

Chopala Railway Crossing on Bareilly-Badaun railway line (North and North-Eastern Railways) as Uttar Pradesh administration is ready to make contribution of its share.

- (2) The Railway department should start proper work in the coach repair factory at Izzatnagar Bareilly of North-Eastern Railways.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

- (1) Release of polluted effluents by chemical industries and factories situated at Ratlam, Indore, Vidisha and Shajapur areas of Madhya Pradesh resulting in pollution and environmental problem which is being faced by the people of the adjoining area.
- (2) The problem of providing average cost to the opium growers of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan for heavy loss suffered by them due to untimely rain and disease in the crop.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's list of Business :

- (1) The demand for constituting separate state of Vananchal (Jharkhand) presently under Bihar is being made since 1938. This area comprises of 18 district, 1 Legislative Assembly and 14 Lok Sabha seats. The agitation regarding constitution of separate state has been going on continuously. This area is predominantly a tribal area and is surrounded by wilderness and mountains. The language and culture of the area is entirely different. The development has been hampered because it has not been made a separate state. It was functioning as a separate administrative unit in the Mughal and British era and that is why the Governor House was situated here. Hence, this area should be given the status of separate state immediately.
- (2) The families displaced due to launching of multipurpose Swarn Rekha Project, in West Singhbhoon, Bihar should be given compensations of employment, rehabilitations and medical facilities should be provided to them and incomplete project should be completed without further delay.

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Sir, the

following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

- (1) To discuss the evergrowing corruption in public life as well as of those who are responsible to observe the fundamentals of constitution including judiciary and executives.
- (2) To discuss the deteriorating law and order situation in the state of Bihar due to emergence of extremist radical groups, terrorist organisations and ethnic clashes on large scale coupled with evergrowing influence and activity of ISI in the border regions of the State.

11.23 hrs.

RE : ATTEMPT OF SELF-IMMOLATION ON
MAY DAY

[Translation]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, first of May is celebrated throughout the world as Labourers' Day. On this day, it is expected that welfare measures will be announced by the Government for the benefit of labourers. However, I regret to state that when three thousand labourers were proceeding towards the Parliament Street in Delhi on May Day to meet the Prime Minister in order to place their demands before him, they were stopped at the Parliament Street due to which they could not meet the Prime Minister in his office. They were also subjected to police atrocities. Amongst them, there was a labourer by the name of Sarvesh who was on the brink of starvation. He has two children and a wife and he has not been paid any remuneration for last seven months. He wanted to go to the Prime Minister and request him to provide some sort of relief on May Day. He was provided this relief that he was not allowed to meet the Prime Minister. So he ended his life by committing self-immolation at that very spot and thus a labourer was sacrificed in Delhi on May Day which is a matter of shame for all of us.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is in hospital.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, my submission is that full details should be given by the Government as to whether such an incident occurred due to negligence of police. Why was that labourer not stopped when he was making an attempt of self-immolation and why was his life not protected ? Besides, it is also most unfortunate that when the women staged demonstration as the issue of reservation, water canons were used by the police on the

demonstrators. Those women had come there to seek reservation and to add insult to the injury, such a treatment was meted out to them.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Water was thrown on them.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : My submission is that the entire House should...

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is not a simple matter of throwing water, water canons have been used. The other day the Prime Minister was making tall claims in his inaugural speech that he would be giving priority to women in his agenda. As Lodhaji was mentioning just now that women went to meet the Prime Minister to seek reservation and in turn, water canons were used on them by the Police. It is not as if simply water was thrown on them. Can women bear the high pressure flow of water canons? The Government has used water canons on women on the May Day...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the crucial issue is that the labourers are not getting any remuneration for last seven months...*(Interruptions)* Whether our entire infrastructure and the Government is completely helpless in the matter. If a labourer does not get any remuneration for seven months, his plight can be well imagined. Hence this is a serious question towards which attention should be paid without any further delay...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right, you have made your point. Now the name of Dr. Jatia figures next on my list. Please let him speak out.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Sadar-Delhi) : I would also like to make a submission on this subject. Kindly allow me to speak for two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right. I shall allow you to make your point after Dr. Jatia has spoken.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA (Ujjain) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is a matter of concern for all of us because the labourers are highly disappointed over the way their labour and hard work is being undervalued throughout the country. The factories are being closed down in quick succession. The condition of textile mills in the country has worsened. Due to closure of industries throughout the country, the labourers working therein are facing the problem of unemployment which is matter of concern for all of us. Several announcements are made here but so far the Government has not taken any measures for rehabilitation of labourers. Several schemes are formulated

