

her. One can imagine the extent to which superstition and cruelty can go. Parent don't kill their male child for the purpose of sacrifice, but wait for the birth of a female child for the purpose. It has come in the newspaper that after the arrest, Sumitra and Babu admitted the crime. They recounted the gory tale to the police. On the night of July 9, Sumitra clasped the girl's hands and legs and Babu stifled the nose and mouth. Later they went to the Masoba temple, removed the child's clothes and hid the body in the bushes.

[Translation]

This act is more abominable, inhuman and condemnable than Sati. The girl's parents killed her at the Masoda temple to offer her to the deity. They have been arrested, but I don't want to go in further details.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, that village has a total population of 400 and out of them, only two per cent are educated. Incidents of medieval barbarity and sin are taking place even after 44 years of independence. I am saying this before the House because the hon. Home Minister is present here. I hope that he will certainly look into this incident. We are lacking something somewhere in our day-to-day life., that we have not been able so far to prolifer modern education to crores of people in our country. It has become the psyche of some people that there is nothing wrong in killing a girl child and sacrifice her. Something should be done to educate the villagers against this psyche so that in future, no girl is killed by her parents. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Home Minister, of this House and of the countrymen to it. I hope that the hon. Home Minister will certainly pay attention to it.

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum) : Sir, the All India Bank Officers' Association, which has a total membership of two and half lakhs, is going to strike work on the 21st of this month. This is a very serious matter. The main reason for the proposed strike is conflict between the Syndicate Bank Officers' Association and the Bank. The main problems are vindictive transfers of the office-bearers of the Association against accepted norms,

unilateral changes in the conditions of service of the officers to their detriment, large scale victimisation and disproportionate punishments meted out to the officers for trade union activity and blatant interference in the affairs of the Association. If my information is correct, instructions have been given by the Ministry of Finance to have a talk with the officers. But the management is very adamant and arrogant and they are not even willing for a talk. On the 21st of this month the entire banking system is going to be paralysed. You can understand the damage that will be caused to the economy of this country, if the proposed strike takes place. There are allegations that the Chairman of this particular Bank has swindled crores of rupees for his personal use. I request that the officers of proved misbehaviour should have no quarter in public service.

I plead with the Minister to give direction to the Chairman and the Officers of the Syndicate Bank to negotiate with the Union and to arrive at a settlement and the proposed strike is averted. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (Sheohar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Chemicals. Sir, it is happening that major drug companies are cutting down production and procurement of vital drugs due to their unviability.

[English]

Industry sources point out that quite a few vital drugs will be in severe short supply in the days to come unless some relief is provided quickly. A sharp increase in costs of imported intermediates and chemicals has contributed to the upswing in input costs. If the status quo is maintained, essential drugs like Chloramphenicol, Rifampicin, Metronidazole, Parazinamide, Amoxicillin will soon disappear from the market. The costs of manufacture of these drugs is far above the Government notified prices. For example, for Rifampicin the actual costs work out to nearly Rs. 5-6 thousand

per kg. as against the notified price of Rs. 3,850 per kg. So also for chloramphenicol where the notified price of Rs. 1,300 per kg. is less than half of the actual costs incurred. Industry representatives have been quick to point out that the price control has resulted in new investments in the industry slowing down to a trickle. The average growth rate of the industry has remained at 10 per cent for quite a few years, whereas the required growth rate on the basis of projected demand should be 15 per cent per annum. The production of drugs and pharmaceuticals in the country in 1989-90 was around Rs. 4,000 crores whereas the country's requirement at the turn of the century is projected to be around Rs. 16,000 crores. The export target fixed by the Government stands at Rs. 10,000 crores by 2000 A.D.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : Sir, they have to make some reference only. They are reading statements of two to three pages.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU (Secunderabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, River Kaling flows in the north coastal district of Andhra Pradesh. Six thousand persons have been displaced due to floods in that river. The paddy in 40 thousand acres of land has been destroyed. Two persons have been killed. Nine ships have sunk near the Vishakhapatnam port and 17 persons are feared dead and there is no information about the hundred boats which had to arrive there. This has become a very serious matter. Therefore, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that he should send some officials there to save those people and help them.

[English]

DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY (Rajamundry) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to mention here that the flood situation in Vizianagaram District of Andhra Pradesh is assuming alarming dimensions. The fury of the floods in Nagavali River claimed already two lives, huge cattle population and dislodged about one lakh families in

several villages of Srikakulam and Vizianagaram Districts, the standing paddy crop in about 40,000 acres is under submersion and the chances for survival are remote.

There is an urgent need to depute a Central Team for the on-the-spot assessment of the loss sustained in the floods by extending immediate relief to the victims and *ex gratia* to the next of the kin of the deceased.

Similarly, Tungabhadra is also in spate at the Sunkesala anicut in Kurnool District. The overflow is to the tune of 79,850 cusecs, which denote the alarming trend of impending flood situation. Rescue operations are to be taken up quite in advance to safeguard the interest of the human life and other damages.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I go to the other item—Papers Laid. Shri Chidambaram.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, the management of the Food Corporation of India is flouting the Contract Labour (Abolition and Regulation) Act. I have received a telegram today from our Union from Andhra Pradesh that storage godowns at Kurnool are being closed down by the FCI management and if these godowns are closed down, hundreds of workers—and these workers are contract workers, these workers are handling workers—will be thrown out of employment and there is a ban on engagement of contract labour in handling work by the FCI. But the FCI is not departmentalising this category of work, and as such they are closing down the godowns and the workers who are engaged in the godowns will be thrown out of employment.

I demand, Sir, that the Food Minister should intervene in this matter and these godowns should not be closed down. The contract workers should not be thrown out of employment. These workers should be regularised as per the directions of the Central Government and the engagement of contractors in this category of work should be banned.