

Joginder Singh, Shri Ranjit Singh and Shri Balkar Singh on the spot. The sixth person Shri Swaran Singh was badly injured. Luckily 40-50 persons who were on the same tractor-trolley had a narrow escape as the hook of the trolley broken apart. But the Railways have not taken any action to give financial relief to the next of kin and kins of those five persons who had died in the railway accident and have not paid any compensation for the loss of tractor-trolley.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be brief.

SHRI MAJOR SINGH UBOKE: No action has been initiated to punish those railway officials who are responsible for this accident. Neither financial relief has been given to next of kin and kin of deceased persons till date nor any compensation has been for the tractor involved in the accident. I would like to ask the Minister for Railways about the number of accidents that have occurred due to the negligence of Railway employees, and what is the policy of the Government in regard to providing relief to the dependents of the deceased persons. I would like to request the Government that adequate compensation may be given to the next of kin and kin of deceased persons because the common man who has very high opinion of Railways earlier, has gradually changed it to the contrary. I want that the Government should make a statement in regard to this accident and the amount of compensation to be given to the next of kin and kin of deceased persons and the loss to tractor should be borne by the Railways. Alongwith this the railway employees who are responsible for that accident should be punished.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (PATIALA): Madam Chairperson, this matter which has been raised in this House now, is very serious. Kindly direct the Government that Minister for Railways should give a statement in regard to this incident. Government must give its statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If Minister so desires, he can give his reply in Zero Hour, but it is not necessary.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: This is a very serious matter, Government must say something, otherwise it would be of no use to raise this issue in this House when there is nobody to listen it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

SHRI TIRUCHI P.N. SIVA (PUDUKKOTTAI)\*: Madam Chairperson, with a heavy heart, I would like to place before this House expecting suitable action from the Government, a chapter from the continuing tales of sorrow the people of coastal Tamil Nadu have been living through.

On the eleventh this month, three fishermen namely Chandran, Thirugnanam and Kuttyandi who left for fishing from a coastal village in Pudukkottal District of Tamil Nadu were shot dead by the Sinhalese Armed Forces in the high seas. These three fishermen from a same family were shot dead by the Sri Lankan Naval Forces without any rhyme

or reason. Likewise, some other fishermen who went about fishing on the second of this month have not returned home as yet. It is not known as to what had happened to them. They are still missing. Since it involves another country, the Government of Tamil Nadu could not do much in this. They have been trying to formally contact the Union Government and through them the Sri Lankan High Commission. It is important to note that this is not a stray incident or a sudden development. This has been going on for quite long. The people of the eastern coastal region of Tamil Nadu are facing this problem for many days now. Fishermen while fishing are shot dead month after month. Many fishermen are lost. Many of them have not returned home. Though there cannot be an easy identification of boundaries in the sea waters, Sinhalese Armed Forces kill our fishermen claiming that they had trespassed international waters. Fishermen community over there are suffering a lot. People there are a distressed lot. I wish to bring to the notice of this House their sorry plight. There should be an end to this ongoing onslaught.

Madam, please understand the sentiments behind the concern which I am expressing. Everyday, women and children of those fishermen who have gone on fishing, await on the shore because they do not know whether they will come back alive or their dead bodies will come.

This has become a recurring thing. Series of such killings of our fishermen goes on unhindered. It is the bounden duty of the Government to put an end to these stray killings. We must evolve a permanent solution. Centre must intervene immediately to wipe out our tears, sorrow, grief, pain and distress. So far there has been no action for what all that had happened. Government of India should not remain aloof and they should not shy away from their responsibility. Government cannot be indifferent and can never ignore such killings. I bring this to the notice of this august House as my duty on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu and all the people of Tamil Nadu.

I request this Government to pay compensation to the bereaved families immediately, and to trace all those fishermen who are missing. The Government must intervene immediately as I am expressing this concern on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu.

This is also a caution from the people of Tamil Nadu to the Government to take up this matter as expeditiously and as appropriately as possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajendran, if you want to associate with him on this subject, then you may please associate.

SHRI P.V. RAJENDRAN (MAYILADUTURAI): Thank you, Madam, for allowing me to associate with him on this subject. I would like to give a suggestion to the Government.

