

[Shri K. Kunhambu]

and provides relief to the affected people, the problem is so serious that the State Government alone is not able to meet the situation fully. There are cholera and epidemic in that area. The financial capacity of the State is limited. Therefore, the Central Government should come forward and provide liberal financial assistance to the State Government for providing immediate relief to the people and rehabilitating them later on.

(v) NEED FOR IMMEDIATE STEPS TO SAVE ADIVASIS OF TALIKAKKULLU IN PALGHAT (KERALA) FROM STARVATION

SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): I wish to bring to the notice of the House a very sad and heartening report about the death of Adivasis living in Talikakkullu, on Tenmala hills in the Palghat district of Kerala.

These adivasis are living deep in the dense forest which is inaccessible. They have not got anything to eat ever since the rains have started in Kerala. About 30 of them including women and children are living in small huts. They have over the years acquired the habit of eating rice, tapioca, fish etc. but now they do not get any of these things. Due to rain, even the jungle fruits and roots of plants are not available.

Ever since rains have started all these adivasi people are virtually starving. Some of them have died as they caught fever. About a few weeks ago, a 20 year old a man died of fever. In another case, a 4 year old child died because of starvation. Three deaths have occurred because neither food nor medicines are available to them.

Unfortunately the Govt. has no record about these Adivasis. Their names are not there in the census document or voters list. As a result of this, they are not getting any benefit

from the Govt. They are not to be found even in the list of tribals, They belong to the Malaya Tribe of Adivasis.

Since the Centre too has a responsibility to protect the Adivasis, I earnestly request the Govt. to take immediate steps to protect the Adivasis in Talikakkattu from starvation and death.

(vi) NEED FOR CENTRAL ASSISTANCE TO ORISSA GOVERNMENT TO MEET THE DROUGHT SITUATION

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): The State of Orissa has experienced perhaps the worse ever drought last year which has rendered a crippling blow to the agriculturists of the entire State of Orissa. Not only that, the farmers have lost all that they had sown on their fields, and they have been involved in huge debts. They had taken loans from co-operative societies and also takkavi loans from Government, but because of the scourge of drought, they have lost everything. So pitiable is their condition that these farmers having already sold their household belongings, find themselves in huge debts. Unless they pay them off, they will not get fresh loans either from the co-operative society or from the Government, and without such financial assistance, they have nothing but to starve and die.

The Government of Orissa had submitted a note on Drought Management in Orissa (1979-80) to the Prime Minister during her visit to Orissa on 3rd May, 1980. The State Government had requested the Central Government to give Rs. 16.62 crores to pay off the loans that were taken by the cultivators from the co-operative societies and also to pay off the takkavi loans, so that the farmers during the current rainy season once again are able to plugne in full swing in their agricultural activities. The Central Government fully realising the gravity of the

situation, sent a Central team to make an on the spot study of the situation and to determine the quantum of assistance that was necessary for drought relief.

I would submit that, as has been suggested by the Governments of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, the Central Government may kindly consider and direct the Reserve Bank of India not to call for the repayment of that part of the loan from the Government of Orissa which the farmers have taken from the co-operative societies and the entire amount may be taken as assistance from the Centre to the State. This assumes urgency because, unless this is done, the cultivators will not get adequate loans by way of renewal and this is likely to affect agriculture. I hope and trust that the Central Government will show this kind gesture. I thank the Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture for sanctioning expeditiously to the Government of Orissa a short term loan of Rs. 5 crores for purchase and distribution of agricultural inputs during 1980-81.

(vii) NEED FOR ACTION AGAINST MISCREANTS HARRASSING THE GENERAL SECRETARY, MIDNAPUR DISTRICT BRANCH OF WEST BENGAL PRIMARY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mormugao): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am happy that the hon. Minister of States in the Ministry of Home Affairs is present in the House, when I am making this statement. I hope he will come forward with a statement after mine. Since August 1979, certain miscreants have been continuously harassing and torturing Shri Ajit Kumar Khanra, General Secretary of the West Bengal Primary Teachers' Association, Midnapur District, Branch and his family members. Even an attempt was made to assassinate him in his school premises during school hours on 28th May 1980. He suffered

injuries due to merciless beating by the miscreants. In spite of several representations made by the All India West Bengal Primary Teachers' Association Midnapur District Branch to the District Administration Authorities, no action has yet been taken against the culprits. On the contrary Shri Khanra has been detached from his school and village for days together. His salary and other allowances have been withheld for months by the President, Midnapur District School Board, causing him a great financial hardship and his family members are facing starvation.

This is important and I want to draw the attention of the Minister to this. A joint petition signed by about 16000 primary teachers, guardians and persons having interest in education has been submitted to the Union Home Minister with request for probe into the matter and for remedial measures against the miscreants..

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD (Bhagalpur): How can it be 'miscreants'? It must be a political party.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO:.. and if no action is taken they may start mass movement in the interest of safety of primary teachers. I request the hon. Home Minister to make a statement and inform the House as to the action he contemplates in this regard. They have mentioned in the memorandum that if no action is taken, by you by 30th July, they will organise mass agitation in West Bengal.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): We will enquire into it.