

[Shri P.S. Gadhavi]

thank you very much for the opportunity given to me.

I would like to invite your attention and the attention of the hon. House about a very serious situation. In Gujarat, in the districts of Kutch, Banaskantha, Mehsana and Surendra Nagar, there is an acute shortage of water. In Kutch, we are facing this situation of drought for the last two years. There is not a drop of water there. In Kutch district, about 30,000 to 40,000 cattle have died. The people are migrating. There is no drinking water facility. If they want to make any provision of drinking water in Kutch district and in all these North Gujarat districts, the only possibility of getting water is from the rivers situated in South Gujarat. We can have pipeline from Navda river or Mahi river. If this provision is not made, I fear that in the coming years the people will be migrating from there and the cattle will perish. We have very good kind of buffaloes and precious cows which are there. They are being perished day by day.

My only humble suggestion, through your honour, to the Government is that drinking water facility requires to be made in the North Gujarat districts, particularly in Kutch and Surendra Nagar districts. *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (BARH) : You please listen about the bird catchers...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : All the hon. Members have said that an hon. Member would speak on a single subject and not all.

*(Interruptions)*

13.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If they yield, I do not have any objection.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, I admit that environment should be protected. The traditions of this country have never led to the disturbance of environment. The people of bird catchers' society catch sparrows and other birds and sell them. People buy them and rear them and it has been going on for centuries. Their business has never caused any harm to environment. I would like to submit that if someone's business causes harm to environment then stern action should be taken against them. There can be no two opinions in this regard. There are many insects which are eaten by animals and birds and in this way they save our life. This is called the balance of environment. If in a profession there is no loss of life, and people catch birds and sell them to others and earn their livelihood such a profession should be kept aside. The way, the discussion is going on today on environment there should be an open discussion on this topic and a complete ban should be imposed on slaughtering of animals. Non-vegetarian food should be banned. On the one hand non-vegetarian food is in the increase and the people have been exploiting all these things which have been causing an obstacle in

safeguarding environment. Man is eating everything. There should be a ban on it, but there is no such restriction.

If a member of bird catchers' society catches 10-5 birds and through that he earns his livelihood then the issue should be considered separately. We have objection to one thing. If an Hon. Member raises slogans for the other like "Menka Gandhi Hosh Mein Aao" then it is not fair. Smt. Menka Gandhi should be welcomed. Her campaign to improve environment should be respected. But so far as the bird catchers' society is concerned, I support their cause.

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister through you towards the verdict of the Supreme Court given on the 19th February. The Supreme court has given a verdict on 19th February, 1997 in which it has been decided that unless the candidates belonging to SCs, STs and backward classes do not achieve minimum marks, their seats in medical and engineering should be de-reserved and filled by general candidates. This case came up before the Court in the case of Dr. Sadhna Devi Versus Uttar Pradesh Government. My submission is that the persons belonging to SCs, STs and backward classes in our country can never be doctors or engineers. I would like that the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should amend it and should enact such a law which can enable them to avail the right of reservation. There is resentment among the SCs, STs and backward classes youth. My submission is that the Government should take the initiative in this regard and they should be given their reservation quota.

*[English]*

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Members Shri Fatmi, Shri Sharad Yadav and Shri Nitish Kumar have raised a very vital issue. The Government has taken note of their concern. An hon. Member Shrimati Bhagwati Devi is on dharna. I would request her to withdraw her dhama.

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have called all the names but not of Nitishji. What is there ? Is there anything special?

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : I have called his name.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sorry, I have not heard.

*[Interruptions]*

SHRI RAM NAIK (MUMBAI-NORTH) : I also support it.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : It is being supported by Ram Naikji. I would like to submit this much only that Bhagwatiji, who is staging a Dharna should withdraw it. The Government would call a meeting in this regard and would ponder over it.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (MUMBAI-SOUTH WEST) : You, please go there, request her and bring her to the House.