

[English]

SHRIPRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN(Karad):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to raise a matter which has even got far more significance than what we had discussed in the morning. I refer to the GATT Agreement based on the Dunkel Draft. The Minister of Commerce had assured the House that the Government will not sign the GATT Treaty based on the Dunkel Draft without a full debate in the House.

A discussion under Rule 193 was listed last week but could not take place. This House, cutting across the party lines, is concerned about this. The whole motion is concerned about this. Our agriculture, services, our independence about the foreign investment and any other things will be threatened. This Treaty will bind generations to come. The issue is too big to be decided by a few bureaucrats in the commerce Ministry or even by a Cabinet Sub-Committee. I specifically wish to make three points.

The first is, the Government should not sign this GATT Treaty based on the Dunkel; Draft without the express approval by Parliament and without a full debate on the issue. The Government should reopen the issue at Geneva and try to separate the various issues.

Secondly, a Parliamentary Committee should be immediately constituted to go into the whole aspects of the GATT Uruguay round of talks.

Finally a very important point is about the right of the Parliament to ratify various international treaties which the Executive enters into. Usually we are presented, with a fait accompli and we just cannot do anything about it. The House, in its combined wisdom should seriously reconsider the constitutional provision about the Executive's power to enter international treaties and Parliament's right in the ratification of the treaties. (Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: I have given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER: I know that the House is one with the hon. Members on this

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I must say that you were demanding, the Minister and written to me, we had fixed it but the matters which are on the agenda are not discussed and the matters which are not on the agenda are discussed. That is why you had no time for it.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur): We are cloing today.

MR. SPEAKER: Not like this Madam

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Today you have to show favour to the Members who are sitting at your back.

[Translation]

SHRI BHUVNESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazaribagh): Mr. Speaker, Sir Delhi Administration and the Delhi police have uprooted thousands of hawkers and rickshaw-pullers and rendered them jobless. Lakhs of such people have been affected by their action. People have been forced to starve. As a matter of fact even after more than four decades of independence, crores of educated people are already jobless. Over and above the same, the wrong policies of the Government is adding fuel to the flame. Thousands of pavement hawkers held a demonstration in front to the residence of Lt. Governor and demanded that the police as well as the Administration are not honouring the Supreme Court verdicts. As per the Supreme Court verdict, before uprooting the pavement hawkers steps should be taken to

rehabilitate them. I would urge the government to intervene in the matter and resettle these people so that they could earn their livelihood. That is all, I wanted to say.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am raising a question pertaining to human beings. The situation prevailing in Tripura is very serious. On 9th and 10th instant a team of 8 M. Ps. visited those areas of Tripura where according to our information nearly 102 tribal people expired this year due to the outbreak of this epidemic between 24th March and 3rd May. As per the statistics made available to us by the Government, 82 people have expired. Sir, last year, in this very month, the epidemic broke out and according to the information made available to us number of victims is 142 but the Government gives the number as 121. The number of casualties in such a low populated area, is very high in comparison to the number of casualties in any part of India. But it is a matter of regret that adequate arrangements are not being made there. We met the Chief Minister. He said that for the purpose of maintenance an amount of Rs. 500/- will be paid ex gratia under a scheme to be launched in the area after 15th to each of the bereaved families. It is quite shameful that the value of human life has been fixed at just Rs. 500/- in independent India. We have shot a videofilm and an application has also been sent. One man, Shri Pradeep Dev Verma, resident of Tosa Mohrampur in Village Manikpur has complained that he had to sell his two sons, one Shri Ramesh aged 5 years and another Shri Malik aged 3 years to Shri Pavindra Tripura and Shri Kavindra Tripura of that village at the rate of Rs. 40/- each. Nothing can be more shameful than this in this independent India. How much degradation has come in human values.

We visited the hospital and met the C.M.O. and the District Magistrate. According to the figures furnished by them the number of patients admitted during the last two months is two thousand. The

patients are to be brought from a distance of 30 kms. Sometimes, it so happens that the patients died on their way to hospital and their family members ran away leaving the dead body on the road. Some families fled to Bangladesh, some to Assam and some to Mizoram which is quite adjacent. In this manner, they left the dead-bodies which were being eaten by dogs, eagles and vultures. If the value of a human being is reduced to this extent, I think it would be a matter of utter shame for independent India.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards tribal belt. The Central Government is equally responsible for it. I would urge the Central Government to depute a special team to that village of Tripura where a large number of people have died because of this epidemic. Water is supplied through a tanker from a distance of 50 kilometres. At times the tanker arrives and at times it does not. There is no regular supply of water. Thus power force they have to drink dirty water that is available. There is no arrangement for the supply of food grains. The Ration depot is opened only for 2 days. A tribal who comes from a distance of 30 kilometres may or may not be able to purchase ration. He has no purchasing power. With the result, he has no option except to eat wild grass. Consequently, thousands of people are becoming victims of epidemic. The attention of the Central Government should be drawn to this issue and a team should be sent to assess the situation. The Government should make arrangements to provide not only medicine and food to the Adivis and by it should also arrange Mobile squads for distributing ration to Adivis in far flung areas.

The helpless people are compelled to run to neighbouring States to earn their livelihood. Such kind of helplessness should not be there. I urge the Central Government to undertake relief work immediately and arrangements may be made to pay at least Rs. 50,000/- as compensation to the bereaved families.