

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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 crop 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 occurred 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.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : I would like to raise a matter of public interest. I support what Shri Ram Naik ji said just now.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes I know, you will support him.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Through you, I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister that the Government of India used to supply paper on concessional rates to the Government of Rajasthan for years together for the purpose of printing of text-books and notebooks for distributing them among the students on cheaper rates but, now, the Government of India has withdrawn that quota.

Under the instructions of the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Shri Bharaon Singh Shekhawat and the Minister of Education, Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, text books and notebooks were distributed free of cost to the students upto fifth standard in Rajasthan. My submission is that the quota of paper given to the Government of Rajasthan on concessional rates should be restored so that it can make a provision in the Budget for distributing text-books and notebooks to all the students upto eighth standard. Besides, the demand of the Newspaper Society of India of bringing down the rate of newsprint should also be met so that newsprint is available to the newspaper industry on cheaper rates and the inflated rates of newspapers in Rajasthan are checked. I will land and hail you in Rajasthan if the concessional quota of paper is restored to us forthwith. Thank you
...(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : Sir, there is an acute dearth of water in Uttar Pradesh presently. The people have no water to drink and the cattle are dying in the absence of water. The people are sending their cattle elsewhere and facing a worse water dearth. People have come on roads in villages as well as towns. Due to heat, the level of the ground water has steeply fallen rendering all the hand-pumps defunct. The water tanks and water supply departments are rendered useless due to short supply of electricity. Such a situation arisen in Uttar Pradesh should be combated on a war-footing.

Despite being an international tourist centre the tourists in Agra are faced with a serious water crisis. I would like to give two-three suggestions. Water should be released in canals. The water tanks should be harnessed on time and the ponds filled with water. Measures should be taken on a war footing in this regard. Tubewells should be installed in metropolitan cities. The Central Government should give special grants from the Drought Relief Fund. The Department of Health should also take care of people's problems as there is a danger of breaking out of an epidemic.

[English]

SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD (Vadodra) : Sir, I come from Baroda constituency

which is one of the most important cities in Gujarat. In my constituency, there are a few PSUs and one of the PSUs is the Indian Petrochemical Corporation Limited. It is operating in my constituency for the last 35 years. Since the last ten years, the sons of the soil in my constituency have not got any appointments there. Since the last ten years, about 2,000 appointments have been made, but the sons of the farmers are not getting the justice. Not only that, Sir, the IPCL has expanded its activity and is coming up with a new plant in Gandhar, which is a place very close to Baroda. This project is worth Rs. 5,000 crore. Lately, there have been some appointments. There are 160 posts in the category of officers, out of which 6 Personnel Officers have been appointed and none of them is a Gujarati.

Sir, through you, I would like to convey to the Petroleum Ministry that this injustice meted out to the sons of the farmers and the Gujaratis will not be tolerated. There has been an agitation going on and, Sir, I would like to bring to your notice that though the cities of Baroda, Ahmedabad and Surat in Gujarat are having the best of the engineering and management colleges, the appointments that are made are from other States. So, I request you to kindly look into the matter urgently, before the people's agitation takes a violent turn. I would like to request the Petroleum Ministry to stop

[English]

The immediate appointments that are going to take place of around 200 people. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI MUNAWWAR HASSAN (Kairana) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem of electricity has created a grim situation in Uttar Pradesh. The farmers and the industry are facing a serious power crisis throughout Uttar Pradesh. The district of Muzaffarnagar in particular, where the energetic and hard working people of Uttar Pradesh live and where agriculture is flourishing, is the most backward district from electricity point of view. The Government has announced that electricity will be supplied for 16 hours in rural areas and 20 hours in urban areas. But electricity is a rare sight in Muzaffarnagar. People are much agitated there.

Sir, I would also like to bring it to your notice that an agitation is being launched tomorrow at Kandela Power House in Muzaffarnagar and we are going to gherao it. Arrangements for supply of electricity should be immediately made before the situation gets out of control there. The Government is requested to ensure the supply of power for 16 hours and 20 hours in rural and urban areas respectively.

