

[Shri Puttapaga Radhakrishnan]

Therefore, I request the hon. Minister for Urban Development to use his good offices to help these poor people and to persuade the NBCC to complete the work as soon as possible and hand over the flats to the concerned persons. Thank you.

#### Reported starvation deaths in Orissa

SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN (Orissa): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, it is a matter of deep concern that after Kalahandi and Koraput, starvation deaths have now been reported from Bolangir District of Orissa. Chief Minister J. B. Patnaik may indulge in hair-splitting by blaming the deaths on disease in his familiar cavalier manner, but the fact that independent observers are claiming that the diseases arose out of starvation and that an estimated 1.5 lakh people have left their homes in the district in search of food and work can hardly be dismissed lightly.

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA (Orissa): It is totally false. I object to this.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): It is a special mention.

SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Given the Patnaik Government's shockingly apathetic attitude in the past and its record of maladministration and corruption in relief work, it should cause no surprise if famine conditions spread to other parts of the State too. The State Government has been too obsessed with organising the Prime Minister's visits, giving Bhubaneswar a facelift and other trivialities like the International Children's Film Festival to bother about the plight of the starving populace. There is also no gainsaying that the blatant and ill-advised manner in which the Centre has been shielding the Chief Minister has accentuated the neglect of the common man by his government, who has spent 1100 crores of rupees violating the

constitution without the sanction of the Legislating Assembly ought to be dismissed.

It is no secret that contractor-official-politician cliques have been pocketing a large part of the funds and food meant for the drought-hit. Rations are finding their way into the black market through fair price shops on an unprecedented scale. It has become a familiar pattern to put up a show of relief measures a few days before the Prime Minister visits drought-hit area and to withdraw them after the visit, leaving the people in the lurch. The Chief Minister, shrewd that he is, is acutely conscious that the Prime Minister couldn't be careless once the proper mileage from the visit has been made. There is no gainsaying, however, that the people are feeling immensely let down and angry. People have given their verdict in the last five by-elections in Orissa.

#### Need to restore the Him Sagar Express plying between Kanyakumari and Jammu Tawi

SHRI T. K. C. VADUTHALA (Kerala): Mr. Vice Chairman, Sir, rail journey is considered to be less expensive, especially in the case of those who have to travel a long distance. The people of Kerala who hail from the southern-most part of the country were very happy when a train connecting Kanyakumari with Jammu Tawi was introduced. This train named Him Sagar Express is the only train covering the longest route in the country and is also a landmark in the cause of national integration. When the prestigious train was started, the people of Kerala and other southern States took it as a boon to them and also to the service personnel posted in high terrains.

Due to flood and disruption of railway lines in Andhra Pradesh during the last monsoon, Him Sagar Express was cancelled temporarily. One can understand the necessity for such action in unfavourable circumstances. But the people are at a loss to understand the reason for the cancellation of this prestigious train

all of a sudden. Because the railway authorities decided to cancel Him Sagar Express permanently from the 1st of October, 1987. I am inclined to make this special mention in this august House because this train was really helpful to the Keralites working in various stations north of Delhi, such as Ambala, Rajpura, Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Amritsar, Pathankot and Jammu Tawi. This train was also used by the business community of the north for their frequent travel to the south. In a democratic developing country like ours the Government is making all efforts for the welfare of the people. But in the case of the people living at far off places from the capital they feel that they are denied their just and reasonable needs by such sudden action of the authorities. Instead of increasing the frequency of this very important train, the Government decided to cancel it, leaving the public, the beneficiaries in utter despair. I would therefore request the authorities to restore Him Sagar Express with an increased frequency of at least three days a week with immediate effect. According to available information there are more than thirty thousand Keralites living in Haryana, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. Besides them there are a large number of Malayalee service personnel posted in border States. Since most of them are living here with family leaving their parents and relatives in Kerala ..

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA):** Please conclude now. You can write the details to the Minister.

**SHRI T. K. C. VADUTHALA:** I therefore appeal, through you, to the Government to take immediate steps to restore Him Sagar Express and do justice to the people of Kerala without much delay.

**Threat to the life span of Hirakud Dam due to fast siltation and sedimentation**

**SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA (Orissa):** Mr. Vice-Chairman, I would like to draw your attention to a news item published in a section of the press re-

garding the threat to the life span of the Hirakud Dam due to fast siltation and sedimentation. Sir, this dam was built in mid-fifties with the object of controlling floods, providing irrigation and production of power. The project has brought a change in the social, economic and cultural life of the people of Orissa. The press report says that the biggest multi-purpose river valley project 'Hirakud', constructed in the mid-fifties in Orissa, is now being threatened with fast siltation and sedimentation leading to a premature end of its life span according to a remote sensing study. According to the latest hydrographic survey conducted during 1981, the original capacity of the dam has been reduced from 8105 million cubic metres to 6626 million cubic metres, registering a loss of 0.7 per cent per year. Remote sensing techniques applied for easy computation of the area of the reservoir also reveal that there has been a loss of 1.3 per cent of the dead storage capacity per year along with 0.5 per cent loss of the live storage and 0.7 per cent of gross storage per year owing to fast sedimentation. Built across the river Mahanadi, about 15 km up stream of Sambalpur, the reservoir, with a projected life span of 120 years, aims mainly at controlling flood besides providing irrigation to about two lakh hectares with an installation capacity of 240 MW of power. Renovation of Hirakud Dam is very badly necessary since dredging is impossible owing to a large number of stumps inside the water. Some new technique has to be found out to take up the renovation work. The Government should take immediate action to save the Hirakud Reservoir from siltation and sedimentation so that the people of the State would be benefited by this multi-purpose river valley project.

**Need for Central Government Enquiry into the illegal establishment of a Cigarette Factory at Vairengte (Mizoram)**

**DR. C. SILVERA (Mizoram):** Mr Vice-Chairman, Sir, I want to bring