

YOUTH PARLIAMENT

A MODEL DEBATE PROCEEDINGS OF A SITTING (MR. SPEAKER IN THE CHAIR)

OATH TAKING

MR. SPEAKER : Member to take the oath or affirmation, Secretary General please.

SECRETARY GENERAL : Smt. 'K' who stands elected from the Pali Constituency of Rajasthan will now take the oath or affirmation.(call out Smt.'K'.(Smt. 'K' proceeds from the place that she is occupying to the right hand of the Secretary's General table and hands over her Certificate of election to the officer at the Table).

SECRETARY GENERAL: Madam, do you want to take oath or affirmation?

SMT. 'K' : Oath Please

SECRETARY GENERAL : in which language would you like to take the oath?

SMT.'K' : In English Please.

(The Secretary General hands over to Smt. 'K' a copy of the form of Oath in the language in which she wants to take the oath)

SMT. 'K': "I, 'IC having been elected a Member of the Lower House of the Youth Parliament, do swear in the name of God that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established, that I will uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India and that I will faithfully discharge the duty upon which I am about to enter."(The member then places the oath paper on the Table of the Secretary General and shakes hand with the Chair. The member then passes behind the Chair to the other side of the Secretary's General Table, where she signs the Roll of Members. After signing the roll, she takes her seat in the House. The M.Ps. welcome her by thumping on their desks).

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, as we meet today. It is my sad duty to inform the House of the demise of our former colleague Shri Suresh Chandra.

Shri Suresh Chandra was an agriculturist by profession and an active social worker, he worked in the rural areas devoting his time and energy to the welfare of agricultural labourers and the up-life of the backward classes and the downtrodden. He was President of Mazdoor Sabha, Mirzapur.

An able parliamentarian and an effective orator, he took keen interest in the proceedings of the House.

He passed away at New Delhi on 30th June, 1988 at the age of 35.

PRIME MINISTER AND LEADERS OF THE HOUSE: Sir I rise to pay my tributes to Shri Suresh Chandra, whose death has been deeply mourned by all, he was a young man who came from a family of freedom fighters and whose father had made a name for himself and this tradition was carried by the family. He was with us to the very last moment. He seemed to be well and happy and, therefore the shock of his passing away was all the greater. He had a bright future before him. I should like to extend my deep condolences to this family.

LEADER OF OPPOSITION: Sir, I associate myself with the tributes paid by you and the leader of the house.

I had the privilege to work with Suresh Chandra as a Colleague. He was a person, who because of his lovable nature, never annoyed any one and he was always with a smiling face and was a very open hearted person. We have lost a very good social worker, political worker and a public man in him.

I would like to associate myself and my party in sending our condolences to the bereaved family.

MR. SPEAKER: The house may stand in silence for while to express our deep sorrow.

(The Members then stand in silence for a while)

Secretary General may convey the message of condolences to the bereaved family.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MINISTERS

MR. SPEAKER : Prime Minister to introduce new Ministers.

PRIME MINISTER : Mr. speaker, Sir I have pleasure in introducing to you and through you, to the House, my colleagues, the new Ministers.

Shri, Minister of Irrigation.

Smt. , Minister of Civil Supplies

(While being introduced each minister in turn stands with folded hands. The Members greet them by thumping on their desks).

QUESTION HOUR

MR. SPEAKER : Now the question hour starts. Question No. 101 Shri 'A'.

SHRI 'A' : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Question No.101, will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) Whether a large number of complaints have been received by P & T Department from telephone subscribers regarding misuse of STD Facility by unscrupulous Facility person; and
- (b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

MR. SPEAKER ; Hon'ble Minister of Communications.

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS : (a) Yes, Sir, Complaints of this nature have been received, In many cases, investigations showed that there was no spurt in the meter readings, and no unauthorized connections were detected. If a few cases, unauthorized connections were detected and action initiated against the persons found involved in the malpractice.

(b) The government Proposes to take the following steps in this regard :

- (i) Amendment of the Indian Telegraph Act to make unauthorized diversion of line a major offence
- (ii) Setting up of vigilance squads to make surprise checks for detecting any misuse;
- (iii) To import charge analyzers to detect such cases more easily,

MR. SPEAKER ; Shri 'A'

SHRI 'A' : Sir, some unauthorised connections were detected. I want to know what specific steps have

been taken by the Government ?

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS : The specific steps have been broadly stated. We got a Vigilance Squad which immediately goes in it. I cannot give the exact number of complaint that have been registered. The information is being gathered. For example, I could say, in Delhi during the last year.

ANOTHER MEMBER: 21 days notice was not enough for the Minister to collect the information. In this how the House is to be treated Sir?

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS: I have not been asked to collect this information. I am only incidentally stating that in Delhi during the last year, there were 50 such complaints. All the complaints were investigated and it was detected that in three companies there was misconnection. In all these cases, the employees were identified, and were suitably proceeded against.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. 'B'

MR. 'B' : Sir, it has been stated that 'charge analysers' are being imported have to be gone through. We have come to the final stage, I cannot say exactly by what time. But we are in final stage.

MR. SPEAKER : Next Question , Question No. 102, Mr. 'C'

MR. 'C' : Mr. Speaker Sir, Question No.102 will the MINISTER OF ENERGFY be please to state :

- (a) whether the Government have assessed the potential of power generating from tidal waves;
- (b) if , so the outcome of such assessment :
- (c) the estimated cost of power generation from tidal waves vis-a-vis the conventional methods of thermal and hydro-electric power generation.
- (d) whether the Government have formulated any plan to set up Tidal Power Station in the gulf of Kutch.
- (e) if so, whether such plants are to be set up in other places like Bay of Bengal etc; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister of Energy.

MINISTER OF ENERGY: Sir,

(a) to (f). The Central Electricity Authority has undertaken studies and investigation to assess the techno-economic feasibility of a tidal power projected in the Gulf of Kutch which envisages and installed capacity of about 900 MW. There is no proposal at present to set up a tidal power project at any other location. It is estimated that the cost of tidal power generation at the proposed project in the Gulf of Kutch will be about 85 paisa per unit. The average costs of generation from conventional hydro and thermal power projects, based on projects recently cleared by the CEA, are as under.

Hydro : 35 to 60 paisa per unit, Thermal : 50 to 85 paisa per unit.

MR. SPEAKER ; Shri C

SHRI 'C': Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has given the reply that the estimated cost of tidal power generation at the proposed project in the Gulf of Kutch will be about 85 paisa per unit, and that from hydro the cost will be about 35 to 60 paisa per unit and from thermal at 50 to 85 paisa per unit.

I was to know from the Home, Minister what is the estimated cost of power generation from the wind and solar systems and if the cost of power generation from the wind and solar systems is low in comparison

to hydro and thermal system etc. whether the pace of programme of power generation from these systems of wind and solar is being increased in the country.

