

MR.SPEAKER : Mr. E. Ahamed, no, no, it is not a Question Hour. You meet the Minister. He will give you the information. I have not allowed him. I have made him to sit down. So, you please also do it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar) : Mr. Speaker, sir, a publishing house by the name of Suruchi Prakashan is there in karolbagh. The Delhi Police raided publishing house yesterday night and arrested an employee Sahib Singh Sharma. 25 to 30 books were confiscated from there and the publishing house has been sealed. (*Interruptions*)

You may impose ban on Rashtriya swayam Sevak Sangh, but its ideology cannot be banned, as it contains a lot of things. Books of Swami Vivekanand and Lok Sabha speeches of Shri Vajpayee were confiscated as objectionable literature.

To what extent the Government can go, we find a glaring example of such act in Delhi city. We have to say that this is not the only case of police excess. Emergency has not been imposed in our country and fundamental rights have not been suspended. The Government has no right to suppress the freedom of expression, which has been guaranteed to us under Article 19 of the Constitution. I do believe that this entire operation of sealing of Suruchi Prakashan, arrest of an employee and confiscation of 25 to 30 books is against law and this should be stopped.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government to make a statement as to what is the justification of the action taken against Suruchi Prakashan, as this concerns the Constitution and fundamental rights of the people.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Not only in Delhi, but in the entire country, the Government is taking action against the banned institutions and against their publications as well as their activities. I will get the information from the U.T. administration about what he has men-

tioned. The publications and the activities of all the banned organisations have also been banned. This is the normal process. Whatever the opposition leader. Shri Advani has said today about this particular publishing House. I will inform you about it after getting the details.

MR. SPEAKER: There are some speeches delivered in the Parliament also, therefore please look into it....

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have issued order. We will decide about it after getting information from the Government.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

12.26 hrs.

RE: STARVATION DEATHS IN ORISSA, MADHYA PRADESH AND BIHAR.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have called me to speak...(*Interruptions*)....They are demanding something but I want to raise a question which is very grave. As it is grave and concerns suffering of thousands of people and I appeal to the whole House through you to give their support to it across parties that the three districts in Orissa, i.e. Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput are chronically drought affected and this matter has been raised in this House several times. Even the Members of the congress party have raised this earlier. We went to the Prime Minister also and apprised him of the situation. There women are being sold for Rs. 40. We do think this a national shame.

Sir, yesterday, in Orissa Legislative Assembly the Minister of Revenue had admitted that there are starvation deaths. Never in the history of this country it happened that a Minister admitted in the House that there are starvation deaths Sir, I want to say that Orissa Government demands. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Such impression should not be given again today that they will not allow any other member to speak. He is raising the issue of starvation deaths in Orissa. You should let him speak and should not disturb him.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : In Orissa the Revenue Minister has admitted that there are starvation deaths. You will never find in the whole country where the situation is so bad. They say that the Government of India is not assisting the state Government to combat hunger and their proposal for the amount of Rs. 8 crores on Jawahar Rojgar Yojana has not been released by the centre. Therefore, the State Government is not in a position to combat this situation where starvation deaths are taking place. There is no drinking water. Thousands are migrating.

Orissa Government has submitted a special plan. The Government of India is sitting over the matter. Do they want the people to starve and die like this?

12.30 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I am asking this question. What is the alternative before us? The only alternative is that the Minister, the Central Government should execute schemes to save these people from the death-trap. Otherwise, the situation will be bad and hundreds will die. Therefore, I demand that the Minister should give a reply. I demand that the Minister should spell out what they are going to do in Kalahandi, Bolangir and other districts in Orissa which are continuously affected by drought. If within seven days the Minister does not come to the rescue of Orissa Government, and take sufficient steps to mitigate the sufferings of the people, I will start hunger strike before this Parliament gate. I appeal to the whole House to support, to force the Government to come to Kalahandi, Bolangir people's rescue who are dying everyday where women are sold,

children are sold. This is a national shame. When Indira Gandhi was there, and When Rajiv Gandhi was there, they went to Kalahandi. There were certain schemes and Indirajee allotted special funds to mitigate the sufferings of the people of Kalahandi and Bolangir. The Central Government has now stopped this aid. So, this is a grave situation. I earnestly submit and appeal to the whole House to understand this human problem; the problem of poverty, the problem of death, the problem of women children being sold. Are we not ashamed of it? Perhaps nothing more is shameful and inhuman than this.

