

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

locomotives. Diesel locomotives in narrow gauge are available and for that not a single paise is required to be invested. Narrow gauge diesel locomotives are available at Nagpur where the narrow gauge line has been converted to broad gauge line. There is a need for taking over that narrow gauge line and convert it to broad gauge

I urge upon the Minister of Railways to first restore the train services immediately in that Section. I also request him to take over, nationalise and convert that line from narrow gauge to broad gauge in the next Budget.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk - Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a shortage of water and electricity in Delhi. The Bhartiya Janata Party Government turned a deaf ear to this problem. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have not given any notice. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Agarwal, you have not given notice.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You should have given notice. You did not do so.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Agarwal, you are not a new Member.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Why did not you give a notice?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot be that insensible man.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Sontosh Mohan Dev. will you please tell your Member that this is not the way?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not disturb like that. If you think that certain matters are very important, you should have given notice. Now, you sit down. You cannot stand up like that.

(Interruptions)

* Not Recorded

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. You cannot stand when I am standing. I am allowing only those hon. Members to speak who have given notices. But now I cannot change.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the Members of the previous Lok Sabha ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There is no provision but that has been the practice.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : A very good scheme was launched during the previous Lok Sabha in the interest of the hon. Members and the people of the country. Under this scheme every Members of Parliament was given the right to give suggestions about undertaking small projects of public interest worth Rs. one crore in his constituency every year. That amount of Rs. one crore was allocated to each Members' constituency for two years but since April the events took such a turn which hampered developmental works in many districts and states.

I would like that the Government should immediately issue orders for reviving that scheme and as the House has passed this year's vote-on-account, I request that Rs. one crore be allocated forthwith to every Member's constituency.

This time, many new Members are present here. The Government should distribute the booklet containing guidelines with regard to this scheme to every Member so that the works of public interest can be taken up soon. I hope that all the hon. Members of the House support it. Therefore, please issue instructions to this effect to the hon. Minister from the chair... (Interruptions)

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Ramtek) : Our leader Shri Narasimha Rao had launched that scheme which every Member was allocated money for two years. This scheme should continue further. Therefore, I request you to ask the hon. Minister to allocate forthwith a sum of Rs. one crore to the constituency of every Member.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : All right. I understand the sentiments of the hon. Members. We will sort it out with the Government.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai North East) : Sir, the hon. Finance Minister should react as it concerns the whole House.