MINISTER OF ENERGY : Sir, as far as wind is concerned, the cost estimated is about 80 to 90 paisa and solar at present- if we take in absolute terms it is much costlier because we have not yet been able to tap the solar energy on commercial basis, but experiments are being tried. If you take the cost at the production level, then the solar cost is nearly Rs. 2 more than the thermal cost. We have to consider the cost delivered i.e., the cost to consumer. If that is considered, then we find that solar energy can become comparable and competitive, and we are trying to establish. Now a 30 MW Electricity Solar Plant in Rajasthan. The scheme is being worked out.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri 'D'

SHRI 'D' : May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether power production can be increased by 500 MW and coal worth 30 million tones can be saved through full exploitation of new indigenously developed technology?

MINISTER OF ENERGY : Sir, I agree that using tidal energy, we will be able to save coal, because at the coastal side particularly, it is very difficult to transport coal and the way from the place where coal is available. That is why, if we use tidal energy- we have a project which will give about 900 Mega Watt worth of power in the Kutch region by tidal wave. When that fructifies, the cost will be more or less the same 80 paisa on transport of coal. Use of coal will be saved. I agree with the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER : Smt. 'E'

SMT. 'E' : Sir production of energy is an important aspect and must thank the Minister and the Ministry for a coordinated and over all development of energy system in the country. But the transport of energy. i.e. transmission is a very important factor since the loss involves 30% at other end. What are the special measures and research that you are undertaking more particularly in super-conductivity so that transmission cost is saved, at least? What is your programme-technological and technical advancement programme for transmission of electricity, particularly through the system like super-conductivity etc.

MINISTER OF ENERGY : As far as transmission losses are concerned, today, the average transmission loss is about 21 to 23 % ; 50% of it is theft. We have made Central Laws; State also have laws to save it. And this theft is possible only when there is collusion. We want to take firm action; State Electricity Boards must take firm action about this matter.

As far as the technical losses are concerned, I agree with the hon. member that with new technological advances like super-conductivity, the technical losses will come down very sharply and our nation is, in fact, one of the advanced countries in the world, in the field of research in super-conductivity I am sure, it will be great boom to this area of transmission of power.

MR. SPEAKER : Next Question : Question No. 103 Shri 'G'

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Member is absent , Next Question : Question No.104 Shri 'H'

SHRI 'H' : Sir, will the MINISTER OF FOOD & CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

- (a) the latest position of food grain reserve in the country ;
- (b) whether keeping in view the present drought situation. Government have adequate stock of food grains to meet the requirements of the country; and
- (c) if no, the measures proposed to be taken by Government to deal with the situation ?

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Minister for Food & Civil Supplies.

MINISTER FOR FOOD & CIVIL SUPPLIES : (a) Sir, the total stock of food grains with the public agencies as on 1st January, 1988 was estimated at 14.14 million tones.

(b) & (c) The stocks available are adequate to meet the present requirement of the public distribution system. There is also regular replenishment of stocks through procurement operations. Further the Government is also keeping open the option to import food grains as and when considered necessary.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri H

Shri 'H': Sir, is it a fact that the reserve of food grain have declined from 23 million tones to 15 million tones during the month July 1987; if so, what are the steps to fulfill this deficit of food grains? Is there any target fixed for rice and wheat during the Rabi Season?

MINISTER FOR FOOD & CIVIL SUPPLIES : Sir, as far as the availability of the food grain is concerned, the requirement of the buffer stock policy is 21. 1 million tones. Against that, 14.44million tones of food is available in our buffer stock and the shortfall is only 6 million tones. I hope this will be off-set in the next rabi season and on going kharif season. As far as the storage capacity is concerned, there is a policy that we are constructing additional storage capacity also so that whatever is the requirement of the buffer stock it is stored at different places. If you want to know about the presented storage capacity, I can supply it to the Hon'ble Member. This is a long list situated at different states.

MR. SPEAKER : Smt, 'I'

SMT. 'I' : Sir, I would like to know whether because of the short age of stock in food grains, has the Government supplied rice and wheat which is not food for human consumption? Such stores have been received from certain States and complaints were made to the Govt. Has it been noticed by the Govt. that such an instance has taken place and what steps you have taken in this matter.

MINISTER FOR FOOD & CIVIL SUPPLIES : The Hon'ble Member has supplied this information. I will look into it.

SMT. I : Sir, he may be having the information with him because this is connected with shortage of food.

MINISTER FOR FOOD & CIVIL SUPPLIES: The hon. Member has supplied this information. I am not aware about this complaint. You have supplied this information. I will definitely look into it.

SMT. 'I' : Sir, this is a very serious matter, supply of rotten food grains will greatly damage the health of people. You must direct the Govt. to ensure that this is not repeated.

MR SPEAKER : Yes, would the Hon'ble Minister like to say anything on this?

MINISTER FOR FOOD & CIVIL SUPPLIES : Sir, there is no two opinion on this that it is very serious matter. The Govt. is fully committed to safeguarding the health of the people of the nation. I assure you that all steps are being taken to ensure that good quality food grains are supplied through the distribution system. Special Calls have also been set up to monitor the quality of food grains both in the godowns and at the retail level. If The Hon'ble Members has any specific details, I will have it thoroughly examine and anyone found guilty will be severely dealt with.

MR. SPEAKER: Next Question : Question No. 105 Shri 'J'

SHRI J : Mr. Speaker, sir, Question No.105 : Will the MINISTERS OF TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the foreign exchange earnings from tourists during the last three year, year-wise; and

(b) the names of the five countries on the top from the point of view of tourist arrivals in India?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister of Tourism.

MINISTER OF TOURISM ; Sir, (a) the estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism during the last three years were as follows;

In 1984-85, Rs. 1300 Crores; in 1985-86, Rs.1460 Crores ; in 1986-87, Rs.1780 Crores;

(b) the five countries on the top in terms of tourist arrivals in India during 1987 were : (Bangladesh, United Kingdom, Pakistan, United States of America and Sri Lanka in that order).

MR. SPEAKER : Shri 'J'

SHRI J : What is the number of tourist arrival from different countries with foreign exchange earned and which is the country from where we earned the highest foreign exchange in the matter of tourist arrival?

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister

MINISTER OF TOURISM : Sir, in the statement I have given the name of five countries, foreign exchange earned in 1986-87 from different countries is like this , U.K- 14%, U.S.A — 11%, tourist travels has increased accordingly,

MR. SPEAKER : Shri P'

SHRI 'P' : What is the number of tourist from USSR with foreign exchange earned? What are the special steps taken by the Government to attract tourists?

MINISTER OF TOURISM: Recently with USSR steps have been taken at different levels for tourist exchange promotion. I do not have the exact figures.