Finally, I say here in this House that if the Central Government does not take specific steps and if the Central Government does not come to the rescue of the Orissa Government and the people of Kalahandi, I will start indefinite hunger strike before the parliament gate. After seven days from today.

With these words, I finish my speech.  
(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order in Zero Hour. So far as your privilege motion is concerned, we are getting information from the Government.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : The Home Minister was to make a statement at 12.15 P.M. about Tripura. That was shown on the TV screen outside. The Home Minister has not come here. The statement has not come. We want to know what has happened.

(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT) AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): The hon. Speaker called him.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You make an announcement on the floor of the House. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER; There is a piece of information.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, with regard Home Minister's presence, I wish to make it known to the House that he is in the Chamber of the Speaker. As soon as he comes, we will come to know about it

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Vidyacharan Shukla has written a letter to the hon. Speaker which says:

"I have spoken to CPM leaders and they have agreed that the Home Minister's statement may be made at 4.00 P.M. I request him to take up this matter at 4.00 P.M."

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It was to be announced at 12.15 P.M. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI RAM NAIK : The House must be informed here in time. We want to know whether this is a private arrangement.

The house must be informed in time, Sir. This is a privilege of the House....*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER : This is not a private business....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right, let us hear the Government.....

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us hear the Treasury Benches.....

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura). Sir, we demand that the Parliamentary Affairs Minister should come here and make the announcement....*(Interruptions)*. Why can't he make this announcement on the floor of the House ?...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us hear Mr. Kumaramangalam.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, he did tell me that he would make it at four o'clock. I said, you announce it on the floor of the House. By correspondence it cannot be done.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack) : Sir, the former Parliamentary Affairs Minister will make the announcement.

AN HON. MEMBER : Don't say former. He is still there.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, Mr. Srikanta Jena is, as usual, very kind to me but I think he has got certain facts wrongly Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir I thought that the Home Minister would be able to come and make the announcement but since the hon. Members feel about it, the Home Minister would be making the statement at four o'clock on the issue of Tripura. I understand that the hon. Members.*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : For announcing President's rule.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM : What statement he will make, he will make the statement. I

have no right to say what statement he will make.....(*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now this statement will be made at four o'clock....

[*Translation*]

(*Interruptions*)

RE: Starvation deaths in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar—*CONTD.*

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, starvation deaths have also taken place in Bihar.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we have taken up the issue of starvation in Orissa. Some of the hon. Members want to ventilate their grievances. It is a very serious matter. Let us hear them. Now Shri Rabi Ray ji is on his legs and afterwards you will have a chance.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Panigrahi ji, you will have a chance to ventilate your grievances. Now may I request hon. Rabi Ray ji to speak on starvation in Orissa?

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Sir, I would like to inform that starvation deaths have taken place in Bihar also. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada): Mr. Deputy speaker, I rise to raise a very important issue in this House. My worthy friend Shri Loknath ji has raised this issue here. I would like to request the Government through you that this issue should be considered

rising above party-politics. Shri Loknath has already mentioned about the three districts—Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi in Orissa. I personally feel ashamed of saying that in Bolangir, the children are being sold for Rs. 20. We, all the Members of parliament, do not want that these three districts of Orissa as well as the areas of Bihar and tribal area of Madhya Pradesh to become Somalia. Leaving aside the graphic picture presented here by Shri Loknath ji, I would like to say that this is a very grave issue. Even if the situation is described in superlative degree, it will not be sufficient. I would like to mention about the statement made by the Revenue Minister of Orissa three days back in the Assembly about Centre. He said that the State Government had asked for an amount of Rupees 85 crore from the Centre to save the starving people, but the Centre had not given the amount. I am not making any allegation against the Central Government. This is a question of starvation, so this issue should be reviewed by rising above party politics. I would like to tell the Centre that thousands of people are going to die in these three districts. Can anyone in this Parliament say that this question is concerned only with the State Government. This is a constitutional responsibility of the Centre to save the people from starvation.

