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Title: Regarding UNICEF's Report on State of World Children with reference to India.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): I would like to raise a very important and urgent matter for the consideration of this House relating to the status of the children that our country is facing.

Recently, the UNICEF's State of the World Children Report has ranked our country as low as 49th in a list of 194 countries. It is a damning indictment of the Indian State though there is no denying of the fact that the figures have bettered since the country signed the Convention of the Rights of the Child in 1992. This improvement is just not good enough.

Five thousand children under the age of five still die every day in our country. One million deaths within the first month of birth and another million within the age of five, every year take place. One of the reasons for the high rate of child death is malnutrition. Even relatively developed States have more than a quarter of their children underweight. Though the Government has several nutrition programmes, doubts are there about their implementation.

Many hurdles remain in the protection of children, especially among the Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste community. On the health front, even though immunization is considered one of the most cost effective interventions, only 54 per cent of the nation's children are fully immunized and nearly 11.3 per cent have not received any form of vaccination. The fact that a large number of child deaths can be prevented through simple measures should jolt the authorities out of their complacency and slumber. Madam, 55 million children under the age of five are underweight.

I would urge upon the Government to address the problem at the grass root level, and urgently it should fulfill its responsibility towards the children. Thank you, Madam.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you so much.

Hon. Members,

Dr. Ram Chandra Dome and

Sk. Saidul Haque are also associating with the matter raised by Shri B. Mahtab.

Now, Shrimati Jyoti Dhurve.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Madam, there is a limit for everything...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I have told you something. Do not get so angry.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Do not get so angry.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I have told you, I will call you. But there are people who have given their notices.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Do not get so angry. Do not get so agitated.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: No, please sit down. I have told you, I will call you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Why do you not call me?...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I will call you.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : When?

MADAM SPEAKER: I will call you.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: No, please sit down. Do not get so agitated. Please sit down. I have said I will call you, and I will call you. When I say I will call you, I will call.

...(Interruptions)

अध्यक्ष महोदया: इस तरह करने से बाकी सदस्य भी नहीं बोल पाए हैं। आपको भी अपनी बात कहनी है और दूसरे माननीय सदस्यों को भी अपनी बात कहनी है। सबको बोलना है इसलिए बैठ जाएं।

...(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदया: इस तरह नाराज़ नहीं होते। आप शांत हो जाएं और बैठ जाएं।

...(व्यवधान)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let me continue. I will give you a chance.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Shrimati Jyoti Dhurve.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I will call you. You will have a chance.

...(Interruptions)

12.30 hrs.

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At this stage Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: No, I will call you.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

12.31 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.