[English]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldhana): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Railway Minister to the accident that has taken place in my constituency, that is, Buldhana where the workers of the Railways have been killed. Further, eight persons are seriously injured in that accident. So, a proper compensation should be given and also a high level inquiry should be ordered. That is my request.

MR. SPEAKER : You are very brief. Thank you for that.

[Translation]

SHRI SURAJ BHAN (Ambala) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, It is envisaged in Article 330 and 332 of the Constitution that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be given their due share in proportion to their population in the country. According to the latest census figures their population is 25 percent of India's population yet they are getting a reservation of 22.5 percent only. Therefore, I request that it be enhanced to 25 percent.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, within the parameters of my information I would like to say that Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that instead of increasing the reservation quota of SC/ST from 22.5 percent the Government is going to curtail it so as to provide reservation to other castes. Now it has become quite necessary to stop the Government from taking such a step. The previous Congress Government had brought a Bill to provide reservation to the Dalit Christians out of the present reservation quota of the Scheduled Castes. Fortunately that Bill could not be passed. Later on they tried to implement that Bill by bringing ordinance. We met the hon. President. Fortunately the hon. President did not sign this ordinance. Now the United Front has said the same thing in its Common Minimum Programme that christians would be given reservation. What would be its ultimate result... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : It is unfortunate that the hon. Member is opposing a burning issue regarding some Dalits who are not being given reservation just because they believe in a particular religion. The hon. Member cannot raise this issue during Zero Hour without giving any notice as per rules... (Interruptions)

SHRI SURAJ BHAN : Please allow me to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : Let the hon. member speak. Let him have his say. He is expressing his opinion.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURAJ BHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will be surprised to know that according to the Government of India Act 1935, in 1936 ... (Interruptions)

[English]

What is this going on? You allowed me to speak ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let the hon. Member say what he wants to say. I will decide whether this is urgent matter or not. First of all, let him make his submission.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : This is a matter of policy. This issue cannot be taken up by you during Zero Hour... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURAJ BHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will be surprised to know that... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Since this is not a matter of great urgency, you need not make any argument now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : It is a matter of policy. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. Not at all. Do not raise a slogan like this here. Please sit down. Let the hon. Member have his say. There is nothing wrong in that. Shri Suraj Bhan, please be brief. Do not make a statement. Please do not argue. You need not argue the matter now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member may finish his speech now.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : It should be expunged from the record.

MR. SPEAKER : I will go through the record. I will certainly do that. The hon. Member should conclude now. Do not make any argument.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURAJ BHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will be surprised to know that in 1936 during British period, the Government of India-British Government had issued an order which says that... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There is no need.

[Translation]

SHRI SURAJ BHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Act says:

[English]

"No Indian Christian shall be deemed to be a member of Scheduled Caste."

[Translation]

There is no controversy as such. All these things had been said in 1936 during the British Period. What has compelled us today to provide reservation to the christians. These orders are being issued only to grab votes. It will harm in two ways. Christians would be provided reservation by curtailing the reservation quota of the Scheduled Castes. They are more educated, thus they will also try to grab the share of Scheduled Castes. Secondly it would lead to conversion. I, therefore oppose it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let him have his say. Let him speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will go through the record.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, it must not go on record... (Interruptions) Whatever he has said must not go on record. It is against the Parliamentary procedure. It must not go on record... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Tommorrow if the Bill comes up in the House, can you stop it? Will you allow it or not? (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Government of India's Common Minimum Programme, if I recollect correctly, has made a commitment to do this. Therefore, the matter has to come before the House. At that time you can have a debate on that issue. Let us close the matter now.

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA (Chandauli) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, farmers in my Constituency Chandauli are faced with a very difficult situation. This is all because of irrigation (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : We are very sorry that he has misused the Zero Hour (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not complicate the matter now.

