

MR. SPEAKER: O.K.

AN HON. MEMBER: Cattle are also dying in the village.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you supporting it.

SHRISHIVSHARAN VERMA: Livestock is dying and all the trees are engulfed and a horrible accident has taken place. That is why the government should pay special attention to it.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the use of narcotics has increased, especially among the youths during the last several years which is really a matter of concern.

In Madhya Pradesh, opium is cultivated in our area and about one lakh quintals of poppy husk is produced. Since the demand for brown sugar and smack in the refined form of opium has increased now, the cost of "dodi chori" which was at one time burnt, has increased from Rs. 10,000/ to Rs. 30,000/- per quintal in Punjab and Rajasthan.

One lakh quintal of opium poppy so produced illegally there. The Madhya Pradesh Government issued license for this but now there is discrimination in the issue of licenses. The license fee for traders has been increased from Rs. one thousand to Rs. 25,000 per year but on the other hand, the sales tax has been reduced from 12% to 5%. For this reason, small traders have left this trade. A few big traders have organized groups and made cartel for smuggling and illegal production of opium poppy.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if these people are spared, in one year they will earn profit of Rs. 100 crore. The smugglers will be benefited. Through you, I would request the hon. Finance Minister, that the smuggling of Poppy husk is ruining thousands of families and therefore there is need to check it through

a legislation which would enable the Centre to issue licenses instead of the State administration.

DR. LAXMINARYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to submit that this is an importune issue and I have reiterated that a policy should be made regarding opium wherein the interests of the farmers are also protected.

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you. Please sit down comfortably. Why are you repeatedly taking so much trouble?

DR. LAXMINARYAN PANDEYA: My constituency is the largest producer of opium. The State Government has taken steps within its limitations. Whatever has been done for licensing is a separate issue.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not going on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWLE (Bombay-South Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have repeatedly raised the matter of the closed textile mills in Bombay, in this House. On the one hand, the Government is unable to open those textile mills which have been closed and on the other hand, some other mills are going to close down. Due to the closure of some mills of N.T.C.-the National Textile Corporation-thousands of mill workers would get unemployed. According to an estimate 25,000 mill workers would be rendered unemployed due to this closure. N.T.C. invited tenders to sell the land of a few mills, to certain individuals. Those tenders were to be opened at 9 AM on 20th April, 1992 but the mill workers gathered the office and opposed the move. The tenders could not thus be opened. In this connection, I had asked the