, recommended that this project should be completed during the Second Five Year Plan period. The Emergency Committee of the Union Cabinet held in 1963 decided that this project should be included for advance action relating to the Fourth Five Year Plan and accordingly a High Level Committee was set up. The findings are:

(1) The Sethusamudram Project is economically viable, technically feasible and it will start with a 5 per cent return on capital and go up to 15 per cent.

(2) Eighty per cent of the gross earnings will be in the shape of foreign exchange.

(3) The canal will save an average 360 nautical miles by way of distance.

The importance of the project has increased after the development of new industries like fertiliser, chemical and cement industries and the need for coal movement for Thermal Plants in this area. The undue delay in implementing this project has resulted in the cost escalation of this project. It was Rs. 50 lakhs during the British regime and Rs. 37 crores in 1968. The Technical Committee of the Government of India has observed: "This project has been considered and found desirable over and over again in the last 100 years by different administrations and authorities and their unanimous view of its desirability should dispel any doubts as to its utility or soundness. According to our Hindu mythology,

Sri Rama built the Indo-Sri Lankan causeway, known as Sethu causeway. Sri Rama was an incarnation, an *avathtar*, of Maha Vishnu. I hope that this Sethu canal project will be completed during the regime of Hon. Shri Narasimha Rao. I want to caution that the continuous neglect of Tamil Nadu will not be good for the unity and integrity of our country. Hence I demand that the Government should implement this project during the Eighth Five Year Plan and do justice to the people of Tamil Nadu.

**SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN** (Tamil Nadu): I associate myself with this. Since it is found economically viable, technically feasible and beneficial to the country, the Government should give top priority to include this project in the Eighth Five Year Plan. Thank you, Sir.

**SHRI S. AUSTIN** (Tamil Nadu): I associate myself with this.

**Move of The Indian Air Lines Pilots to seek employment elsewhere specially in Foreign Airlines**

**SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI** (Gujarat): Sir, I rise to speak with a lot of anguish and a sense of sadness as well, especially when we are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the "Quit India" movement, a great movement. The pilots of Indian Airlines are really encouraged to quit India. It is a very serious issue. Sir, I crave your indulgence for a little longer time than is available to me because it is a very, very serious issue. And I fear that here is some kind of a deliberate attempt to close down this Airlines. One-third of the fleet is lying on the ground today. May I ask the Government how much it is costing us? If I recall, in a somewhat similar situation which arose for Airbus 320, almost one-third of the aircraft was grounded for quite some time and there was a lot of hue and cry. Now what has happened? What is the reason? Why are we letting this fleet lie on the ground and trying to scare the pilots?