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir today the farmers in Chandauli are faced with almost a worn out situation. Their condition is quite deplorable today. They are sad. All the canals there need to be repaired. The irrigation is totally mismanaged. The whole area is disturbed. Sir,

through you, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister towards it and I request you to provide proper irrigation facilities to the farmers in Chandauli immediately so as to improve their condition, which has deteriorated due to it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am coming to you. Whosoever's name is here, I am calling. Let us not waste the time.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA BAHADUR ROY (Sultanpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a strange incident is taking place in Sultanpur, Jaunpur and Pratapgarh in Uttar Pradesh for the last one month. About one dozen innocent boys in Jaunpur, half a dozen girls and boys in Pratapgarh and four girls in Sultanpur have died. Here the air is thick with rumours that leopard and hyaena are responsible for it and some people even say that these are the act of terrorists and Pakistani agents are involved in it... (Interruptions)

Sir, trains were burnt at the railway station and Cars were torched, one person was killed and more than 50 people were hurt in the agitation launched against it. Uttar Pradesh is under the Presidential Rule. This whole area is in turmoil. Girls are being snatched from the lap of their mothers. In my district Sultanpur it has been said that no one know whether the culprit is a beast or human being. Here no one comes out of their house after 6 P.M. Railway stations and trains were burnt as a protest against it. Several people were put behind the bars. No person in white Maruti Car and van could pass through this area. The most surprising thing is that the 11 children killed in Jaunpur are boys and the children killed in Pratapgarh are both boys and girls, where as only girls were killed in Sultanpur. (Interruptions)

I request the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to pay attention towards it. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude now; you have made your point. Just be brief and make a pointed reference

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : One of the important industries, the Metal Box Company, in which seven thousand workers were working has been lying closed since 1987. 118 workers have died so far. The Government has set up BIFR to revive the sick industries. But instead of reviving the sick industries, because of unnecessary delay in the BIFR and because of all the industries resorting to imports into this country, BIFR is causing the close down of many industries. So, I would request the hon. Prime Minister who comes with the farmers' background and who is interested in the welfare of labourers to please see that these industries are reopened immediately. BIFR has said that these industries should be reopened. But I do

not know for what reason, though 118 workers have died so far, it is pending since 1987. Already ten years are over. Either you abolish E.I.F.R. or enable them to revive the sick industries.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL DAR (Anantnag) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not given notice but I would like to raise an important issue. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will call those Members first, who have given notices

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL DAR : It is a message from the people of Kashmir valley for the Members and the Government. (Interruptions) There people are being sandwiched from all the sides.

MR. SPEAKER : No, this is not the way. Prior notice is required for it first of all the Members, who have given notices should be given chance and you will be called later on if time is there.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very sorry to say that we raise the issue of honour and dignity of women here time and again. But since the inception of Congress Government in Madhya Pradesh the number of incidents of atrocities committed against women specially tribal women has risen and surpassed all the limits. These incidents started from the home town of the Chief Minister and spread all over the state whether it is Bhind district or Raigarh district. Here women were paraded nude and there after atrocities were committed on Baitul tribal women. A women sarpanch was insulted and now recently police has committed atrocities on a girl and her sister-in-law of Manjhi community in Raisen district who were 19 and 21 years old. Members of their family were beaten by the butt-end of the gun so that they could not make any complaint against it. Their backs were broken and no medical treatment was given to them for two days. The state Government have not taken any action on it and ultimately our former Chief Minister had to sit on dharna for one day in Bhopal against it.

Today, the situation in Madhya Pradesh is such that when atrocity is perpetrated, then no action is taken against it. Although we do not expect anything from those who talk of having regard for women because they themselves have put forth many examples. Yet I would like to say that immediate action should be taken with a view to prevent the atrocities being perpetrated on women in Madhya Pradesh and the matter should be taken up with the Government of Madhya Pradesh consulted at once.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, please. I have called Shri Satpal Maharaj, Mr. Rasool, I will allow you later.

