

Vayudoot who is responsible for a loss of Rs. 14 million of Vayudoot. The appointment of this officer to the responsible post of Chairman-cum-Managing Director is being done without any proper enquiry. The interview for the office was held on 28th November and Union Minister of Civil Aviation signed his appointment letter on 30th November and the approval of the Prime Minister was sought on 2nd December. It is a matter of doubt for all, that a person, who had been a pilot in a private organisation, which had only seven persons on its staff, is now going to head such a big organisation which has two thousand employees. In the name of ability/qualifications, this person has only one quality that in the last elections he had piloted the aeroplanes of many prominent leaders of the ruling party and he had imparted training of flying helicopter to the Civil Aviation Minister. The officers of the Vayudoot say that a big private organisation wants to capture Vayudoot through him. Since the Vayudoot has already incurred loss of billions of rupees, it is requested that for saving the Vayudoot a proper enquiry should be made before his appointment to such a responsible post

KUMARI VIM LA VERMA (Seoni): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a situation of severe drought in many districts of Madhya Pradesh. The crops of rice and groundnut have been ruined. There is a little production of soyabean and wheat has not been sowed so far. The district administration has already sent a report but the whole administration was busy in some by-elections and no attention was paid to the situation arising due to this natural calamity. The Central Government has already paid Rs. 20.18 crore in three quarterly instalments, to the Madhya Pradesh Government as part of its contribution to the budget of Rs. 37 crore for calamity relief fund for the year 1991-92.

The labourers are wandering from place to place in search of job. Projects like irrigation dams and roads should be constructed/started on a large scale so that the labourers may get regular employment till the sowing of next crops i.e. till the month of June.

The Madhya Pradesh Government should take immediate preventive steps to check spread of diseases due to water shortage and should provide seeds, fertilizers to the farmers and waive loans as per its promise.

I request the Central Government to release the balance amount of its share of contribution towards the relief fund and direct the Madhya Pradesh Government to meet these calamities on war footing for the sake of labourers and farmers.

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL (Godda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister of Nepal is visiting India. *Ganga Mukti Sangathan* is a part of Jai Prakash Babu's *Sangharsh Vahini*. They have written a letter to the Prime Minister of Nepal to stop construction of high dams there. Referring to the earthquake of Uttar Kashi, it has been stated in the letter that Himalaya being a new fold mountain the whole area lies in seismically sensitive zone. The intensity of the earthquake of 20th October, 1991, measured on the richter scale was 6.4. The scientists have admitted that this area is endemic to an earthquake of 8.2 intensity on richter scale.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on 7th December, 1988, more than one lakh people had died in Armenia in U.S.S.R. in an earthquake and after the earthquake the leading Soviet scientist Nurserey had admitted that in the absence of instruments, prediction about the impending earthquake can not be made. If this is the position of Soviet Union, which has not lagged behind America in the field of space and atomic science, where do India and Nepal stand.

There was no premonition of the recent earthquake that rocked Uttar Kashi. Neither the Indian scientists nor the American observatories could forewarn about it. The people become breathless on thinking of the catastrophe that may be caused when hundreds of metre high dams breach, not being able to withstand earthquake of high intensity. Therefore, I submit that no commitment should be made to the Prime Minister of

Nepal for the construction of the proposed hydels. To solve the flood problem of Uttar Pradesh the water of the Ganga should be brought through canals into Damodar, as was suggested by Shri K.L. Rao.

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA (Junagarh): Thank, you Mr. Deputy—Speaker, Sir, for giving me time to speak during the zero hour.

I want to narrate and draw attention of the Government to the experience that I had on 4th November, 1991 when I boarded the ship "Tipu Sultan" from Cochin to go to Lakshadweep alongwith my family members. I found the passengers greatly inconvenienced and the crew of the ship was pressurised and forced to take on board unauthorised cargo, which was kept blocking the emergency exit. "Tipu Sultan" is a passenger ship and thus the passengers were left to the mercy of God in the event of an emergency.

The police of Cochin and Lakshadweep is totally inactive and it does not extend any help to the officers of the ship. Such incidents have taken place in the past and the guilty were also punished but it did not have desired result. So, I request and hope that the Government would take positive steps to check loading of unauthorised cargo on passenger ships.

MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government through you to a disease, named *Kala-azar*, which has affected at least 30 districts of Bihar, out of which ten districts are worst affected. This disease is spreading like an epidemic in Bihar, and in Darbhanga, from where I come, there were 10 deaths, and 1123 patients in 1987, and the statistics upto October, 1991 available with me today show that the number of patients have risen to 4211 and according to official record 35 deaths have already taken place.

Sir, I know that these are the Government data, but if one goes there and makes enquiries from any social organisation, he

will come to know that in our district alone 200 people have already died till this day. This is a very serious matter which should be viewed with concern. There is acute shortage of medicine in our district, where one thousand five hundred people are hospitalised and this medicine named pentamidine is imported. There is woeful shortage of it in Bihar. I would like to emphasize on the Government that if as a preventive measure D.D.T. is not sprayed in the coming days i.e. in January or February, this disease will not be controlled. This disease is likely to advance into and spread in the neighbouring states like West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, I request the Central Government to take it seriously and not to leave this work to be done by the state Government. Instead it must be taken over by the Central Government in its own hands and got accomplished.

[English]

SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI (Amalapuram): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to draw the attention of the Government of India to the following few points.

I came to know that recently Rs. 2 crores have been misused in the Scheduled Caste Finance Co-operative Society of Mahaboobnagar District of Andhra Pradesh which amount was allotted to the benefit of Scheduled Caste people. This incident happened while purchasing the cattle-field lands to the Scheduled Caste people. Not only this. There are a number of instances happening like this in the country.

Another important thing is there are several instances in which funds allotted to the Scheduled Caste people's welfare are being diverted to other departments. In this connection I request the hon. Minister of Welfare Shri Sitaram Kesriji to look into the matter urgently and take immediate action by sending an Official Committee to probe into this scandal.

I am very sorry that the funds allotted for the welfare of the Scheduled Caste people