

[Shri Amar Pal Singh]

Sir, through you and through this House, I would like to request that so long as Pakistan does not stop instigating terrorist activities in Kashmir, the Government of India should not hold any talks with Pakistan. This is a matter concerning pride of our nation.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given a motion regarding a very important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am calling out the names as per the list.

SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE (Surendra Nagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the consumption, storage or otherwise use of ordinary salt has been legally banned with effect from May 28, 1998 a fine of Rs. 1000 or an imprisonment of six months has been announced for those violating the law. I would like to submit in the House that if we turn to history, we will see that when the British Government imposed the tax on salt, the father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi had started salt satyagraha. Hence I make an humble submission that this law should be reviewed because iodized salt is not required by the people throughout the country. A slight deficiency of iodine is detected only in the people living in the hilly area such as Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Assam etc. Symptoms of disease of goitre due to deficiency of iodine has been detected in only three lakh people. It is indeed essential to pay attention towards it to check this disease but it is not right to impose a law on hundred crore people of the country due to these three lakh people.

I would like to say to Hon'ble Minister that it has been mentioned in the bulletin of UNICEF that iodine evaporates in the air and the process speeds up if it is kept in open. If the iodised salt is tested in a laboratory, we will get different reports and this will give rise to corruption. Hence, through you, I would like to say that the ordinary salt costs only fifty paise per kg., whereas the iodized salt will be available at Rs. 5-7 per kg. Is this not injustice to the poor and the common man? I would also like to point out that potassium iodine required for iodization has to be imported from abroad. 70 per cent of the salt is produced in my state, Gujarat. This law has widespread impact there. I would like to make an humble appeal in this House to Hon'ble Minister to pay attention in this regard and review the law. This is my request.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, several acres of agricultural land has been eroded and crops of fruits and vegetables have been destroyed due to heavy rains and hailstorms in Uttaranchal and especially in four districts of my constituency, Almora, Champaran, Pithoragarh and Bageshwar in Uttar Pradesh on 7.5.1998. The farmers have lost their crops and a loss of more than twenty crore rupees has been incurred as the metalled road

and the bridge have been destroyed. Through you, I would like to submit to the Union Government that the contribution provided by the State Government in form of immediate assistance is very low, hence the Central Government should release at least twenty crore rupees as special assistance in order to compensate for the loss suffered due to heavy rains and hailstorm on 7.5.1998 so that relief may be provided to the common man and the road and the bridge washed away due to rains may be reconstructed.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur) : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that an agitation has been going on for quite a long time for setting up a new railway zone at Bilaspur Headquarters. A loss of crores of rupees has been incurred since 15.1.1996 when the agitation turned violent. After months of relay hunger strike, discontinuance of coal loading, closure of division, the workers of Chhatra Yuva Jana Sangharsh Samiti are sitting on a fast unto death at Jantar-Mantar in Delhi since 30th May. Their condition is critical.

On 30th January 1996, the then leader of opposition in the 11th Lok Sabha and the present Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had made a demand for setting up a Railway zone at Bilaspur Division which has been one of the highest profit earning division for the Railways.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the Union Government to make an announcement regarding setting up a Railway zone at Bilaspur Headquarters without further delay so that Chhatra Yuva Jana Sangharsh Samiti may end its agitation.

SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUI BISEN (Balaghat) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Madhya Pradesh is in the grip of severe drought this year. All the District Collectors have sent the relevant data to the State Government. The Kharif as well as Rabi crops have been destroyed. The yield has been only 50 per cent in 1251 out of 1252 villages under my constituency District Balaghat. The State Government is not providing any relief. The Congress Government has not put its case properly before the Union Government and the matter has not been discussed with the MPs either.

Madhya Pradesh is not getting any relief as it failed to present its case effectively. People are dying of starvation. No relief works have started. Only for Balaghat district Rs. 50 lakh have been granted. There are 4 lakh labourers in Balaghat. So this amount will not suffice to provide work even to 10% of the labourers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request the Union Agriculture Minister through you to invite the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh and arrange a special sitting of all MPs of Madhya Pradesh so that some effective steps would be taken to tackle this grave situation prevailing in the State.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter does not concern only to my constituency but Madhya Pradesh as a whole.