[Translation]

SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ (Garhwal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is acute shortage of drinking water in Dehradun, Pauri, Garhwal, Tehri Garhwal, Almora, Nainital and Pithoragarh districts of Uttarakhnad and this problem is making their life very difficult.

I want to draw the attention of the Government towards this drinking water problem and urge upon you that immediate steps should be taken for resolving this crisis and making drinking water available in the hilly areas. These areas should be declared as drought affected areas and financial assistance may be provided for the same. (Interruptions)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, the Supreme Court has directed CBI, dismissing its special leave petition against the verdict of High Court that the MPs of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha be prosecuted by registering the regular FIR on the charge of having been bribed by the Congress Party. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please allow him. Why are you interrupting him?

(Interruptions)

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a misuse of Zero Hour. A formal notice is required for raising this matter. (Interruptions)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, the Supreme Court has rejected the SLP and directed the CBI to file a new FIR against the former Prime Minister, Shri Narasimha Rao and seven others and investigate the bribe case. (Interruptions) We want to know from the Prime Minister, what is the stage of the case? (Interruptions) The Prime Minister had said yesterday that he would take the House into confidence. Now, we want from the Prime Minister as to what action has been taken, whether any action has been taken regarding the bribe used for effecting the defection of the Jharkhand Mukhti Morcha Members by Shri Narasimha Rao, Shri Shukla, Shri Dhawan and others. (Interruptions) It is for the Prime Minister to take the House into confidence. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please, Lodhaji, I think, it is enough.

[Translation]

SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS (Sitapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, several Members have discussed in the House the electricity problem in the state of Uttar Pradesh. I want to tell you that the electricity problem is of two types. One has been created by the Electricity Board and the other one, the real problem.

The Uttar Pradesh Electricity Board is deeply steeped in corruption. The officers are supplying

electricity to industrialists after taking money. The poor farmers and consumers in cities are not getting the electricity at all. The condition has come to such a sorry pass that electricity is not available even in the big cities like Lucknow, Agra, Varanasi ...*(Interruptions)* This is the problem in Bareilly as well. You come from Bareilly only. You are in BJP. I want to say that in the entire U.P. the electricity problem has become very acute. Besides, there is no water supply... *(Interruptions)* You listen to me. I am new here, but have been a Member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly for four times. I want to tell you that there is a big problem of water as well besides the problem of electricity in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Today, farmers are not getting water at all. The farmers are in trouble and today the condition is that it is the time for planting paddy and the problem of water and electricity is being faced in the state.

Therefore, it is my humble submission to the Prime Minister that in his speech, which he is going to deliver today, he should put forth his views about the problem of U.P. and help us in solving this problem.

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL (Varanasi) : There is a big problem of electricity in Varanasi you have talked about. I want that the Government should pay its attention to it keeping in view their opinions.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. House to an accident which took place at Quilon, Chinnakkada on 9.6.96.

On 9.6.96, at about 5.15 a.m., a huge LPG tanker lorry hit an autorickshaw at Chinnakkada, Quilon. Five persons including three women died when the trucker lorry turned over the autorickshaw. All the five persons and the autorickshaw driver were lying under the truck crying for help. Out of the five, three had life till 8.15 a.m., but they could not be saved since there was no crane facility.

They have approached the railway station and the authorities. But the authorities did not give the hydraulic jockey to lift the LPG tanker lorry from the autorickshaw. All through these three hours, this poor girl of 17 years and her mother were crying to the whole world for rescuing them. All the rescue authorities and the police were standing there but the crane was not available. Later, the crane was brought from Trivandrum which is about 75 kilometres from Quilon. Immediately after taking out the body, it was found they were no more. So, my humble submission to this House and also to the hon. Minister of Railways is that an enquiry be ordered urgently. I also submit that if there is any stringent provision regarding allotting crane in respect of these human activities, that provision or that rule may be scrapped.

