

- (ii) Development of Model Fishermen Village having housing, drinking water and community hall; and
- (iii) Savings-cum-Relief for Marine Fishermen.
- (b) No, Sir.

12.00 hrs.

[*Translation*]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I want to draw the attention of the hon. Members, particularly the lady members to mushroom growth of centres throughout the country, particularly in Delhi, which are conducting pre-natal sex determination tests. If the foetus is of a female child, it is aborted.

Mr. Speaker Sir, here I would like to cite an example of an incident that occurred in Rohtak. A few days back a tea stall owner reported to a police station that a dog was carrying the body of a newly born child in his mouth. It came to light later that such incidents occur there frequently. A journalist had gone there to collect the facts. He brings out a magazine also. He highlighted an amazing fact that on the one hand the sex ratio in the country is 929 females per 1000 males, on the other it is 866 females per 1000 males in and around Rohtak. This means that the balance is getting disturbed...(*Interruptions*)

Don't take it lightly, it is a serious matter...(*Interruptions*) It is happening particularly in a country like India. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should not have interrupted but I had to do so because whenever we discuss the plight of women in the House the male Members think as if something interesting is going on...(*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank all those Members who are supporting me and are with me. Mr. Speaker, Sir, On the one hand we worship and pay reverence to women folk during the 'Navaratri' twice a year whereas on the other hand girls are treated as burden. This is happening throughout the country, particularly in Delhi. I would not blame the women because if they give birth to girls continuously they have to face lot of difficulties in the family.

Sir, I would like to say that an Act like the Sharada Act may be enacted to stop this practice. Though it is true that Sharada Act has not been able to check the child marriage completely but in case there is a complaint, the child marriage is stopped. I hope that if a legislation to stop this practice of sex determination tests is enacted, people would not treat girls as burden anymore. There was a mention of it in a letter from the Minister of Human Resource Development addressed to almost all the hon. Members of Parliament. I would appeal to all the Members present in the House to urge upon the government to enact such a legislation. It should be made a legal offence and the doctors who conduct such tests should be punished. If a law is not made the problem would become very serious.

I thank all the Members who have supported me...(*Interruptions*.)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I think lady Members are in minority in this House though not outside. I think the House will give them full protection today at least.

(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): Sir, you can put them in one line.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Protection is there is in this

House. What will happen in the other House?...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE** (Jhalawar): Sir, an excise tax of over 40 per cent has been levied on glass bottles, white plastic bottles and anything which is paper-based package is, at the moment, excise free. This structure favours the use of non-renewable energy, that is, plastic which cannot be recycled. This is mostly oil-based and imported and causes destruction of forests from where fine paper is made. On the other hand, 100 per cent recyclable glass produced from 100 per cent local raw materials is getting a very very severe setback. All over the world, plastic packaging is being discouraged by taxes on deposits. We, of course, must do it the other way round. Because of this situation, our glass industry lies in complete shambles today. India produces less glass than Thailand which is quite very shameful. Huge export markets like the Middle East, Japan, Maldives are being serviced by, at the moment, Thailand and Malaysia and not India. This excise duty, Sir, is not only unfair but definitely foolish. Scrapping it and the revenue losses so incurred would be completely compensated by the growth of production if it is freed from the excise burden. The Government must review their policy so that glass industry may not just survive but prosper. I will be very grateful, through you, if this particular matter on policy decision will be conveyed to the Government and perhaps the Government will do everything so that the glass industry will survive and prosper. *(Interruptions)*

**PROF. SRIMATI SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN** (Mukundapuram): Sir, I thank you very much for allowing me to raise an urgent matter of public importance.

Due to over-age bad condition and leakage of railway wagons, food articles transported to Kerala get spoiled and this causes undue loss to the incoming stock of food articles. The

number of wagon are also not enough. As this State is fully dependent on import of food articles from other States, the consequent hardship on account of the above reasons are very clear. So, I urge upon the Government through you Sir, to issue necessary orders to save my poor State.

**SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA** (Jadavpur): Sir, the youths all over the country have observed this day as 'Save Tripura Day' to protest against the forcible repression of democratic movements and the attack upon tribals, poor peasants, women and students in Tripura. I want to draw the attention of the Government to the acute scarcity conditions now prevailing in Tripura. The scarcity conditions are considered to be a direct result of the shattering of democratic institutions in that State. Particularly, in the tribal areas of North Tripura, the public distribution system operating through the autonomous District Councils has completely broken down and the total failure of rural employment scheme has completely eroded the buying power of the rural and tribal poor. The poor people there are unable to draw their rations. The owners of the ration shops are selling whatever is available in the public distribution system in the black market. Rice is sold at Rs. 12 per kilo. Mass exodus of people from the tribal areas in search of food and work is reported. People are dying not only of malnutrition, but also of starvation. In this situation, I would request the Government to immediately ensure food supplies to Tripura. It should also be ensured that when the supplies go to Tripura, they are not disrupted by speculators and black-marketeers. Schemes for rural employment should be fully implemented in Tripura for the benefit of the poor.

People should come to know how through the destruction of democratic institutions, Tripura has been brought to such a sorry pass. We want that the Report of Raghunath Reddy