

[Sh. Hari Kewal Prasad]

Government that uniform rate for sugarcane should be announced for the entire country, prices should be paid immediately and unnecessary cuts should be stopped. Besides, black-marketing of these slips should be stopped and a survey on sugarcane should be conducted. The State Governments should be directed not to close down the sugar mills until crushing of entire crop of sugarcane is completed.

- (vi) **Need to conduct study on working conditions of workers engaged in major lead industries in the working**

[English]

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADAYA (Krishnagar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with your kind permission I would like to raise the following matter under Rule 377.

Lead poisoning is one of the dreadful diseases which causes lot of harm to the lead workers including paralysis of wrists or feet or even brain damage. A study was conducted by the expert teams of labour Department, Government of West Bengal the first of its kind in the country on occupational health status in relation to TLV of lead. It was done on 983 lead workers, both male and female, and on six major lead industries in West Bengal. The paper containing the findings of that study was presented in an International Symposium held at Bombay in January, 1991 which was highly appreciated by Indian and International scientists.

So, I request the Central Government to kindly prepare a status report on lead workers, working in major lead industries in the country, in terms of workers' occupation, health and anti-pollution measures taken by such industries.

- (vii) **Need to provide central funds to the government of Tamil Nadu for compensating the loss accruing due to the following of prohibition policy**

SHRI S.S.R. RAJENDRA KUMAR

(Chengalpattur): Sir, the present Government in Tamil Nadu took over in June, 1991 with a revenue budget deficit of Rs. 1000 crores.

Following the Gandhian principle, the State Government of Tamil Nadu introduced prohibition as a first step and stopped the manufacture and sale of cheap liquor. In following this noble cause, the Government lost Rs. 340 crores in the revenue during the year. However, the families especially, the women folk of Tamil Nadu have been relieved of the drain in their poor families income by partial prohibition.

This deficit has affected the other development works in Tamil Nadu to continue. Welfare measures in Tamil Nadu should not suffer because of this loss due to prohibition policy.

The Government of India has made provisions of several crores of rupees in the various welfare measures to the society and the downtrodden. It is felt that the Union government should compensate the Tamil Nadu State for the losses incurred by introducing the partial prohibition.

I, therefore, urge on the Central Government to provide financial assistance to the State Government of Tamil Nadu for compensating the entire loss accrued due to the following of prohibition policy.

- (viii) **Need to provide adequate assistance to the government of Madhya Pradesh to cope with the drought situations**

SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL (Jabalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to raise the following matter under Rule 377.

Madhya Pradesh faces a grim drought situation. At least five persons have died of starvation in the tribal areas of Sarguja. Many more are on the verge of starvation deaths as revealed by a team of leaders which recently visited these areas.

The drought situation in Jabalpur district, especially its rural areas, is extremely

bad and villagers have begun to leave their homes and hearths in search of food and employment.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to arrange for immediate supply of food, medicines and other aid. A Central team should also visit for an on the spot survey of the situation.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned for lunch to meet at 1420 hours.

13.13 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till twenty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Twenty Three minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the External Affairs Minister to make a statement.

14.24 hrs

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Tin Bigha

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAV SINH SOLANKI): Through an Exchange of Letters today, March 26, 1992 the Government of India and the Government of Bangladesh have reached an understanding regarding modalities for the implementation of terms of lease providing for right of passage for Bangladesh through the Tin Bigha Area. The arrangements will come into effect from June 26, 1992. Hon'ble Members would recall that the said terms had been worked out through the

Exchange of Letters between the Foreign Ministers of the two countries on October 7, 1982.

The Indo-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement signed in 1974 had provided for leasing by India to Bangladesh an area of 175 meters x 85 meters near 'Tin Bigha' in order to enable Bangladesh to have access to Dahagram and Angarpota. This was part of a package which allowed India to retain the southern half of South Berubari Union No. 12 and adjacent enclaves, and which allowed Bangladesh to retain the Dahagram and Angarpota enclaves. The Agreement of 1982 referred to above clearly stipulated that sovereignty over the leased area would continue to vest in India. The recent understanding between the two Governments has been worked out within this and other parameters of the 1982 Agreement.

Before finalising the modalities relating to the Tin Bigha Area, Government consulted the Government of West Bengal on several occasions and has kept in constant touch with their Leaders of political parties were also consulted. We have taken into account the concerns and apprehensions expressed in certain quarters regarding the implementation of 1982 Agreement. Honourable members will note, while going through the text of Letters exchanged (which are being placed in the Parliament Library), that full care has been taken to safeguard our interests.

I may further add that we remain committed to the full implementation of 1974 agreement. Necessary steps to expedite progress in this regard are underway.

In putting into effect the Tin Bigha lease, India is fulfilling an international commitment. The lease is being implemented after all due processes of law have been completed in India. Government are confident that the steps and safeguards taken for the implementation of the lease will dispel all doubts misgivings and that it will receive full and unstinted cooperation of all concerned.

The resolution of the Tin Bigha question