I would like to say that hon. Member Shri Loknath, who said that he would go on fast, should not do so. I would request the Central Government to take up this issue on a war footing. In order to save the life of the people it should talk to the State Government. I would like the Government to announce within two three days as to what action it is going to take in the three districts of Orissa, namely Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi. Thousands of Adivasis, poor people and Dalits are going to die there. The Centre should cooperate with the State Government to save their lives and provide a feedback to the about the action taken by them in this regard. (*Interruptions*).

[*English*]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): It is a serious matter. (*Interruptions*).



SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir,...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let Shri Panigrahi speak. He has given notice.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, it is really an extremely serious matter involving humanitarian considerations, involving poverty and involving hunger of poor people. Any true Indian will be ashamed of the fact that today, after about 45 years of freedom, children and women are being sold because of poverty. This is a very very shameful matter. There is no denying of this fact. There is one more thing. (*Interruptions*).... Yes, it is there in Orissa and elsewhere, in some parts of Bihar. (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Panigrahi, please resume your seat for a minute. •

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is very much discussed that the zero hour should not be extended beyond thirty minutes.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumduh) The House has not discussed it.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Who has approved it? (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Most of the hon Members have expressed their willingness that it should not extend beyond half-an-hour.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The House has not approved it. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Kindly hear

me. Today it is a serious matter that we are discussing pertaining to the starvation of human beings in two provinces. Let everyone speak.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I am on feet. I have given notice. Let me speak. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : Sir, please hear me. I am not among the howlers. You permit me according to the notice and according to the rules. I have been giving notice for the past four days for Bihar. I gave notice today also. You permit me according to the rules. If you give preference to howling, everyone will do it. I will request you to stick to your ruling.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I gave notice. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Today we will see that there is no howling. It is happening every day.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You are howling (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, as you know, on this question, earlier also, on different occasions, we, the Members from Orissa- irrespective of part affiliation- have raised this matter in this House. We have requested the Government of India for liberal assistance to the Government of Orissa to combat the situation. Yesterday the Revenue Minister of Orissa has confessed on the floor of the Assembly- I have here copy of the reporting about it.

The Government of Orissa expressed its helplessness in combating poverty and recurrent starvation deaths in the State. I think the dearth of money is given as the reason. Sir, if this is true, you know how serious it is, and starvation deaths in some parts of Orissa has become a regular feature, it has become a routine affair and the State Government was silent over it. We have been shouting against it, we have been

protesting against it, and it is time for the Government of India to rise to the occasion to send a team immediately to Orissa—to Kalahandi, Koraput, Bolangir and other backward areas like Sambhalpur and Phulbari where the poverty-stricken people are living. Starvation deaths are taking place there and at the same time I have absolutely no axe to grind so far as this matter is concerned. Now, we should rise above party considerations. As you know, about the starvation deaths, drought situation etc., it is the concern of the State Government and what the State Government is doing? In the Seventh Five-Year Plan Rs. 327 crores was the Central allocation to Orissa. In the Eight Five year Plan, it rose to Rs. 10,000 crores to fight out poverty there, to provide succour to the needy people. But unfortunately, adequate funds are not provided for the backward and needy areas so as to overcome poverty. These areas are neglected by the State Government there and, Sir when people are dying, when people are getting no water, the State Government have not cared to look into this serious situation. People are dying in Western Orissa districts like flies. It is not sufficient for the Government just to express helplessness on the floor of the House without trying to do their best to mitigate the sufferings of the people. And the irony of it is that when they take the plea of dearth of funds to combat hunger, how is it that the Chief Minister is observing his birthday day after tomorrow by organising Panchayat Smaroh spending some crores of rupees? Again, they are spending avoidable huge amounts of money on organising some boat yatra to Indonesia etc.

