

Cholera and dysentery have claimed 700 lives in the Koraput district of Orissa, adjoining Bastar district. Medical specialists are of the opinion that the cholera bacteria found there, can not be controlled with any medicine available in the country. As an adjacent district, there is every chance of this bacteria spreading to Bastar also. If this happens, lakhs of adivasis will have an untimely death.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to take the medical services in Bastar and Koraput District, under its direct control and also take effective steps to prevent the spread of the epidemics. Instead of delving into constitutional provisions like Central or State Jurisdiction, this matter should be taken as a special case, as the lives of lakhs of Adivasis are at stake.

[English]

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Gobicheti palayam): Mr. Speaker Sir, cotton production at present is just sufficient to meet our domestic requirements. But the indiscriminate export of cotton and cotton yarn has resulted in acute shortage of cotton and cotton yarn in the Indian market.

This has resulted in steep rise in the prices of cotton yarn in the Indian market. As a consequence, the handloom industry is in doldrums. The weavers are out of employment everywhere in our country, especially, in Tamil Nadu and more particularly in my constituency, Gobichettipalayam.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to see that the domestic demand of cotton is first met before any export is made. (Interruptions)

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has mentioned about Koraput which is adjoining Bastar district. He has mentioned that about 700 people have died. I would say that it is not 700 people but it is 7000 people who have died in Koraput District.

Yesterday, I met the ex-Chief Minister of Orissa. He had informed me that the figure is round about 7000 (Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Sir, it is a serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Allow him to speak. He is speaking. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. PRADHANI: They have died not only due to epidemic but also partially due to starvation and malnutrition. The food supply in that district is not being done due to agitation by the FCI and also due to non-availability of the railway rakes. I had approached you more than once that these irregularities are going on in the Koraput District. I met the Prime Minister two or three times. I had sent a number of letters to the Chief Minister. It is a disgrace that again the FCI people are going on strike from the 7th October, 1991. If it becomes a reality, then the death toll in the tribal areas may go up to one lakh and not seven thousand.

SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN (Amroha): Mr. Speaker, Sir through you, I would like to bring to the notice the demand for setting up sugar mills in the State of Uttar Pradesh. The Chief Minister of U.P. has urged upon the Union Government to release the letter of intents for setting up nineteen new sugar mills in the State since it was absolutely necessary in view of the marked increase in the production of sugarcane and ensuring its maximum crushing.

In U.P., nearly one lakh and sixteen thousand tonnes of sugarcane is produced and only 33 percent of the sugarcane produced was crushed by the existing 105 sugar mills, the remaining 67 per cent sugarcane was used in manufacturing Khandasari gur and also for fodder with the recovery of 5 per cent as against the recovery of 10 percent to 11 per cent by the sugar mills. If you compare the total sugarcane crushed by sugar mills in the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat, it is more than 75 per cent of the production.