

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the deadline will expire at 3 p.m. today after that he will be killed according to the reports received. The whole country is worried about the life of Mr. Doraiswamy. I urge upon the hon. Home Minister to make a statement on this matter in the House (Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This matter was raised in the House a number of times.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is for the Home Minister to make a statement or not. I cannot compel him. (Interruptions).

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : Normally the Government is not expected to react to the questions raised during the Zero Hour. . . . (Interruptions) Since both sides of the House are expressing their anxiety because of the news item which has appeared in a section of the press, I can merely say that I am expecting a positive response by this afternoon.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will you come and inform the House ?

SHRI A. ASHOKARAJ (Perambalur) : The reference made by the President of India under Article 143 of the Constitution of India to the Supreme Court does not automatically operate as stay of the order passed by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal dated 25-6-1991 directing Karnataka (i) to release 205 TMC of water to Tamil Nadu's Mettur reservoir and (ii) not to extend its area under irrigation beyond the existing 11.2 lakh acres in Karnataka.

SHRI S. B. SIDNAL (Belgaum) : Since this matter has been referred to the Supreme Court it has become *sub judice*.

SHRI A. ASHOKARAJ : it is not *sub judice*. I am entitled to talk about my State, Tamil Nadu.

It is, therefore, clear that there is no legal impediment for the Central Government to notify the order passed by the Tribunal as contemplated under section 6 of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act,

1956. Hence I demand the implementation of the Tribunal's interim order.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention to the miserable plight of these Bhopal Gas victims. As you know, this accident occurred six years back in which 3828 people lost their lives, over 5 lakhs residing in 36 wards of Bhopal were exposed to toxic gases and over 1.5 lakhs are partially or wholly disabled.

The toxic gases affected the organs including skin, eyes, lungs, kidneys and gastro-intestinal tracts and damaging the immune, gastric and reproductive systems and leading further to impairment of ability to work, especially amongst children, 90% of whom were affected.

An arbitrary settlement denied the rights of some 6 lakhs victims entitling only one lakh to some compensation. Even the criminal proceedings against Carbide was quashed and all questions of environmental and punitive damages were dropped and even any prosecutions by future generation of gas victims were banned. At least articles 14, 19, 21, 39A, 41, 47 and 48A of Indian Constitution were violated.

The victims are suffering for six long years and are running from pillar to post for help. Recently, a large number of their houses near Hamidia Hospital have been demolished illegally and two thousand poor gas victims are homeless. No advancement is made in solving their problems.

They are demanding of the Central Government to set up a National Commission on Bhopal and to convene a medical committee to put together all data on the nature and extent of injury, its evaluation and evolving guidelines for proper treatment and rehabilitation of the victims. . (Interruptions). They are also demanding for laying down adequate standards for protection from industrial hazards in this country and to push for the speedy establishment and implementation of an international code of conduct for transnational corporations.

I urge upon the Government to come forward and reaffirm its commitment to establishing the corporate and continuing

liability of Union Carbide for Bhopal catastrophe.

Hundreds of victims are staging a dharna before the Supreme Court seeking justice, and over more than one hundred MPs have already written to the Prime Minister for necessary action. So, I would request the Government to take appropriate steps to solve the problem.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Sir, I am drawing your attention towards a serious problem. Telephone service in Rajasthan is the worst at present and thousands of telephones have been lying out of order in my constituency, Jaipur for the last several weeks. No action is taken even after lodging the complaint. Even the telephone meant for lodging the telephone complaints is lying out of order. Now where should the complainant lodge his report. The telephone of General Manager is also lying out of order. The telephones of emergency services, Police control room, telephone nos. 101 and 102, District Supply Officer and Collector—all are lying out of order. The telephones have been out of order for months together but the bills are issued for that period also. On the other hand, it was announced that the bill would be issued only for the period of normal functioning of the telephone. (*Interruptions*). Telephone Directory has not been published. As a result people to make enquiries from Telephone No. 197 which is chargeable. Thus, the service of Telephone No. 197 should be made free till the Telephone Directory is published. Telephone bill should also be issued only for the period telephone remains in working order. One of my submissions is that electronic system should be introduced for the telephone Nos. with six or seven digits so that telephone system in Rajasthan in general and Jaipur in particular could be immediately improved. If no improvement is brought about I, along with telephone subscribers, of Jaipur would stage Dharna or observe hunger strike in front of the office of District Telephones Officer or the office of the hon. Minister. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI (Gazipur) : There is a great need of constructing a new rail line from Ghat Railway Station to Mau Junction in Gazipur district of eastern Uttar Pradesh. It would not impose much burden on the Government. Because the distance between Ghat Station and Mau Junction is merely 40 Kms. The area where new rail line is to be constructed falls under the jurisdiction of Gazipur Tehsil and 'Chakbandi' is expected to be done soon in this area.

If Railway Ministry ask for land for constructing this new rail line, the Chakbandi Department will certainly provide land for the purpose. Railway Ministry will not have to pay the compensation for the land... (*Interruptions*) Similarly, there is also a great need to construct a railway bridge between Tari Ghat Station and Ghat Station on the river Ganga. In the absence of railway bridge over the Ganga river, not only Gazipur is divided into two parts, but also the passengers have to travel on foot from Tari Ghat or they have to travel via Varanasi to reach Gazipur Headquarters. If a railway bridge is constructed over the Ganga river, the trains will reach direct upto Ghazipur Headquarters. Besides, Ghazipur will also be linked directly with other parts of the country.

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today, the Home Minister is present here. I would like to draw your attention towards a question concerning human life. We have already discussed the practice of 'Sati' in this House. It is a good thing that yesterday Uma Bharati raised the issue of female foeticide. I would like to draw your attention towards a very painful practice.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a village Sathewadi in Maharashtra where a couple was not blessed with a female child. They got a male child after offering prayers to the village god Masoba. They had vowed to sacrifice their first child, at the alter of village god Masoba. But the male child was not sacrificed as it was considered that he would protect the lineage. After two years, a female child was born in the family and that female child was killed. Parents complained that other people had killed