

and Hissar district not even a single drop of petrol or diesel is available at the Petrol Pumps and the Diesel outlets, particularly those situated in rural areas. Now when the wheat crop is ready this is adversely affecting the farmers and they are suffering huge losses.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, because of shortage of diesel in Haryana the transport has been adversely affected and as a result the sugarcane is not reaching the sugar mills. Mr. Speaker Sir, through you I would request the Government, to provide petrol and diesel to the Hissar Depot.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Mr. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to raise a very important issue. 5000 Haj pilgrims are planning to go Haj this year in three groups through the sea route. The first lot is going on the 7th of April. The ship which was sent last year to Haj has been declared unseaworthy. After that the Government decided that another ship which goes on the Andaman-Nicobar route, will be deputed to take three lots of passengers to the Haj and that ship had to reach Bombay on the 17th of March but today is the 18th and it has not reached and the meantime Calcutta High Court has given a stay order that if the Government does not provide a ship in exchange within 15 days, the existing ship should not be removed from the service.

The Government has got one ship from Poland; it has to reach by the 15th April. I would request to arrange for the ships on priority basis so that three lots of Haj pilgrims reach Saudi Arabia without fail. There is a difference of about Rs. 7000 in the fare of an aeroplane and a ship. Those who go by ships cannot travel by aeroplanes. If the Government cannot provide the ship, it will become necessary to arrange for aeroplanes. In that case the Government will have to bear the difference because at the last moment the Haj pilgrims cannot shell out

money. In my opinion there is another solution. The Government can seek extension of time from the Calcutta High Court on the stay order and request, that as soon as the ship from Poland arrives, it would be pressed into service along with the ship Andaman-Nicobar route as proposed by the Hon. Prime Minister himself. The schedule as proposed would be implemented and the ship would be immediately sent to Bombay.

[English]

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN (Mukundapuram): Sir, I rise with a very heart to express my feeling over the statement made by one of the hon. Members that Kerala is heavily affected and it has the highest percentage of AIDS patients. He said so. But it is not true. His statement was misleading. There was a statement by the World Health Organisation that by 2,000 AD perhaps 25 per cent of our people may be affected by this disease, all over the country, not only Kerala. In that report, it is said that 40 per cent of the affected people are in other States. I am not interested in naming the state. But by naming our State, he gave such an impression.

MR. SPEAKER: Now conclude. You have made the point and it is not correct.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Mr. Speaker, Sir the people of Manipur have been agitated for a long period about the neglect of their various grievances by the Government. One of the major grievances is non-recognition of Manipur language in the Eight Schedule of the Constitution they have been bringing delegations. They have submitted memorandum. Recently even our BJP State Unit has submitted a Memorandum to the Prime Minister containing one lakh signatures. Now their Assembly is in suspended animation. This is also creating a law and order issue. Their agitation is taking another turn in which even Hindi films Hindi books

and Hindi newspapers are not being allowed. Now it is turning out to be a serious law and order problem and since the Assembly is not functioning there, it is necessary that Prime Minister takes initiative on this issue and brings forward an immediate Bill including Manipuri language in the Eight Schedule of the Constitution and the Government should react to the situation there and make a statement on the floor of the House.

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the long-standing demand of the people of North Bengal, specially those of the Jalpaiguri Divisional Town, to set up a Circuit Bench of the Calcutta High Court. The Members of the Bar Association initiated the issue. On 3rd June, 1988, the High Court of Calcutta announced its decision to set up a Circuit Bench there. For this purpose, a number of rooms have been earmarked at Nawab-Bari of Jalpaiguri Divisional Town. In this connection, the hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal has expressed his views in his letter to Shri Dinesh Goswami, the then Minister of Law and Justice during July 1990 stating that the Circuit Bench should be located at the Jalpaiguri Divisional Town at Nawab-Bari. On this occasion, I would like to mention another opinion of the registrar of Calcutta High Court also. He has opined that it is the Central Government which can decide the venue of this Circuit Bench.

Under the circumstances, I urge upon the Government to take necessary steps so that the Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court may be situated at Nawab-Bari in Jalpaiguri.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the miserable plight of those physically-handicapped employees of the Ministry of Welfare, Government of India. You know, they was working for five-days in

week for last ten years. All the four National Instituted of the Physically Handicapped at Delhi, Dehra Dun, Calcutta and in other parts of the country worked for five-days in a week. But recently, they have changed the whole system. When all the Central Government employees are working for five-days in a week all over the country, the physically-handicapped workers are now forced to work half-a-day more. Recently, they have ordered the employees to work six days in a week. So, they are representing to the Government repeatedly but no decision has yet taken. This one-day increase is difficult for the employees. Even if there is one-hour increase in a day, it is not so difficult. But coming and going on Saturday is more difficult for the physically-handicapped employees. This one-day increase in working means that they have to come one-day more. This is more difficult. Therefore, the Government should be more sympathetic to its own employees. I feel that this six-day week of those employees should be reduced and it should be reverted back to the old system of five-day week for those physically-handicapped employees of the All-India Institute of Physically-handicapped all over the country.

I, therefore, urge upon the Minister of Welfare to take immediate decision in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we will ask the Minister to lay the Papers on the Table of the House. Those who are on the back-benches will be given a chance next and the front-benchers are requested not to raise their hands.

(Interruptions)
