

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Today the Government must speak something on this subject, otherwise what will we say in their meeting? Therefore, something must be stated in this august House on behalf of the Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Government has assured on the floor. I was sitting in the Chair. It is stated that they are thinking of increasing the salaries.

[Translation]

Then tell us that you will leave no stone unturned in providing them some sort of help.

SHRI D.J. TANDEL (Daman and Diu) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the fishermen all over India have been staging dharna; since the 2nd instant in protest against the permission of fishing given to foreign companies by the Government of India. A Dharna is also being staged at Jantar Mantar in Delhi. This issue was raised by hon. Members in this august House on 2nd also but no assurance has been given so far by the Government to resolve the problems of fishermen.

12.07 hre.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the chair)

The fishermen are staging dharna at Porbandar also and we are getting lengthy telegrams everyday in this connection but no statement has been given so far by the Government in this regard. The Government claims that foreign companies are allowed for fishing upto a particular distance. But, it is not true. The foreign companies are fishing in India and violating our laws. Today fishermen are worried everywhere i.e. in Orissa, Maharashtra, Karnataka etc. The Government should make a statement in this regard, give assurance to fishermen staging dharna so that their problems may be solved at the earliest. If the Government fails to take any step immediately, the fishermen are ready to go to the Prime Minister's residence and demonstrate there because the Government has not expressed any concern over their plight.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Dwarakanath Das please.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : I may please be allowed to speak.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Naik, if every one wants to speak, those whose name is in the list will be denied their opportunity. It is also true that if every one wants to speak on the same issue, it will be a general discussion.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I have also given notice.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : When your turn comes, I shall definitely call you. Now, I shall call Shri Dwarakanath Das.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur) : Please allow me to say just a few words Sir. As mentioned by the hon. Member, the issue regarding these fishermen's problems was raised twice in this House. They are on hunger strike, but the Government is callous.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Ministers are here. They are hearing what the Members are saying. You please sit down.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : I demand that this matter should be taken up immediately. The Government must respond now. They are issuing licences to every body and it is causing a lot of problems...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have called Shri Dwarakanath Das. You please sit down.

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS (Karimganj) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there is a huge backlog of SC/STs in C & D categories of services in North-East Frontier Railways. Government assurance on the floor of the House of wiping out of backlog in a phased manner was simply a paper solution, and till date has borne no fruit. Due to de-casualisation, the names of SC/ST casual labourers were struck off from the live Register, but subsequently they were not enrolled. Moreover, this backlog in C & D categories is due to non-recruitment of SC/STs as agreed upon as well as for depriving promotions to them.

So, I urge upon the Government to look into the matter and to wipe out the backlog of SC/STs through recruitment and allow promotions in services due to them...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This uncheduled programme goes on upto 1 O'clock. Therefore, it is upto you to accommodate some of your friends. Do not deny them the opportunity to speak. Everybody gives notice two or three days before, since some of their names come in the and, they are denied of the opportunity. There is a lot of unrest among some of the hon. Members. Kindly cooperate and help the other friends also to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Next time, with the permission of the House, we shall call the names from the end of the list.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there is a project called the Heavy Water Plant at Talcher which is under my Parliamentary constituency in Orissa. For the last, more than two years it is under closure. Heavy water, as you know, is very much essential for our defence preparedness. That is a defence requirement. Thus, this project assures

a great deal of significance. Moreover, this project is linked with the functioning, the working of the Talcher Fertilizer Plant. This plant (Heavy Water) draws its inputs from the Talcher Fertilizer Plant and the by-products of the Talcher Fertilizer Plant are needed for keeping this Heavy Water Plant in operation.

Sir, I draw your attention to the fact that this Talcher Fertilizer Plant has coal based technology which has come from Germany. We adopted this kind of a technology in two of our plants - one, at Talchar and another one at Ramagundam, Andhra Pradesh. Now, because of different kinds of problems in the fertilizer sector - there was a lot of debate about that these two plants together with other fertilizer plants, on account of their becoming sick units, were referred to BIFR. However, it is heartening to note that the Government of India have decided to revamp all these fertilizer plants. Now also the Talcher Fertilizer Plant is in operation and the Government have also decided to revamp these units.

Thus, Sir, there is no need, no necessity and no compelling situation for closing down the Heavy Water Project. More than 300 employees are working in it and they are uncertain about its future

Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government to see that this project...

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER Shri Panigrahi, you were also denied of speaking for one or two days because your name was at the end of the list. Kindly see to it that other friends are also being accommodated.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, I am concluding. There is a conspiracy to see that this Heavy Water Plant does not resume working. The opinions of the bureaucrats and the technocrats are divided. An ..

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Thank You. Shri Prem Dhupal.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is not going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very important issue For MPs...

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I may once again make it very clear that the names of the Members are before me. I will call their names one-by-one. The Members need not raise their hands.

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a provision of fund for MP's local Area Development Scheme under which we are making recommendations. In certain constituencies where the hon. MPs belong to the party other than the ruling party in the States are not getting the cooperation of local authorities. In some of the cases new terms and conditions are being laid. I would like to prove it by citing an example. I announced to provide Rs. One lakh for a road construction in my area. But the Deputy Commissioner wrote that 50 per cent amount should be spent on the purchase of materials and 50 per cent should be kept for labourers. Now official bottleneck is coming in the way of allocating 50 per cent amount for purchasing essential materials for digging roads. The local officials are deliberately creating new problems in this regard and therefore, the work is not being completed. Besides this funds already sanctioned are sometimes raised and sometimes reduced arbitrarily.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want that all State Government should be instructed clearly that the work recommended by an hon. Member of Parliament should be performed as per his recommendations. If there is at all any problem to perform the work the State Government should write to the MP that it is impossible to follow his recommendations. Though it has been clearly mentioned in instructions, yet the local officials are bringing about changes on their own. Letters are being issued after 4 months have lapsed since the funds were sanctioned and on many occasions particular amount is being demanded for service charges. All the works being done under this scheme are being performed smoothly but the work is being hindered deliberately. I want that Government should issue clear-cut instruction from here. I hope all hon. Members here will agree with me.

MANY HON. MEMBERS* : Yes, it is a serious matter.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the State Governments should be issued clear-cut instructions that work should be done there as per recommendations made by the local MP. The hon. Minister is sitting here. He is requested to give us assurance that action will be taken against the local officials obstructing the works recommended by MPs. They are not implementing this scheme. They demand commissions. Therefore, the benefits which were expected to reach the common people are not reaching. Therefore, action should be taken promptly in this connection.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Minister will give specific instructions to the concerned persons.