

(iii) PAYMENT OF BONUS TO LIC
EMPLOYEES

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Durgapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Under Rule 377, I wish to raise a very important and urgent issue and urge upon the Government and the Minister concerned to make a statement on the floor of the House.

Sir, the Supreme Court declared the LIC (Modification of Settlement) Act, 1976 ultra vires, which was passed during the time of Emergency. The Court held that all settlement of wages with the Government which go towards the achieving of a living wage are protected by the Directive Principles in Article 43 of the Constitution. Sir, the hon. Supreme Court also held LIC bonus as wage and declared that the law modifying the bonus was contrary to public interest and not reasonable. You know that there was an agreement with the LIC employees that they will get 15 per cent bonus. But during the time of Emergency, the then Government headed by Mrs. Indira Gandhi, passed this anti-labour LIC (Modification of Settlement) Act, 1976 in spite of our opposition. We made several representations to this Janata Government but they did not restore this bonus, the legitimate dues to the LIC employees. It is a very important and urgent issue and the Supreme Court has by a unanimous decision restored the legitimate bonus. So, Sir, through you I will request the Government to implement it and pay the bonus immediately with retrospective effect and make a statement on the floor of the House this afternoon as to when they will pay it.

(iv) REPORTED POSSIBILITY OF IMPORT
OF LASSA FEVER BY TRAVELLERS FROM
AFRICA

श्री श्रीम प्रकाश त्यागी (बहराइच) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सरकार का ध्यान एक बहुत ही गम्भीर समस्या की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। मुझे खेद के साथ कहना

पड़ता है कि सरकार तब जागती है जबकि कोई बीमारी इस देश को ;स्त कर लेती है, पहले से ही उसको कोई रेमेडियल मेजर्स नहीं उठाती। मैंने पहले भी इस बात की ओर ध्यान आकर्षित किया था कि मैक्साफार्मा के बारे में दूसरे देशों में प्रतिबंध लग गया लेकिन हमारी सरकार अभी तक कोई निर्णय नहीं ले सकी। इसकी वजह से लोगों को पागलपन तक हो जाता है लेकिन अभी तक सरकार ने कोई कदम नहीं उठाया है। पूना के रिसर्च सेन्टर पर कीड़ों पर रिसर्च चल रही है। इस बात की ओर ध्यान आकर्षित किया गया है कि लासा फीवर वायरस जोकि वेस्ट अफ्रीका में फैला हुआ है वह वहां से यहां आ सकता है। यह एक बहुत ही खतरनाक बीमारी है जो अगर लग गई तो बड़ा मुश्किल हो जायेगा इसलिए अभी से सरकार को सावधानी बरतनी चाहिए। अफ्रीका से जो लोग आ रहे हैं उनके लिए हेल्थ सर्टिफिकेट में लासा फीवर का इंजेक्शन भी आवश्यक माना जाये। मैं आपको रिपोर्ट के अनुमार बताना चाहता हूँ।

"The VRC report said that possible importation of lassa fever is a cause for concern. Explosive outbreaks can occur from a single infected individual and in this age of jet travel, a person infected in Africa with lassa virus will become ill in India a week later.

Lassa fever can be acquired by contact with an infected person or an infected rat. The disease is difficult to distinguish from malaria, typhoid, yellow fever or influenza and its diagnosis may pose a problem to Indian medical practitioners, it is warned."

यह रिसर्च सेन्टर ने बताया है कि यह कितनी खतरनाक बीमारी है।

अमरीका और दूसरे देशों ने अपने यहां के एअरपोर्ट्स और पोर्ट्स पर इस तरह की वार्निंग दे दी है, अपनी हेल्थ सर्विसिज

को सूचित कर दिया है कि वे इसको चैक करें। इतना ही नहीं, मान लीजिये कोई आदमी अफ्रीका से आ रहा है और वह इस बीमारी से पीड़ित है, उस विमान में भारतवर्ष आने वाला व्यक्ति भी है, तो वह भी इससे प्रभावित हो सकता है और यहां आने के बाद मलेरिया, प्लू या टायफाइड में कोई फर्क नहीं है। यह एक डेडली-डिजीज है, इसलिये सरकार को समय से सतर्क हो जाना चाहिए और हमारी पोर्ट्स और एअर-पोर्ट्स पर तुरन्त इस प्रकार की चैकिंग व्यवस्था होनी चाहिये ताकि यह बीमारी हमारे यहां न आ सके। आज अफ्रीकी देशों में भारतवासी बहुत बड़ी तादाद में बसे हुए हैं, वे अपने परिवारों के साथ मिलने के लिये यहां आते रहते हैं, इसलिये यह वार्निंग और भी ज्यादा महत्वपूर्ण है। यदि सरकार ने समय रहते सावधानी नहीं बरती, तो उनके द्वारा यह बीमारी यहां आ सकती है, उसके बाद इसका इलाज होना मुश्किल हो जायेगा।

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): *Matters under rule 377 refer to matters of urgent public importance.*

MR. SPEAKER: It gives an opportunity to the members to ventilate certain grievances.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: The Minister is not required to make a statement in answer to the point raised, but it will be a healthy practice and convention if the Minister or the Minister of State concerned with the department comes here and shares the feelings expressed by members on the floor of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: This is being conveyed. The selection is made on the same day and the Minister will not know; he will not get notice. The office will convey it. Don't bother.

12.47 hrs.

CHILDREN (AMENDMENT) BILL—
Contd.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now resume further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Pratap Chandra Chunder on the 22nd February, 1978, namely:—

"That the Bill to amend the Children Act, 1960, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration." Shri Kolanthaivelu:

SHRI R. KOLANTHAIVELU (Tritchengoda): Sir, the Children (Amendment) Bil, 1957, is of course an important one for the progress of the country in the present situation. The original Act was enacted more than 15 years ago and thereafter there have been numerous and vast changes in the body of rules in all the fields and in the environmental situation too.

Even in this amending Bill, there must be some more changes and amendments, but due to the patience and liberal policy of the Janata Government, it is not done in a large measure.

In Section 7 of the principal Act, the jurisdiction and powers of the Board and the children's court must be clear because if there is no such limit, the progress of justice may be delayed even at this lower level.

In section 9 of the principal Act, the amendment is welcome, but in section 6(3) of the amendment that the Board member must have special knowledge of child psychology and child welfare is not necessary. It should have been amended to suit the present situation of the society in our country. Section 43 ought to have been amended in such a way that the punishment must be still more because the Act was formulated in 1960 and not according to the present conditions. By all these Acts, the law should be such that almost all the punishments