

Assembly for a test of strength on the 7th of this month. On the 3rd of this month, the Congressmen met and requested the Governor not to swear in any new ministers, because of the test of strength on the 7th. However at 4.30 p.m. on the 3rd, the Governor had sworn in two more MLAs as ministers. This is going on against the democratic principles of the Constitution and done by the Head of the State, who is supposed to be the custodian of the Constitution. I hope that the Government of the Congress party here, will not be afraid to take action against such persons. Last time also it was the same person who was sent by the Janata Dal Government as Governor to Shillong to remove Mr. R. R. Rahim, two days before Id festival. He sworn in one Congress MLA, out of 20 Congress MLAs, who joined the Chief Minister, Mr. B. B. Lyngdoh group. This MLA Mr. H. B. Dan. Unfortunately, on Friday a wrong information was brought into this House, saying that Shri Progen D Sangma, the Deputy Speaker who is with the Chief Minister all the time was kidnapped by the Congress. I want the Government to take immediate action in this matter.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA (Balasore): I want to submit the following, through you, Sir, in the House. In Balasore district of Orissa, due to heavy rains on the 22nd July, river Kansabansa was in spate, submerging paddy lands on both banks. Every day water in Salandi river entered the low-lying areas of Bhadrak Municipality and paddy fields in Bonth Block. Besides this, there was also flood in river Baitarai, Kochila & Genguti, following heavy rains on 23rd and 24th of July. 299 villages of six blocks in Bhadrak Sub-division were affected. In the district, about 1.5 lakh people were affected and 18.6 thousand hectares of cropped area was affected. One case of human casualty by drowning was reported.

Breaches in embankments and one minor irrigation project and damage to

wooden bridges have been reported. Emergent relief has not been distributed properly in the marooned areas of the Bhadrak sub-division.

So, I want to submit through you in this House that the Union Government should take necessary steps in this regard.

SHRI P. C. THOMAS (Mavattupuzha): Sir, there are reports in the Press today that there was swindling of crores of rupees by several companies under the guise of getting subsidy for fertilisers. Actually, they were not entitled for such subsidy and they were not given also. But they have managed to get huge amount by way of subsidy at a time when we find that the Government is finding difficult to give even the subsidy which has been given to the farmers. It is a great shame that such swindling is taking place in this country.

I would submit that the Government may please look into this and take very serious action in the matter.

[Translation]

SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazaribagh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, dozens of coal mines have been closed in Hazaribagh after nationalisation. Smugglers and mafia groups are extracting one and a half lakh ton coal daily from these closed mines and thus causing loss of crores of rupees to the Central Government. I request the Government to restart mining work in these closed coal mines, so that Central Government could earn profit and Adivasis, Harijans and poor people could get employment.

[English]

SHRI BRIJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Honourable Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, regarding the alarming situation prevailing in Orissa due to acute shortage of

rice. Orissa is now facing scarcity of rice due to short supply by the Union Government. The open market price of rice has increased tremendously. For the last three months, there is absolutely no supply of rice to the State. Although the Orissa Government has been requesting for release of more quantity of rice, yet their request has not received the due attention.

The minimum requirement of rice of the State is 45 MT per month but it is not being supplied by the Union Government. Hence, I request that the Government should take immediate steps for release of more rice as per requirement of the State.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV (Shahjahanpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Central Government has imposed ban on issuing licences for fire-arms in Uttar Pradesh for the last ten years as a result of which number of illegal arms and ammunition is on the increase and every one is feeling insecure. For the last ten years no one, whether he is a politician or a social worker, has been issued licence. Consequently, incidences of dacoities, murders, terrorism etc. are on the increase. Everyone is feeling insecure. Licences are being issued in all the states adjoining Uttar Pradesh such as Bihar, Punjab, Haryana etc., but there is a ban in Uttar Pradesh on licences for fire-arms. Uttar Pradesh Government has withdrawn our body-guards. Even the body-guards provided to the politicians have been withdrawn. We are feeling ourselves insecure.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, therefore, through you I request the Government to lift this ban and withdraw the notification, under which licences for fire-arms were banned. In this regard Uttar Pradesh Government has already written a letter to the Central Government. I request the Government to lift the ban on issuing licences for fire-arms, which was imposed 10 years ago in Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur): Sir, we have been raising for a long time, both inside and outside the Parliament, about the matter of widespread attacks upon the women in Tripura. The tribal women, the Scheduled Castes women and the poor peasant women are being murdered and raped everyday and they are being deprived of their means of subsistence because they are being forced to leave their villages everywhere in Tripura. Now Sir, we have been coming up with this point time and again and we have reason to believe that the inactivity of the police in this respect is the result of the collusion of the ruling party in Tripura. The ruling party is using such attacks upon women as an instrument of political terror. That is why, the police is remaining inactive. And today, a delegation of women have gone to the office of the MP from Tripura, hon. Sontosh Mohan Dev to demand justice for the women of Tripura. Sir, I would like to point out in this connection that in reply to my question today on whether or not the National Women's Commission is going to be implemented, the Minister has said that no decision has been taken as yet on this matter. Now, if there would have been speedy implementation of the National Women's Commission Act, 1990, which was passed in both the Houses, then we would not have to go to Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev. We would have certainly gone to the National Women's Commission to demand justice on what is happening to women in Tripura.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Since the Leader of the House is present here, both these questions should be responded to. Sir, I appeal to you to kindly direct him to respond to both these questions.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, we had given a notice to discuss this subject under Rule 193 but no time was given to this subject. So, this subject should