

[Dr. Bijoy Mondal]

saved from starvation and poverty. With these words, I conclude.

(iii) REPORTED ALARMING RISE IN THE CASES OF MISSING CHILDREN IN DELHI

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): Sir, I would like, with your permission under Rule 377, to bring to the attention of the House the alarming rise in the cases of missing children in Delhi and surrounding areas. The "Indian Express" dated 18th March, 1978, has given some figures. Last year the figure of the minor boys and girls reported missing is 2,998. This year, upto March 14, the figure has already reached 685. This has caused panic in the minds of the parents of the children and no action seems to have been taken by the police and such incidents are going on increasing. I have to bring to the notice of the House that there is an organised gang, and inter-State gang, which is interested in kidnapping the children for the purpose of begging. They are maimed, their eyes are taken out and they are hired out in Bombay for Rs. 5 per day for begging. Some of them are lifted and smuggled out of our borders to be sold as slaves. Even girls of 14 or 15 years are taken out for prostitution. This is a very serious affair and the police are completely silent on it. No figures have been given to us of how many children have been traced and therefore, I call upon the Home Ministry to look into this and let the Police Inspector or the IGP come forward with a statement in newspapers saying that a separate cell for keeping vigilance and for carrying out investigation on the missing children is established. There are many gangs operating between Bombay-Delhi, Bombay-Calcutta, Calcutta-Madras and Calcutta-Delhi. They are professional childlifters; and I am surprised how the Police is so inefficient here, that they are not able to capture this gang and trace the children. The parents' bodies have gone and appeal-

ed to the IGP. Teachers and principals have gone. Yesterday, we have seen in the newspapers that a parent has appealed to the Prime Minister to find out his lost child. This requires a special squad; and we would like the Government to go deep into these crimes. These are not stray cases. These are not cases where children have been lifted and then released. The children have been lost. Only a comprehensive statement from the Police will satisfy the hearts of those parents who are crying for their lost children. This is a very serious matter of public and social importance to which I hope the hon. Minister will give more attention in future.

(iv) REPORTED DAMAGE TO RABI CROP BY RATS IN U.P. AND BIHAR

श्री उग्रसेन (देवरिया) : माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं नियम 377 के अन्तर्गत भारत सरकार का ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ कि उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार में रबी की फसल को चूहों ने भीषण क्षति पहुँचाई है। उत्तर प्रदेश में प्रतिदिन 10 करोड़ रुपये की फसल चूहे बर्बाद कर रहे हैं। मैंने उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार को सुझाव दिया कि कृषि विभाग की ओर से फसलों के बचाव के लिए समूचे प्रदेश में चूहा मारो अभियान चलाया जाये और इसमें गैर-सरकारी संस्थाओं, प्राईमरी स्कूलों और लघु माध्यमिक विद्यालयों के अध्यापकों और छात्रों से सहयोग लिया जाये, पर उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार ने मेरे सुझाव को अमान्य कर दिया। यह महामारी उत्तरोत्तर बढ़ती जा रही है और बिहार भी इससे ग्रहित होता जा रहा है।

मैं आपके द्वारा केन्द्रीय सरकार के कृषि मंत्री से अपेक्षा करता हूँ कि वह उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार की सरकारों को तत्काल ताकीद करें कि वह युद्ध-स्तर पर चूहे मारने का अभियान चलायें ताकि रबी की फसल बचाई जा सके और करोड़ों लोगों को भुखमरी से बचाया जा सके।