

ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ और प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि उनकी माँगों पर सहानुभूतिपूर्वक विचार किया जाए ।

17.05 hrs.

(ii) WORKERS' STRIKE IN ASSAM TEA GARDENS FOR NON-PROVISION OF LABOUR QUARTERS.

SHRI PURNA SINHA (Tezpur): Madam Chairman, during the last floods in Assam, a lot of habitable houses were damaged. In Assam, it is again a necessity, a legal obligation, for the tea plantation Managers to construct habitable houses for tea plantation workers. They promised to do so more than 15 years ago but they could not complete the construction of the houses because either the money was short or the building materials were not available, such as, bricks and cement. It is a violation of the provisions of the Plantation Labour Act. It is still continuing.

The production of bricks was insufficient due to non-availability of coal. Now, coal has been found but cement stands in the way of removing the backlog in the construction of habitable houses for the tea garden labour population. It is understood that the cement which was allotted to the tea industry from the factories, such as, the Associated Cement Company's factory at Jamul and the Century Cement Factory at Tidla has not been released by the Regional Cement Controller's office at Calcutta as a result of which the important construction work during the winter season and the repairs to the houses which were damaged by the floods has been held up. So, a number of tea plantations have lost considerable man-days due to worker's strike for non-provision of labour quarters and others are facing serious situation due to labour unrest. The Commerce Ministry should be asked to see that cement allotted for the reconstruction of flood-damaged houses and also for the construction of quarters for the tea plantation workers is released by

the Regional Cement Controller's office in Calcutta from the factories that I have mentioned, so that cement is easily made available to the backward State of Assam for the completion of works which are left out for want of cement before the winter runs out.

17.08 hrs.

(iii) GRIEVANCES OF GOA FISHERMEN

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mormugao): Madam Chairman, under rule 377, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to a very serious situation which has arisen in the union territory of Goa as a result of violent clashes between two sections of the fishermen community which count about 80,000 people there. The responsibility for the clashes is to be squarely laid on the shoulders both of the local Government and the Central Government.

There is a law under which the trawler-owners cannot trespass in to the waters which are allotted to the country craft upto 5 fathems. In spite of this law, the country craft are not allowed to fish within the area. The trawler-owners are coming there and, as a result of that, the clashes are taking place.

I had drawn the attention of the Government to this matter during the last session and at that time, I was assured that steps will be taken and that a committee will be appointed by the Government consisting of representatives of both sections of the fishing community and the Government to look into this matter and settle their grievances. But uptill now nothing has been done. For the last many days, these traditional fishermen are on a chain of hunger-strike. Because they are poor, because they are backward and because they have no political pull, the people are not being listened to and the situation has not changed. Neither the local Government nor the Central Government have taken any steps to