

would like to draw your attention and the attention of the entire House towards the alarming situation of Koraput district of Orissa. Nearly 2000 tribal people have died within a span of only one month due to epidemics like diarrhoea and gastroenteritis. The Health Department and the Government of Orissa are trying to control these epidemics but they have to get help to control these epidemics and so, they have sought the assistance of the Government of India. But the Government of India has not responded so far. This is the situation in the tribal areas of Koraput and Kalahandi districts. Every year people die but no body takes cognizance of this. Within a span of only one month, 2000 tribal people have died, but the national Press has not taken it seriously and a line has not been published. If one man is killed in Delhi or in the periphery of Delhi, it takes place in the front page of the national Press. But here, 2000 tribal people have died and even the Ministers are not concerned, the Government of India is not concerned, the Press and the electronic media are not concerned. Koraput is a backward district in the country. Therefore, I request you to kindly direct the Government to immediately assist the State Government and help to control the epidemics so that the situation there will return to normalcy.

MR. SPEAKER: As this pertains to the tribal area, I would request the Minister to please look into it and extend help to the extent possible.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA (Machhlishahar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell you, about the odd situation faced by me. Sir, I had been a member in the 9th Lok Sabha also, but no flat has yet been allotted to me...(*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: I shall talk to you, I will help you.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You, come to me, I will help you fully. Such issues cannot be raised in the House. Whatever you are saying will not go on record. You come to me, I will help you.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roseera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is a very senior member and it is his third term. As per your instruction if any member's residence is to be shifted or his residence is to be vacated, you must be consulted before doing so. He was in the hospital...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You talk to me please. I shall call the officers concerned.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am telling you that all this is not going on record. Come to me, I shall talk to the officers.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat, come to me, I will help you.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to Textile Policy of 1985 a number of textile mills in the country have been closed. Gujarat, especially, is the worst victim of this policy where 26 textile mills have been lying closed for the last 4-5 years. In 1986 the Central Government had formulated a scheme namely "Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme" under which 12000 retrenched workers were paid their dues amounting to Rs. 23 cores 65 lakh. Mr.

*Not recorded.

Speaker, Sir, there are 14000 more jobless workers who are eligible for these facilities but are still waiting to get their dues. Though they have completed the necessary formalities seven years earlier. The Government has sanctioned the amount but these poor workers have not yet received it. They have been jobless for the last 7 years. Some sort of objection is always raised in regard to their payment. Diwali is at hand but their lots are still unchanged. Many of them have committed suicide. No one is taking any care of their plight. In the previous Textile Committee I happened to be a member and then we with our efforts have made some funds sanctioned for them. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the issue of life and death for them. It is my request that the sanctioned amount may be disbursed among them immediately.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am related directly to the city of Ahmedabad. The hon. Minister of Finance is present in the House. He might be knowing that whenever the Industrial policy has been discussed here, doubts have always been expressed regarding the condition of the labourers and the impact on them of the changes made in the industrial policy. We are very much concerned about their lot. The Government has always been giving assurances that the interests of the labourers will always be protected. Time will tell as to how far these assurances are fulfilled. But the reality is that 26 thousands labourers of Ahmedabad, Gandhi Nagar which I represent, became jobless and unemployed as a result of the amendment in the Textile Policy in 1985. The scheme which was formulated to protect the interest of the labourers, could help 12000 workers and that too after vigorous efforts and the remaining 14 thousands are still in a very miserable condition.

I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to give benefits of the scheme to those 14 thousand labourers also. Otherwise it would be very difficult to support the future amendments however good enough they may be.

[English]

SHRI RADHIKA RANJAN PRAMANIK (Mathurapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, under Rule 222, I have given a privilege notice, in reply to my unstarred question No.6416, dated the 10 September 1991, regarding the revitalisation of the coal-based magnetic hydrodynamic (MHD) power plant (5 MW), the Minister of Power and Non-Conventional Energy Sources gave a reply that the coal based MHD powerplant has been successfully demonstrated at the experimental level, proving the technical feasibility of generating electricity using MHD technology.

In the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended on 31 March 1990, No. 2 of 1991, Union Government (Scientific Departments), it is categorically mentioned that the pilot plant was being run on LPG instead of coal, contravening the approved project proposal in which it had been stated that MHD technology once mastered with coal, could subsequently be developed with gas, but the reverse would not naturally follow.

The objective of the programme to set up coal-based MHD power plant for creating indigenous capability for generating power economically, using MHD technology is still a distant goal.

This project has incurred an expenditure of Rs.26 crores and has taken 13 years. The statement of the Hon. Minister is against the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General...

MR. SPEAKER: No Please. You do not have to read it. You have given the notice. I have to look into it.

SHRI RADHIKA RANJAN PRAMANIK: This is a very vital issue and the statement made by the Minister is untrue.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: First, we must compliment the Hon. Member. He has found out from the CAG Report a very technical matter.