

superannate do not get full gratuity. There is a heavy reduction in the gratuity amount which is paid to them. Therefore, it has become necessary to amend the Gratuity Act. The Government must also consider the payment of Rs. 150/- as medical allowance to the Bidi workers.

I request the Government to consider these demands immediately, Sir, with your kind permission I wish to raise one more point. That is with regard to the lack of transmission facility for transmitting Malayalam Programmes in the northern districts of Kerala. Today, the people of Palakkad, Kozhikode, Kannur, Vaynad etc. are able to see only the national programme and not the Malayam programme. It was said that channels were not available. But now with the completion of opticals fiber cable and the micor wave link channels have become viable.

So, I would request the Government to immediately take steps to provide this facility for the people of Palakkad and other districts of northern Kerala.

SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' (East Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this morning the residents of nearly 25 colonies, such as Moti Bagh, R.K. Puram, Netaji Nagar, Lodi Road, Kidwai Nagar and Laxmibai Nagar, etc. came to me and complained that the kiosks which they had constructed 20-25 years back outside their houses are being demolished. These kiosks were made for the purpose of parking their scooter sectors and keeping their cots in case of rain. But the Estate office people have launched a campaign of demolishing all these kiosks. It is causing a great discontent among Government employees in Delhi. These kiosks were not demolished even during emergency. These are not rooms. The poor Government employees had constructed these kiosks for keeping their belongings, beddings, coats etc. Demolition will not serve any purpose. I would be better to charge rent from the

residents but these should not be demolished at any cost.

SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA (Machhlisahar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 6th May, 1992 at 4.30 O'clock, a dreadful fire broke out at Pipapur village, block Mangraura, District prapgarh which comes under my constituency Machhlisahan. Out of the 33 houses gutted in this fire, 23 houses belonged to Harijans, 2 houses to 'Kahars' (bearers) and 8 houses to shepherds. All these people are poor and landless. In that fire incident, their entire belongings such as clothes, utensils, ornaments and foodgrains turned into ashes. Their children are taking shelter under trees. Fire engine from District Headquarters could reach there after 8 hours. Till now only Tehsildar could reach on the spot and he has disbursed only Rs. 9000/- among the people, as a relief measure. I visited the spot and it is assessed that the loss due to this fire is about Rs. 6 lakhs. There is no arrangement for drinking water and no conveyance is available from Kandharpur to Pipapur. This village has not been electrified even and it takes 5 hours in conveying a message upto the District Headquarters.

I would urge that an amount of Rs. 10, 000/- should be given as immediate relief to every man of this village so that they could procure something and make arrangements for resettling their children. Their children are left with the only clothes which they are wearing. There, the livestock is dying due to scarcity of fodder. Therefore, immediate arrangement may be made for provision of fodder.

I urge that the Government to provide every possible help to this village from Prime Minister's Relief Fund. It is a problem of Harijans. The construction of their houses may be made out of relief fund of Uttar Pradesh, Government. They are small landless farmers and they do not have support from anybody

MR. SPEAKER: O.K.

AN HON. MEMBER: Cattle are also dying in the village.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you supporting it.

SHRISHIVSHARAN VERMA: Livestock is dying and all the trees are engulfed and a horrible accident has taken place. That is why the government should pay special attention to it.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the use of narcotics has increased, especially among the youths during the last several years which is really a matter of concern.

In Madhya Pradesh, opium is cultivated in our area and about one lakh quintals of poppy husk is produced. Since the demand for brown sugar and smack in the refined form of opium has increased now, the cost of "dodi chori" which was at one time burnt, has increased from Rs. 10,000/ to Rs. 30,000/- per quintal in Punjab and Rajasthan.

One lakh quintal of opium poppy so produced illegally there. The Madhya Pradesh Government issued license for this but now there is discrimination in the issue of licenses. The license fee for traders has been increased from Rs. one thousand to Rs. 25,000 per year but on the other hand, the sales tax has been reduced from 12% to 5%. For this reason, small traders have left this trade. A few big traders have organized groups and made cartel for smuggling and illegal production of opium poppy.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if these people are spared, in one year they will earn profit of Rs. 100 crore. The smugglers will be benefited. Through you, I would request the hon. Finance Minister, that the smuggling of Poppy husk is ruining thousands of families and therefore there is need to check it through

a legislation which would enable the Centre to issue licenses instead of the State administration.

DR. LAXMINARYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to submit that this is an importune issue and I have reiterated that a policy should be made regarding opium wherein the interests of the farmers are also protected.

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you. Please sit down comfortably. Why are you repeatedly taking so much trouble?

DR. LAXMINARYAN PANDEYA: My constituency is the largest producer of opium. The State Government has taken steps within its limitations. Whatever has been done for licensing is a separate issue.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not going on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWLE (Bombay-South Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have repeatedly raised the matter of the closed textile mills in Bombay, in this House. On the one hand, the Government is unable to open those textile mills which have been closed and on the other hand, some other mills are going to close down. Due to the closure of some mills of N.T.C.-the National Textile Corporation-thousands of mill workers would get unemployed. According to an estimate 25,000 mill workers would be rendered unemployed due to this closure. N.T.C. invited tenders to sell the land of a few mills, to certain individuals. Those tenders were to be opened at 9 AM on 20th April, 1992 but the mill workers gathered the office and opposed the move. The tenders could not thus be opened. In this connection, I had asked the