If such neglect of those suffering areas continues and perpetuates, then there is no other way for us but to demand a separate State comprising these backward areas, i.e., Western Orissa. At least there should be a separate autonomous development agency or Council on the Bodo model and funds be provided separately for the development of this area directly from the Centre and it should be monitored. The State Government cannot absolve itself of its respon-

sibility by saying that they have no funds when primarily it is their responsibility. Earlier Indiraji and Rajivji had visited these areas to see things for themselves and launched some special schemes which should be continued in right earnest....and the State Government should ensure proper and balanced development of all the areas in the State by giving priority to different plan projects to be undertaken in these backward areas, which they are not doing presently.

Finally, I request the Government of India to realise the seriousness of the situation and intervene immediately so as to effectively control the fast deteriorating situation. A team of officials and also a team of Members of Parliament should be deputed to visit those affected areas for their on-the-spot study and find out remedial measures. *(Interruptions)*.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA (Balasore)  
Sir, this is a very serious situation. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Doctor, kindly resume your seat

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : If that is the situation we demand separate agency or arrangement on Bodaland *(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are hon. Members who have given notice. I think most of the people are agitated over it. If we have to lose our patience, nothing will materialise.

MR. BHOGENDRA JHA : He has given notice.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : You send a team to those areas....*(Interruptions)*\*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : Sir, the starvation deaths are there, children are sold and women are sold there. This is a very grave situation. I think this attracts the attention of the whole house.

I would like to submit humbly before this august House that a team should be sent from this House to the places in Orissa where this sort of situation is prevailing, to suggest to the Government what sort of steps are to be taken and who is at fault, whether the State Government or the Central Government. The money provided by the Central Government has not been properly utilised there. So I fervently request the hon. Members to support my suggestion to send a Team there. (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You will have a chance to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : May I request all the hon. members to resume their seats?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly resume your seats. When the chair is standing the normal practice is that all the hon. members will resume their respective seats. I hope you will oblige me by resuming your respective seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Jena, kindly take your seat. I am going to adjourn the House very shortly. If you do not respond to my request, then it does not serve any purpose.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, I want to make a submission.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No; you

cannot. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, I call Mr. Bhogendra Jha to ventilate his grievances.

(Interruptions)

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : Sir, a team should go from the Centre to study the drought situation in Orissa. (Interruptions).

SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATTANAYAK (Bolangir) : Sir, it has happened in my constituency and the situation is alarming there. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am going to adjourn the House at One o'clock. If you all speak at a time, it will not serve any purpose. Kindly take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I once again appeal to your matured hearts to resume your seats. There is starvation in that province and some of the hon. Members want to ventilate their grievances. But, if you behave in this way, no purpose will be served. Then what will be the fate of those people? Those who have given a notice will be given a chance to speak. Mr. Bhogendra has given a notice and I have called his name. But you are not prepared to oblige your own colleagues. We have to follow certain norms. So, kindly resume your seats.

(Interruptions)

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : Sir, Mr. Pattanayak should be allowed to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are not Mr. Bhogendra Jha. I have called his name. Should you not oblige him?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATTANAYAK : Sir, it has happened in my

constituency. That is why I am requesting you to give me a chance to speak. (*Interruptions*).

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHRIKANT JENA: First Orissa, then Bihar should also be taken up.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Definitely.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Before today, I have given four notices, today it is fifty day. What is happening in Orissa is known to all of us. This is the second continuous year of drought in Bihar. It was drought during last year and the same situation prevails this year also. Paddy and 'Bhadai' crops were damaged. Last year Rabi crop was damaged. This year it is still awaited. The people are suffering from semi-starvation.

