

the Parliament of that area are informed about the visit so that they could meet him in regard to local problems. The practice was being followed till recently but the hon. Prime Minister or Minister of the New Government do not inform about their visits.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whenever the hon. President or the Vice President visits any place, the hon. Members are informed about it. Recently the hon. President visited Maharashtra and he had informed all the Members of Parliament of Maharashtra through a letter. I presume that everyone would be following this practice. I would request you to kindly advise all the hon. Minister and the hon. Prime Minister to inform the local members of Parliament whenever they go on tour. It is very difficult to visit Delhi again and again. I demand that the new Government should also follow the old healthy practice. It would be better if you give a direction in this regard. Sir, there was an exception when Shri Chaturanan Mishra had informed about his visit to Mumbai but his letter reached us after his visit. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (BARH) : You also did not inform us. *(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : We are not informed whenever anyone visits West Bengal.

PROF. HASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER) : The hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Ministers visited Ajmer four times, but we were not informed.

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (JAHANABAD) : Are you not going to call me to speak ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am going to call you just now.

*(English)*

SHRI MADHUKER SARPOTEDAR (MUMBAI NORTH-WEST) : I would like to add to what the hon. Member Shri Ram Naik has said. Whenever we write letters to Ministers, it is necessary that first we get an acknowledgement of that and then we should get the reply. This is the practice prevailing everywhere. But some of the ministers are not following this practice.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please ensure that the tour programmes of the ministers and the Prime Minister are sent to the MPs.

*(Translation)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGNUVANSI PRASAD SINGH) : I assure that the hon. Members will be informed about the tour programmes in future.

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a serious accident took place in my constituency. Thirty youths, both male and female, were crossing some river by boat near Masadpur village on 26th. Their boat capsized and all of them died due to drowning. They were all labourers and were engaged in nation building works. It was a very painful incident. All the members of their families are aggrieved. I demand from the Government of India to grant compensation to the bereaved families so that they could get some relief in the hour of distress.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (BAREILLY) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise an important problem of sugarcane farmers of Uttar Pradesh and would like to request the Government through you, to consider the problem seriously. The hon. Prime Minister visited Uttar Pradesh time and again. He admitted twice that Rs. 500 crore as outstanding amount of the farmers in U.P. was still to be paid. But unfortunately, the promises proved to be election promises only. So far as I know, only Rs. 429 crore have been paid in the form of Indra Vikas Patra. It is not doing any good to farmers. Rs. 500 crore are still to be paid to farmers as sugarcane dues. The farmers are worried. The heavy rain has become a stumbling block in finding a solution to the problems of the farmers and their dues of sugarcane are also not being paid. Surprisingly, all sugar mills are running into losses and I doubt if the sugar mills will function properly in future. I would like the Government to be serious about this and ensure timely functioning of the sugar mills and cash payment of farmers dues. Issuing Indra Vikas Patra will not solve the problems of the farmers. On the contrary, it will aggravate their problems.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the villages have come in the grip of flood due to heavy rain this time. It has multiplied the problems of the farmers. The houses have been washed away in flood and it has created the housing problem. Yesterday, around 500 people gathered in my city. They didn't have any penny and the administration is also not giving them any sort of assistance. The ruling party is only making election promises keeping an eye on ensuing election. It is not going to benefit the farmers of Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, I request you to ensure payment of outstanding amount of sugarcane farmers.

*(English)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the house a matter which has been reported in the Press, a matter of great shame for all Indians, especially for women of India.

It has been reported that in one nursing college, a virginity test is being insisted for those students who are