But last year, we started an exchange promotion programme with USSR and other places. We are trying to attract more number of tourists from USSR. Country-wise estimate of exchange promotion programmes is not available.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri L.

SHRI L : May I know whether the Ministry of Tourism has made any study to find out as to what is India's potential for attracting foreign tourists; if so, may I know to what extent this potential has been utilised successfully by us up till now?

MINISTER OF TOURISM ; India has the greatest tourist potential in the world because we have got a number oil archeological monuments. We have got tourist facilities, which have been created after the creation of this Ministry in 1985. We have got 18 overseas offices which provide facilities for tourists to come to India. We can compare the foreign exchange earning from tourism with that of handicrafts. Where as we are spending Rs. 75 for earning Rs. 100 from handicraft, we are spending only Rs.7 for earning Rs. 100 from tourism. That shows that tourism earns lot for our country. The tourist infrastructure which has built up in our country over the years, will attract lot of tourists. We have conducted survey and studies to see that tourists come to India in large number. In 1986, we have crossed the one million figure of tourist's arrival in the country. It shows that the Government has taken adequate steps to see that India gets more foreign tourists.

MR. SPEAKER ; Now question Hour is over

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(interruption), No more supplementary please.

BREACH OF PRIVILEGE

SHRI 'T' : Sir, a serious breach of privilege has been committed by the leading Newspaper of Delhi, while commenting on the recommendations of the Public Accounts committee. The paper has attributed dishonest motives and I have requested you to allow me to raise a question on that matter now.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri 'T', have you given notice of it earlier? You may give due notice alongwith a copy of newspaper cutting and I shall consider it. You cannot spring a surprise on me like this.

SHRI 'T' : I have already given notice of it at 10.00 .AM. today,

MR. SPEAKER : It will be examined when it come to me, I shall consider it and let you know my decision. Now papers to be laid

PAPERS TO BE LAID

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Minister of Steel & Mines.

MINISTER OF STEEL & MINES : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi & English Versions) Under sub-section (I) of Section 28 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957:-

- (1) The Mineral Concession (Third Amendment, Rules 1987 published in Notification No. G. S.R.1002 (E) in the Gazette of India dated 21st December, 1987.
- (2) S.O.145(E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 4th February, 1988 authorizing the Geological Surrey of India to carry out such detailed investigations for the purpose of obtaining such information as may be necessary in the areas specified in the Table annexed to the notification.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Minster for Agriculture.

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-A copy each of the following papers (Hindi & English Versions) under sub-section (1) 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (i) Review by the Government on the working of the State Farm Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi for the year, 1986-87
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad for the year 1986-87 alongwith Audited Accounts and the comments of Comptroller & Auditor General Limited

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Minister for Urban Development.

MINISTER FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT: Sir, I beg to say on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi & English Versions) under sub-section (1) 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (i) Review by the Government on the working of the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad for the year 1986-87.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad for the year 1986-87 alongwith Audited Accounts and the comments of Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

MESSAGE FROM UPPER CHAMBER

MR. SPEAKER: Secretary to report message from Upper Chamber of Youth Parliament.

SECRETARY GENERAL; Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary of the Upper Chamber of Youth Parliament:-

In accordance with the Provisions of the rules of Procedure and conduct of Business in the Upper House of Youth Parliament. I am directed to enclose a copy of the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunal's) Bill, 1988, which has been passed by the Upper Chamber at its sitting held on _____, 1988.

MR. SPEAKER : Secretary to lay on the Table a copy of the Bill as passed by the Upper Chamber.

SECRETARY : Sir, I lay on the Table of the House, the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Bill, 1988 as passed by the Upper Chamber.

WELCOME TO THE DANISH PARLIAMENT DELEGATION

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, I have to make an announcement .

On my own behalf of the hon. Members of the House, I have a great pleasure in extending our warm welcome to His Excellency Mr.Svend Jakobsen, speaker of the Danish Parliament and the Hon. Members of the Danish Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

The other Hon. Members of the Delegation are :

1. Mr. Knud Ostergaerd, Deputy Speaker,
2. Mrs. Lilli Gyldenkilde, also Deputy Speaker
3. Mr. Povl. Brondsted, also Deputy Speaker,

It is very high powered delegation. The delegation arrived on Sunday _____, 1988. They are now seated in the Special Box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. We also convey our warm greetings and very best wishes through them to Her Majesty the Queen of Denmark, The Prime Minister, the Danish Parliament, the Government and the friendly people of Denmark.

CALLING ATTENTION MOTION

MR. SPEAKER : Now let us take up the Calling Attention Motion.

Mr. 'X', please, call the attention of the Minister.

Mr. 'X': Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Food & Civil Supplies to the situation arising out of the reported inadequate supply of food grains to the State by the Centre and the action taken by the government in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Mr. Minister, please.

MINISTER OF FOOD & CIVIL SUPPLIES: Sir, the State Government/ Union Territories intimate the Central Government every month of their requirement of food grains from the Central Pool for issue through the Public Distribution System. The allotment of food grains to the various State/Union Territories is made on a month- to- month basis, taking into account the availability or stocks in the Central Pool, the relative needs of the various states, the Market availability and other related factors. These are being reviewed every month and allocations are made accordingly.

During the year 1987-88, total quantity of 153.61 lakh tones of food grains was distributed throughout the country. This is a sizeable increase over the quantity distributed in 1987, which was 140.26 Lakh tones. The off-take of food grains from Central and State stocks has increased due to the failure of monsoon in many parts of the country and consequent drought conditions. Government have been able to meet the increased requirements of public distribution system, out of the stocks that have been built up by the Government in accordance with the policy followed by the Government during the past several years. Apart from normal allocations, special allocations have been made by the Central Government to the State to

meet emergent situation like floods, drought and other natural calamities. Allocations have also been made for the National Rural Employment Programme and the Employment Generation Scheme., which primarily help the poor people in the rural areas by providing them with works as well as food . the quantities allotted so far under these two schemes during the year 1988-89 have been about 5.751akh tones.

I would like to mention in this connection that the management of food economy has to be a joint effort of the Centre and the States. The availability of the stock in the Central Pool, which comes of help for release for public distribution system, can be sustained and improved only with the willing procurement effort on the part of the States, and also prudent and judicious release in consonance with the policy of the Central Government in the interest of the country as a whole. It is, therefore, not merely a question of demand by the State Governments and supply by the Centre but a matter of Mutual maximization of effort regarding food management and judicious public distribution in the context of the overall food situation in the country.

I may further add that the pubic distribution systems can cater to only a part of the requirements of the people particularly the vulnerable section of society and cannot meet the needs of the entire population.