SHRI KARIA MUNDA (Khunti) : The same situation prevails in Palamau.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : I am not talking of Palamau, I am talking of the prevailing situation in Madhubani. More or less the situation of Bihar as a whole is like this. In North Bihar which includes Madhubani, Darbhanga, the locals mainly depend on rain water and are suffering from starvation. No relief work has been done there. I did my best for receiving relief. Relief was not provided there. I have informed the Government also. Sometime back the Central Government had promised in this House to give priority to complete the on going projects. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir the work in West Kosi Canal has nearly completed which caters to the needs of an area of 7 and half lac acres of land. We can get three rice crops if the remaining 10 percent of the work is completed. I have time and again requested the Government of India to take over Kosi Canal scheme as per its commitment because I know that this is not a task to be carried out at state level. The Government should convene a meeting of Bihar Government as well as the M.Ps. from Bihar in order to decide to start the pending projects in Bihar, otherwise the situation is going to

be very critical. Just now, my hon. friend Shri Loknath Choudhary was talking about Orissa. I request the Government of India to make an announcement on drought. A meeting consisting of M.Ps. from Bihar and Orissa should be convened and this issue should be discussed seriously. The decisions taken in the meeting should be implemented promptly. The seriousness at which I am saying, relief measures should be taken up with same seriousness. Effective steps must be taken to stave off starvation. The Government of India may take any action it thinks fit to deal with starvation and give its full support to the Government of Bihar in this regard. I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI KARIA MUNDA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, people in my area are dying of starvation. The people are leaving their districts in search of work. They should be prevented from leaving their places and immediate famine relief work should be started.....

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the last session also I have talked about a starvation like situation in Bihar. Now there is widespread famine in Bihar especially in two districts- Palamau and Garhwa and the water level in 32 districts of Bihar has declined drastically which has caused drinking water crisis. Instead of providing the help, for which the Government of Bihar has asked from the Centre the amount of plan outlay meant for Bihar is being cut as a result of which the Government of Bihar is unable to help the suffering people in a better way.

Mr. Deputy speaker, Sir, through you, demand that the Central Government should immediately take steps to help the suffering people and save the life of the people starving in Palamau and Garhwa districts and solve the drinking water crisis in Bihar on a war footing.

[*English*]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHAL (Kottayam) : This is a very serious matter

Our Orissa Members raised this issue. In Kalahandi and Balanghir, death and poverty are increasing day by day. Actually during the time of Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, several schemes were sanctioned by the Central Government. Unfortunately, the Orissa Government have not implemented these schemes properly. That is why, the situation has aggravated. We do not want to take any political mileage out of this. The Government should give humanitarian consideration to this. This should be viewed separately. The Central Government and the State Government should work together to meet the situation urgently so that this problem can be settled.

My request to the Central Government is to take up this issue separately with the Orissa Government and sort out this problem urgently.

SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK (Bhubaneswar) : The seriousness of the situation is not being realised by the Union Government. Now it is admitted that starvation deaths took place and the State Government wanted some financial assistance to which the Central Government is not responding to. That is the situation. Squarely this is the situation which stands at present. Now the Central Government should rush all possible help.

13.00 hrs.

It should not turn out to be a due between the Central Government and the State Government. The problem must be taken up in right earnest. The solution to the problem is not that one which Shri Sriballav Panigrahi has stated. He has stated that in Western Orissa, some districts will go out of Orissa. That is not the solution. Further, he said about the State Government misappropriating the money. But already, the CAG report is there to show how when Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister, when some money was given, how that money was misspent. That is on record. (*Interruptions*) How the earlier Congress Government had done, that is already on record. To make someone as the Chief Minister, one State cannot be divided into two or three parts.

The problem of being in Government can be solved through appropriate means. (*Interruptions*).

I earnestly request the Government to do something immediately.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SARAJ CHANDRA PATTANAYAK (Bolangir): Me. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I belong to Bolangir district of Orissa where many people have died due to starvation. When I paid a visit to that area I talked to a family having two children. The child told me that his mother died because she did not get food for three days together. Another day I went to a village called Bholamumda. When I talked to people there someone told me that he sold his child for mere Fs. 500. He has given in black and white that he had sold his child for Rs. 500. The people of West Orissa are asking for a separate state and it is all due to a state of famine. Therefore I mean to say.....(*Interruptions*).

