

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Chetan Chauhan, reading notes is prohibited during the Zero Hour. You can just tell it in a capsule form. For reading notes, you have Matters under Rule 377.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the plains in the country particularly in UP, Bihar, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh are reeling under the impact of acute scarcity of power and drinking water. The Central Government should, therefore, intervene in the matter, Fatehpur Sikri is a place of international tourism importance. But the scavenging staff there is on strike because of non-payment of salaries for more than one month. The tourists are facing great hardship due to scarcity of drinking water. Because of the shortage of power, the tubewells are also not functioning which used to supply water for the livestock. In Agra also, which attracts a large number of tourists, load shedding is resorted to for as long as 10 hours. The supply of water from the river Ganges to Yamuna has also been stopped, which has worsened the water problem there. I would, therefore, urge the Government to order a survey for identifying the districts in U.P. which suffer from chronic shortage of water and power, and measures should be taken by the Central Government on war footing to meet the shortage. Several schemes have been envisaged to save Taj Mahal from the ravages of pollution but none has been implemented so far. These should be implemented at the earliest.

SHRI MANJAY LAL (Samastipur): The water table in Bihar has fallen steeply and it is becoming increasingly difficult to meet the water requirement of human beings and the livestock. I would request you, Sir, to use your influence to ensure adequate supply of water in that region.

[English]

SH. B.N. REDDY (Miryalguda): At Miryalguda in Nalgonda District, Andhra Pradesh, the F.C.I.'s Modern Rice Mill is situated. This is at the midst of paddy-producing area under Nagarjuna Sugar commanding area. This Mill was closed in October, 1993.

This closure is quite illegal in accordance with Section 25 of N.I.D. Act without taking the prior permissions of the appropriate Government. As a result, more than 255 workers working in the said Mill for the last 17 years have been out of job.

These starving workers have been agitating by peaceful relay hunger strike for 505-days demanding the reopening of the Mill or else to permanently employ them in F.C.I.

Despite several representations, the Centre did not act even on humanitarian grounds. Now I request the Centre to arrange for the reopening of the Mill or, to employ them permanently in F.C.I., thereby saving the lives of hundred of workers.

I request the reply from the Minister concerned. Many times, repeatedly, representations have been given. No replies have come. There is no acknowledgement even.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Government will respond to your request.

SHRI B.N. REDDY : At least, you ask the Minister to reply to me as to what action he is going to take. Temporarily, the workers must be accommodated in godown works.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): MR. B.N. REDDY has raised a very urgent matter. It is a matter concerning 300 workers. They are starving because of the closure of Modern Rice Mill at Miryalguda in Andhra Pradesh. The Government must see that the Modern Rice Mill is reopened.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Reddy, you meet the Minister concerned and have a discussion with him. He will solve the problem.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Who will reply to him?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Maybe, the Minister of Food will reply.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I think, the hon. Minister will call Shri Reddy and have a discussion with him. Mr. B.N. Reddy, the hon. Minister will call you and have a discussion with you.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) : We will do that.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention to a very serious issue and I am happy that Shri P.M. Sayeed is also present in the House. It is becoming a practice in Delhi and other parts of the country to damage the statues of Baba Saheb Ambedkar wherever they are installed.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Paswan, is your name here?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Yes, Sir, I have given notice.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : But, Mr. Paswan, you have given notice on Jamia Millia.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I have already given a notice. Shri Sharad yadav has already talked about Jamia Millia. I wanted to give the notice before 10 o' clock but due to the SAARC meeting, all the roads were closed and we were not allowed to enter the Parliament House before 10 o' clock.