

The Government has formulated many schemes for Harijans, Adivasis, Backward classes, minorities, freedom fighters, weaker sections and handicapped persons like blind, deaf, dumb, lame and also provided relief to them. These steps undertaken by the Government are praiseworthy and commendable. But the Government has paid little attention to spastics. Children usually fall prey to this disease. Although spastics have good mental balance and they can do work but sometime they fail to maintain their balance because of convulsions of limbs.

Parents or relatives of spastics have to many difficulties while travelling by plane, train or bus when they accompany them for treatment.

I request the Government to treat spastic persons as handicapped, and I demand to provide them maximum possible facilities so that they may have a place in the society.

[English]

- (v) Need to ensure proper distribution of potassium chloride to the small match manufacturers of Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu

SHRI N. SOUNDARARAJAN (Sivakasi) : There are more than 5000 small match units in my Sivakasi parliamentary constituency in Tamil Nadu. For the past three months there is severe shortage of potassium chloride which is one of the main raw materials for the production of matches. Due to the shortage of potassium chloride these match units are under threat of closure. Thousands of workers would become jobless.

The authorised dealers of potassium chloride in my area are charging more money from these tiny match units. The Small Industries Development Corporation, which is also supplying potassium chloride through its depots to these tiny match units is not doing proper distribution.

So, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to ensure the proper supply of potassium chloride to the tiny match units in Sivakasi and probe into the mal-distribution of potassium chloride by the Small Industries Development Corporation, Sattur.

[English]

- (vi) Need to take steps to ensure proper working of the Hindustan Teleprinters, Madras

DR. A. KALANIDHI (Madras Central) : The Hindustan Teleprinters at Madras which was founded by late Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, is on the road to closure. Nearly, 2000 employees of the concern fear losing their jobs due to problems in managements. While there are no buyers for the products of Hindustan Teleprinters, lakhs of rupees are being spent on TV advertisements.

The former Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi had taken great care to see that the Hindustan Electric Typewriter Project goes well on the road to progress. It is understood that nearly 1000 electric typewriters are lying in store without any orders and the amount involved is estimated to be Rs. 500 lakhs. Machines worth Rs. 300 lakhs bought under world Bank Loan Scheme during 1980-83 are still gathering dust. The total loss expected is about Rs. 1757 lakhs. It is high time that the Government should take adequate interest in the working of Hindustan Teleprinters, particularly in Hindustan Electric Typewriter Project and save this institution on which India had high hopes.

[Translation]

- (vii) Need to check the use of tobacco Products

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi) : Hon. Sir, any type of addiction is the root cause of vices. It not only weakens a man economically but also physically and mentally. According to available statistics 35 lakh people in the world and 8 lakhs in our our own country die due to addiction to cigarette smoking annually, The Central Government did not implement policy of prohibition because it was afraid of being deprived of revenue. Besides it thinks that merely by writing 'Smoking is injurious to health on cigarette packets the responsibility is over. Even this is not written on Pan Masala, Zarda, Bidipackets etc. The popularity of Pan Masala in the country is on the increase. Smoking and use of Pan Masala not only adversely affects digestive system but also creates coronary

disease, blood pressure and cancer and also pollutes environment.

I, therefore, demand that the Government should impose ban on cigarette, Bidi, tobacco, Pan Masala, Zarda, Ganja, Charas etc. The ban may be gradual starting from a week to a month and then a total ban.

[English]

(viii) Demand to take up immediately repairs of the railway bridge on Kamla Balan river at Jhanjharpur in Bihar

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : 1987 floods were the worst in the living memory for the people of Mithila region of north Bihar. Population in and around Jhanjharpur were worst affected by the fury of Kamla Balan which originates in Nepal and runs through a major portion of Mithila.

Kamla Balan had badly affected the railway bridge near Jhanjharpur. Although rail lines were promptly restored on the intervention of the Prime Minister and the Railway Minister, the railway bridge over Kamla Balan at Jhanjharpur remains depleted even today. Twelve out of sixteen spans of the above railway bridge are lying silted up since the last flood and have not been cleaned as yet. The choked vent is bound to create further devastation in and around Jhanjharpur during the coming rainy season. In this connection, it is necessary to point out that rains usually start in Nepal in the latter half of May.

It is, therefore, earnestly requested that the bridge on Kamla Balan at Jhanjharpur be repaired immediately. Besides, in order to avoid the recurrence of last year's devastation, it is suggested that the widening of the above railway bridge be taken up in right earnest. That apart, Jhanjharpur railway platform and the rail lines there have to be raised by at least seven to eight feet higher.

The Railway Ministry is requested to take up the above work without any further loss of time.

12.29 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1988-89—
Contd.

Ministry of Defence—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Defence. Shri Sparrow...

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : (Bolpur) : Has item No. 8 on the agenda been taken up ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes.

SARI R.S. SPARROW (Jullundur) : Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the defence of Mother India is an intimate concern of all the hon. Members of this august House irrespective of party affiliations. And to see, in this manner, practically the House deserted by a majority of Members shows what interest we have for the defence of Mother India.

In that context, to start with, adequate defence preparedness acts as a solid root and that offers stability to any country. This is the importance of this particular subject as also the defence measures and armed forces of our Mother country.

Keeping this all important notions in view, I would like to lay before you Sir, my today's presentation, in a dispassionate manner, as steadily and cogently as possible. Before I start laying bare the main facts and factors that are cogently relevant to today's debate, I might mention, that fiscally, the proportionate allocation of funds under different heads, as is laid down in the Defence Budget Demands, is very well conceived. And I feel privileged to support the same.

However, Sir, in my view, to fully meet the sudden, over-riding and big time defence requirements apropos of the explosively charged geo-political and geo-strategical situation that obtains globally today, one has to think very carefully whether more funds for defence preparedness would be necessary as time comes by. This is a notable question. This has to be kept in