

हैं। सरकार को राजधानी में एक अभियान चलाकर उन गुण्डों को गिरफ्तार करना चाहिए और अवैध कब्जा हटाना चाहिए !

सच बात तो यह है कि भूमिहानों के नाम पर वे लोग धंदा कर रहे हैं। उसे दूर किए जाने का प्रबन्ध किया जाना चाहिए और देश में समस्त भूमिहान मजदूरों का सूचा बनाकर, उन्हें एक निर्धारित तिथि को सार्वजनिक रूप से उपलब्ध जमीन का आवंटन किया जाना चाहिए ताकि बिचौलियों और दलालों की दाल न गल सके।

(iv) NEED FOR EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO CHECK SALINITY OF THE RIVER PERIYAR.

SHRI B. M. BANATWALLA (Pannani): The increasing salinity of the Periyar rive has created a severe crisis in the Cochin. Always industrial belt. The salinity problem has crippled almost all industrial units in the area. Travancore-Cochin Chemicals Indian Rare Earths, Premier Tyres. Hindustan Insecticides and others have been obliged to shut down their plants for the past one week for fear of damage that breakish water may cause to their costly equipments, FACT Udyogmandal division is the worst hit.

The previous UDF Government in Kerala had called a Conference to study the development and take appropriate measures. The Conference was, however, cancelled on the Government tendering resignation.

I urge upon the Government to take immediately effective measures

to handle the serious crisis. Appropriate long-term measures will also have to be taken on priority basis.

I request the Government to make a statement in the House as regards measures taken to deal with this serious crisis.

(v) STEPS TO CHECK POLLUTION OF MUVATTUPZHA RIVER.

SHRI K. KUNHAMBU (Cannanore): I want to draw the attention of the Government to a serious situation arising out of the pollution of the Muvattupuzha river caused by the the newsprint factory at Vellor, Kerala. While the setting up of the factory is an important step in the industrial development of Kerala, the essential safety measures against pollution of water, air etc. caused by the factory have to be taken. In the case of newsprint factory at Velloor, there is a growing feeling among the people that the management is not taking adequate steps to save the people from the harmful effects of pollution particularly the water.

Muzattupuzha river is one of those few rivers which have not yet been subjected to the perils of water pollution. Gifted with an abundant supply of crystal clear water throughout the year, this river is the life line of about 3 lakhs of people living in Vayalpur, Kanayannoor and Chertalai taluks of Kottayam, Ernakulam and Alleppey districts of Kerala.

The factory is using 40 crore litres of water every day. The treatment plant set up in the factory is mainly intended to control the Oxygen content of the effluent. It is ineffective in removing the most deadly poisonous

[Shri K. Kunhambu]

mercury content which remains dissolved in the effluent. Mercury impairs muscular activities, damages eye-sight and causes congenital defects in newborn children. This is indeed a frightening situation.

In the circumstances, it is very essential to protect the people from the harmful effects of pollution. The poisonous effluent can be carried through pipes and discharged into distant sea after the proposed treatment. This proposal was there in the original project report, but was later given up. Therefore, I request the Government to take immediate steps in this regard.

(vi) NEED FOR A MOBILE POST OFFICE AT TIRUNELVELI TAMIL NADU

SHRI D. S. A. SIVAPRAKASAM (Tirunelveli): Under Rule 377 I wish to raise the following matter of urgent public importance.

Tirunelveli town is about 20 square miles in size with nearly 5 lakhs of population. There is Township Committee, there is a town panchayat and there is a Municipality in Tirunelveli. There are many colleges and large industrial undertakings in this place. This is the Headquarters of Tirunelveli District. There are no adequate postal communication facilities. We cannot send registered post after 3 p.m. and no ordinary post after 5 p.m. If there is any emergency, then people will have to walk several miles to reach R.M.S. Office at Tirunelveli junction or to the Headquarters Post Office at Palayamkottai. One has to walk about an hour to reach this place. The public are made to suffer and for posting a 15 paise letter has to spend 80 paise, as bus fare. There is imminent necessity for a mobile post office here which should work in the evening. This mobile post office should touch Maharajanagar,

Perumalpuram, Sankarnagar, Melapalayam, Pettai, Hindu College, Tirunelveli Town, Gandhinagar, Thatchanallur, Samadhanapuram, Palayamkottai etc. which are the important constituents.

Immediate action is needed to be taken in this matter.

(vii) INCREASED CENTRAL ASSISTANCE TO RAJASTHAN IN VIEW OF DROUGHT AND DRINKING WATER PROBLEMS

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT (Jodhpur): This year, the entire State of Rajasthan and particularly the Jodhpur region has been facing the problem of acute famine and drinking water. The Drought Prone Development Programme has not made the requisite impact in this area. Moreover, the Scheme of Rural Integrated Development has yet to show better results. Even the recent emphasis on the renewed 20 point programme of Rural development with a view to providing at least drinking water to desert areas has yet to start.

If Government does not arrange Central World Bank assistance to this drought affected area does not take suitable steps in this direction by way of identifying new sources of drinking water and making available to the deficiency villages by framing new scheme we shall have to face an unprecedented problem.

Besides, rural areas Jodhpur City is also facing this problem which has attained a population of about 6 lakhs. The drinking water for Jodhpur City is mainly being supplied by Jawai dam local in Polli District, towards which the flow of water has been so low that for the first time since its construction, such a situation has emerged that supply has been stepped as early. Keeping in view this situation, the State Government decided to instal handpumps at various