Mr. SPEAKER : Mr. 'X'

MR. 'X' : Mr. Speaker; sir, really I have to thank the chair for giving me an opportunity to call the attention of the Agriculture Minister for taking up the discussion with regard to the situation arising out of the inadequate supply of food grains to the states by the Centre, that too at a time when my own state is not in position to feed the people of Tamilnadu even for three to four weeks.

ANOTHER MEMBER : There is no water also.

Mr. 'X' : here we are discussing only about food grains, Sir, I know fully well that in our country, consisting of so many States. It is the bounded duty of every State which is a surplus state to give to the Central Pool after procuring rice or wheat as the case may be . And I also feel hat it is the bounden duty of the Centre to send rice to the States concerned at time when they are actually in need of it. There should be some mutual understanding not only politically but economically also. Then only can we create a very peaceful atmospheres, rather a pleasant atmosphere between the States and the Centre.

Sir, as far as my State is concerned, we do not have natural resources as so many States in this country have, we do not have Godavari or Krishna as he mentioned here. We do not have sufficient water to cultivate out fields. But sir, when we had rice in surplus, when we rice in abundance, we used to sent it to our Central Pool. Specially during the year 1987. Sir, we have faced such crisis that we never faced through out the history of Tamil Nadu . As far as I know I have never seen or faced such a trouble or suffering. I have never seen such a crisis faced by our people as we have faced specially during the year 1987.

Sir, the Hon. Minister just now stated that every month they are supplying rice and wheat to all the States,. Sir, form June , 1987 not even a single grain has been sent from the Central Pool to Tamil Nadu. Many times, I myself our Chief Minister and our concerned Minister met the officials here. They did not even care to give a proper reply to our Chief Minister or the concerned Minister of our State. They think that Tamil Nadu people will go on without taking any food grains continually for years together. Sir, that is the state of affairs.

I want to know specifically the Minister concerned what steps they have taken so far when have repeatedly asked that 85,000 tones of rice should be sent to Tamil Nadu immediately to feed that people there. Even 25 days have passed but not a single grain has been received by us (Time Bell) (interruptions). It is just like wailing after the child is dead. Let us not be wail over the deaths in Tamil Nadu but please give us relief as early as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. 'H',

Shri 'H': Sir, may I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the problem of a different State? I think he will calm down in this mood while dealing with the problem of my States. Particularly because there is no such conflict between my state and the Central Government.

I only want to ask some basic questions. You know that Maharashtra has always cooperated for procurement; they never failed in contribution to the Central Pool, whether they produce, and particularly in regard to sugar you are aware how much we produce and how much we have contributed. Now in Maharashtra, as per the statement which has been given by the State Government which I am holding, and the latest telex message, the rice situation is becoming precarious. From 75,000 tones per month, you have brought it down to 25,000 tones per month, whereby the ration allocation in Bombay has been reduced to half and in the rural areas to 25 percent of what they were getting. So, I want to know why such a reduction has been made and whether it is possible to increase the quota of the Maharashtra State. So, Sir I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister at the outset why this quota has been reduced so drastically from Maharashtra, from 75,000 tones to 25,000 tones, Similarly the quota of Maharashtra for wheat which was 45,000 tones per month has been drastically reduced to the level of 30-35,000 tones quota for wheat has been reduce from 30,000 tones to 20,000 tones or whatever it is. For wheat flour it was suddenly reduced within the last month and a half, whereby the bakeries are being starved. Along with this is another aspect. Will the Minister give me the information. If he can as to the position in various States, particularly, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and other with regard to the ration given per adult so that we can have a comparative view? I wanted to ask him these questions, why it was reduced, whether it would be possible for him to allow them to purchase, and rather available to other States.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. 'W'

MR. 'W': The first point that I want to make is that complaints are coming in larger and larger number from states as well as from the consumer that the food grains supply by the FCI is often rotten, unfit for human consumption. There is something rotten with the FCI itself. I would like the Food Minister to look into the matter seriously and rectify matters lest they should get completely out of control.

This is the first which I want to make'

The Second point is that on the _____, 1987. I have got the figures here, the then Food Minister placed on the Table of the House in reply to an Unstarred Question — Iain a statement showing the allocation and the supply from the Central Pool. If you go into the figures — every State has got less food than the actual allotment. This has been there continuously for three years. These are the figures what I find from your own statement. Therefore, the allotment of food grains by the Central Government has no meaning whatsoever.

Now, I would like to make the third point. I have verified the facts from him and he said that they are true. I did not want to be contradicted. Now the fact is accordingly to the statement in Tamil Nadu after 1954-55 there has been not procurement worth the names, that is procurement has been about 5 lakh odd tones in the last year only and before that the procurement had been just about 20,000 to 30,000 tones maximum. May be, it was on lakh tones in one particular year but still he has stated is that the public distribution system in Tamil Nadu is one of the best. This is what is stated and he has also stated that in all these years through the public distribution system on an average 30,000 tones of rice have been supplied.

I do not understand the validity of these figures. If 30,000 tones of rice per month has been supplied on an average, it comes to about 3, 60,000 tones. How when procuring 20,000, 40,000 and 50,000 tones, they would be able to supply 30,000 tones per month, unless the Tamil Nadu Government has got that

mythical Akshay Para of Drupadi? I do not understand this. Therefore, if these figures are just flung before the people of Tamil Nadu or the people of India, they will have absolutely no credibility whatsoever with the statements made by the Government of India. Therefore, in their own interest, let them do the things properly. That is all I would say with regard to that.

Mr. SPEAKER : Mr. 'L'

MR. 'L' : Deficit state as far as good especially rice is concerned, the food situation is so grave in Kerala that it now threatens into the collapse of public distribution system.

The annual requirement of rice for public distribution is 20 lakh tones . However the monthly allocation is hardly 95,000 tones. It is extremely meager. Moreover several States has imposed restriction on the movement of food grains. This has resulted in the arrivals of food grains in Kerala having fallen down creating serious situation. There is failure of monsoon. The prices are rising. The Government of Kerala has approached the Central Government for raising monthly allocations. It is of immediate importance that the monthly allocations be increased to the original quota of at least 1, 35,000 tones. Further the Civil Supplies Corporation has to buy rice from surplus States for the requirement consumers outside the statutory rationing systems. This is necessary to see that prices are kept in check and that rice is available at reasonable rates. The Corporation has approached the Central Government for permission should be granted immediately. We have been asked to switch over to cash crops in order to earn foreign exchange for the whole country. Our people have to suffer on account of his policy and they are thinking seriously of switching back to food grains now. Our public distribution system has been acclaimed as one of the best in the country.

MR. SPEAKER : HON'BLE MINISTER PLEASE.