40 districts of Madhya Pradesh have been affected due to drought. People are not getting drinking water there. They are dying there. Farmers have no seeds for sowing. Government have not compensated them under R.B.C. 6 (4). There is no arrangement for fodder for cattle. My request is that the Agriculture Minister should constitute an enquiry committee comprising MPs and other officials who should visit the drought affected areas to find a solution to this problem. Sir, if this is not done, then let me say that during the coming monsoon, there will be no agricultural operation in that region. There is no arrangement for seeds there. I request the Central Government to give directions to State Government to provide all possible help to the farmers.

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA (Kota) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the burning problems of farmers. Work is being done on the fields of farmers under the Central Government's sponsored schemes or the programmes which are run in the State by the assistance of the Central Government but the farmers are not paid any compensation for it. I would like to request the Central Government through you that the money should be allocated to State Governments by the Central Government with a compulsion that the farmers whose land is used for any purpose will be paid compensation first. Only after giving compensation, the land of the farmers should be used.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, work is being done in Rajasthan under the Irrigated Area Development Scheme. Drains are being dug on the farmer's land under different schemes whether it is the Chambal Project or Kota Project. Canals have been dug up but no compensation has been given to the farmers for their land. Pay orders which were issued in 1996 have not been honoured till date. There is no provision for their payment in the budget. Money received from the Central Government is used for other purposes.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the compensation given to the farmers for their land is very nominal. The rate of compensation is far below the rate prevailing in the market. The compensation is not paid for the full acquired land and the pay orders issued are not honoured. I would like to cite the example of one Kalu S/c Deva of village Motipura, district Bundi whose land was acquired under Irrigated Area Development Scheme but compensation has not been paid till date. Similarly, the left side of the land of Nandu Berva has been acquired and Main Kota canal has been constructed over it. Pay order Number 119 dated 1.3.96 was issued to this person belonging to scheduled caste community by Tehsildar, Land Housing, Kota but the pay order was not honoured. Two years have been passed since 1996 but the payments against the pay orders have not been realised yet.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I request that the State Government should be instructed by the Central Government to provide immediate compensation to the

farmers whose land has been acquired. I request the Central Government to issue instructions to Rajasthan Government so that the poor farmers could be compensated for their acquired lands.

[English]

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (Narasaraopet) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to raise a very important issue concerning the State of Andhra Pradesh. Ignoring the solemn assurance given to the Supreme Court of India, the Government of Karnataka is going ahead with the construction of Almati dam over the above the height permitted by the Government of India. This will terribly affect the interests of the State of Andhra Pradesh.

This is the life and death issue for the agricultural community of the entire State of Andhra Pradesh. You are also aware of the dispute. During the previous Government's tenure, the Government of Karnataka was getting some patronage and support. At least in the changed scenario, I hope and urge upon this Government to immediately intervene and stop the unauthorised construction. Or else it will become a major inter-State dispute and it may lead to a lot of problems. So, I appeal to the Prime Minister and the Government of India to take immediate steps to resolve this issue of unauthorised construction.

[Translation]

SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE (Mandala) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Tribal Finance Development Corporation has been set up in Madhya Pradesh which has formulated many schemes for the development of tribals. But during the recent times, from 1996 till date no such scheme has been taken up to benefit the Adivasis. I would like to give an example of Shri Ashok Kumar, a resident of Raipur who was allotted a bus few days back but the permit for the same has not yet been issued. Similarly, 6% interest was to be charged on the loan taken by the Adivasis for purchasing a bus, but Madhya Pradesh Government and the T.F.D. Corporation is charging 12 to 14% interest for the same. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious offence. On behalf of the Government, Finance Development Corporation was to provide Tata Company's Motor vehicles to Adivasis. But instead of this brand, Swaraj Mazda Company's vehicles were given. A number of such instances have come to our notice involving an amount of Rs. 15 crores. I want your protection and with your permission I demand that stringent action should be taken by the Central Government in such cases.

I would also like to say that Adivasis were deprived of the facilities and amenities which should have been made available to them. Ashok Kumar has to commit suicide in front of commissionerate because he was not given permit for the bus. It is a very serious crime. Chairman of Finance Development Corporation has blamed the M.D. of the Corporation and the Minister