

degree holders and diploma holders whereas the unskilled labour and also the manual labourers who have obtained employment visa with great difficulty have been denied.

May I also submit to the attention of the hon. Minister of Labour that any delay on our part to provide clearance will also result in the replacement of our labour force in the Gulf countries by Bangladeshis, Philipinos and Sri Lankans have been taking that place. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take it as a very serious matter. Especially now, our country is faced with economic crisis and also unemployment problem.

There are 6000 people who are living in agony and who are stranded in Bombay. They may also be helped.

[Translation]

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL (Godda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Godda district of Bihar is an extremely backward area. This district was formed in 1983 and the maximum number of coal mines of the country are located in this area. There is a project called Rajmahal Project and till now no arrangement has been made to provide cooking gas to the people of this district. I have been writing to the Government of India even when I was an MLA in Bihar Assembly to set up an agency of cooking gas at the earliest in my district, but no arrangements have been made to supply cooking gas to the people in my backward area. Hon. Petroleum Minister is present here. I would like to urge him that keeping in view the backwardness of this area, a cooking gas agency may be set up in the headquarters of my District without any lapse of time so that the cooking gas is made available to the inhabitants of that place.

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL (Siwan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a cotton mill has been set up in Siwan district of Bihar

with an investment of crores of rupees and that cotton mill is in the production stage. Despite that I regret to say that this cotton mill has not started functioning till date. I would like to urge upon the central Government through you that the cotton mill should start production immediately so that all the unemployed youths may get employment and the economic condition of that area may improve.

[English]

SHRI PALA K. M. MATHEW (Idukki): Sir, I rise to plead for a section of voiceless people who belong to the overwhelming silent majority. I mean the bonded labour. Bonded labour is prevalent on an alarmingly large-scale in this country. Nobody has been punished so far for persecuting, under-paying and oppressing them and for not giving them their remuneration and all that.

The National Commission which has been promised is not yet set up.

The Human Rights Commission recommended to the concerned UN Agencies that all loans and aid to such countries which do not exterminate this evil should be stopped.

No survey has been made to identify the bonded labour. It is our international commitment.

So, I would request the Government to take steps immediately for identifying them and then for subsequent extermination and abolition of the bonded labour.

SHRI R. SRIDHARAN (Madras South): Sir, Shri Vallabhai Patel Chest Institute in New Delhi is almost closed. The institution is in a dilapidated building in the university campus. There are no X-Ray films. Sputum and blood tests are not conducted for the last few days. No bi-weekly injections or bi-weekly medicines are given to the patients. The

patients are asked to go to the other hospitals in the City. They are not being admitted into the hospital since no proper arrangement is made. No proper study is made regarding the number of patients and treatment given to them. The Post-Graduate students are put to great hardship because there are no patients. No bed-side teaching studies are conducted.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Health and Family welfare to immediately look into the matter.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT (Rajapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government a vital issue affecting the Konkan area of Maharashtra and Goa. As you know, Sir, this area is the most backward area in the country. It is served by only one road, by the National Highway called the Bombay-Goa Highway. We had a ferry service which was closed down three years ago. We had an air service of Vayudoot which was also stopped. The Ratnagiri Airport is the only Airport which is there in this area, which is also being dismantled. This road, the Bombay-Goa National Highway cannot be termed as a Highway in any case when you look at the appearance of it. This Highway is repaired every year. During the monsoon season the surface disintegrate because of the heavy precipitation in this area.

I would, therefore, request that the Government must now take firm action against the contractors and also allocate more resources so that the road surface is developed in such a manner that the surface disintegration is not allowed to happen every year. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. I have to do one after the other. You cannot just press like this. There are Members on that side also. I am saying, please take your seat.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the workers and labourers engaged in the salt-producing factories throughout the entire sea coast areas all over the country do not get wages even at the minimum scale as fixed up by the Minimum Wages Act. The labourers in many factories have to start their work even before the sun-rise and continue their work even after the sun-set with an hour's recess in the noon thereby stretching the working hours by more than twelve hours a day. We are all aware of the present hard days in the present situation of spiralling prices. It is, therefore, obvious how miserable and distressing conditions the salt-workers are living in. Labourers having at least five members of each family at an average find it really a total impossibility to live on the meagre wage of Rs. 14 or Rs. 16 per day—there remaining no work, no pay day. It is unimaginable how these salt-workers are pulling on their days of unbearable sufferings. Further, the Budget proposals have already started inflationary pressure in the market and the essential consumers' items have begun to reflect the same.

Sir under the circumstances, I would urge upon the Government, the Ministry of Industry to take initiatives immediately to bring forward legislative measures to fix up the daily minimum wages of the workers and labourers engaged in the salt-factories whether big or small and help the poor people overcome the present hardship prevailing in our country. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman-Nicobar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, during my visit to Calcutta, I had seen more than 200 Andaman bound passengers—men, women and children—who had been stranded there for the last three months. They are now staying on the footpaths of Calcutta. They are facing starvation because of non-availability of any food. These people are particularly from Andhra Pradesh, from Ranchi area of Bihar, West Ben-