MINISTER OF FOOD & CIVIL SUPPLIES : Sir, I have listened carefully to the point raised by Hon'ble Member of this House on the subject of distribution of food grains to the States by the Centre for their Public Distribution System. I have due concern for the hardship being faced by some of the States due to drought and failure of monsoon in some parts of the country. It has always been the endeavour of this Government to help the States/UTs. In mitigating their suffering. But in spite of our clear intentions we are some times helpless because of certain limitations. Therefore, in view of this, I would request the affected States to kindly bear with us in this moment for crises, have faith in us and we on our part will do our best to help them to extent possible to meet requirements of their people.

My friends from Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Kerala and several other states have been made points of increasing the allotment of various commodities out of Central Pool to their States. As regards the position with regard to Tamil Nadu, I may submit that I have already explained the position of supply rice to that State in this House earlier in reply to questions and through statements made by me on the subject in the House. But in spite of all our assurances the leaders from the State choose to enter into controversy with the Centre and went on to sit on fast to press the Centre in the matter, When the Chief Minister started his fast, I immediately contacted him and requested him that this can be amicably settled.

Sir, with regard to the point raised in respect of Maharashtra by my friend Shri 'H'. I may like to submit that this is only in statutory ration areas that allocation on ration is fixed. We are not covering the entire population. It depends upon the State Governments to issue wherever they like and wherever they find there is need. And the entire country side is not covered by rationing for food grains. Therefore, the information sought by him with regard to ration given per adult in various States is irrelevant.

So far as the problem of Maharashtra is arising out of drought in some parts of that State is concerned. I may state that a Central team has already visited and the sanction for the adequate relief based on the recommendations of the team has also been issued. With regard to the Shortage of food, we have, as a

special case, allowed the Maharashtra Government to purchase 40,000 tones of rice from Punjab and Haryana.

With regard to Kerala, I may inform the House that 90-95 thousand tones of rice has been the off take of Kerala has demanded more rice. Their request is under consideration. This will be decided keeping in view the overall stock position in the Central Pool as also the requests for rice from other States during the current year. I assure the House that to the extent possible we shall try to meet their demand.

As I have already mentioned that the management of food economy is joint effort of the Centre and States and for its success the help and co-operation of the States, is utmost necessary. I therefore urge upon all the States both the surplus and deficit to kindly extend their co-operation to enable us to meet the situation during this year which is one of drought and monsoon failure.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS BILL INTRODUCED

MR. SPEAKER ; Hon'ble Minister of Labour to introduce the Bill

MINISTER OF LABOUR ; Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Employees' Provident Funds and miscellaneous Provisions Act. 1952 and the Indian Penal Code.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Employees' Provident Funds and miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and the Indian Penal Code”.

“Those who are in favour will please say ‘Aye’.

(The majority of the Members say ‘Aye’)

“Those who are against is please say ‘No’ “

(A minority of the Members say ‘No’).

I think the ‘Ayes’ have it, the ‘Ayes’ have it, the ‘Ayes’ have it. Leave is granted.

MINISTER OF LABOUR : Sir, I introduce the Bill

BILL FOR CONSIDERATION

MR. SPEAKER : Now the House will take up consideration of the COMMISSION OF ‘SATI’ (PREVENTION) BILL, 1987.

Minister, please.

MINISTER FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT : Mr. Speaker, I beg to move :

“That the Bill to provide for the more effective prevention of the commission of Sati and its glorification and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration”.

Sir, the House is aware of the crime of “Sati” recently committed in a village of our country. All section of our society have shown a rare unanimity in condemning the incident and views for the effective prevention of the commission of `Sate and its glorification. Although the offence of attempt to commit ‘Suicide’ is contained in Section 309 of the Indian Penal Code, and has been held by various courts to include the commission of ‘Safi’ the punishment is not deterrent enough to prevent such a practice. Besides, there is no provision to prohibit the glorification of

Therefore, with a view to provide more stringent punishment, to those abetting the act of `Sate as also to

prevent its glorification the Government has brought forward this bill before this august House, Salient features, of some of the important provisions of the Bill are as follows.

1. The Bill defines 'Sati' comprehensively to include not only the burning of burial alive of a widow with the deceased husband but also of a widow with the husband or relative. This is because it has come to our notice that there have been cases where a woman has been burnt alive with a brother or stepson.
2. Anyone who abets the commission of 'Sati' would be punishable with the maximum penalty i.e. death or imprisonment for life. The abetment of an attempt to commit 'Sati' would be punishable with imprisonment for life.
3. Those convicted of such offence shall be disqualified from inheriting the property of the victim. Further such persons will be disqualified under the Representation of the People's Act, 1951 from the date of such conviction and shall continue to be disqualified for a further period of five years after releases.
4. For the attempt to commit sati we have provided the same punishment, as for the attempt to commit suicide in the Indian Penal Code. However, since only a person under great pressure or not sound in mind, would attempt to commit Sati, we have provided that the court trying such an offence should, before convicting any person take into consideration the circumstances leading to the commission of the offence.
5. Glorification of Sati has been defined in detail and include observance of ceremonies, collection of funds and construction of temples. We propose punishment by imprisonment which may extend to seven years for the offence of glorification of Sati.
6. The Bill also lays down procedures for setting up of special courts and appointment of special public prosecutors.
7. All laws in force immediately before the commencement of the proposed Act will stand repealed, but anything already done under the laws so repealed shall be deemed to have been done under the corresponding provisions of this Act.

MR. SPEAKER, Sir, I am confident that the all Hon'ble Members of this House irrespective of party affiliation will welcome the Bill whole heartedly and through it help to eradicate this horrendous practice once for all. With these words, I now move that the Commission of Sati(Prevention) Bill, 1987, be taken into consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved.

“That the Bill to provide for the more effective prevention of the commission of Sati and its glorification and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto be taken into consideration”.

Shri 'M'

SHRI 'M' : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. The recent incident of Sati has evoked widespread condemnation from all parts of the country. The media has also played its part in highlighting this incident. Parliament has taken full notice of it. Government has come out with legislation, a Bill which in a sense is a symbol of its determination to fight, a symbol of its will to see that the nation does not once again slide back into obscurantism.

Sir, we know that happened in the days of Raja Ram Mohan Roy what Mahatma Gandhi said in his days. How he strongly condemned the practice of sati'. He condemned not only Sati but the kind of thinking behind it. How can we forget the great role played by Rajaji in almost eradicating of this social evil from

our society. It was through his sheer tireless efforts that British Government, the rulers at Fort William was forced to enact a Regulation called the Bengal Regulation, 1828 and subsequently Madras Regulations, 1929, banning the act of 'Safi'. We must also not forget the mass awakening and education that he carried on throughout the country which helped people to understand how the evil of Sati was making women the scapegoat of some fundamentalist and orthodox individual. But today, it appears that all the great efforts made by Rajaji are going to the dogs. We are perhaps again moving back to the old era. This needs a serious thinking amongst intellectuals and the regionalists.

