

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : This is a serious matter. The Government is ready to respond.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can ask Shri Kota Sydaiah how serious his matter is. You must know that every matter is serious.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I entirely agree with your stand that all issues are important. But sometimes the Government is willing to make a response and, in this case, the hon. Minister is standing up to respond. We want to draw your attention to this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister was very reluctant in the beginning to respond, but you bulldozed him to respond. It is all right. Shri Srikant Jena will now respond.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : You have rightly observed that at the moment I can only simply respond to this issue. I have already taken note of this point. I will convey this matter to the hon. Home Minister to take appropriate and immediate action on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I hope that satisfies the hon. Members.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : I will take it up with the Home Minister....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : It is a very serious subject. Let the hon. Minister assure us one thing that the situation is very alarming. It is not a question of our raising the matter or any other hon. Member raising the matter. The hon. Minister's saying that he will bring it to the notice of the Home Minister is no assurance. The situation in the North-East is very alarming as 19 Army *Jawans* have been killed. Let him say this.

They have been killed in Tripura. This is really the beginning of such an attack by the insurgents. So, let the Home Minister come here and give us the total picture of the North-East. What are they going to do with this ? The same condition is prevailing in Nagaland. The same condition is prevailing in Manipur. What is happening in Assam ? The ULFA is active in Assam. So, let them come out with the total picture of the North-East and tell the nation about it. This is the situation. What step is the Government going to take in this matter? The Government has started talking that it has opened a channel with those underground insurgents ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rajesh Pilot, I could not agree with the hon. Members any more. That 19 soldiers of the Central Reserve Police Force were being ambushed and killed is indeed a very serious matter. Would the Home Minister like to make a statement some time ?

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : If you direct the Home Minister, he will make a statement on this issue.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will he make the statement tomorrow ? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA : Sir, the God of Nature is very unkind to Andhra Pradesh. You are aware that last year, such a cyclonic storm damaged the State immensely. This year, recently, a hailstorm struck the State affecting ten districts causing damage to the crop of the tune of Rs. 50 crore. Forty-six people died due to this and thousands of houses collapsed. The State Government released rupees five crore to the aid of the farmers.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to send a Central Team to the State to study the losses incurred by the farmers there. I also request the Government to arrange to provide *pucca* houses in place of the damaged houses through the *Indira Aawas Yojana* or some other Scheme.

I thank you for having given me this opportunity.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a great agitation by the students and the staff of the Jamia Millia Islamia in Delhi. This agitation is for reservation for Urdu students and for reservation for the families of the staff. There is also a legitimate demand for the restoration of the minority character of the Jamia Millia Islamia of Delhi. Even the National Minorities Commission has expressed serious concern over the developments and it has supported the demands. The National Minorities Commission, I believe, has even pleaded for the amendment to the Jamia Millia Islamia Act, 1988. We, in this House in 1988, had moved several amendments so that such situations might not come and there is reservation for Urdu students and reservation for the families of the staff and that the minority character of the Jamia Millia Islamia is duly preserved. But at that point of time, this did not happen. Now, we have a very serious situation. The functioning of the Jamia Millia Islamia has been adversely affected. The demands are very legitimate.

I, therefore, appeal to the Minister of Human Resource Development to intervene in the matter of the legitimate demands to satisfy the students, to satisfy the staff and also to make a statement here in the House accepting these particular demands. The Government should bring forward, if necessary, the legislation for amendment of the Jamia Millia Islamia Act in order to restore the reservation for the Urdu students, the reservation for the families of the staff and in order to maintain the minority character of the Jamia Millia Islamia...*(Interruptions)*

This is an issue of great importance but it is very disappointing that the Government has not responded to it. There must be some response from the Government on this particular agitation of staff and students.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SATWINDER KAUR DHALIWAL (ROPAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Punjab State is far away from the sources of raw material. Raw material used in the State is iron, steel and coal. A large quantity of coal is supplied to Thermal Power Stations in Punjab. But due to delay in supply of coal to thermal power plants, the functioning

of the plant is disturbed and the work of power generation also suffers which causes a power crisis in the area. If the coal is supplied through a pipeline in the shape of slurry, it will reach there in time and it will also save the expenditure. Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government of India to lay there pipelines for the supply of coal.

SHRIMATI SUBHAWATI DEVI (BANSGAON) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise a serious issue pertaining to UP. My parliamentary constituency falls on the bank of Saryu river. River is causing extensive soil erosion in the villages Chappriya, Mujwana, Derwa, Singhegdan etc. UP Government is not paying attention towards this problem. Therefore, through you, I would like to urge the Union Government to make arrangements for checking soil erosion being caused by Saryu river immediately.

[*English*]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (MAVELIKARA) : Sir, I am raising a problem of thousands of marginal rubber growers in Kerala who produce rubber latex. There is no market for rubber latex...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (KOTTAYAM) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also want to speak on the same issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, only one can speak.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, it is a very vital issue...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, there is no market for the rubber latex ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramesh Chennithala's name is also associated with the same thing. So, Prof. Kurien is speaking on behalf of both of them.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : No, Sir. How can it be ? I also want to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has made his point very adequately in the Finance Bill.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, he has not started it. After him, give me an opportunity to make my point. I want just two minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, on this issue, every MP from Kerala is concerned because it is a matter concerning 10 lakh rubber growers in Kerala, especially the marginal rubber growers who produce rubber milk of which the rubber latex is made. They cannot sell the product made of the rubber latex in the market because the Government, over the year, have reduced the import duty on foreign materials which compete with the products which our farmers produce. The import duty on such materials, e.g., synthetics has been reduced from 85 per cent to 30 per cent over the last five years. This year also, it has been reduced whereas not even a single paisa of reduction in excise duty is there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Kurien, you will have to cut it short.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, I will finish it in one minute.

Not a single paisa of reduction in excise duty is there for the products which our natural rubber growers are producing. Therefore, they are not able to sell their rubber in the market. It is a very serious problem.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am requesting you on behalf of all rubber growers of Kerala and outside Kerala also, to please direct the Government to reduce the excise duty on rubber foams which are produced by small-scale industries. I am not asking for the reduction of the import duty. Our rubber farmers are in trouble.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramesh Chennithala, you have raised the same matter on the 7th of May. So, the only thing, I want to say is that now, Shri P.C. Thomas can speak, for two minutes.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, I will take only one minute.

This is a very serious issue which is agitating the minds of thousands of rubber farmers in our country...(*Interruptions*) On the artificial chemical, polyurethane, the import duty has been reduced. That is why, the farmers are facing this problem. So, I request the hon. Minister to look into this matter and help the rubber growers by, at least, imposing some kind of a duty on the artificial kind of things so that the interests of our rubber growers can be saved.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : EXIM, Export-Import policy, is something which we are not discussing. There is also a very serious problem with regard to the Duties which are being imposed and the exemptions which are being granted. These are two aspects which are inter-linked.

As far as the issue which has been raised by my learned friend Prof. Kurien is concerned, I have also given notice on the same matter. The problem that the natural rubber is being produced in India by eight lakh small growers. These small growers are contributing a lot to the economy of our nation. Now the latex which is being produced by rubber is being used for production of foam mattresses and the same thing can also be produced by polyurethane or other imported stuff. What is being done is, for import of polyurethane the Duty is reduced and for what we are making out of our domestic produce the Excise Duty is being increased. This is double standard. This cannot be done and I would request hon. Minister Shri Chidambaram....

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, please sit down. On the question of the rubber price a number of hon. Members from Kerala are agitated. Therefore, I would request the Government to take note of it.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will all support this issue about the rubber.