Sir, that is my submission.

[Translation]

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR (Baramula) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a news item has appeared on the front page of the Hindustan Times to the effect that the visit of Mrs. Benazir Bhutto has been cancelled because holding of elections in Jammu and Kashmir is being talked about...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We have not taken up Matters under Rule 377. It is coming.

[Translation]

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : I want to tell you that Pakistan has got no right to interfere in our internal affairs. Now Lok Sabha elections have been held here and 43% polling has been recorded. This has dashed all hopes of Pakistan and the propaganda carried out by Pakistan has proved futile. We want that the election to the State Assembly should be held after the Lok Sabha elections. But this news gives impression that it is a table news and some member might have talked to any bureaucrat and the news might have leaked out. The enthusiasm with which people have exercised their franchise gives the picture of ground reality. We had gone there to ask for votes after seven years, then people talked of democracy. The Supreme Court had directed that it should be apprised of the election to the state assembly within 15 days but instead of State Assembly elections, election to the Lok Sabha were held. Governor Shri K.V. Krishna Rao has written to the Government of India and the Prime Minister that militants should be driven out and if election is not held within two months, Pakistan could play the game of regrouping or any other game, as a result of which disturbances might occur in the state again. So, electoral lists should be up dated and peace be restored there. Take guns from the surrendered militants so that people's confidence could be restored that any Governmental gun cannot stop political process in the state.

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA (Salumber) : Rajasthan is faced with famine. The state is being ruled by BJP Government. Its minister used to say that there is no such famine in Rajasthan, as we are telling. But when I go to my constituency, I find that people do not have drinking water there and it is not available for the animals and people do not get food grains at Fair Price Shops. It is very difficult to describe how the poor are facing difficulties. Food grain should be made available at the Fair Price Shops as these are not available at these shops for the last two months. When asked, they say that they are not being supplied.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude. You have to only bring the problem to the notice of the Government. You need not elaborate.

[Translation]

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Cattle are dying there. People are not getting employment. Famine relief work has been started but sufficient number of labourers have not been engaged. When we ask to increase the number, then the reply is that unless and until Government gives assent, the number of labourers cannot be increased. Quarrels among workers are witnessed there everyday. (Interruptions) You live in bungalows in Delhi. That is why you are not aware of the situation prevailing there. Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen to me... (Interruptions) I am talking of rural areas. I am telling what I have seen there. Due to increase in the number of labourers, they quarrel among themselves. But the BJP Government does not bother about that. I would like to request the Government that.. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you reacting like this every time?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No. It is not necessary.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North West) : Sir, he is misleading the House. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have made your point. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in entire Maharashtra, where BJP-Shiv Sena Government is in power, no payment has been made to the farmers for the cotton which had been purchased from them four to six months back. The amount involves crores of rupees. Shri Manohar Joshi had assured them of making payment of Rs. 900 crore but not even a single farmer has got any payment so far. (Interruptions) The sugarcane crop worth crores of rupees of the farmers is standing on the fields in entire Maharashtra. They are still waiting for the payment. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is enough.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Okay, it is enough

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He has concluded; please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now, a discussion was going on about sugar mill in this House (Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now, several hobble Members have expressed their views on sugar mills. I would like to bring a very important issue to your notice. In a region of Bihar where I hail from, there are other sugar mills of 'Asia Fan' which are the oldest sugar mills in this region. A lot of money has been invested in these mills. I would like to say one thing that the production of sugarcane is going down gradually in Purnea and Madhepura region. This sugar mill is not only unable to make payment to the farmers but also the wages to its labourers today. Labourers are not getting their wages. I would like to request that the sugar mill of Purnea region should certainly be made viable so that crores of farmers of Purnea region in North Bihar could produce sugarcane and become prosperous. I demand from the Government that for this mill (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rajesh Ranjan, please conclude now. I have allowed you to speak; and you have to conclude now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rajesh Ranjan, you will not get a chance in future, if you do not behave.

