

The Government of Orissa has failed to solve their problems. Therefore, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards this problem and request that immediate arrangements should be made to meet this situation of famine and drought.

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman-Nicobar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House to a very important issue which is presently occurring in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. A large number of foreign poachers are entering in our Islands and extracting valuable timber and they are carrying it in big ships. It is not only that. One policeman was killed in an encounter. Eight villagers were killed by those foreign poachers. But the Administration has not taken any action thereof. No compensation has been paid to the police personnel as well as to the villagers who were killed. There is a panic in those areas particularly in the North Andaman areas. People are afraid of living in their houses because every now and then a group of such poachers with arms enter the place. The Coast Guard people go around the Island in the Ship. But they do not land in the jungles. They say : "It is not our job. We can only see from outside. If we get any ship, we will seize it. Otherwise, those people who are in the land have to be taken care of by other people." But unfortunately the Administration has not taken any action so far. I would like to draw the attention of the Home Minister in this regard. They should take immediate

action to build the confidence of the people, those who are living in that part of the country.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum) : I and Shri Basudeb Acharia have raised an important issue before you, about circulation of a paper.

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Sir, the Government of Kerala has recently requested for increasing the quantity of rice, ration rice which is supplied to the State. This is the time of monsoon. The Government was forced to give free ration in certain areas also. Moreover, the Onam festival is also approaching. So, the quantity of ration should be increased. Further, the quality of the rice which is distributed to the State is also very low. So, I request the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies to intervene in the subject. Our Chief Minister Shri K. Karunakaran recently met and had a heated discussion with the Food Minister. So, I request the Hon. Minister to intervene in this matter and allot more rice of good quality to the State of Kerala. (Interruptions).

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have not given your ruling about the paper which was circulated among the Members of Parliament . . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : I have said, I am coming to it later on.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Yesterday we sought your permission to come to the well in case the Railway Minister does not give up a satisfactory reply on the question of re-employment of 600 people .. (*Interruptions*). Otherwise, the Railway Minister should give us an assurance .. (*Interruptions*) Will you protect us today? We request for your protection.

(*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHARJEE (Panskura) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am glad to see in the newspaper that the Hon. Minister for Communications has announced that he will install one long-distance telephone line in every village in the next three years. Laudable idea indeed.

But, may I draw his attention through you that Panskura (my Constituency headquarters in the district of Midnapore) could never be contacted by me or by any one else with the installation of the telephone. It can hardly be connected with even the district headquarters Midnapore. Same is the situation with Kolaghat, where there is even a thermal power station and the same applies to Tam-luk, the Sub-divisional headquarters of Midnapore district.

May I expect that the Hon. Minister will pay heed to these things and try to rectify the position. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH (Buxar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is drought and shortage of electricity in

Bihar. The farmers are facing a lot of difficulties due to the non-availability of water in the canals. Out of the 485 tubewells installed in Bhojpur and Buxar districts, 400 are out of order. The Bihar Government does not have funds to get them repaired. I request the Central Government to provide a sum of Rs. 4 crore and 85 lakhs to the State Government to construct the grid in Jagdishpur so that adequate supply of electricity could be made. More funds should be provided to the State Government for repairing the 400 tubewells so that the drought situation can be dealt with.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, India is a big and vast country. The people here are always in distress and are ruined due to drought or floods. This year the entire Bihar state is facing drought situation. Paddy seeds have not yet been sown and wherever they have been sown they are drying up. The prevailing red tapism in the state is the main hurdle to tackle drought situation effectively. If there had been actual democracy the government officials would have understood the problems of the public. In Jahanabad constituency the Government has installed a number of tubewells, but all these are lying out of order. There is enough water in Punpun and Falgu rivers. The Jahanabad constituency would have been saved from drought. If both these resources had been used on war-footing. I request the Central Government to provide immediate help to the State Government, so that the people of the area are saved from drought.