

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

[Shri Eduardo Faleiro]

redress their very just and genuine grievances. On the 16th, a big clash had already taken place. A procession of traditional fishermen was disturbed and about 50 persons were seriously injured. The news has appeared in all national dailies. It has been appearing in all the newspapers for the last three days and yet no steps are being taken. An assurance was given to me and to this House during the last session that steps will be taken and that a committee would be appointed.

The only demand of the people of that territory—at least 10 per cent of the people of the union territory constitute the fishermen community—is that, at least now before the situations turns worse and reaches the point of no-return, the Central Government must intervene in that Territory and must take immediate steps. I have been noting with great regret that the Union Territories are being neglected. That may be because their representatives here, neither in terms of number nor in terms of power are able to pressurize and put their points forcefully. That may be the reason. The Union Territories must be taken more seriously. This matter specifically has to be taken more seriously. I would request the Government, I would request through you, sir, the Minister of Home Affairs and the Minister of Agriculture, to look into this matter immediately and take immediate and forthright steps to redress the genuine and just grievances of this poor and backward community of traditional fishermen.

17.11 hrs.

(iv) SHORT SUPPLY OF SALT IN BIHAR AND RISE IN PRICE THEREOF.

श्री विनायक प्रसाद यादव (सहरसा) :
सभापति महोदय, मैं सदन और सरकार का ध्यान बिहार में नमक की बराबर कमी और उस की ब्यंकर महंगाई की ओर दिलाना

चाहता हूँ। आज से पंद्रह, बीस दिन पहले बिहार के बाजारों से नमक यकायक गायब हो गया, और कई दिन तक गायब रहा। आप को सुन कर आश्चर्य होगा कि दो तीन रोज पहले वहां कहीं कहीं नमक का दाम दो रुपये किलो तक हो गया था। अभी कुछ नमक बाजार में आ गया है, लेकिन वह रुपये, डेढ़ रुपये किलो के हिसाब से मिल रहा है।

नमक की कमी को लेकर बिहार में भयंकर स्थिति उत्पन्न हो गई है। आप जानते हैं कि हम और आप सब लोग नमक खाते हैं, लेकिन हमसे और आप से ज्यादा नमक की जरूरत आबादी के उस 55,60 फीसदी हिस्से को होती है, जो गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे रहता है। हमें और आप को तो दाल या सब्जी मिल जाती है, लेकिन आबादी के एक बहुत बड़े हिस्से को ना दाल मिलती है और न सब्जी मिलती है, बल्कि वे लोग सिर्फ रोटी या भात-चावल पर नमक डाल कर खाते हैं। इसलिए नमक की महंगाई और कमी के कारण बिहार में भयंकर हाहाकार मचा हुआ है। रेपसीड आयल और कड़वे तेल की भी कमी थी, मगर उन के बगैर लोग गुजारा कर सकते हैं, जब कि नमक के बिना लोगों का एक रोज भी काम चलना मुश्किल है।

मैं आग्रह करना चाहता हूँ कि व्यापार मंत्री अविलम्ब बिहार की नमक की स्थिति को देखें, और उस की महंगाई तथा कमी को दूर करें। अभी पंद्रह बीस दिन पहले नमक 30, 35 पैसे किलो के हिसाब से मिलता था, जब कि आज वह रुपये, डेढ़ रुपये किलो के हिसाब से मिल रहा है। इस के कारण बिहार में हाहाकार मचा हुआ है और लोग बहुत परेशानी में हैं।