for providing relief to the labourers but they are not implemented properly. The inhuman conditions in which the labourers are forced to live, can be witnessed in any such area where the labourers are living. There are no proper living arrangement or medical facilities there. The incident that occurred yesterday to draw the attention of the entire country towards their plight, was merely a tip of the iceberg. The Government should take concrete measures for the welfare of labourers and the attitude of showing neglect towards them should be done away with.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the labourer who attempted self-immolation in yesterday's rally was working in Swatantra Bharat Mill which falls under my constituency. What would be the condition of such a person who has suffered 80 percent burns. If you don't regard it as a case of committing suicide, what else would you call it. This Government claims to be a well-wisher of labourers. I would like to bring it to your notice that ever since some mills have been shifted out due to environmental problems, the labourers are on brink of starvation. Their children do not get proper food and nobody pays heed to them.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you may visit any labourers' colony, you cannot say for sure whether these labourers have had any meals in the morning. Nobody can claim it with certainty. It is not as if only that labourer was suffering who attempted self-immolation yesterday. You will find many such labourers who are on the brink of starvation due to shifting of mills. The Government shifted out those mills but has not made any arrangement for providing compensation.

I met some officials in this regard only recently and enquired as to why they have not taken any action in the matter of acquiring 68 percent of land despite the order of Supreme Court. No Union Minister has visited the area so far to enquire about the state of the labourers working therein. I make a demand that beside making provision for the maintenance of the family of the labourer who has attempted self-immolation yesterday, the Government should also bear the entire expenses likely to be incurred on his medication. Alongside, the Government should ensure that other labourers also should not take such an extreme step of self-immolation.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the institutions closed down by it. The Government should present a report in the House in this regard and should also inform as to whether any compensation has been paid to the labourers working therein, houses have been providing for them and the facility of electricity and water has been provided there. The Government should make a statement in the House in this regard.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Hawrah) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government a very important matter, for the last few days, an agitation is going on all over the country.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Sir, it is an entirely differently matter...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, whether this matter would be brushed away just like that and the Government writ utter even a word ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If the Government wishes to make a statement in this regard, it is most welcome.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : This Government calls itself a messiah of the poor, the labourers. The leader of the House is present here. He should rise to make a statement in this regard...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : The Members belonging to left parties are also present here. Whether they would remain silent in this matter pertaining to the labourers ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, my submission is that the incident of an attempt at self-immolation has occurred on the May Day in capital of India and this is the first time such an incident has occurred. Whether it is not an indication that the tolerance of labourers is crumbling and rather than gradually inclining towards death, they have got ready to embrace death by sprinkling kerosene on themselves.

This is such an incident which cannot be easily brushed away by the Government. The House also can not avoid this issue. The mills are being closed down. The labourers have not been paid any remuneration for last seven-eight months. What can the labourers do? There should be some alternative arrangement I do not wish to make it a political issue, but is this incident not a warning bell that the labourers are prepared to sacrifice their lives.

There is some fault with our system somewhere. The Government has failed to discharge its duty. If the number of such incidents increases, the situation would become terrible. Otherwise, also the country is facing several burning issues. If such a tendency grows, it would have bad consequences. I was surprised to note that nobody is prepared to give any reply on behalf of the Government. They are not prepared to express grief even. I fail to understand the silence of the Government of this issue. The entire matter should be clarified.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : As it is a serious subject, hence the Government should hold talks with the trade unions and political parties to arrive at a decision in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble leader of the opposition party and several other members of his party have expressed their concern. The Government is also concerned about it and I would like to give an assurance on behalf of the Government that the concerned Minister would apprise the House of the matter.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, the INTUC is holding its three-day session since yesterday and a similar matter has been raised by the leaders of the BJP. I fully share their views that the matter is very serious not only as far as Delhi is concerned but also all over the country concerning the fate of the National Textile Mill workers and the National Jute Mill workers. A new threat has been posed by the new Budget of Shri Chidambaram concerning the fate of the insurance sector and the public sector.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I plead, through you, the Government that in the hour of crisis in the nation, when the national unity is the main agenda, please take the working class into confidence with utmost sincerity. The situation that is now prevailing in the BIFR is going to rake the Government and take the working class against the Government because whatever be the recommendations of the Cabinet and the Government, day in and day out, they are being purposely delayed in the name procedural tangle in BIFR. I plead the Government that more than two million people who are not getting their bread on the National Textile front in spite of the fact that the package was cleared by the earlier Government and everything was ready. But their budgetary support is withdrawn for the last three months. The workers are not getting their wages in any national textile mill all over the country for the last three months. They are about to commit suicide. They could not arrange the marriage of their daughters because loans are not being given to them.

Similar is the fate of the National Jute Mill Corporation which was nationalised by Shrimati Indira Gandhi from the hands of Ram Nath Goenka and the dream was that the jute mill workers will get their due rights. In spite of my repeated interactions with Shri Chidambaram and the Government, the budgetary support has not yet been given. While the Ministers are getting their bread and are getting our bread, the working class is not getting their bread for the last three months.

Yesterday, I was *gheraoed* till midnight to convey that