

Dumariaganj under district Siddharth Nagar. The fertilizers and seeds available at private shops are of inferior quality which would adversely affect the production. I urge upon the Government to instruct the U.P. Government to take necessary action to make available superior quality seeds and D.A.P. Fertilizers in my constituency. Sir, this is not the matter confined to my district only. The whole Uttar Pradesh is plagued by this problem which needs to be addressed.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir the workers of Scindia workshop have not been given salaries for the last 108 months. I would like to make a submission to Shri Chidambaram. I had taken up this matter time and again with the former Finance Minister, Shri Manmohan Singh. The present Minister of Finance, Shri Chidambaram has initiated it. I would like to submit that 108 months have passed.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why do you repeat it?

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to make a demand that those who have retired under V.R.S. till 1991 should be given full salaries and those who were declared retired under V.R.S. in 1991 but were on the rolls of the company till 1993 should also be given salaries. Hence I request Shri Chidambaram that all those who were on the roll till 1996 should be given salaries upto 1996. I hope that Shri Chidambaram would take action in this regard. The Finance Minister is present here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right. You have made you point and he has heard it. Please sit down.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I am making an appeal.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has heard you appeal. Please resume your seat.

[English]

Please sit down. Why do you not sit down? Please have your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI (Bijnor) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, even after 50 years of Independence, the Scavenging system is still in vogue.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Everybody will get a chance.

[Translation]

SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : This issue has been raised time and again in this House to ameliorate their pitiable condition. But in the absence of any concrete

action in this regard, this problem is still very much present. The Chairman of Human Rights Commission, Hon'ble Justice Shri Rangnath Mishra had said that if any person was found carrying nightsoil on his head in any village, the Pradhan of that village should be punished and if such a practice was prevalent in a city, the chief officials of that city should be punished. In Municipalities, Notified areas and town areas, the scavenging staff...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very important issue.

SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : They have not been given salaries for the last 20 months because of which they are unable to afford two square meals and are living in a very bad condition. They have no knowledge about the details of fund. I request the Government to bring the scavenging staff under the direct control of State Governments so that these people could get salaries on time and their family problems are solved. I would also submit that since it is a very important matter, two hours time should be allotted to discuss it in the House and so long as the discussion is not held and all the members in this House do not express their views on this subject, this problem won't be solved. I would like to make a request to the Government to pay attention towards it.

SHRI RAM NAIK : The leader of the House, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan had been raising this matter time and again. I feel that he should say something in this regard because 50 years have passed since we got independence. We are going to organise a big Function on 9th December and it should be announced therein that this system would be abolished. It is a very important matter and the leader of the House should express his views in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the matter raised by the Hon'ble Member is a blot on our nation that even after 50 years of Independence, there are not one or two but approximately three thousand cities, and other small and big towns where the system of carrying nightsoil on one's head is still in practice. We had formulated a scheme in 1990 to abolish this system within 3 years. Today, if a poor man constructs a house, the Government would give subsidy on it. In Karnataka, there is no system of carrying nightsoil on one's head at all. In the intermittent period, the process slowed down and we have taken it very seriously. The Government is committed to abolish the system of carrying nightsoil within a definite time limit. As for the issue of declaring all such employees as Government employees, you are aware that there are municipalities which have all categories of employees. Hence the State Government would also have to step forward in this regard. The Central Government would surely take an initiative.

SHRI RAMVILAS VEDANTI (Machhilsahar) : Just now the Minister of Railways spoke about the abolition