

Speaker, Sir, the manner in which Delhi is being neglected is clear from the fact that the Budget for Delhi passed year is.....

MR. SPEAKER: A discussion on the Budget is on the cards.

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am saying that.....

MR. SPEAKER: If you raise it at that time, more time will be given to you.

SHRI KALKA DAS: What were the Budget allocations for Delhi previously remain the same today at Rs. 920 crore. As it has been pointed out, the Government itself has admitted that Delhi's population increases at the rate of three lakh persons every year and the prices rise at the rate of 12.5%. The Government has admitted that prices go up, but the Budgetary allocation remains the same with the result the allocation for Social Welfare programme aimed at ameliorating the lot of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and backward classes have been slashed. While problems are on the increase, the allocation for the solution of problems is on the decrease and the people of Delhi are being denied justice. This is mainly because unlike in the past when the representatives of the people could raise issues in the Metropolitan Council and Municipal Corporation and draw the attention of the Government, today these bodies are non-existent. At present, both these bodies stand dissolved and consequently, Delhi's development is at the mercy of the bureaucrats and there is nobody to check them. As a result, Delhi's problems are increasing by leaps and bounds, the Development has come to a standstill and social welfare programmes in particular have come to a grinding halt.

Earlier, machines were distributed under various development programmes, but ever since the dissolution of the Metropolitan Council not a single machine has been distributed. At present, there are no programme to uplift the Scheduled Castes. Thus, this decrease in the allocation for Delhi tantamounts to injustice. Out of a total

amount of Rs. 27 crore, that is to be given for a period of three months, only a sum of Rs. 9 crore has been given. They have further decreased the amount from the one which was considerably reduced earlier and development work in the capital has come to a stand still as a result of this. Through you I would like to submit to the Government to release the allocated amount to accelerate development work in Delhi.

SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM (East Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit only this much that we have forwarded 25,000 applications from widows for financial assistance so far, but not a single widow has received even a penny to date. When these helpless widows approach the Corporation for assistance, they are told that the Corporation does not have any money. What's more, due to lack of funds in the Government's kitty, contractors have left many projects incomplete.

Therefore, it is my humble submission that the Government should increase the present budgetary allocation for Delhi which is too little.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uuberia): Sir, I want to raise a very important issue concerning the jute workers' strike. More than two lakh workers are on strike for more than one month and every day we are losing six crores of rupees in terms of production. The talks of agreement were over last year and the Central Unions of the workers are demanding for a new agreement. Today, the external market for jute is very good and the owners are amassing wealth. Exports are going up. In this situation, the owners are getting super profits but they are denying a minimum wage of Rs. 2200 which the workers are demanding. The Government of West Bengal is trying to persuade the owners to come to a settlement, but the adamant attitude of the management is forcing the workers to continue their strike. I wrote to the hon. Prime Minister in this regard and he has written to me stating that he is instructing the Textiles Minister and the