Coming back to the Bill, I would like to say that there are no two opinions on this Bill and I am sure that everybody in this House to whichever party he or she belongs to, is bound to support it with full conviction.

Obscurantism and social evils have a common source. They both arise out of, as everybody knows, social backwardness and economic backwardness. It is only when areas remain backward that this kind of activity, this kind of thinking and social behavior can survive. We are duty bound to fight all tendencies which offend human nature. Take for instance animal sacrifice. Animal sacrifice clearly offends human nature. There has been legislation and there has been movements against this. I would call Sati nothing less than a form of human sacrifice. We have to put a stop to this at all cost.

Sir, having said all this I have to draw your attention to the legislation itself. It is a very good piece of law. However, since it is admitted that the woman is not in a proper state of mind she should not be unnecessarily punished because Sati is one hundred per cent murder. This has to be more specifically recognized in the Bill. If the onus of the past is put totally on the other participants either through acts of omission or commission then I feel that this practice can be effectively curbed once and for all.

In conclusion I would also stress on the fact that socio-economic developments can play a great role in eliminating evil tendencies. With these words I strongly support the Bill. I thank you for having given me an opportunity to speak on it.

MR. SPEAKER ; Smt. 'N'.

SMT. 'N' : Sir, It is with mixed feelings that have to address this august House. The whole country was shocked and humiliated by the recent incident of 'Safi'. There were women's movements throughout the country condemning and demanding prevention of this type of crime and my party was in the fore-front of these agitations. It was only after this strong reaction from the people that the Government has been forced to bring in this legislation.

But, sir, what is painful is that the legislation which they have brought forward now is full of flaws and have been drafted without consulting any of the women's organizations who are in a better position to give valuable suggestions, as they have done a lot of work in this sphere.

This Bill provides that attempt to commit Sati will be punishable as suicide. If the woman is forced to die, then the charges should be against her murderers and not against herself. But that is exactly what this Bill has done. So, this is my objection against the Bill.

The bill gives the powers to the Collector or District Magistrate to prevent offences relating to Sati. The village level authority who are there in the area itself should also be empowered with the necessary authority to prevent such offences if the law has to be efficiently implemented. By the time the D.M. knows about the crime the crime may have already been done. The women would have been burnt already. Therefore, the need to give powers to the village authority is also required. Donation of funds or donation of land for building Sati temples are not included as an offence. I wonder whether this Government wants to save the big business houses they are the biggest donors. Donation of funds or and must also constitute an offence under this Act.

I would also suggest that Vigilance Committees should be constituted at the village levels to effectively counter this evil practice. Social workers, Gram Sevikas and teachers should be the members of such committees. These should be an apex vigilance committee at the district level to coordinate the activities of the vigilance committee.

Therefore, while I support the idea of bringing forward such a Bill I also have to state that this Bill should be suitably amended, before it is passed.

SHRI 'O' : Sir, the Minister is not listening, She is listening to the Minister next to her.

MINISTER FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT: Sir, I am listening.

SHRI 'P' : She has two ears (Laughter)

SMT. 'N' : Firstly the Bill seeks out the reaction any under standing that 'Sate is voluntary and, therefore, it talks only of abetment and not of the actual offence which is 'burying or the burning alive of woman on the funeral pyre'. It punishes the poor woman who is a victim of social circumstances. The Bill, it appears to me says that the woman herself is the first offender. Others are only abettors. It makes it appear as if the act is a voluntary one on the part of the woman. Sir, Raja Ram Mohan Roy understood it 150 years back that Sati can never be voluntary. But now the present Government has failed to understand this. So, this is my objection against the Bill. The Bill given enough loopholes to criminals, for instance, encouraging the woman to remain fixed in her resolve. What can that be? That must be punishing the woman back into the ire when she wants to escape and aiding the woman in her decision. The loopholes must be plugged.

Another big loophole is that the offence has not been categorized as cognizable and non-bail able. This is really surprising that a crime is punishable by death and then it is not cognizable. This also should be gone into. The Bill as it is now, if it is passed will not have the desired effect. It will be ineffective in preventing this terrible crime. The woman of this country will not tolerate this and they will continue to fight till this legislation is made more stringent.

Sir, I may submit that through the present Bill is a good step in the direction of combating the evil of Sati, but the real solution to the problem lies in the education of the people. We have already one Act. Namely the Indian Penal Code dealing with this issue which prescribed deterrent punishments to those who abet or encourage Sati. But despite this it is a sorry state of affairs that, in our country, after independence 41 cases of Sati have been recorded as per court records. In addition to these 41 I do not know how many unknowns Satis have been committed and how many women are dying without being called Sati which is more humiliating. We many pass thousands Bills but unless we tackle the problem from sociological angle, I doubt whether we shall be able to eradicate this evil custom. Therefore, Sir even though I have no quarrel on the basic idea behind it I cannot support this Bill as It is, thank you.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri 'P'

SHRI P: Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in this debate. I will not go into the different aspects of 'Sati' because the learned speakers before me have already dealt with it at large. The only thing I would like to point out is that through this Bill tries to cover one social evil, the fact remains that many people in this country have been believing in this concept due to certain basic living and social conditions. The government should seriously consider as to how the living conditions of widows should be improved. This in my opinion will to a large extent eliminate the conditions in which these sort of practice find ready breeding ground. The Government should seriously address itself to this problem, widows should be encouraged and helped to be able to have an independent livelihood.

I hope the Government understands my point. Social education is also important. Legislation is only and injection. Social education is inoculation. Government should not only be satisfied with giving

injections but also should ensure that the people are inoculated against this disease of 'Safi'. At the end, I would like to say that we all must try to bring about a social revolution and root out conservatism and fundamentalism in our country. It is not the question of women's right only, It is our national honour and our human existence as a nation. There is absolutely no doubt that majority of our people in India, belonging to any political party, any caste, any religion, will join hands in this crusade against Sati to discharge their supreme responsibility towards our construction and towards the dignity of our women. Thank You.

MR. SPEAKER : Smt, 'Q'

SMT. 'Q' : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have my head in shame that in the year, 1987 when we are planning to take the country into the 21st century, we are going to pass this type of Bill, are we going back to the 19th century instead of marching to the 21st century. It is a matter of great sorrow that steps taken by Raja Ram Mohan Roy in 1829 are required to be taken against in 1987. I feel that a major purpose behind the revival of this wretched practice is the greed of certain persons. This is my opinion is the real cause behind the practice of 'Sate'. The purpose is for getting the property and wealth of the widow. The economic and financial motives or their relatives are behind these foul deeds. Some villagers are also responsible for the glorifications of 'sati' because they want to help the people who are for the wealth of the widow. There is no other reasoning behind it. If one day the husbands are forcibly thrown into the funeral pyres or their wives, I am sure that this practice of Sati would come to an abrupt halt.

