

श्री उमा शंकर दीक्षित : जवाब देता हूँ।

(ii) REPORTED STARVATION DEATHS IN ORISSA

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi) : I want to bring to the notice of the House a matter of grave concern, namely that as many as six people have died of starvation in village Palas in the Junagarh Panchayat Samiti, Kalahandi district, and it has been brought to my notice by the chairman of the Panchayat Samiti. The reason is that that being a predominantly agricultural district there is no industry and there is no opportunity for employment in the off seasons. So the people are not getting any work; all the development works which were started by the previous Government have been suspended now, and as a result, the people are not getting any work. Six people have already died of starvation deaths, and some are facing death. The Panchayat Samiti chairman has urged in his letter to provide adequate relief work in that area so that people could get employment.

If you view this in the perspective of the post-election period, you will find that there has been a systematic attempt to persecute the voters who have voted the Opposition parties.

Kalahandi district, from the very beginning, has been voting the non-Congress MLAs and that is why immediately after the Congress came into power, all relief works were suspended.

So, I request the Minister concerned to issue a directive to the State Government to see that such a thing is not repeated and adequate relief work is provided to the people.

Secondly, I would like to bring to your notice the fact that to demoralise the Opposition parties, just prior to the Rajya Sabha elections, one MLA was arrested, the son of Mr. R. N. Singh Deo ...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That has nothing to do with what he wanted to raise. Now he is raising another matter.

SHRI P. K. DEO : A systematic attempt has been going on to demoralise the Opposition parties. I request that the House

should take notice of this question.

(iii) CONSTITUTIONAL SANCTION OF EXPENDITURE TO BE INCURRED IN PONDICHERY AFTER 1ST APRIL, 1974

SHRI SEZHIAN (Kumbakonam) : I thank you for giving me permission to raise this matter. I would not have raised it unless I had been convinced that there is a grave constitutional predicament caused by Parliament not being given the opportunity to pass a vote on account for the Union territory of Pondicherry where the Assembly had been dissolved and President's rule had been imposed. I want to make it very clear that this is a very grave constitutional deadlock which has been overlooked by Government. But before I go into that, I want to make a basic and fundamental observation namely that no amount could be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund unless it is specifically sanctioned by the legislature concerned. If it is to be drawn from the Consolidated Fund of India, Parliament should give a specific sanction. No amount of ordinances can avoid or take the place of a specific sanction by Parliament. If it is to be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of a State Legislature, it is the State Legislature which is charged with that function of sanctioning it; if it is a Union Territory, the legislature of the Union territory is charged with that function.

But in times when there is a suspension or dissolution of the concerned States or Union Territory legislature, their functions are taken over by Parliament. Then Parliament becomes the supreme or authoritative body that should sanction these things. It can be only done by the Appropriation Bill, vote on account is a method evolved to give a part sanction for this. But still the sanction should be given by Parliament itself.

Before I go further, I would like to give one or two points that may be put forward by Government in support of their stand because time is running short and today is the last day when action should be taken in this regard; otherwise, I would have waited for the Law Minister to make these points. But I am dealing with these and will show that these are