

[Shri Syed Ahmed Aga]

teaching but that decision is now being reversed. It is a grave matter that the decision which was taken after careful consideration should be reversed; because of this reason I want to request you to restrain the Minister from taking any action without proper consideration and thought.

SHRI B. N. REDDY (Niryalguda) : Sir, I want to raise a matter of great importance, famine and drought conditions and scarcity of drinking water which has reached serious proportions. That situation endangers the entire Andhra Pradesh. I am told that in Nalgonda district in Telangana and Warrangal district in Hyderabad area, due to scarcity of food serious famine prevails and people are drifting away from one area to another in thousands; they are unable to get any relief anywhere. The situation is serious and some starvation deaths had occurred; it is confirmed by a statement of an MLA that starvation deaths had taken place in Nalgonda district. That is dated the 9th of this month. People are moving to places wherever there are wells. People are evicting whole villages due to scarcity of water. Repeatedly reports have appeared in Telangana papers in Telugu and English newspapers. This famine and drought situation is continuing for the last three years. Almost all the M.Ps. representing that area made representations to the Prime Minister last session. No food grains are available in any village and no proper arrangements had been made to deepen the wells and supply drinking water; no urgent or emergent steps are being taken on the part of the Central Government. The Centre is not doing these things; it says the situation in Andhra Pradesh is normal.

13.00 hrs.

What is the normalcy there? The lives of the people are in danger. So, I request the Government to open one foodgrains shop in every village and supply the foodgrains at least at the rate of 75 paise a kilo. Also I request the Government to send immediately a writ to every taluka and make arrangements for digging bore wells. It is, after all a question of taking emergent steps. And a sense of urgency

is required here on the part of Government. So, I request him to move in the matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prasannabhai Mehta. I suppose this is not a State matter.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA (Bhavnagar) : Sir, this is not a State matter. This is a very serious one. With your permission, Sir, I want to make a submission. I shall not take much of the time.

I want to bring a matter of public importance to the notice of this House. The hon. Members are aware of the police firing upon the innocent citizens of Town Limdi of Saurashtra region, Gujarat, which took place on the 27th April, 1973. Police firing resulted into 2 deaths of young men, one of 31 years of age and the second of 17 years.

Sir, this is a very serious matter. The State Government, it is learnt from reliable sources, has refused to constitute any judicial inquiry on the ground that the Union Government have given directive to the State Government to the effect

MR. SPEAKER : How is the Government here concerned with this. This is a law and order problem.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : The Union Government have given directives to the State Government to the effect that the State Government should not institute any judicial inquiry where any public demonstration or agitation is staged by

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry, this is a State matter and this pertains to the State Government.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : Sir, the police firing resulted in deaths. Now, if the Union Government have directed the State Government not to institute any judicial inquiry into the event of deaths caused by police firing at any political party's demonstration, it is highly objectionable, grossly unjustified and contrary to the principles of natural justice, and also it amounts to total disregard of precious human lives.

Under these circumstances, the hon. Home Minister must make a statement whether any such directives—formal or informal advice have been given to State Govt. for not instituting a judicial inquiry