

I conclude with this submission.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, this is a serious matter. All of you have stood up. All of you are endorsing what Shri Mohan Singh has said. Now, let the hon. Minister respond. Then, we will go to the other points.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We take it that you all are of the same view.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : Sir, I do not have any reasons to disbelieve the statement of the hon. Member, who himself has visited the area along with other Members. I have been told that they had an interaction with the Chief Minister who was also there. They apprised the Chief Minister about this particular menancey which has taken place. It is a fact. It did happen last year and it has repeated this year. When it did happen last year I took it up with the hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare Shri M.L. Fotedar. A Central team visited there and identified the cause of this particular disease and also submitted a report. The follow-up action was also taken from the State Governemnt. This year when it happened, I took up with the Prime Minister and the prime Minister has instructed another team to visit. I do not know whether it has gone. It tis unfortunate that this repetition itself has crated a panc in the area. I do not want to go into dispute whether the people are going to Bangladesh and other place. It may happen. I have no reasons to disbelieve. i fully agree with the hon. Member that both Central Government and State Government should take appropriate action so that it does not occur again. I assure the hon. Members that I will again

take it up with the State Government as well as the Central Governemnt. I am one with them . I only request that this should not be politicised. (Interruptions) I am not saying it. (Interruptions) Am I saying that you are politicizing it?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Please do not bring that discussion here. No one is saying that it should be politicized.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I, therefore, say that this is a human tragedy and the State Government and the Central Government are looking into it from that aspect and I hope suitable action will be taken.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

*SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: (Palaghat): Mr. Speaker, I am raising an important human problem. The bidi workers are the most backward and unorgansied section of our society. Although, Governemnt has formulated a number of schemes to protect these workers and to ensure job security and other rights, these schemes have not been propely iimplemented so far. In a country where lakhs of people are unemployed, this is a sector where with very meager capital investment, thousands of workers could be given employment. Unless the Government takes immediate steps to implement strictly the Bidi-cigar Act in all States and also to ensure the payment of minimum wages to them, lakhs of Bidi workers will suffer extreme miscry. bdi esdesorkers who have attain the age of 50 years must he bepaid a monthly pension of Rs. 250/- A corporation should be set up for the unorganised Bidi workers. The worker who

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Malyalam.

superannate do not get full gratuity. There is a heavy reduction in the gratuity amount which is paid to them. Therefore, it has become necessary to amend the Gratuity Act. The Government must also consider the payment of Rs. 150/- as medical allowance to the Bidi workers.

I request the Government to consider these demands immediately, Sir, with your kind permission I wish to raise one more point. That is with regard to the lack of transmission facility for transmitting Malayalam Programmes in the northern districts of Kerala. Today, the people of Palakkad, Kozhikode, Kannur, Vaynad etc. are able to see only the national programme and not the Malayam programme. It was said that channels were not available. But now with the completion of opticals fiber cable and the micor wave link channels have become viable.

So, I would request the Government to immediately take steps to provide this facility for the people of Palakkad and other districts of northern Kerala.

SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' (East Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this morning the residents of nearly 25 colonies, such as Moti Bagh, R.K. Puram, Netaji Nagar, Lodi Road, Kidwai Nagar and Laxmibai Nagar, etc. came to me and complained that the kiosks which they had constructed 20-25 years back outside their houses are being demolished. These kiosks were made for the purpose of parking their scooter sectors and keeping their cots in case of rain. But the Estate office people have launched a campaign of demolishing all these kiosks. It is causing a great discontent among Government employees in Delhi. These kiosks were not demolished even during emergency. These are not rooms. The poor Government employees had constructed these kiosks for keeping their belongings, beddings, coats etc. Demolition will not serve any purpose. I would be better to charge rent from the

residents but these should not be demolished at any cost.

SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA (Machhlisahar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 6th May, 1992 at 4.30 O'clock, a dreadful fire broke out at Pipapur village, block Mangraura, District prapgarh which comes under my constituency Machhlisahan. Out of the 33 houses gutted in this fire, 23 houses belonged to Harijans, 2 houses to 'Kahars' (bearers) and 8 houses to shepherds. All these people are poor and landless. In that fire incident, their entire belongings such as clothes, utensils, ornaments and foodgrains turned into ashes. Their children are taking shelter under trees. Fire engine from District Headquarters could reach there after 8 hours. Till now only Tehsildar could reach on the spot and he has disbursed only Rs. 9000/- among the people, as a relief measure. I visited the spot and it is assessed that the loss due to this fire is about Rs. 6 lakhs. There is no arrangement for drinking water and no conveyance is available from Kandharpur to Pipapur. This village has not been electrified even and it takes 5 hours in conveying a message upto the District Headquarters.

I would urge that an amount of Rs. 10, 000/- should be given as immediate relief to every man of this village so that they could procure something and make arrangements for resettling their children. Their children are left with the only clothes which they are wearing. There, the livestock is dying due to scarcity of fodder. Therefore, immediate arrangement may be made for provision of fodder.

I urge that the Government to provide every possible help to this village from Prime Minister's Relief Fund. It is a problem of Harijans. The construction of their houses may be made out of relief fund of Uttar Pradesh, Government. They are small landless farmers and they do not have support from anybody