

Act and this issue was discussed a lot throughout the country. I would like to know from the Government whether it has any plans and has made its mind to bring forward any amendments in the Peoples' Representation Act during the Budget Session of the Parliament, as I do not want to touch upon certain issues which may be pending before the Supreme Court other than the issue of a multi-member Commission. I urge upon the Government to take this important issue seriously and bring forward a Constitutional Amendment Bill in this regard during the current session of the Parliament. Vidyacharan Shukla ji and the hon. Minister of Law are present here. Therefore, I say that this issue should be seriously considered and an assurance with regard thereto be given in the House.

[English]

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, fishermen all over the country have started agitation from yesterday onwards. Their leaders are on hunger strike in Porbandar. They are staging Satyagraha near Kerala House here. Two hundred and twenty five fishing trawlers have been granted licences and they are catching fish. As a result of that, fish is also very much reduced for the catch of the traditional fishermen. They are staging an agitation. They are actually frustrated and agitated and anything can happen throughout the coastal States of India. Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, all these States are actually disturbed by this. Fish has become very costly and these poor fishermen have no work. Twenty two lakhs of fishermen are there. What is going to happen to them?

So, the Government should immediately call their leaders and discuss with them and immediately cancel the licences given to the foreign trawlers...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important issue and the Government must respond to this issue because fishermen of the entire coastal belt are agitated. The deep sea trawlers cross the India Ocean. The traditional fishermen are on strike. Throughout the coastal belt, this has become a problem.

MR. SPEAKER : She has done it very ably. Why should you disturb her?

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : I am not disturbing her. Let the Government respond to this issue. Yesterday also, this issue was raised but the Government is totally mum...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is not going on record.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT (Rajapur) : Sir, lakhs of fishermen are on strike...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is not going on record

*(Interruptions)\*...*

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central) Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of this House and also to the notice of the Government the serious agitation that is going on in respect of the employees of BARC in Bombay resulting into indefinite hunger strike undertaken by the Union leaders from Friday, the 21st April, 1995. The action is to protest against the totally unjust and unilateral decision of the Department of Atomic Energy to recategorise the various types of flats under the control of the Department and it has unilaterally changed the allotment rules. The rules were changed. And, in spite of the request of the Unions to discuss this matter, no further time was given and the recategorisation has taken place. This recategorisation order by the Department is indeed unjust, arbitrary and *mala fide*. By the stroke of pen, 548 flats of C1 type (the eligibility for which is the pay range of Rs. 2,200 to Rs. 2,799/-) became flats of 'D' type (the eligibility for which is they pay range of Rs. 2,800 to 3599/-). So, the employees of lower pay-ranges stood robbed and what was robbed from them has been handed over to the employees of higher pay ranges, i.e., very high officers of the Atomic Energy Department. Therefore, the employees are agitated very much and an indefinite hunger strike was undertaken on 21st April 1995. It was only at my intervention that the hunger strike was given up. It was given up on my assurance that the matter would be raised in Parliament and I would take up this matter with the Department.

So, I urge upon the Minister for Atomic Energy to look into the serious dispute in respect of the employees of the BARC and the employees of the All India Atomic Energy Employees Coordination Committee constituted by the various associations, unions in the Department of Atomic Energy and its constituent units...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I have raised the matter on Friday. The Minister must intervene.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards an issue which, to my mind, is an unprecedented happening. The Supreme Court has for the first time sentenced the police officers of a state to imprisonment. This is a serious matter in itself.

AN HON. MEMBER : Very good.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I don't want to go into whether it was good or bad. It is a very serious issue that the police officers of a state should take such steps at the instance of the State Government or under the

political influence that the Supreme Court is forced to send them, to the jail. I would like the Government to pay attention to it and apprise us of the facts.

[English].

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Police from one State are going to the other State and killing the people.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : This is also true but there are many other facts are linked with it. As my friend said that police from one state resorts to rampage in another state killing the people. It is indicative of the state of anarchy prevalent in the police department.

Therefore, It becomes imperative upon the Government or the Hon. Home Minister to tell us what is happening in Haryana and why the Supreme Court has sentenced the state police officers to imprisonment? So far as I remember, at an earlier occasion the Government of the state was dismissed due to some act of the two policemen of Haryana though I do not want to make a mention of that incident here yet award of imprisonment sentence to the police officers of Haryana by the Supreme Court is no petty matter. The Government should clarify its stand on this matter.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 15th April, 1995 a jar was found by the villagers of village Kishorepur in my constituency near the temple of Tapeshwari Devi, near to the Pandava's Hastinapur while they were digging earth. It contained 14.5 kgs. of gold coins, two bracelets and a diamond necklace. On receiving information to this regard Shri Hari Ram Sharma of the Department of Archeology lodged a F.I.R. in the local police station. Sir, though the police acquired 44 coins from there but only 4 coins were deposited in the government coffers. Thereafter, the villagers deposited 18 more coins through the Commissioner of Meerut division. Only 22 coins were deposited in the Government coffers in place of all the coins weighing 14.5 kg. two bracelets and one necklace. I want to say that it is the country's cultural heritage, the country's wealth.

Therefore, I demand that the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India should conduct a high level inquiry into it so that the whole quantum of gold is recovered.

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an acute shortage of diesel, petrol and LPG in my constituency. It is the harvesting season now-a-days and it is also the time of sowing sugarcane but the non-availability of diesel is posing difficulties to the farmers. Long queues of tractors and trucks can be seen on petrol pumps. Not only that, the Delhi-Lucknow highway has been jammed due to the long queues of tractors and trucks for diesel. Diesel is not available at all due to which the farmers have to face many difficulties.

Therefore, through you, I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister of Petroleum to make necessary arrangements for making adequate supply of diesel available to the farmers and provide them relief so that they can attend to the harvesting of crops and sowing of sugarcane without facing difficulties.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I would expect the Government to make a statement on the availability of diesel and petrol not only in districts but also in certain parts of the country.

12.29 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a grave crisis of drinking water has started in Bihar with the onset of Summer there. People are deserting the villages as the wells and ponds are drying up there. There is no electricity for 3-4 consecutive days together. The cattle are dying in large numbers there. The villagers are fleeing in large number towards the cities.

I would like to urge upon the Government that the State Government is not competent enough to resolve such a great crisis, it is not possible for it to mobilise economic resources. Therefore, adequate funds should be provided to Bihar for installing handpumps, digging wells in the areas facing crisis and without raising the question of outstanding dues, supply of electricity from the Central Grid should be guaranteed for the whole Summer season.

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD (Salampur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India to an important question. These days the farmers of the country are busy in reaping their crops and keeping it in the fields, but this period only five incidents occur due to felling of electric wires and cables as a result of carelessness of some other reasons. In Uttar Pradesh alone more than 150 people have died due to fire incidents during the past two months.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, besides damaging standing crops, such fires engulf the crops of a number of adjoining fields causing the heavy damage to the oppressed, suppressed, poor and downtrodden families. At times clusters of villages are razed to ground in such fires. The State Government gives a relief assistance of Rs. 1000 which is a very meagre amount to run a family. Therefore, through you, I would like to urge upon the Government in this House to launch a special scheme for granting aid to the fire affected families of such villages in their time of distress for raising huts and houses and to provide for making livelihood and also to give compensation to the families of the victims of fire who died.