

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