I feel that this bill is a step in the right direction and the government should be congratulated for bringing it before the House. However, I also feel that this should also be followed by other measures on a war footing. As my friends here who either have implanted. I am also of the opinion that various socio-economic measures should be included by the Government and by all sections of the people and voluntary organisations to nip this evil practice in the bud. Simultaneously educating and creating awareness amongst women particularly in the countryside is also necessary. This will go a long way towards totally eradicating this evil.

I conclude by stating that I support this Bill. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister for Human Resource Development.

MINISTER FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT: Sir, I am grateful to all the Members who have supported the Bill I am also grateful to those members who have given their constructive criticism on it. I am grateful to those members who have given their constructive criticism on it. I am grateful for the advice that has been given to us.

With regard to the main suggestion. I would like to say that I do agree that the whole problem of 'Safi' and other such are connected with the status of women in this country. But, I think that we have reached a stage where we are, as a nation committed to improve the status of women and give equality to them in all fields.

One of the suggestions that has been made is about the question of the victim itself. I would like to point out that section 309 of the IPC deals with attempt to commit suicide. Up to now when there was no other legislation. This has been the clause under which all sati or rather all attempted Sati incidents have been dealt with. Unless we are prepared to punish an attempt to commit a crime I cannot ask you to punish those who abet the crime. If you say that the attempt to commit suicide or abetment at committing Sati is a crime? And now we have introduced life imprisonment or death penalty for such abetment.

SHRI 'M' : Sir, this is considered to be murder not suicide.

MINISTER FOR HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT: Sir let me explain. I do agree that a

woman who is rescued from the funeral pyre of her husband is certainly not in a fit condition, perhaps, even to know what she was doing. In all probability she was compelled to do it or because she had no alternative.

We do agree that there are various circumstances because of which she might have been compelled and she has no way put of it. Still it is an offence under the Penal code as an attempt at suicide. As a protective thing we have said in the Act. 'Maximum of one year imprisonment' Even this I am prepared to concede, could be reduced because most courts when they deal with this matter, would not even sentence the women to one year. We have added a provision to Section 3 which says:

"Provide that the special court trying an offence under this Section shall before convicting any person, take into consideration the circumstances leading to the commission of the offence, the act committed, the state of mind of the person charged to the offence at the time of the commission of the act and all other relevant factors".

Therefore, sir, this provision gives total discretion to the court to consider this, offence on a different level altogether. That is why I do not think, there is any fear that a girl, who is rescued, would be sent to jail straightway or anything.

SHRI 'X' : Sir, but she will be convicted. The court has the power to reduce the sentence. But she will be convicted.

SHRI 'M' : Sir, she will be subject to trial.

MINISTER FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT: Sir, whenever there is a Sati case she is bound to be put in the witness box, bound to be examined and cross examined as she would be the Prime witness. She will have to be brought before the court. However, as I have explained earlier she need not be convicted as the courts are to view the case in the most sympathetic manner. You cannot have a trial without the woman, innocent as she may be, for what has happened.

Sir, another criticism has been that this Act is meant only to come into operation after the crime has been committed and what we have no provision for preventing it. I would like to point out Section 6 of the Act makes substantial provision giving powers of preventing the crime when there is either a threat or information that such an event of crime is about to take place. And so it is preventive also.

As regard the point raised by the Hon'ble Member that the crime is not cognizable there seems to have been some misunderstanding, because for any crime where the punishment is for seven years, imprisonment for death penalty it is automatically cognizable and non-bailable, we have not mentioned it here, but the I.P.C. Provisions automatically come into being therefore

SHRI 'M' : Not O.P.C. the Cr. P.C.

MINISTER FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT : Yes, Cr. P.C., I am sorry, I thank you for correcting me. It is Cr.P.C. and therefore it is both cognizable and non-bailable and therefore, about this doubt that has been raised. I think the matter is clear.

Sir, Hon'ble Member Shri 'P' had raised the question of rehabilitation of widows, which incidentally is not directly connected with any of the provisions of the Act. Sir, this is matter which concerns many Departments and State Govts. and other voluntary organizations. The govt. of the State in which the recent incident to Sati has occurred has been the first to announce that employment does not have to be covered by age limitations. I have taken this order of the State government and immediately sent it to the chief Minister's of all States with an appeal that they may also implement similar orders in their own States.

I hope I have answered most of the points, raised by the Members in the course of my speech. I once again thank you for your support and seek your cooperation in implementing this measure. I request the House to pass the Bill

MR. SPEAKER : The Question is “That these Bill to provide for the more effective prevention of the commission of Sati and its glorification and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration”

Those who are in favour will say ‘Aye’.

(The majority of Members say ‘Aye’)

Those who are against it will say ‘No’

(A minority of the Members say ‘No’)

I think the ‘Ayes’ have it, ‘Ayes’ have it, ‘Ayes’ have it.

The motion is adopted.

Clause by clause consideration

MR. SPEAKER : Now the question is that clause 2-10 stands part of the Bill. There is one amendment in clause 5 by Shri ‘NI’ Are you moving it?

SHRI ‘M’ : No, sir, in view of the reply given by the Minister I am not pressing my amendment.

MR. SPEAKER : Now the question is that clause 2-10 stand part of the Bill. Those who are in favour will say ‘Aye’

(The majority of Members say ‘Aye’)

Those against will say ‘No’)

(A minority of Members say ‘No’)

I think the ‘Ayes’ have it, the ‘Ayes’ have it, the ‘Ayes’ have it,

The motion is adopted

Clause 2-10 stand part of the Bill.

Now the question is :

“That clause I, the enacting formula and the Title stand part of the Bill”

Those who are in favour will please say ‘Aye’.

(The majority of Members say ‘Aye’)

Those who are against it will please say ‘No’.

(A minority of Members say ‘No’)

I think the ‘Ayes’ have it, the ‘Ayes’ have it, the ‘Ayes’ have it. The motion is adopted.

Minister for Human Resource Development please.

MINISTER FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT; Sir, I move the Bill be passed.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That the Bill is passed”.

Those who are in favour will please say ‘Aye’.

(The majority of Members say 'Aye')

Those against it may please say 'No'.

(A minority of Members say 'No%')

I think the 'Ayes' have it, the 'Ayes' have it, the Ayes' have it. The motion is adopted.

PRIVATE MEMBERS RESOLUTION

MR. SPEAKER: Now the House will take up Private Members Resolution Shri 'P' to move the Resolution.

Shri 'P' : Sir, I move the following Resolution.

“This House recommends that the Government should —

- (i) Take steps to combat effectively the spreading menace of drugs and narcotics which are degenerative the nation especially the younger generation; and
- (ii) Make institutional arrangement for the rehabilitation of drug addicts”.

