

SHRISOMNATHCHATTERJEE: If you think you are serving the country by this attitude, it is for you; the people will take their own decisions. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI KHESLATION SINGH (Sarguja): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a tribal settlement of Gond and Pando tribes at Bijapur village of block Badafnagar in Sarguja district. Pandos are very poor and backward class whom the Central Government has declared most backward class. Ribai Pando's daughter-in-law and her son of this village died of starvation and Shri Ribal's brother is serious. They have neither foodgrains nor money. The whole region is in the grip of drought but no relief works have been started by the Madhya Pradesh Government with the result thousands of families have migrated and now they are on the verge of starving to death. Shri M.S. Singhdev, former Chief Secretary of the Madhya Pradesh Government had apprised Shri Sundar Lal Patwa, the Chief Minister of the famine situation through a letter. But it is very sad that Shri Patwa has denied in his reply the prevalence of drought situation there and refused to start relief works. The district Panchayat Officer, however, admits that there is drought situation but the District Collector of Sarguja is not ready to admit it.

I request the hon. Pr. Minister to send a study team of the Central Government to Madhya Pradesh to visit the entire drought-affected area, particularly the tribal belt, and to provide amount for relief works.

[*English*]

SHRI DIGVJAYA SINGH (Rajgarh): We want a statement from the Government. A Central Team must go to Madhya Pradesh. There is an utter chaos in the State of Madhya Pradesh. People are going out quitting their own homes. There is no relief

work. People are dying of starvation. We want a reaction from the Government.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister should make a statement on it. Workers are migrating from there. They are starving. It cannot go like this. Two starvation deaths have occurred in your Mandsaur district and the Sarguja district has also witnessed such deaths. How long will it continue? The hon. Minister should make a statement. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Government has all along been classifying the cities for the grant of salaries and allowances to the State Government employees. Unfortunately the Government is not declaring Kota as a B class city although it fulfill all the norms laid down for the purpose. Bikaner, which has less population than Kota and has a population of 4 lakh 20 thousand, has been declared a B class city. Kota has a population of 5 lakh and 60 thousand but till this day it has not been declared a B Class city. An agitation is going on there. People are on hunger strike. I have received three telegrams. I have submitted one of them to you. It is my submission that the State Government, the Central Government may declare Kota a B Class city immediately. A man has sent me a telegram again who is nearing death. Hundreds of people have been arrested. I request you to direct the Central Government to declare Kota a B Class city. Please do justice to Kota city.

[*English*]

SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA (Berhampore): Sir, a serious situation has emerged owing to satyagraha being resorted to by the workers of Maniindra-B.T. Mills, Berhamupor, West Bengal which calls

for immediate intervention by the Textile Minister.

The tension was developing since issuing of notice by the National Textile Corporation (NTC) on 7.9.91, on the demand for withdrawal of the arbitrary notice by which the composite character of the Manindra-B.T. Mills has been abandoned and a part of it (Manindra Nagar Weaving Mills) being abolished in the name of the so-called merger.

Eversince the nationalisation of the Textile Industry, the N.T.C. has done nothing significant towards modernisation, expansion and development to make Manindra-B.T. Mills viable; ignored the intention of the Sick Textile Undertaking (Nationalisation) Act, 1974; and moved contrary to the categorical assurance given in Parliament by the Indira Gandhi Government. The N.T.C. had closed, instead, to allow the loss being accumulated and thus prepare the ground for closure of these Mills in the long run.

The demand of the workers are: Save Manindra-B.T. Mills; retain its composite character; and adopt the policy of modernisation and expansion to make this mill viable. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You speak daily. Not in this way. Let chance be given to others.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: This is not going on record. Not in this manner. There are other Members, let them speak. Everytime not like this.

[English]

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Now, Dr. Soundaram.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: This is not going on record. *(Interruptions)* I will give you a chance later. *(Interruptions)* This is not correct. You are monopolising and it is not correct. You allow other Members also to speak. Dr. Soundaram.

DR. (SHRIMATI) K.S. SOUNDARAM (Tirsschengode): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I bring the following urgent matter to the kind notice of the Industries Minister.

Erode in Tamilnadu is a big centre for leather goods, having a number of tanneries. Number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people are dependent on this leather finishing centre for their livelihood. Due to this, the is a leather finishing centre at Erode functioning for a long time.

Sir, yesterday, I received a telegram from the members of the Erode Small Tanners Association regarding the closure of the leather finishing centre at Erode. They, in that telegram, requested to hand over the leather finishing centre to Erode Small Tanners Co-operative Society, organised by Erode Small Tanners Association.

Since the Government is very much interested in creating self-employment for SC/ST people, it is very essential that this centre should continue to function.

So, I request the hon. Minister not to close this leather finishing centre and if it has decided to close down, I request the Government to take steps to re-open it or hand over it to the Erode Small Tanners Co-operative Society. *(Interruptions)*