

government to direct the concerned officers for providing immediate relief to the people.

*[English]*

DR. B.N. REDDY (Miryalguda) : Mr. Chairman Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members cutting across the party lines to a very important matter. Today there is acute shortage of power in the country. Specially, in Andhra Pradesh farmers are drying because their fields are drying up. They do not have water; they do not have power. What I would like to say, through you, to the House is that the need of the hour is water, power and shelter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not make a speech. It is Zero Hour. Just mention it and finish.

*[Translation]*

SHRI B.N. REDDY : Sir, please listen, I am talking about problems of water, power and shelter. Sir, please listen for a minute. Yesterday also I could not get opportunity to raise the matter during zero hour. Please allow me to speak for one minute. Some Members are even allowed to speak for more than 15 minutes.

*[English]*

Today, people are not asking for doles, they are asking for jobs. They are asking for electricity. An amount of Rs. 17,800 crore is being given as subsidy which will go down the drain if enough power is not made available. It will not be utilised properly in the country. I request you to tell the Prime Minister and others concerned that at least 50 per cent of that money be diverted to generate power, to provide water and housing to people so that employment is generated.

SHRI SHIVANAND H. KOUJALGI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, without prior permission of the Central Government, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is constructing five irrigation tanks. On account of this the Government of Karnataka will be put to a heavy loss. Hence, I request that the Andhra Pradesh Government be instructed not to construct the five irrigation tanks, that is, the Telugu Ganga Project and others.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA (Jammu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as the hon. Members of this House know that in J & K the Army, BSF and CRPF have been

occupying farmers land since so many years. The rent amount paid to the farmers by the Army, BSF and CRPF has not been increased since 1993. Therefore, I would request the Central Government and the Defence Ministry to increase the amount of rent and immediate payment of arrears should be made to the farmers, so that the farmers, whose lands have been occupied by the Army or other forces and who have no other means of livelihood, may make both ends meet.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House as well as of the Government towards a very important matter. There is brain drain from our country. Doctors, Engineers, scientists and even Army Officers are getting demoralised and leaving government jobs and joining multinational companies and other big companies.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have been undertaking our space programme without any help from the developed countries, but during last few days many many scientists of ISRO have left the job. Every year an average of 85 scientists of ISRO are leaving the job and joining some other organisation. Last year alone 135 scientists left the organisation. The resignation of so many scientists from ISRO has adversely affected our space programme and it is almost on the verge of closure. If this situation continues the space programme would be stalled.

Therefore, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government to this fact that if this brain drain is not stopped, the talented persons would go out of the country and only the mediocre will remain here. Therefore the Government should create such conditions in the country in which brain drain could be stopped and the talented persons may have the opportunity to work.

*[English]*

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargoda) : This is to draw the attention of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Commerce towards the seriously declining prices of Areca nut. Some of the recent decisions of the Government of India have helped the deterioration of the prices of Areca nut.

I would request the Government of India to take some measures to stop the import of Areca nut; to withdraw the tariff concessions given in respect of import of Areca nut; and to take stringent measures to prevent smuggling of Areca nut from neighbouring States.