

**SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:** This is the life and death question of jute growers of our country. The Government is silent on this issue.

**THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH):** After all, there is a propriety in such matters. When hon. Members make mention of any fact, it is for mention and it goes to the hon. Minister and then they in the natural course of events would take note of it. If the hon. Member wants that I should specifically draw his attention, I will do so also. *(Interruptions)*

**MR. SPEAKER:** Only what Shri Agnihotri says will go on record.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have drawn the attention of this House through you time and again to the fact that in our country a number of projects are being implemented in various states, which are directly under the control of Government of India. Hundreds and thousands of labourers are engaged in these projects as work-charged labour and on daily wage basis. According to the laws of the Labour Department which the Government of India have got passed in this House, the services of these people should be regularised, but labourers working in these projects have not been regularised under Labour Laws even after 7 or 8 years of service. Under the present days of price rise, these labourers, whose number is in lakhs, are not getting the allowances, good salary and other facilities which are due to them.

I urge upon the Government through you that the services of these labourers should be regularised under the Labour Laws. Thousands of labourers have been working in Rajghat Project in Uttar Pradesh, Narmada Project and Cauvery Project for the last 7-8 years. Government of India should

look into this matter immediately and the services of these labourers should be regularised, otherwise there would be great resentment among the labourers which would be a matter of shame for this Government.

*[English]*

**SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH (Adoor):** I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that Keralites are using coconut oil, as no other edible oil is produced in Kerala. The only alternative edible oil liked by Keralites is palmoline; but its supply has come to a standstill. It has become difficult to use coconut oil by the common man as the price of coconut oil has reached so high and people are facing acute shortage of edible oil.

Therefore I request the Government to release a special quota of 10,000 tonnes of palmoline oil during the festival season.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATANAYAK (Bolangir):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the House a horrible incident that took place at the site of Indravati irrigation project in Kalahandi district of Orissa. Due to heavy rains tunnel of the project got flooded, and about 100 workers lost their lives and nearly 500 are reported missing. Orissa Government till date has not given any compensation to the victims. Therefore I request you to constitute a committee of the Members to go into the causes of accident and for an on the spot investigation, so as to facilitate early disbursal of compensation to the families of the deceased.

**SHRI LALIT ORAON (Lohardaga):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Bihar in 1990, most of the districts came under the spell of heavy hailstorm.....*(Interruptions)*..... resulting in heavy damage to 'kuchcha' houses and rabi crop in the rural areas. On the receipt

of report from the Deputy Commissioner of the concerned districts, as called by the Government, assistance was provided to the 21 affected districts in the state. But Ranchi & Gumla districts, which are predominantly tribal districts, were not provided any assistance. These districts were also affected.

Therefore, through you I would like to request the Government to provide assistance to these two affected districts.

**SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the press conference at Lucknow the hon. Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Shri Madhavrao Scindia, branded leaders of B.J.P. as traitors.....(*Interruptions*)..... In a democratic set up hurling of such abuses as traitor repeatedly in the press conference and nonrefusal of such utterances afterwards, to my mind reflects lack of faith in democracy of Shri Madhavrao Scindia.

[*English*]

He should withdraw his words and that is my demand. He should withdraw his words .....

[*Translation*]

and tender an apology in the House. ....(*Interruptions*).....

[*English*]

**SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sure that many of his own colleagues must have felt anguished by the statement of the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation. I am sure that many of my colleagues on this side who may disagree with me and my party's views very sharply would agree with me that in democratic politics, there are limits to criticism. Otherwise one has to bear with criticism; one has to bear even condemnation. Even very unflattering harsh epithets can be hurled

at each other. But I am sure every patriot who participates in democratic politics would regard this particular word which has been consciously and deliberately used and repeatedly used —'traitor'—is the vilest abuse that can be hurled at a patriot. On behalf of my party, I take very strong exception to this statement made at Lucknow by the Minister of Civil Aviation. I would say that here is a Government which has, from the very first day been saying that we would like to bring a consensus with the Opposition parties even when we disagree. There have been some attempts and sometimes we have meetings. Let them realise that this is a statement not made by any ordinary Minister. He is a Minister of the Union Cabinet. Therefore, my party is forced to say that unless Mr. Madhav Rao Scindia unqualifiedly apologises for this Lucknow statement, my party would have to reconsider its entire attitude to the Government itself as a whole.

I am sure that most of his colleagues in the Union Cabinet also must have been disturbed by this statement. The leader of the House is here. Therefore, through him, I would like to see that suitable amends are made for this statement.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore):** Sir, I fully agree that the kind of public statement which has been attributed to the Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism, should not have been made. But there should not be double standards. We are frequently reading in the Press public statements made by prominent leaders of Mr. Advani's party, who are using the same expression. (*Interruptions*) They have been saying that Communists are traitors. (*Interruptions*) We have been continually called traitors. We have never raised it here. But there should not be double standards.

**SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:** I entirely agree with Mr. Indrajit Gupta (*Interruptions*)