My BJP brothern are making Ayodhya such a big issue but I would like to request them that if they believe in Lord Rama and if he is there they should send him to our region to provide food to the people of that region. Therefore I would like to request the Central Government that a committee of this House should be constituted for this purpose and sent to Bolangir and Kalahandi districts. I am submitting it to you rising above party politics. It is not a matter concerned with the State of Orissa alone. What type of country it is where a mother is so helpless that she is compelled to sell her child for just Rs. 500. What can be more disgusting than this? That is why I am urging the Government to constitute a committee and send it to the backward areas.

[*English*]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, last time also I raised the issue of starvation deaths in the districts of Koraput and Kalahandi in the House. This time, the district of Bolangir has also come within its purview. This is a

*shocking story. It is not the question of one child being sold at Rs. 20/-.* This is really a serious matter. Let a Parliamentary Delegation led by you visit Orissa. You will really know what is happening in these three districts. People are dying every day. Though I belong to the Janata Dal, though my Government is there in the State of Orissa, I really take pity on this issue. There is no sincerity either on the part of the Central Government or at the State level to help the poverty-stricken people there. The parliamentary Affairs Minister and the Planning Minister are sitting here. Let the Prime Minister come to this House. Let the House take up this issue seriously. Thousands of people are dying every day in Koraput district, as I said earlier. Also in parts of Madhya Pradesh every day people are dying. Nobody is listening to it. Last time when I raised this issue, 5000 people had died in Koraput district. The revenue Minister in the Orissa Assembly admitted that people died but the figure was not 5000 but it was only 300

SHRI P. C. CHACKO : What is your chief Minister doing there? (Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : You better ask him. You ask him through your Prime Minister what the Chief Minister is doing there. Please do not ask me that question. That is to be put to the Chief Minister. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Why do you not ask the Chief Minister to do something immediately? (Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : People are dying every day. This is my earnest request to the Government of India to do something. The Central Government is not sincere. Please listen to me (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No cross-talk, please.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Even if the Government there at the State level is not sincere, then you throw them out. People

are dying. If Shri Narasimha Rao has to go, let him go; if Shri Biju Patnaik has to go, let him go. Let the people survive first. That is why, I appeal through you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to help these tribal people those who are dying everyday. Please come to the rescue of them. Let this Parliament at least come to the rescue of the people first. You send a parliamentary delegation to that area and let them see what is happening there and direct the Government, the State Government or the Central Government, in this regard. (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You cannot go beyond 1 o'clock. You should respect Zero Hour. Should we go beyond one hour or one and a half hour. Kindly excuse me. I cannot accommodate everybody in the Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is an issue that has been agitating the minds of the hon. Members from Orissa, cutting across the party lines. The situation in Koraput, Kalahandi and Bolangir is so out of hands and so serious that purely on humanitarian grounds, cutting across the party lines— as Shri Rabi Rayji and my friends from Koraput, Kalahandi and Bolangir have described— it can be solved. It is an issue with which we are ashamed as a nation today. When we are talking of market economy and competitive economy the people in one of our most ancient State are dying, the children are sold on the road sides, people are dying in starvation and we are talking of having our buffer stocks and surplus stocks. What is this? Therefore, in the name of humanity, I appeal to this hon. House through you and to the Government immediately to rush a central team. Not even waiting for the report of the central team, the hon. Prime Minister must immediately sanction special grant at least for the human needs. It should be met immediately so that no human soul should be allowed to die for want of bare necessities of life. I will request with folded hands that the Prime Minister must make a visit because such a situation expects that we rise

above party politics. And we as the House, as the sovereign House of this great country, must take care of the country, of the people who are dying in one part of Orissa, not only Orissa but also in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh as the hon. Member from Bihar has described—which are parts touching the Jharkhand area. Coincidentally, they are parts which are suffering the most. Therefore, I appeal through you to this august House to adopt a non-party attitude and rush immediately the bare necessities, saving the life of the helpless people in these affected areas of Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roseria) : We appreciate the idea and we support it (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Let us know the reaction of the Government (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN (Vidisha) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards my Parliamentary Constituency. In Vidisha, Raisen and Sihor districts there was heavy hailstorm on 26, 27 and 28th of December and as a result crops of the farmers in four hundred villages of Vidisha, 124 villages of Raisen and twenty four villages of Sihor, were totally destroyed. Almost ninety percent of the crops have been damaged. Many animals of the farmers died. Even the houses of many poor farmers were damaged. Even then no assistance or relief has been provided by the administration of that state to these farmers

