

coupled with bad roads, mixed traffic and half-hearted enforcement of the rules by the authorities are the main reasons for these accidents.

12.13 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the chair)

Sir, in my State also, every day, everybody will hear the news of motor accidents; there will be no day in Kerala where not less than a dozen people are either killed or injured in these motor accidents. This is the state of affairs in many of our States, but unfortunately the State Governments or the Central Government take no steps to prevent this mishap. This is a great loss to the country. Many of the families are orphaned in this country and offenders involved in the offences on the road must be punished without fear or favour.

The issue of driving licence in this country is much easier than purchasing a platform ticket for a visit to the railway platform. So, there should be strict adherence so far as rules and regulations are concerned, and the motor vehicle rules are to be amended. It is the duty of the Central Government to call the concerned Ministers of the State Governments or the representatives and discuss the matter to formulate a policy that will control the rash and negligent driving and thus to prevent these accidents.

Sir, it is nightmarish for a person to travel on the Indian roads. So, I wish that the Government of India and the Minister in-Charge of it will take some effective steps immediately in this regard.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a serious matter. The topographic situation of Rajasthan is very odd and it has had less rainfall for the past many years. As the Summer approaches, the drinking water crisis is deepening there. The State Government is fully exploiting its limited resources in installing new handpumps, repairing the existing hand pumps that are out of order and making water available to the people wherever it is possible. Through you, I would like to urge upon the Central Government to provide special assistance to the State Government during the ensuing scorching Summer in Rajasthan so as to make it able to cope up with the situation of dry hand pumps, ponds etc. where people have to fetch water from places miles away, where there is the drinking water crisis for their cattle.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the limited resources available with the Government impede the process of defusing the situation of drinking water crisis. Therefore, while supporting what

he said, I demand that the Central Government should provide special assistance to the State Government

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will follow the rules.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of your goodness and that of this House to a very important issue. Prior to raising the main issue, I would like to say something on a matter for which I had sought the permission of the hon. Speaker and that is that while as the Budget Session of Parliament is on, our hon. Finance Minister Manmohan Singh ji announces a policy statement there in America.

[English]

"The Finance Minister, Mr. Manmohan Singh said here that action would be taken shortly to deregulate the insurance industry and legislation would be made to that effect."

[Translation]

Because our Budget Session is on. Ours is a sovereign Parliament and the hon. Finance Minister should be aware that when the Budget Session of the Parliament is on, he should not make a statement on deregulating our insurance industry there in the U.S. capital. This is an affront to the Parliament. The democratic values we follow in Lok Sabha that when the Parliament is in Session.

[English]

"He has no business to go out of the country and declare an announced policy decision that Government of India is going to deregulate insurance industry."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have spoken on 'Reported policy statement regarding deregulating the insurance industry announced by the Finance Minister outside the Parliament'. So far as the other point is concerned, there is a blank against your name. You have spoken on one subject.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : On this important point about privatisation of the insurance industry, I have to say that it is an impossible situation that the Finance Minister is landing us in because Malhotra Committee report was once discussed in the Consultative Committee. This was never discussed in Parliament.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is true that Shri Rabi Rayji has raised the matter properly. But it cannot be a general subject. If many people want to participate, it