

[Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi]

of the House that the order of shifting of the Chief Engineer's office from Bhubaneswar to Allahabad would be cancelled.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should listen to me for one minute. I humbly request you to sum up your speech in two minutes so that everyone should get an opportunity. If one speaks for ten minutes then nobody would get opportunity.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUKHLAL KUSHWAHA (SATNA): I would speak for five minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You sum up in two minutes.

After that this would not go on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kushwahaji, please you speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUKHLAL KUSHWAHA: We do not interfere into others affairs, then how can we speak in such circumstances. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Madam, I want an assurance from the Government. (Interruptions) The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here and he can respond to this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No; he is not required to react to every matter. If he wants to give a reply, he can do so.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Madam Chairman, I would bring this issue to the notice of the Minister of Water Resources, Shri Janeshwar Mishra, positively.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHLAL KUSHWAHA: Madam Chairperson, after attending the session on 3rd, I went to the tribal areas of Satna of my constituency. The law and order situation has deteriorated there. Parmasia plateau is the land of 90,000 tribals. At the behest of the people sitting at the helm of affairs 'jungle raj' is being run there. I would like to attract the attention of the government towards that situation. The poor tribals of forest are detained under fake charges and when they are detained their children starve. They knock at the doors of administration and leaders, but nobody pays any attention to them. They have a right over the forest's produce. That is the means of livelihood of those persons and their children. In jungle, influential persons like Mahera and Cher are given contract. However, there is no constitutional provision for it and after awarding contracts through illicit means they are tortured and exploited. When tribals oppose it, administrative machinery and power is misused and police visit there, conduct raids

Their crematorium and agricultural land is captured by them and they are called naxalites. I have come after making a seven day's visit there. They do not have water, clothing, bread but they are harassed by calling them naxalites. Therefore the administrative mechanism is not in order there. Therefore through you I want to make a humble request that an investigation team should be constituted over the oppression being committed on them.

The tribals are leaving that area due to the harassment by the Police, and the powerful feudal lords who have been a terror in that area have established their chaotic regime there and usurping the forest produces belonging to tribals which is sole means of their livelihood. They have also captured the mining area. Due to these reasons, the tribals of that area are living in a state of terror.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It can not go like this, please take your seat.

SHRI SUKHLAL KUSHWAHA: Therefore, I would request the august House that an inquiry committee may be constituted and the false trial cases against tribals may be revoked and also the D.M. and S.P. who are Administrative officers of that area must be ordered not to implicate them in false cases and they should be transferred to elsewhere.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record now.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would give opportunity to all one by one.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let men give due share to women only then they will be able to get reservation.....

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Sahib, I shall call your name also.

SHRI MAJOR SINGH UBOKE (TARANTARAN): Madam, Chairperson, I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister for Railways towards the tragic railway accident and request him to make a statement on it. On 22nd March, 1997 at about 12.15 P.M. a railway accident occurred on Amritsar-Jalandhar-Delhi main line under Northern Railways. This accident occurred at Railway crossing near the Vyas Railway Station. The railway crossing was unmanned. Nobody was knew that any train was to pass through that area at that time. Many people were going to Anandpur Sahib Hala Mohalla by a tractor trolley. As the tractor-trolley approached towards the railway crossing via Baba Bakala, suddenly a train came towards Amritsar killing five persons—Shri Ajit Singh, Shri Kanwal Preet Singh, Shri

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 Pudukkottai 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.