Through you, I would like to submit that the administration is still bent upon recovering loans. I would like to demand that relief should be provided to the farmers immediately and recovery of loans should be stopped. Along with this farmers should be given fertilizers and seeds for the next year. The poor labourers of that area are compelled to leave their houses because they don't have the work there due to destruction

of crops. I would like to submit that relief measures should be started immediately so that the poor may get employment.

[*English*]

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN (Cooch Bihar) : Sir, let the Government say something. It is a very serious matter. We would like to know the reaction of the Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Zero Hour has already taken more than one hour and ten minutes. May I appeal to you that if you go on extending it then, it carries no importance. Starvation deaths is an important issue. The hon. Minister was on his legs to make a statement on the floor of the House. But, as our friends were raising their hands for quite a long time, I did not like to incur their displeasure by not allowing them.

[*Translation*]

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let there be some response on this issue then only you take the other issue, if there is only. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI RABI RAY : You have done a very good thing by allowing the Zero Hour to continue beyond one hour.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : This is a very important issue. Please issue directions to the Press to highlight this important problem. They are only interested in political news.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your suggestions is so good that it catches the imagination of everybody. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Sahasra) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I feel distressed to note that many people have died of starvation. Palamau, Chatra and



Garhwa districts of Bihar. The press has published the names of the deceased but administration has taken no action. Chief Minister of the State is not taking any action. The Chief Minister of that State has no right to remain in office as many people have died due to starvation in his state and the administration under his control has failed to take any action. The situation in my state is most critical. I would like to urge the Central Government that people should be protected from famine and relief measures should be taken immediately. The Government of the State should be dismissed at once. *(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is a very important issue and Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa, these three provinces are facing acute famine. You have already ventilated your grievance by saying that there are some deaths.

My suggestion to this august House would be that the hon. Members can bring this subject for discussion under any one of the rules of procedure. I think most of the hon. Members are very anxious to participate in this debate. So, this is my suggestion.

Now I am allowing Shri Fatmi to speak. As soon as he completes, immediately after that, the hon. Minister will make the statement.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Sir, this is a very serious matter. We would like to know what is the reaction of the Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already made the suggestion. Shri Pradhan, the hon. Minister was on his legs. But, Shri Fatmi wants to ventilate his grievance. The Government is ready to make the statement.

Shri Chavan has made it clear, so far as

Madhya Pradesh is concerned.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : Mr. deputy Speaker, Sir, starvation deaths have become a permanent feature in Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. If you go through the history you will find that right from the beginning of the planning in the country Bihar is sometimes hit by flood and times by drought.

Just now Shri Surya Narayan Yadav was mentioning it. In this regard I would like to say that the Government of Bihar has written to Delhi about the prevailing drought situation in Bihar as a result of which lakhs of people are migrating to Calcutta, Bombay and Delhi from the state.. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now I request Shri Kumaramagalam to make the statement. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The zero hour should not be an unimportant hour. Zero Hour has got its significance and importance. If the Zero Hour proceedings are lengthened, it loses its importance. Of course, taking into consideration the gravity of the situation, many people were allowed to ventilate their grievances. Most of the hon. Members have participated in this debate and some Members are left out. For that purpose only, I have made a suggestion and Your cooperation is absolutely essential.