Mr. speaker Sir drug addiction is one of the greatest problems confronting our country today. It is wakening the country and destroying out youth. Today drug taking is not the exclusive phenomenon among a selected group of 'Drop-outs' in the big cities. It is now rampant in small towns and even in villages along the length and breadth of our country.

The great tragedy is that even young children are not being spread. You will be shocked to learn that in Bombay unsuspecting innocent children are being made addicts by inserting the drug into sweets.

Once addicted it is almost impossible to give up the habit. The children finally end up even resorting to crime to get the money to buy these drugs.

I feel that the main reason for the increase in drugs within our country is because it has become a centre for international drug trafficking. There is a lot of money involved and big guns are in the field . It is tragic that in their greed to make money these criminal people do not hesitate even to destroy the lives of others. Today it is not a simple law and order or health problem. The problem has to be tackled on many fronts by the Government.

I would place the following suggestions before the Government:-

Firstly, there should be coordinate action by the various Ministers of the Government. The menace should be combated by the Misters of finance. Home Affairs, Welfare, Law and Health.

Secondly, the existing penalty under the law is too less. This is a business in which crores are earned in a matter of hours. In some countries they should convicted drug traffickers. This may appear too much for us. But considering the damage these people do to society we must produce so really effective deterrent punishment. A Rs. Two Lakh penalty or a few years sentence is not enough. The punishment for such offence should be made more severe and government should take steps to amend the existing laws on this.

Thirdly, the Ministry of Home Affairs should ensure that drug are not smuggled into the country through our international borders. Our country should not be made conduit which drugs are smuggled to other countries also. The local police forces should also be made to take the issue seriously. There should be a severe crackdown on drug peddlers especially those operating near schools or colleges.

The Government should also mount an adequate advertisement campaign through exhibitions radio. T.V., hoardings etc. People should be educated and made aware of the dangers of drug addiction. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri 'U'

Shri U : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the resolution moved by the learned member. Through you, I would like to congratulate her for having brought forward this resolution.

I especially agree with her that the punishment is too less. I am sorry that these people are let off lightly. I think there should be summary justice.

I feel that one can even forgive a smuggler of old or a thief. But I don't think anyone can forgive a drug peddler. Sir, When some spoil the health and some spoil the wealth. I think the drug pusher spoils health, wealth and character. This loss of character will lead to moral degeneration take out country backwards.

I also agree with the Hon'ble Member who has introduced this resolution that the government should co-ordinate the action against drugs by involving number of Ministries. This drug menace is something which is not attacked now can ruin our entire country. With these words, I support the resolution.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri 'Z'

Shri Z : Sir, at the very outset, I thank Shri '13' for bringing into focus through this resolution the enormity of the problem of drug addiction, which as he rightly said saps the vitality of our society.

As time allotted for this debate is running out I will not take much more time of the House. I would like to put forward two suggestions. One is that the Government should recognize that the problem organizations should be sought. More counseling centers run by voluntary organization should be set up.

Secondly, I would like to refer to what Shri 'P' said about the role of the media. I would like to strike a note of caution here that over zealousness on the part of the media may only help to tempt more people to take to drugs. Rather it has to be selective and imaginative publicity that would really help us to attain the desired results.

Sir, I must also say one thing about the spread of this menace. There are four categories of persons who are involved. The producer, the transporter, the street peddler and lastly the actual consumer.

Normally, it is only the peddler who is apprehended, tried and punished. The other two namely, the producer and the transporter usually are allowed to go scot free because they are well hidden. They are the big guns who should be punished. The Government should take steps to rectify this state of affair is and ensure that the first two category of persons are also arrested and given summary punishment. Then only can this problem be controlled to some extent. With these words I once again express my gratitude to the Hon'ble Member of this House Shri '13' who has drawn our pointed attention to this problem and I am sure that the Government would look at the problem with the gravity it deserves.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare.

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I Congratulate the mover of the Resolution Shri '13' as well as the other Hon'ble Members who have spoken on the Resolution for focusing at the alter of public opinion one of the vital social and health issues facing the country today. The purpose of my intervention is only to place before the House the various efforts made by the various Departments of the government to combat this serious menace.

Sir, I would like to submit that it law this government which brought about the historic piece of legislation, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. Sir, the Act enhances the punishment of rigorous imprisonment from ten to twenty year and a fine of Rs. 2 lakhs for the first time. Even attempted/ abetment and conspiracy have become cognizable and entail the same punishment. Rewards for informers who contribute to detection and seizure have been enhanced from 10 to 20 percent. Special cells have been created in all customs collectorates in the country.

There has been a steep rise in seizures from November, 1985 to January, 1986 above 780 k.g. of heroin, 8,300 kg. of charas and 23,000 kg. of Ganja were seized. In the last three years more narcotics and drugs have been seized than the total figure of 1985. This has been due to stricter enforcement of the Act. Special drives have been launched by the Delhi and Bombay police. Also, sea coast and land border vigilance has been enhanced. High level meetings have been held in the border States.

The number of prosecutions have also been increased manifold. In 1984, 1248 persons were prosecuted. In 1985, after the Act was passed. 1300 persons were arrested and prosecuted.

Sir, coming to the health side, the facilities for treatment of drug addicts have been inadequate. However, one of the important facts of the act is that Section 71 of the Act imposes on the Government the responsibility of establishment of Centers for Drug-dead diction. An expert committee has even constituted by the Health Ministry and I am happy to announce on behalf of the government that we have launched a national drug-dead diction programme under the auspices of the Ministry of Health. To start with, these de-addiction centres will be started in the four Metropolitan cities of Delhi. Calcutta. Bombay and Madras and also in Imphal, Varanasi, Goa, Chandigarh and Srinagar.

Voluntary organizations have been increasingly involved in this programme as per certain schemes organised by the Ministry of Welfare. Four Camps have already been organised. Sixteen more are being founded.

A vigorous publicity campaign has been launched. The Finance Ministry has made available Rs. 15 lakh for this mass education and motivational programmes are being planned.

I would like to call upon the political parties to start mass movement in the country. Movements involving students, youth,. Women and other public organization to come forward and help Government fighting the scour of drug abuse which has the potential to disrupt the vary social fabric of our country.

In view of the efforts undertaken by the government to meet this problem, sir, through you, I request Shri '11' to withdraw his resolution.

MR. SPEAKER ; Shri 'P'

SHRI P: Sir, I am grateful to the Hon'ble Members for lending support to my resolution . In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister and since a law has already been enacted to deal with this menace. I hope that the Government will take all stringent measures to eliminate this problem. Therefore, I may be allowed to withdraw this resolution.

MR. SPEAKER : Has the Hon'ble Member leave of the House to withdraw his resolution?

SEVERAL MEMBERS : Yes, Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : The Resolution by leave of the House is withdrawn. Now the House is adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.