

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, June 12, 1996/ Jyaistha 22, 1918 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House with profound sorrow of the sad demise of two of our former colleagues Sarvashri Shyam Lal Kamal and Raghavendra Singh.

Shri Shyam Lal Kamal was a Member of Tenth Lok Sabha representing Basti Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh during 1991-96.

He started his career as a public servant.

An able administrator, Shri Shyam Lal Kamal was responsible for giving guidelines to youths preparing for Civil Services examination. He was awarded President's Police Medal and U.P. State Tamara Patra for his various illustrious endeavours.

An active social worker, Shri Shyam Lal worked for the upliftment of backward classes.

A man of letters, he authored a few books namely 'Detection of crime through Astrology', 'Man Management', 'Manner and Etiquette' and articles on police rules and regulations.

Shri Shyam Lal Kamal passed away at New Delhi on 30 May, 1996 at the age of 66 years.

Shri Raghavendra Singh was a Member of Sixth Lok Sabha representing Unnao Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh during 1977-79.

Earlier, he was a Member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly during 1974-77.

An agricultural by profession, he was an active social and political worker and had associated himself with the organisations related to the welfare of the agricultural workers.

Shri Raghavendra Singh passed away at Bangar Mau, in Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh on 5 June, 1996 at the age of 63 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

The House may stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased

11.03 hrs.

*The Members then stood in silence
for a short while*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, since today is the last day of the session and you will be going off for a month, I thought it is very important for the Members of Parliament to express certain problems relating to their areas or otherwise. So, I have decided to have Zero Hour today. But in lieu of that we will not have lunch hour. Thank you.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, when will the voting take place?

MR. SPEAKER : The voting on the motion will be at about 3 p.m.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, kindly make it final so that we can make arrangements.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, I agree with Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

Yesterday we cut a sorry figure when the national hook-up was on, fighting for lunch hour. You kindly decide beforehand whether there will be lunch hour or not.

MR. SPEAKER : I have already said that there will be no lunch hour because I am allowing Zero Hour.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV : Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Santosh Gangwar.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am calling one by one. Your turn will come.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the sugarcane farmers in entire Uttar Pradesh are suffering a lot because their sugarcane crop is still standing on the fields. There are four sugar mills in my Constituency but all of them are lying closed at present. There is around 10 lakh quintal of sugarcane still on the fields. The Managers of the sugar mills, in connivance with the administration have closed down their mills. But the farmers are very much worried over their sugarcane crop which is still standing on the fields. Today the farmers in my district are resorting to agitations and staging Dharanas before factories but their voice has proved like a cry in wilderness. I through you, would like to urge upon the Union Government to intervene in the matter and ensure that all the sugarmills in Uttar Pradesh are kept operational so long as the sugarcane crop stands on the fields. I would like the Government to pay special attention towards it and take effective steps to solve the problems of the sugarcane farmers.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the whole House is unanimous on the issue that the plight of sugarcane farmers in Uttar Pradesh is very pitiable. I am especially describing the problems of my Constituency. There are three sugarmills in my constituency namely Padrauna

Katkunj and Gauri. Though crores of rupees of sugarcane farmers in Uttar Pradesh are outstanding against these sugarmills, yet Rs. 30 crores alone outstanding against the sugarmill owners in my Constituency. People have been staging Dharanas for weeks. They have even given notice to resort to fast unto death but the payment is not being made to them. No farmer is ready to pawn the slips for half the value. There is distressful commotion visible among the farmers. Through you, I would like to say or the whole House would agree that the hon. Minister should come out with a categorical statement as to when the payment to sugarcane farmers will be made? The Government should also reply whether the sugarmills specially those owned by the Government of India, will be made operational or not?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI (Chapra) : It is a very serious issue.

MR. SPEAKER : I am allowing it only because the issue is a serious one.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt him.

Please sit down. Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : The Government of India should also clarify that in case the closed sugarmills owned by it are not going to start in near future what will be the fate of sugarcane farmers? Therefore I would like to request the Minister concerned to make a statement on this issue ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir there are two sugarmills in Bihar also...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

We are talking of the same subject. We are not talking of...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please behave yourself. Why do you not follow rules? I am calling everybody one by one. Why do you not have patience?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am allowing everybody. You should not behave like this. I am saying that today is the last day, I will allow all of you to speak.

Why are you behaving like this?

[Translation]

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH (Bulandshahar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir the main crop of Western Uttar Pradesh is sugarcane but at present, it is not being crushed in mills. Even today, around 25 percent sugarcane of the farmers is standing on the fields itself.

The standing sugarcane crop is losing its weight and it is causing worry among the farmers. The farmer is still to be paid for the sugarcane supplied by him to the sugar mills during January to May. Almost every sugarmill owes around Rs 22 crore to farmers as five months payment. Moreover, no interest in being paid to farmers. On the other hand, the farmer is being sent to jail even if there is Rupees five thousand due against him as loan. Thus, the farmers of Uttar Pradesh are suffering both ways. Therefore, I request the Government to waive off the interest accrued on the loans given to farmers and they should not be sent to jail for small loans and the payment of sugarcane dues should be made to them immediately.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, even so many years after the independence and availability of all resources in the country, the people are still facing the problem of potable water. In my Constituency, which comprises of Agra and Firozabad in Western Uttar Pradesh, roads are being blocked on most of the days. Not even a single drop of water is available there. The crisis of electricity and potable water has taken a serious turn. The officials have turned a deaf ear to the issue despite resorting to traffic jams by the people. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, through you, would like to urge upon the Government to make arrangements for availability of potable water and electricity to bring the deteriorating situation in Uttar Pradesh under control.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the train services in the Bankura-Damodar River Railway Section have been suspended since March, 1996. It is a narrow gauge line connecting two important districts of Bankura and Burdwan. This line is being run by the Indian Railways although it belongs to a private company. It is being run since 1967 and the trains have been run by over-aged steam locomotives. The steam locomotives which were being used by the Railways have all outlived their useful lives. There is a great demand that all these over-aged steam locomotives should be replaced by narrow gauge diesel locomotives. It is a narrow gauge line. Still it is a very important line. It passes through the rice bowl of West Bengal and because of the suspension of train services in that area, the people of Bankura are very much agitated. They are organising 'rail roko' agitation on 15th of June today. I got a telephonic message from that area that the Railway authorities have decided to close down the Section from 25th June. If that line is closed down the people of the two districts of Bankura and Burdwan will face great difficulties.

I demand that the train services on that Section should be restored immediately by providing diesel