

*Centre to issue directive to the Government of Rajasthan to start relief operations immediately and to also open centres for distribution of fodder in all the districts with the help of the Government of India. So that the cattle can be protected.*

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at present 10 kilogram of wheat is being distributed through the public Distribution System (PDS) in Rajasthan to every individual. My hon. colleague just now made a mention of an acute drought situation for lack of rains in Rajasthan. In view of the prevailing drought in the State, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan demanded enhancing of quota through the PDS, but instead it has been reduced. Quota has been brought down to such a low level that in the State a crisis has developed.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Quota has not been reduced in case of Rajasthan alone but it has been reduced in many other states also.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, because of the stepmotherly treatment being meted out to Rajasthan, condition in the State has deteriorated fast. The Chief Minister of Rajasthan wrote a letter recommending the opening up of relief centres at all the places but owing to the stepmotherly treatment of Centre and reduction in quota, situation in the State has worsened fast. I would like to submit that previously 439 metric ton foodgrain was given but now it has been raised to 7000 ton only. With the result, it is not sufficient for the per capita distribution of 10 kilogram of foodgrain. Sir, through you, I would like to submit that since it is a human issue, politics should not be brought into such matters, no matter which party's Government is there in the state. Justice must be done to the 4 crore people of Rajasthan. Instead of 10 kg of foodgrains 15 kg may be given and fodder may also be made available, in addition to

giving economic grants for building up of more water resources.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. It is not exactly a point of order but the question of propriety. Mother must be respected whether she is real or stepmother. In the House stepmother is often condemned by using the expression of step motherly treatment. Does it mean that we have made step-mother a subject of condemnation for all times to come? Mr. Speaker, Sir, please give your ruling.

MR. SPEAKER: My ruling is that I totally agree with you. Mother is mother whether she be real or stepmother and she should not be condemned.

SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR (Khandwa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, nation wide strike by staff artistes of All India Radio and Doordarshan is currently going on in the country. present agitation began on 9-12-91 and since 16-12-91 it has turned into indefinite agitation within the premises of Akashwani Bhawan in New Delhi. Personnel from other centres are also taking part in the agitation going on in Delhi. One day strike at regional and the centres of All India Radio and Doordarshan in States is also being observed in the country. Their demand is that the Indian Broadcasting Service notified in 1990 should be reorganised. All the posts in the Broadcasting Service must be filled totally through promotion. All the posts in All India Radio and Doordarshan must be filled through regular appointments and the vacant posts must be filled up. The Government must pay attention to their demands.

SHRIMATISAROJ DUBEY (Allahabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 'anganwadi' workers and helpers engaged in the task of polishing the career of future citizens of India are exploited both economically and mentally. The Government of India has started Integrated Child

Development scheme since October 2, 1975 for the children below 6 years of age and for the pregnant women, to save them from malnutrition. In the scheme 9 categories of workers were recruited and out of these 7 categories of workers were appointed as Government servants. However 'anganwadi' workers and helpers entrusted with the task of basic duties are being paid honorarium of Rs. 275 and Rs. 110 per month.

Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the Government to grant the 'anganwadi' workers and helpers the status of Government servants as they are engaged in the task of building the character of the children of India. They also distribute nutritious diet to children in the backward areas. Can the Government ask any workers to distribute diet to the other children when her own children are not properly fed? The mental exploitation of the workers engaged in the task of polishing the career of future citizens of India and caring for the pregnant women should be stopped and they should be accorded the status of Government servants forthwith.

They have been fighting for their demands for the last two years. Even, during these days of cold they have been staging dharna in front of Legislative Assembly in Lucknow and at the Boat Club in Delhi. Therefore, the matter should be taken seriously and their economic and mental exploitation should be stopped. They should be given the status of Government employees so that they can work properly. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, you yourself know that this is a very serious question. So, please take it up with the concerned Minister. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: All lady Members are supporting it.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) As this is a very genuine cause, we also join and support them in this matter. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): This issue concerns the whole of India and it relates to the welfare of children of our country. Therefore, their condition should be improved. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, labour laws and also Minimum Wages Act are being violated. When I was the Minister, I had issued orders to pay Rs 500/- as minimum wages per month to them. I had also made it clear that the Government did not have adequate funds due to financial constraints, however, I had said that it may be increased further. But it is a matter of regret that two years have passed but the order issued in regard to the minimum wages of Rs 500/- per month has not been implemented so far. If the Government cannot increase the wages of labourers then why they are decreasing what was increased earlier. The House is concerned in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I also want to...

MR. SPEAKER: You have endorsed it by standing up. Please sit down.

DR. K.V. CHOWDARY (Rajahmundry): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in coastal Andhra Pradesh, especially in East Godavari District, there has been vast damage to crops due to heavy