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Title: Regarding demand of payment of salaries and wages of employees of the Hindustan Newspaper Ltd. (HNL).

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**SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN ( KOTTAYAM):** Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a matter of great public importance through this August House in the presence of the Minister for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for immediate action.

Hindustan Newsprint Limited(HNL), Velloor, which is coming under my constituency and which was adjudged as a Mini Navaratna earlier, is now listed for strategic sale by the Government of India. The company was started in 1983 as a PSU under the Department of Heavy Industries, Government of India as a Wholly Owned Subsidiary of Hindustan Paper Corporation, Kolkata.

Ever since, its inception, modernization or upgradation of the plant was not done. In spite of this fact, its capacity utilization was in the range of 110 to 120 per cent and the company has repaid to the Government of India more than its investment by way of dividend, taxes, excise duty, etc.

However, the plant was closed in the year 2018 for about two and a half months as it could not comply with certain norms prescribed by the Central Pollution Board. Now, the HNL is facing financial crisis due to shortage of working capital. More than thousand employees/workers are denied of their salaries and wages for the last eight months continuously and the company is on the verge of closure due to financial crisis. Non-

payment of wages to the work force has affected thousands of families directly and indirectly and the situation is very grave.

Sir, I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister to kindly intervene in this matter and find an amicable solution.

**श्री संतोष पान्डेय (राजनंदगाँव):** अध्यक्ष महोदय, आपको बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद देता हूँ। मैं राजनंदगाँव, छत्तीसगढ़ से आता हूँ, जो कला, संगीत और साहित्य की त्रिवेणी का संगम है। छत्तीसगढ़ का एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण विषय मैं उठाना चाहता हूँ।

छत्तीसगढ़ में अभी विगत छः दिन पहले जो घटना हुई, वह हम सबके लिए दुखद है। वहाँ चरईडांड नाम का एक छोटा सा ग्राम है, दुलदुला थाना और जसपुर जिला है, वहाँ के मोहनराम निराला, जो एक सामान्य कृषक थे और कृषकों के किसान मोर्चा के अध्यक्ष थे। वास्तव में उनका पत्र मार्मिक है, पढ़ने लायक है, जिस प्रकार से उन्होंने आत्महत्या की। ...(व्यवधान)

**माननीय अध्यक्ष :** आप पत्र टेबल कर देना।