

It is totally irrational, illogical and absurd to levy on rice-mill owners. It should either be charged on manufacturers or end-sellers in the market. Rice-mill owners only process the paddy. They do not have right over anything except the service charges.

Government should intervene immediately and send a team of experts to assess the situation and stop harassment of rice-mill owners by the revenue authorities. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thousands of passport applications are pending in Cochin and Calicut Regional Passport Offices. The passport officials are creating unnecessary delay. They are harassing the people. One of the major problems being faced by these two passport offices is lack of staff.

We cannot provide employment to the people in our country. Let these young people go to other countries and seek jobs there. We have to allow them. There is unnecessary delay and red-tapism. Passport applicants are being harassed by these officials. So many times, we have brought this matter to the notice of the Government as well as the Minister. But no action has been taken. This is very urgent. Now that the situation in Kuwait is normal, people are going back to Kuwait. They want to renew their passports and they want to get new passports. Because of the unnecessary delay in the passport Offices, these young people and job-seekers are suffering a lot. Recently, the Minister has also assured that a new Regional passport Office will be opened in Trivandrum. Five months are already over, but no action has been taken till now. My humble request to the Government is that they should take immediate action to expedite issuing of passports. They should also conduct an inquiry into the present affairs of

the Passport Offices at Cochin and Calicut (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr Brishin Patel please.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL (Siwan): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, during 1990-91, the Bihar State Sugar Corporations siwan Unit supplied ten thousand bags of sugar to the Department of Delhi Administration responsible sale of sugar last an any my Inspector declared all ten thousand lags of sugar unfit for human consumption. As a result of it, the Food Corporation of India has stopped lifting the quota of sugar, from there. It seems that this Inspector, as he was not entertained properly, has taken this stand which is contrary to the interest of the people and all those ten thousand bags are laying there. As a result the workers are starving. I, therefore, urge the Government to send to Siwan a Senior Officer of Delhi civil Supplies Department to carry uot of fresh test so that the truth may be found out.

SHRI RAMSAGAR (Barabanki) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India and the leader of the House to a political prisoner.

Sir, Shri Vishambhar Singh an M.L.A is kept in Fatehpur jail. He is a patient of cancer and his condition has deteriorated too much. The district Magistrate and the jailor have written to the Uttar Pradesh Government to release him but the Uttar Pradesh Government is adopting a indicative attitude and that is why it is not releasing him. Be it Shri Vishambhar Singh, Madan Bhalya or Shri D.P. Yadav, all these M.L.As. are not being released due o political retribution.

Sir, Shri Jal Prakash Narayan and Gandhiji were also political prisoners and