

The port in Kakinada still remains under-developed. If immediate action is initiated to develop this port, it will benefit the business community in exporting and importing the goods.

The Polavaram multi-purpose project on river Godavari is still pending. If immediate clearance/sanction is accorded to this project, it will benefit a large number of people in this area.

Lastly, one B.S. Raju of my district was killed by ULFA activities in Assam. His entire family - old parents and sisters - depended on him. I request through you the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas to provide suitable compensation to the family members of Shri Raju immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA (Junagarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, even after 44 years of attaining independence, Indian dress apparels is disregarded in certain parts of the country whereas our culture and dress apparel are being admired in foreign countries. In this regard, I want to give an example. We celebrate the birth anniversary of our former President Dr. S. Radhakrishnan as Teacher's Day. On the Teacher's day on 5th September, 1991 when students of St. Anns School dressed in Indian style, they were wearing Sari and putting on Kangan in their hands and Bindi on their forehead, attended the school...

MR. SPEAKER: Are you going to raise the question of a dress worn in school here?

SHRI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA: This pertains to Teacher's Day. On that day, when the girl students dressed in Indian style went to attend the function, they were openly insulted and rebuked by the Principal and were refused to participate in that function.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of this happening, I request the Government to take such schools under its control and the

Minister of Human Resource should make a statement in this regard and necessary action should be taken against such school officials under the rules.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, on the last day of the Session, I would take this opportunity to remind the Government, through you Sir, about a solemn assurance which they have given to the minorities of this country.

The assurance was that statutory recognition will be accorded to the Minorities Commission. Minorities Commission came into being on the strength of a resolution of the Government of India on the 12th January, 1978 with the Chairman and Members representing each of the five religious minorities, namely, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Muslims. Again Sir, on the strength of an amended resolution on 30th March, 1988, this Commission has been entrusted with onerous responsibilities including suggesting appropriate legal and welfare measures in respect of any minority to be undertaken by the State or the Central Governments. So, unless such a Commission is accorded statutory recognition, it will find it difficult to function effectively. There was a National Convention under the auspices of the Minorities Commission giving representation to all the minorities in the country which also urged the Government to accord statutory recognition to it. To make the Commission work in a meaningful way, statutory recognition is of great importance. I hope, Sir, the Government will act promptly in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD YUNUS SALEEM (Katihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, most of the areas in the State of Bihar are affected by devastating flood. I represent the katihar Constituency in this House. I have been receiving telephones for the last two-three days that Mahananda river is in flood there

and has inundated a large area of Kathar, Barsol, Manihari, Barlapur and Kora. People living in thatched houses have been totally ruined and have taken refuge either in the railway station or are on the roads. There is no arrangement for their food, clothes, shelter and medicines. Cholera may break out there. I have requested the State Government in this regard but it does not have sufficient means. Through you, I would like to request the Central Government that it should take immediate steps to send food, clothes and medicines for them. Preventive measures should be taken to check the out break of diseases. Suitable efforts should also be made to re-settle them, so that their family can live their comfortable.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, some hon. Members have pointed out the negligence being shown to Shri Abdul Hamid, who was awarded Param Veer Chakra; This is not the question of Shri Abdul Hamid alone but the national level players belonging to the rural areas are also being neglected. In this respect, I would like to tell you that all the gold medalist players of national level are leading a miserable life. Today there is wide gap between rural games and urban games as well as between rural players and urban players. The urban games like tennis, cricket and badminton etc. are given publicity on a large scale, but the rural games and players do not figure in the media. The centres, wrestling grounds and playgrounds, for the rural games are about to close and all the facilities, which were provided to the players are being withdrawn. Some days ago many wrestlers came to me and spoke of their grievances. Being a player of rural games, I realised their problems and miseries.

So, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request you to direct the Government that negligence hitherto shown to the rural games and players in India should now be stopped. There are two standards for players in one country. It is creating a serious situation. Besides this, being a player I would like to request the Government to take necessary steps for improving the situation in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised a very good question. Thank you for it. I understand that the state Government, Central Government, the Co-operative Sectors, big factories and industries of private sector can provide help to the rural players and there should be some provision for this in the law.

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is the last day of this session and I want to raise a very important question in the House. The question is that on the 12th of this month when we raised questions about the Bofors' scandal, at that time it was stated - in the House as well as outside also - on behalf of the Government that

.....*..... Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India made a statement that.

[English]

The time has come to forget the Bofors' affair.

MR. SPEAKER: The name will not go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY: The Government has contradicted that statement. But the House, the whole country and you are aware of the information imparted by Swedon Radio about the Bofors scandal. I am surprised if the Government makes a false statement how can you ignore it. I would like to place before you all the facts which have come through the press and the Swedish Radio. Mr. Headman, the War Material Inspector of Swedish Government said that
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would very respectfully submit that if some matter which appears in the newspaper in our country has to be relied upon and acted upon, it should be authenticated by the Member that it has some grain of truth. If something has