

[Sh. Mahendra Baitha]

Government should set up a sugar mill at Dhanha at the earliest.

- (iii) **Need to give Clearance to Second Phase of anti-sea erosion Project regarding Kerala coastline**

[English]

SHRI T.J. ANJALOSE (Alleppy): A proposal for Central assistance for the protection of the sea coast of Kerala has been sent to the Central Government. The coast line of the State which extends to 560 kilometres is highly vulnerable to sea erosion. This is a peculiar problem faced by the Kerala State on account of the geographical location of the State which is at the tip of the peninsula. The coastal area of the State has the highest density of population and homesteads are built up to the very limit of the coast line. Every year, hundreds of families are facing hardships due to the erosion during the monsoon. A project for the second phase of the anti-sea erosion work is pending before the Union Government. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take urgent steps to give clearance to the second phase of the anti-sea erosion project.

- (iv) **Need to fix a statutory minimum price of Rs. 120-150 per bag of Tapioca grown in Tamil Nadu**

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU (Dharmapuri): In India only Tamil Nadu and Kerala are engaged in Tapioca cultivation and Tamil Nadu tops in its cultivation. It is grown in abundance in Dharmapuri and Salem districts. The acreage of cultivation in the State of Tamil Nadu as a whole is 25 lakh hectares. Tapioca tubers, though edible, are largely used for starch manufacturing. Starch pellets are exported and a sizeable amount of foreign exchange is thereby earned. But the Tapioca growers are not getting remunera-

tive prices. The growers are, however, forced to sell them at very low prices to intermediaries. Besides, the recent floods have also resulted in distress sale. I urge upon the Government to intervene and fix a statutory minimum price of Rs.120-150 per bag and save the growers of tapioca.

- (v) **Need to relax eligibility condition for retirement benefits in case of armed forces personnel disabled during service**

[Translation]

SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHAN-DURI (Garhwal): Armed forces personnel in thousands retire every year in the country due to disability or other reasons. These ex-servicemen are being deprived of pension, for not completing fifteen years of service. Many of them served for 10-14 years but had to retire without pension due to physical disability or an injury sustained during service. Thousands of applications of such retired army personnel are received by the Ministry of Defence but these applications are being turned down on the plea that the applicants did not complete 15 years in service.

I have also been receiving similar applications in thousands from my own constituency Garhwal. My submission to the Government is that the question of grant of pension to these retired ex-servicemen should be reviewed and an amendment should be made. After retirement, these ex-servicemen are not able even to join the civil service. Even Military Resettlement Centres fail to re-employ them.

Therefore, I would submit to the Government and the Defence Ministry to relax the length of service requirement for making them eligible for pension, or they should be given guarantee of re-employment in Government or other organisations after retire-

ment so that those, who have become disabled while in service, may earn their livelihood.

14.15 hrs

RE: STATUTORY RESOLUTION AND
MOTION ON MEGHALAYA

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we shall go for the statutory resolution to be moved by Shri M.M. Jacob.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): I request the honourable House through you Sir, to give me some more time for moving this resolution because I am awaiting the report from the Governor of Meghalaya, which may come at any moment. Yesterday, I had read the press reports where it was mentioned that both sides are staking claims and I want to find out the truth in it. So I request for some more time and I will come back to the House very shortly. Also I request that it may be taken up on a convenient day.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the House agree to it?

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Sir, this morning the Government conveyed to the opposition that they were awaiting the Governor's report and so they would like to take up this particular statutory resolution after sometime. Now I notice that this particular resolution has already been passed in the other House. I have given notice and another colleague of mine belonging to CPI has also given notice on another resolution, which is not a statutory resolution, but which

seeks to convey to the President and request the President that President's rule in Meghalaya, in the present situation, be revoked. These two were to be taken up simultaneously. And if this is to be kept in abeyance, obviously the other one also would have to be kept in abeyance naturally. And therefore, I would like to say that there had been reports in the meanwhile of a kind of a situation in which some horse-tradings may go on. Also, I saw the statements made by the President of the Meghalaya Pradesh Congress saying that the Centre would never allow the MUPP to form the government, if it not the Congress then the Assembly will be dissolved. These statements are disturbing and therefore, it was that I conveyed to the Minister that I hope the Government would do nothing of this kind-the dissolution of the Assembly or anything of that kind. I had conveyed to the Government that my own view is that in a situation of this kind, the Constitution empowers the Government to revoke the President's rule of its own and it need not wait for the Governor's report particularly, in view of the Supreme Court's Judgment saying that the Speaker's ruling in respect of the four MLAs was wrong and the four MLAs are entitled to vote. Therefore, if President's rule had been revoked automatically by the Government, it would have been a good thing. I for one have no objection to keeping it in abeyance for the next two or three days but it should not be kept for too a long time. In the meantime, you may get the report from the Governor as to what is the political situation there. I am sure that the Supreme Court judgement would be taken into account and status quo ante restored in the State by revoking the President's Rule. In this context I would like the Government to reassure the House that no dissolution of the House will take place and the Government will come to the House and do what they want to do.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): The hon. Minister has just now informed the