[Translation]

This is the last chance. I will not give you another chance. Now sit down. This will not do.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM (Gulbarga) : Sir, I am from Gulbarga constituency. You had also visited that constituency as a Minister. The work relating to Gulbarga Airport is pending since several years. Land for the airport has already been acquired and work has already started but since the last eight years, the construction of the airport has not been completed. I request the Government, through you, to complete the work immediately and that it should be finished expeditiously (Interruptions)

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur) : Sir, I want to raise an important issue regarding the biggest river island of the world, "Majuli" which is situated in my constituency, Lakhimpur of Assam. This river island is formed by the river Brahmaputra and its tributary called Luit. This island has a population of about 1.5 lakhs and forms, Majuli

Legislative Assembly constituency reserved for scheduled Tribe and is famous as an important cultural centre of Assam. Due to constant erosion posed by the river Brahmaputra specially during rainy season, the very existence of this island is in danger. During the last two decades, the total area of the island was reduced by one-third of the total original boundary. The proposal for connecting the Island to other parts of the State by road communication was not materialised due to insufficient funds. The N.E.C. took up the scheme during the 7th plan and work order was also in given to the India Railway Construction Corpn. for construction of two permanent bridges over Lohit and Khabolu. Unfortunately the proposal was left abandoned without any known reason .. (Interruptions) Sir, I would like to urge upon the Government to initiate appropriate steps to protect the island by drawing suitable scheme for preventing erosion, by implementing the proposal for construction of the bridge over Luit and Khabolu river and to draw appropriate development scheme for developing the island to a tourist spot of international standard ..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a point about constitutional impropriety. Under Article 87(1), President has addressed both the Houses of Parliament on 24th May. Now the Address has become the property of the House. Under Article 87(2), the House shall find time to discuss the President's Address. Since the Government which was responsible for the President's Address has resigned, a lot of debate is taking place in the media and confusion has arisen in the minds of the public.

Today being the last day of the session and since I do not find the subject in the list of business, I want to know from the Chair regarding the fate of the Address, whether the Address will be discussed on the floor of the House or it will be infructuous. Sir, I want your ruling on this matter...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SOHANVEER (Muzaffarnagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Muzaffarnagar district of Western Uttar Pradesh about 13 crore quintal of sugarcane is produced out of which the sugar mills are able to crush only 35 percent sugarcane. In my district, there are seven sugar mills, out of these two mills are lying closed. Therefore, farmers have to carry their sugarcane to those mills which are 125-150 kilometres away from their fields. The Superintendent of Police of Khatauli district has set up a check post at Triveni Sugar Mill and the police resort to lathi charge on the farmers. The Police Administration is under complete control of the mill owner. That is why, payment is not being made to the farmers for

their sugarcane. Moreover, sugarcane is under weighed under the protection of the Police. In the absence of getting full payment for their sugarcane, the farmers are not able to get their daughters married. Therefore, through you, I would like to request that the Government should pay attention to this problem.

Similarly, the trading in 'gur' mandi of Muzaffarnagar has gone down to ten percent. As far as crimes are concerned, Muzaffarnagar has reached the top position. Businessmen are murdered there every month. The police is not paying attention towards this problem. It is only resorting to lathicharge on the farmers. This area comes at second or third place, as far as crimes in the world over are concerned. I would like to request that the incidents of crimes should be checked there, farmers should not be exploited and payment should be made to them for their sugarcane.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Uma ji, you should speak for only half-a-minute.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARTI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my Lok Sabha constituency, Khajuraho, there is an acute shortage of water. Women have to trudge ten to fifteen miles to fetch drinking water. This is not only the problem of Khajuraho but entire Madhya Pradesh is experiencing acute shortage of drinking water. The Government of Congress Party in Madhya Pradesh is not able to resolve this crisis. Therefore, through you, I request that special grant should be provided to resolve the problem of drinking water in Khajuraho.

