

State. For 2000 years or more they have been treated as if they were sub-human and today their position has hardly improved. I speak with special reference to a place called Mananthody in Cannanore constituency in Kerala as I have personally seen the situation there.

Isolated as it is by reason of its geographic situation—it is a solely tribal assembly constituency which still retains the age old customs of untouchability and superstitions. The stark poverty, stickness and ignorance among the tribals here cannot be overcome overnight. Lack of medical and educational facilities and even of basic necessities like pure drinking water and sanitation are all apparent in this region.

Much needs to be done and the first step must be to ensure proper implementation of Government programmes for development of tribals to monitor the financial allocation for this purpose and to follow up progress.

I therefore call upon the government to appoint an effective body for this purpose

- (v) Need to take immediate steps to supply special medicines to Tamil Nadu to check the incidence of Encephalitis.

SHRI C. K. KUPPUSWAMY (Coimbatore): Sir, it has been reported in the press that the incidence of brain-fever, that is, encephalitis, is very much on the increase in Tamil Nadu. The State Government and the people of Tamil Nadu are very anxious and worried over this dreadful disease. It has also been reported that more than 185 deaths have occurred so far due to brain fever in Tamil Nadu, particularly in Madras city, Coimbatore, Madurai and Tirunelveli districts. The patients are finding it extremely difficult to get proper medicine for this dangerous fever from the hospitals as also from the market.

It is therefore requested that the Centre should take immediate step to despatch special medicines to Tamil Nadu to combat this dangerous disease on a war footing before the present alarming situation goes out of control.

- (vi) Need to allot sufficient funds for Executing pedaballi and dorigallu projects in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur): Kadiri Taluk in Anantapur District in Andhra Pradesh is a chronically famine affected area with no irrigation facilities.

Tanks and wells were providing water for irrigation. In the current decade no tank has received water and all the wells have dried up and hence agriculturists, labour, artisans, service sections and other people living in villages have hopelessly been thrown out of work and they are facing miserable situation.

In this taluk two medium projects one at Dorigallu and the other at Pedaballi were contemplated to be constructed so that they may irrigate 30 to 40 thousand acres. Investigation with regard to Dongallu project been completed long time back and the project which is very useful to this area could not be constructed for lack of funds with the State Government.

Pedaballi project is being kept in the cold storage for the past ten years. Funds sanctioned by the World Bank about five or six years back could not be utilised. State Government is constrained to take up construction of this project for want of funds.

The Central Government may take a compassionate view of this chronic drought prone area and the hopless people and allot sufficient funds for the construction of these two projects.

- (vii) Need to consult the teachers of Kendriya Vidyalaya at the time of their pay revision.

DR. SUDHIR ROY (Burdwan): As per newspaper reports the All India Kendriya Vidyalaya Teachers Association has decided to resort to agitation, if their pay scales are not immediately revised in accordance with the recommendations of the Chattopadhyaya Commission whose report is under study by the Empowered Committee. Hon'ble Minister's reply to

[Shri Sudhir Roy]

Starred Question No. 260 on 20-11-1986 is unfortunate, as the teachers' associations should be consulted at the time of the pay revision. The sooner it is done, the better it would be.

(viii) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Maharashtra to run the Cotton Monopoly procurement Scheme.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopargaon) : The Government of Maharashtra is running Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme, which was cleared by the Union Government. They need financial assistance, as farmers are demanding rise in cotton prices and also hundred per cent payment of their produce at one time instead of payment in instalments.

Last year, the cotton prices were higher in Maharashtra than the Central Government's Support price. The Government put a condition that under the Maharashtra Cotton Procurement Scheme, cotton should be purchased at the support price declared by the Central Government and no extra price should be paid to the cotton growers. Somehow in the interest of farmers the Government of Maharashtra is running the Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme for the protection of the farmers—a condition laid down by the Central Government.

Financial assistance is badly needed by the Government of Maharashtra from the Union Government or the Reserve Bank of India. I would, therefore, appeal to the Government that a sum of Rs. 200 crores to Rs. 300 crores be given to the Government of Maharashtra by way of assistance immediately for payment to cotton growers. This would give substantial relief to the farmers. Otherwise, the unrest which is brewing in the State at present may become a law and order problem. I would, therefore, urge the Government that in the interest of public the Government may give a serious consideration for the solution of the problem.

13.57 hrs.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE REVENUES
APPELLATE TRIBUNAL
BILL, 1986

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We will now take up Item No. 11.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
JANARDHANA POOJARY) : I beg to
move* :

“That the Bill to provide for the adjudication, by an appellate tribunal, of disputes with respect to the determination of the rates of duties of customs and Central excise on goods and to the valuation of goods for the purposes of assessment of such duties, in pursuance of Article 3238 of the Constitution and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.

As hon. Members are aware, Customs and Central Excise duties contribute about 80 per cent of the total tax revenues of the Central Government. Both these duties have, thus, a vital role in augmenting the financial resources of the Centre. However, in recent years there has been an enormous increase in litigation relating to disputes with respect to the valuation of goods and/or the determination of the rate of customs and central excise duties for the purpose of assessment of such duties. As a result, the collection of very large amounts of revenue has been blocked.

In order to mitigate the serious problem of litigation and to bring about uniformity of assessment all over the country, it is proposed to set up a tribunal under Article 3238 of the Constitution to deal with appeals arising from disputes relating to valuation of goods and the determination of the rate of duty in the assessment of customs and central excise duties. With the establishment of this Tribunal,

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.