

be declared as disturbed areas. All these things show that the Tripura coalition Government is launching an undeclared war against the tribal people there. Instead of standing in favour of the rights of the tribals, they are harassing them and the tribals are sought to be eliminated from the area. Therefore, I request the Government, through you, to come to the help of the tribal people and take steps so that TADA and other repressive measures are withdrawn, relief is given to the people, democracy prevails, unity among the tribal and non-tribal people prevail in the State. I again request the Government through you, to take some measures in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): Sir, it is unfortunate that a sweeping remark has been made by the hon. Member. I do not want to go into any dispute with him. I would like the House to apprise of the facts. There were deaths in Tripura due to some disease. When this came out in the newspaper, the Tripura Government took some action. Not only that when this matter was raised in the House the Prime Minister instructed me to visit that area. I went to the remote areas in helicopter and visited all the places. I took corrective steps to see that medical aid is provided to them. After my return, I submitted the report to the Prime Minister. The Union Health Minister then sent a team to visit that area and find out the type of disease which was spreading there. Medicine worth Rs. 125 lakh was given by the Government of India to the State Government. Not only that the Prime Minister allocated another Rs. 84 lakhs out of his discretionary fund for those people. Steps have been taken to see that such disease do not recur.

It has been alleged that these are starvation deaths. These are not starvation deaths. These are deaths due to some disease. Unfortunately, some aspersion is being cast on the Tripura Government and I strongly repudiate it. Even now if you want to have discussion or anything of the sort, it

is up to you to decide but I would like to put on record that there is no starvation death in Tripura. Death due to disease should not be termed politically as starvation death. It is not desirable.

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS (Karimganj): Train service in Badarpur-Bhairabi section, mainly in Hailakaudi District, Assam, is not at all keeping in time. Old worn-out steam engine with back dated coaches is running on unaugmentable meter-gauge track with a speed of not more than 15 to 20 kilometers per hour. In 24 hours only one pair of train is running in this section, that also is quite irregular. So, people there have begun to say, "No service is better than such kind of dis-service." The train service in entire Barak Valley has not all improved and Badarpur-Bhairabi section is one of the glaring examples.

*So, I urge upon the Railway Ministry to look into the matter and to instruct the N.F. zonal authority to improve the train service in Barak valley particularly that of Badarpur-Bhairabi section.*

12.57 hrs

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the chair*]

SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH (Adoor): Sir, the monsoon period, that is the months of July, August, September and October, is considered to be the difficult period for the day-to-day life of the common man in the State of Kerala. The prices of essential commodities take an increasing trend during this period. Kerala is the only State in the country where rationing system exists. Of course, Kerala is a deficit State in the rice production. At present, the monthly allocation of rice to our State is 1,50,000 MT. The national festival of Kerala falls in the month of September. All the people in Kerala celebrate Onam as a national festival. It is needless to say that the prices of essential commodities will shoot up in the open market during this period. Keeping this in view