This is like a serial story. Frequently, our fishermen are getting killed. You can see, at least, a few hundred widows on the shores of Tamil Nadu, and also a few hundred fishermen who have been maimed.

\*Translation of the speech Originally delivered in Tamil.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Shiva has already mentioned this. You may just associate with him.

SHRI P.V. RAJENDRAN: Previously, when Shri Vajpayee was the Minister of External Affairs, he had a suggestion which he told to the Press also.

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee said that we can permit our fishermen to go inside and fish in Sri Lankan waters and that we can also permit them to go inside our waters. It is not happening. There is no demarcation in the international boundary line in the sea waters. Whenever the Sri Lankan Navy see our fishermen, they just kill them. We are not killing our Pakistani fishermen. They are not killing our Gujarati fishermen. Even the Bangladesi Navy is not killing our Bengalee fishermen. Many of our fishermen have been killed by Sri Lankan Navy.

Therefore, I would request you to convey to the Government to take appropriate action for a permanent solution to this problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI P.V. RAJENDRAN: We have our sentiments which we have to express.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everybody has sentiments. Please cooperate. You have your sentiments. Other hon. Members also have their own sentiments.

SHRI P.V. RAJENDRAN: The Heads of SAARC States are meeting in Male. But there is no SAARC spirit.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: The sentiments expressed by the hon. Member should be taken as the concern of the whole of Tamil Nadu.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA" (ALMORA): Madam Chairman, Food Corporation of India has created buffer stocks in Uttaranchal since long time back. The Transport subsidy has been provided to Hill state but Uttaranchal has not been declared a Hill state so far. There are number of problems. Railway Head could not take the buffer stocks there due to the absence of transport subsidy. Therefore, all Godowns established there have no stock of foodgrains. The common man is dependent upon cheap foodgrains being made available by the Government. This matter has been raised here but you are delaying the matter of state. I have a private member bill but yesterday I was informed that consensus has been taken under Article 3 to present the bill in the next session still the Central Government is misleading in this matter. Hon'ble Atalji raised this matter today. We have been informed that the President rule has been imposed there but today it is being said that consensus will be taken in this regard. After crossing so many stages, cabinet has taken decision. Therefore appropriate instructions should be issued so that the transport subsidy being available to all states of the whole country for carrying out food grains, to hilly states may be provided to Uttaranchal to make food grains

available to that state until that is declared a separate state ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (DEOGRAH): There is a hunger strike going on ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL (CHATRA): Madam Chairperson, I am here to speak in connection with funds being made available to the State Government by the Central Government under the Employment Guarantee Scheme and Indira Aawas Yojana. I belong to Bihar and a lot of misappropriation of funds is being done in Bihar. The District Magistrate of my area does not seek the opinion of the Member of Parliament. These funds are being allocated through mediators. The District Magistrate does not require to take the opinion of the Member of Parliament. The whole funds are being misappropriated there. Thus funds are being allocated arbitrarily.

I would like to say that there should be such an arrangement wherein recommendations of the concerned Member of Parliament is obtained regarding Indira Awas Yojana and Assured Employment Scheme.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA): It is an important matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (FAIZABAD): Madam Chairperson, the opinion of the Member of Parliament should be sought ...*(Interruptions)*. The bureaucrats work there arbitrarily. ...*(Interruptions)*. The opinion of the peoples' representatives should be taken regarding funds released by centre for Indira Awas Yojna and Assured Employment Scheme etc. The fund should be spent as per their advice. ...*(Interruptions)*. I think that the whole House would agree with it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would convey your feelings to the hon. Speaker.

[English]

DR. M. JAGANNATHAN (NAGARKURNOOL): Madam Chairperson, I would like to raise the following matter during Zero hour in connection with the 77th Constitutional Amendment:-

Though it is nearing two years since passing the 77th Constitution Amendment Bill, no concrete steps have been taken for its implementation. Under the Constitution 77 Amendment Act, 1955 in Article 16 of the Constitution, after Clause IV, the following Clauses have been inserted namely:-

"Clause IVA:-Nothing in this Article shall prevent the State from making any provision for reservation in matters of promotions to any class or classes of posts in Services under the State in favour of SCs/STs which, in the opinion of the State, are not adequately represented in the Services under the State."