

[Shri E. Ahamed]

Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Government to consider this matter sympathetically.

I wish to raise one more matter of propriety.

MR. SPEAKER : There are a number of other Members and please allow them to speak.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contal) : I have an important matter to raise in this House. As far as I am aware, every recognised language in India could be the medium of examination on All-India basis. But in practice, English comes to occupy such a position that it becomes the sole language determining the fate of examinees. Though officially it is on record that every recognised language may be used to answer the questions, the candidates appearing in the State examinations have expressed their grievances that the examiners prefer English to any other language. If the candidates cannot answer the questions in English either in the written test or *viva voce*, they are not selected. These experiences are intimated to the candidates through mutual talks. Then, the candidates who intend to use their mother-tongue get unnerved and try their level best to get themselves equipped in English, which proves to be, in fact, fatal.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to take steps to give impetus to the examinees to use their mother-tongue as medium for achieving success in the All-India competitive examinations. The group of people who are engaged as examiners should also be instructed properly so that they do not attach so much importance to English for succeeding in the All-India competitive examinations.

Mother tongue may be propagated as the proper language for succeeding in the competitive examinations.

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO (Khamman) : Sir, I would like to bring to your kind attention a matter of public interest and national importance which has arisen due to total strike in Singareni collieries in Kottagudem and surrounding areas situated in Khamman, Andhra Pradesh. More than two lakh workers working in Kottagudem and areas around Kottagudem coal mines are on total strike since 25th May, 1998.

The main demands of the coal workers, besides the small ones, are employment to their children on disability of the worker, and interim relief based on Wage Board recommendations. These recommendations were, in fact, discussed before the State Government. The State Government called a meeting, but they failed to come to an understanding on the plea that these matters related to the Central Government and that they have nothing to do with them, though a huge number of workers are on strike.

There is loss of production of coal and consequently, the supply channels to the thermal units have been

completely shut and there is every danger that the thermal units in the States may have to be shut down on account of shortage of coal.

I would urge that the Central Government should immediately intervene and settle the issue.

Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards H.E.C. situated in my constituency. This industry is known as the mother industry because lakhs of families depend on it for their livelihood. However, unfortunately, retired personnel were inducted against the vacant posts of Chairman and Director, who held the post for a year or two and did not pay any attention towards the condition of the factory, due to which its condition kept on deteriorating. This factory did not get any work order from the Central Government establishments. Underhand methods are employed to give work orders to the private parties and that is why the condition of the Central Government establishment is also worsening. The attention of the previous Government was drawn towards this deteriorating condition and this time too, we have requested the concerned Minister and the Prime Minister to issue directions to the concerned officials of the establishment to advertise the vacancies of Director and Chairman in order to recruit suitable persons on these posts so that more work orders may pour in under their able guidance. Instructions to this effect should be issued by the Government. Recently Coal India floated a tender involving a work order worth Rs. 500 crore. Only H.E.C. has submitted its tender so far. The World Bank, on the other hand, wants that the contract be awarded to foreign companies. It is very unfortunate. The factories may survive only if the Government work orders are given to public sector establishments. ... (Interruptions) This factory has been allotted a large area and now H.E.C. proposes to sell the land. The displaced persons have not been provided employment and their dependent families are not getting power or water. Such a situation has arisen there. Thus, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government towards these problems so as to find a solution.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hail from Udhampur. It is an area rocked by terrorism. The election results were announced on 17th of the last month and on 18th, 26 people were massacred there. Within the very next week, ten more people were killed at Desa. Due to these incidents, approximately 10,000 families have fled the area leaving behind their homes and hearths and are now camping at different places. Some of them are at Riyasi and some are living in Kampal and other villages. The present Home Minister is the first Home Minister to have undertaken an on-the spot visit to take stock of the situation. At that time, he had ordered that so long as