

If that authority of the Lok Sabha is taken away by any other authority outside the Parliament, that will be dangerous. Even if I do any wrong as a Member of Parliament doing something in the House and outside, for that I can be questioned by this House only and not by any Police authority outside. If this way, the authority is being eroded, what will be the effect? I am not defending anybody. Fundamentally, it should be discussed in the House. So, I gave a notice to the hon. Speaker today morning. Before the House rises on 13th, this matter should be disposed of. Unless that is done, it will not help us. ... (Interruptions) When we go outside, everybody looks at us as if we are thieves and dacoits. That is not the manner in which we should be looked at. The Parliament should stand by its own right and strength. I have been arguing this point from the very first day of this Session. Why should it not be discussed? While the power is in your hands, should you not use it? If any Minister is doing any wrong in his ministerial functioning, first, you should scold him. He is answerable to Lok Sabha. But he is not scolded by the Lok Sabha. What is happening now is he is scolded by somebody outside diligently. This cannot be continued. I want a ruling on this matter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let me have a say. I have not gone through the papers. They are, perhaps, pending with the hon. Speaker. Let him decide about it. Your message will be conveyed to him.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (SHAJAPUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, recently heavy rainfall has occurred in Madhya Pradesh as a result of which Agra-Indore-Mumbai road, which passes through Sarangpur, Shajapur, Muxi and Devas in my parliamentary Constituency, has been damaged and several potholes created on it. Culvard has broken and thus accidents are taking place there. Sir, on contacting the concerned administrative officers and Ministry I was told that no specific fund has been earmarked for it and thus accidents are on increase on this road. The proposal for construction of a by-pass on this road for Devas and Shajapur is lying pending with the Government for a long time so far no action has been taken in this regard.

Sir, through you, I request the Government that this proposal of constructing by-pass road for Devas and Shajapur should be cleared immediately. The bridge near Tilawat has also been damaged and has disrupted traffic. This bridge and pot-holes on Muxi, Devas and Shajapur road should be repaired at the earliest, and action should be taken to streamline the traffic.

[English]

SHRI SURESH KODIKUNNIL (ADOOR) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Punalur Paper Mill is the only one industry which is in my constituency of Kerala. It is a very old Paper industry in this country. More than six hundred employees are working directly and more than one thousand employees are engaged indirectly in this

mill. The mill was earning profit. But nine years back, the Mill was closed down. The reason for this closure was that the Management had taken a loan from ICICI, IDBI, IFCI and the Canara Bank for the purpose of expansion and modernisation of the Paper Mill and the Management failed to repay the loan at the proper time. The Financial Institutions had gone to the Bombay High Court and filed a case against the Management.

The Bombay High Court ordered about the closure of the Mill and at the same time, has appointed a Receiver.

Since the closure of the Mill, the employees have been facing acute poverty and unemployment; ten employees have already committed suicide so far. The employees have not got any benefit during the last eight years and nobody has looked after their welfare.

Now the financial institutions have come forward to have a dialogue with the management for a settlement. The ICICI and the IDBI have agreed to the proposal of the management, but the Canara Bank, the financier of the paper Mill, is not ready to settle the issue. The total liabilities with the Canara Bank are more than Rs. 36 crore. About Rs. 30 crore is the interest and Rs. 3 crore or something is the principal amount.

I, therefore, request the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, to take necessary steps for giving instructions to the Canara Bank for settlement of the issue with the management of the Paper Mill and for re-opening of the Punalur Paper Mill as also at the same time, to save the employees and their families from ruination.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (MUMBAI-NORTH) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to draw your as well as the Honse's attention to healthy political practice.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (QUILON) : Sir, I would like to say something.

MR. DEPUTY DEPAKER : Everybody will get a chance. It is a matter of time.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : The Finance Minister is we. he should intervene in this matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : There has been an established practice for years that whenever the Hon. Prime Minister or any other hon. Minister visits state, the members of

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. RASA 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 four 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 RAGNUVANS 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 of relief in the hour of distress.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (BAREILLY) : Mr. Deputy Speakers 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 Indira 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 Indira Vikas Patra will not solve the problems of the farmers. On the contrary, it will aggravat 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