[English]

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI (Autonomous District) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a great Constitutional crisis has arisen in Assam. As we all know, in the four upper districts of Assam - Dibrugarh, Lakhimpur and other districts - army operation is going on against the militants. I do not want to go into the merits of the army operation.

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot go into it also.

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : The issue I want to raise is that the Chief Minister of Assam has said that he is not aware of the army operations. Nobody has informed him about it. He is on record and it has come out in the newspapers also that he has contacted the hon. Prime Minister and Government of India. The Government has also not come out openly whether it has or it has not given order for these army operations. That is why the people of Assam are agitating.

MR. SPEAKER : You may conclude now.

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : The people of Assam want to know as to how the army operations can be carried out on their own when the State Governments, who is primarily responsible for law and order, is not aware of it or the Union Government is not aware of it. Therefore, I request that the Union Government should come out openly and make a statement in this regard. I hope they will make a statement at the earliest.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Sir, I am not raising any controversial issue in the House. I would only like to submit that today is the last day of the Session. I read in the newspapers that the Prime Minister has agreed to have a Secretarial level meeting with Pakistan. At the backdrop of successful completion of elections in Jammu and Kashmir, I request that, through you, the entire House must express our total solidarity and support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir who have expressed their profound faith in the Constitution of India ignoring threat of international terrorist gangs. At the backdrop of this if, through you or through the Prime Minister, the solidarity of this House is expressed it will give a great solace to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

[Translation]

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR (Katihar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw attention of the Central Government towards my Lok Sabha Constituency, Katihar. There are two jute mills in Katihar in which a large number of labourers are engaged. But for the last many years, Katihar jute mill is lying closed which has affected 3000 families and they are on the verge of starvation I would like to make my humble submission to the hon. Prime Minister that necessary action may be taken at the earliest for reopening of these mills. It will not only benefit the labourers engaged in it but also the farmers of Kosi Circle who produce jute and whose livelihood depends upon these mills.

12.04 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

Leader of Opposition in Parliament (Allowances, Medical and other Facilities Amendment Rules, 1996.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the Leaders of Opposition in Parliament (Allowances, Medical and other Facilities) Amendment Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English

Versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 211 (E) in Gazette of India dated 15th May, 1996, under sub-section(3) of Section 10 of the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977.

[Placed in Library. See No LT 18/96]

12.05 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need for early functioning of Airstrip at Paliakalan, Lakhimpur Kheri, U.P.**

[Translation]

DR. G.L. KANAUIA (Kheri) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Parliamentary Constituency, Lakhimpur Kheri is contiguous to Nepal border. Construction of an airstrip at Paliakalan had been completed about one year ago. The local villagers would start encroachment on the land of this airstrip, if it is not made functional soon. Rainy season is likely to start and it is a flood prone area. At that time, it would be difficult for the local administration to stop the encroachment. It is an important airstrip which is situated between Kathmandu and Bareilly and is about 500 k.m. away from Nepal border. I, therefore, request the Government to make this airstrip functional at the earliest.

- (ii) **Need to provide Financial Assistance to Government of Madhya Pradesh to solve acute drinking water problem in the State.**

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA (Ujjain) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Madhya Pradesh is facing acute shortage of drinking water, I request the Central Government to issue necessary instructions for providing assistance and making arrangement for supply of drinking water in the State.

- (iii) **Need to run a train between Delhi and Ajmer on newly laid broad gauge line.**

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the newly laid broad gauge line between Delhi and Ajmer was inaugurated by the then Railway Minister on 5th June 1995. More than one year has elapsed but no train has been introduced on this broad gauge line which was constructed by spending crores of rupees. It has resulted in resentment among the lakhs of people of Ajmer. In spite of several requests made by various political parties, representatives of people and organisations no train has been introduced so far between Delhi and Ajmer for the benefit of common people.