

MR. SPEAKER : I will read it I will allow him after I read it. Shri Ramamurthy, you can do it after some time. I will give you the time. Now, I am asking Shri Datta Meghe to make his submission. .. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Nagpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the provision of Article 371(2) of the Constitution, the Hon. President of India may be requested to constitute Development Boards for Vidarbha, Marathwada and rest of Maharashtra with immediate effect.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Sir, former Prime Ministers Shri V. P. Singh and Shri Chandrashekhar had said it that they would solve the problem of Vidarbha Board. This is an under-developed area. It is the demand of the whole of Vidarbha, Marathwada and rest of Maharashtra that unless this Board is constituted, development of the area is not possible. Nothing can be done until the board is constituted. Shri Rajiv Gandhi had also said that in case he came to power after elections, he would solve the problem of the Board. I want to ask why the Board is not being constituted ?

[*English*]

SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW (Idukki) : Sir, I rise to point out that a very alarming situation has gripped Kerala which has to be urgently dealt with on a war-footing.

Incessant torrential rains have swept away vast areas of land and parts of some villages in the mountainous District of Idukki.

Massive land slides and hurricanes have caused untold misery and irreparable losses to the farmers. People have been swept away by the roaring floods and houses have been ruined; trees have been uprooted; crops worth crores of rupees have been devastated; bridges have been shattered; roads have been damaged and even

blotted out. It is almost a cataclysm which has turned the concerned areas upside down. The peasants are already broken by the heavy debts, steep fall in cash crop prices, destruction of peppervines due to diseases and also by the general price rise and inflation.

I urge upon the Government to reach out immediate interim relief and also give them sufficient compensation, aid and rehabilitation after getting a report from the Kerala Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE (Aurangabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of Hon. Minister of Industry and Hon. Finance Minister to the crisis prevalent in small scale sector industrial units. Most of the nationalised banks have effected a heavy cut in credit facilities provided to small scale sector units throughout the country since May 1991 without prior intimation. In the beginning the Banks stopped providing credit facilities to them. With the result, most of the units have been closed down and are on the verge of closure. Besides, the Banks have increased the rate of interest also and are charging interest arbitrarily sans uniformity. In this way, small scale industries are facing severe crises. Millions of labourers in the country are likely to face starvation.

Sir, out of the loans provided to industries in the country, most of the arrears are against heavy industries. According to the economic survey, out of the total arrears, only 24 per cent arrears are against small scale industries and the remaining arrears are against heavy industries. In such a situation, I don't think that credit facilities for small scale sector only be stopped in the name of economic crisis.

Since the Government have not announced industrial policy for small scale sector, uncertainty is prevailing in this sector. I request the Hon. Industry Minister to continue credit facilities for small scale industries and reduce the rate of interest for small scale industries in comparison to heavy industries as per the

At the same time, new industrial policy for small scale industries should be announced immediately so that small scale sector units could function smoothly and contribute their mite in nation building.

[English]

SHRI DWARKA NATH DAS (Karim Ganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, rural water supply works are mainly the affairs of the State Government, but I have to draw the attention of the Centre because in dry season, getting of safe drinking water becomes a serious problem in rural area of Barak Valley particularly in Karim Ganj and Hailakandi Districts of Assam. And the progress of installation of such works is so slow there that I fear the State Government cannot cover up the said two Districts within a period of next ten years. Even in small township like Badarpur in Karim Ganj District, acute scarcity of drinking water prevails.

Will the Hon. Minister concerned be pleased to do the needful at a very early date so that the water works be speeded up in Karim Ganj and Hailakandi Districts ?

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, A 'dharna' by 70 thousand employees of Grameen Banks was organised today in front of the residence of the Finance Minister under the auspices of the All India Grameen Bank Workers Organisation. They are demanding uniform implementation of the N.I.T. award regarding equal pay for equal work. In addition to it, officers and employees of rural banks have demanded that all the 196 branches of rural banks in the country should be amalgamated into one to form a unified Indian Rural Bank and employees posted in rural areas should be given rural posting allowance.

I would like the Government to make a statement on it and let us know the date from which it is going to implement it. Government had accepted this demand two years back and had given assurance to implement it but it has not yet announced

the specific date of its implementation. I would like the Hon. Finance Minister to pay special attention to it and accept the demand (Interruptions).

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a news item has appeared in the Nav Bharat Times that a bloody clash took place between two groups in Rally-Ganj Coal Mines in Giddi area of Bihar resulting in death of 13 Adivasis and injuring to a number of people.... (Interruption.)

This is a very serious matter. The common people are not considering themselves safe there. All these things are happening in Bihar openly in broad day light. I would like the Hon. Mome Minister to make a statement in this regard. An enquiry should be conducted into this incident. A Committee of the House should visit the place and make an on-the-spot enquiry and the findings of the enquiry should be reported to the House. This is a very serious matter (Interruptions)....

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Yesterday I gave a notice on this as I wanted to raise this matter. This should not be considered as a clash between two group of workers. This is as a result of wrong policy pursued by the Coal India Ltd., CIL and the Central Coalfields Ltd. Because of the introduction of machines, the workers, particularly the tribal workers, are being evicted, their employments are being threatened and therefore there is great resentment. I personally visited that colliery and the victims of that particular coalmine three years back. I have seen how the big machines are introduced spending crores of ruppees money. But these machines are not being utilised and these machines are threatening the employment of tribals of that area. This is because of the wrong policy. The Minister of Coal is here and I demand a statement from Shri Sangma on this incident. This is a very serious incident. I demand a statement from the Minister of Coal.... (Interruptions).