[Translation]

SHEI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are not giving me chance to complete my submission.. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Already the



Zero Hour has gone for one hour and ten minutes. Probably you might know that there is a lot of comment on the zero Hour.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALE ASHRAF FATMI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please let me conclude. The Government of Bihar has written to the Union Government about the drought in the state and have sought assistance to deal with situation. I urge upon the Government to provide necessary assistance to the state so that the Government of Bihar can face the drought.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: It is a very serious matter and I am happy that most of the Members have expressed their views about the measures to be adopted to face the drought problems rising well above the party differences. I would like to thank to Shri Buta Singh and Shri Srikant Jena and all other Members who have discussed this issue rising above party differences. It is not a party matter rather this matter relates to the whole country. Union Government and the state Governments should fight a joint battle against this natural calamity. I think the suggestion given by Shri Buta Singh is worth appreciation that the Union Government should allocate more funds to the state Governments where starvation deaths are taking place. If any Member levels allegations against any state Government for misutilising the funds provided for the drought relief measures, it should also be taken note of. But it should not form the basis of dismissal of my particular state Government and the people should not continue to suffer from starvation:

I would like to urge upon the Union Government to taken this issue seriously and take concrete steps to fight against starvation.

SHRI PIUS TIRLEY (ALIPURDUARS): I would like to say that the State Government should not be blamed fully for it. The revenue received from Orissa and Bihar goes in the accounts of the Union Government, but when these states face any problem people blame the State Government for not providing assistance to the victims. It is absolutely unjustified. It is the duty of the Union Government to make an announce-

ment today itself that relief would be provided to these states.

[English]

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the issue of starvation deaths is something which shakes all of us to the very core. The whole House, as noticed by many senior Members, has raised this issue in this House rising well above party differences. I am not trying today to say that this is a fault of either the State Government or the Central Government or of a particular authority. The very existence of starvation deaths according to me is something which should make all of us who claim to be representatives of the people really shaken and ashamed.

Certain schemes were framed even during Rajivji's time. There are certain schemes which are centrally sponsored ones and certain schemes are State Government schemes. But it is obvious that these schemes, though announced, are not having the impact. I think there is a need now for Members of Parliament belonging to those areas as well as those States and provinces to get together and look at those schemes in detail.

I should bring this to the notice of the Prime Minister. for the Members of Parliament belonging to those areas I would say that we have a meeting organised where we can meet the Prime Minister and create the appropriate atmosphere of coordination between the States and the Central Government and also with the Members of Parliament, so that proper schemes, proper funding is made available. This problem can really be eradicated.

I do not think any of us want to pass judgments on each other. I do not think that is really an answer. Ultimately all of us together are responsible in that sense of the term because we are representatives of the people. It is our duty that we all get together and solve this problem. I assure this House that the relief that is required will be immediately organised and I would arrange the meeting with the Prime Minister if necessary, we would also go across to the States as a delegation and

see the problems and try and sort them out in a positive manner.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, thank you very much. Most of the hon. Members have participated in it; but some of them could not participate and they will kindly excuse me.

Now, the House shall take up Papers to be laid on the Table of the House.

(Interruptions)

13.20 hrs.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

**Review on the working of and Annual Report of Indian Rare Earths Limited, Bombay for 1991-92 etc.**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 61e. A of the Companies Act, 1956-
  - (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Indian Rare Earths Limited Bombay, for the year 1991-92.
  - (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Rare Earths Limited, Bombay, for the year 1991-92 alongwith audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) A Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library See No. L.T. 3479/93]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay, for the year 1991-92 alongwith audited Accounts.  
(ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding review by the Government on the working of the Tata Institute of Fundamental

Research, Bombay, for the year 1991-92.

- (4) A Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above [Placed in Library See No. L.T. 3480/93]
- (5) (i) A Copy of the annual report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Tata Memorial Centre, Bombay, for the year 1991-92  
(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Tata Memorial Centre, Bombay, for the year 1991-92 together with Audit Report thereon.  
(iii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Tata Memorial Centre, Bombay, for the year 1991-92
- (6) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3481/93]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Madras, for the year 1991-92 alongwith Audited Accounts.  
(ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Madras for the year 1991-92
- (8) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above [Placed in Library See No. L.T. 3482/93]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1991-92.  
(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1991-92 together with Audit Report thereon.  
(iii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1991-92.