

tractor's labour in these vacant posts.

The open cast projects produce 40 per cent of the total coal production. Many of these OCPs are being allowed to run by the contractors with their men and machines, ignoring the Government order. After being pressurised, now Coal India has stopped operation of OCPs by contractors in some areas and as a result the workers have become jobless.

These contractors' labour are being deprived of their wages/pay and other benefits, as enjoyed by their counter parts who are or were on the Company's pay roll. The workers absolutely depend on the mercy of their contractors.

Therefore, I demand that all the OCPs must be run departmentally and the above mentioned contractors' labour who are or were working there must be regularised immediately, with retrospective effect, and they should be given all the benefits which their counterparts are enjoying on the Company's payroll.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU (Dharmapuri): Sir, I want to raise an issue on the subject of exemption of power driven pump spares/components from Excise duty.

Water handling power driven pumps are mainly used for agriculture and are exempted from excise duty. But, at present, when the components and spares are made outside the pump factory for consumption, excise duty has to be paid on them.

These pumps are made in small scale sector. They consume 20 per cent of national energy. Energy efficient, cost effective prototypes are now developed, which can save upto 15 per cent to 20 per cent of power and upto 30 per cent of scarce imported raw material. The components are to be standardised and made by individual units while

assembling is to be done by SSIs. The excise duty on these pumps will make the pump uncompetitive and the purpose of standardisation and energy saving material will be defeated. The poor farmers will be affected, if it is allowed to continue.

Hence, I request the hon. Finance Minister to remove the excise duty on pump components and spares.

[*Translation*]

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH (Buxar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Sone Canal is the life line of five districts of Bihar. 28 lakh acre of land is irrigated through it. It come into existence during the British regime. But it is in miserable condition after the 42 years of independence. The engineer attending to the canal's work has reported that if Rs. 2000 crore are spent by Government of India on it and the canal is made pucca then 34 lakh acres of land instead of 28 lakh acres would be irrigated through it. The Government provided Rs. 22 crore last year. I appeal to the Government of India to provide Rs. 2,000 crore to make the Sone Canal, the life line of the people of the five districts, pucca so that irrigation facility could be provide there.

SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH (Bharuch): Mr. Speaker, Sir, seven years have passed since Karjan, Daman Ganga, Deo and Guhai dams were built but the water of those dams is not available to the tribal areas because their canals passes under the railway crossing. The drains have not been built over them as yet. In order to build the drains, Government of Gujarat have written to the Ministry of Railways and lakh of rupees have been deposited. No solution has been found during the last seven years. Many schemes of Gujarat have been pending for not providing the forest land by the Ministry of Forest. I request the Government to solve the problem at the earliest.

[English]

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT (Rajapur): I have been waiting to raise this issue for the last one month. It is the most vital issue affecting the small and marginal farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: We are discussing the Demands for Grants of the Agriculture Ministry. And you are discussing it in the Zero Hour.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: I don't know whether I will get an opportunity to speak on the Agriculture Ministry's Demands.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to speak on this while discussing the Demands of the Agriculture Ministry.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: For the last one month I have been trying to raise this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that we are already discussing the Demands of the Agriculture Ministry and such things are not allowed now. You are a new Member, you don't understand the procedure; that is why you are committing this mistake.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: This is not relating to Agriculture. This is relating to loan waiver and getting relief. Agricultural Operations are collapsed in my area. You have not been allowing me to speak for the last one month on this very issue. I don't know what is the reasons. Only the senior Members get all the time and hold the House to ransom.

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand, you are discussing the Demands of the Agriculture Ministry now.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: This is not relating to Agriculture, this is relating to loan waiver.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not allowed according to the procedure. You are just exposing your ignorance.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: This is relating to the promise given by the National Front Government and not fulfilled. The farmers have been deceived.

MR. SPEAKER: Please, for God's sake, you understand. When you are discussing the Demands of the Agriculture Ministry, you are expected to speak there. If you don't know, then go by the advice given by the Chair. It is nothing but exposing your ignorance.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Please give me time to speak on the Demands of the Agriculture Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER: OK, I will give you ten minutes to speak on the Demands of the Agriculture Ministry.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Defiance of the Chair has become a habit.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a very important issue. This house has witnessed a lot of discussion on the atrocities on the people of Scheduled Castes. As regard the atrocities it is true that the more a disease is treated the more it spreads. I have received two telegrams today. One of the has been received from Tamilnadu where police had opened fire in Paramkudi on 18th August on the occasion of unveiling of the statue of Dr. Ambedkar killing 7 persons of the Scheduled Castes and injuring more than hundred who are under treatment in the hospital. What a shame! The second case is that of Andhra Pradesh which has already been discussed in the House. No actions have been taken is Tsundur even