

salaries of all classes of workers in the public sector undertakings have gone up and now even the class IV staff have come under the Income-Tax Act. This is a genuine demand and the Government must enhance the income-tax exemption limit to Rs. 60,000/-.

At present, the Government is giving 12 per cent interest on the amount accumulated in the provident fund of the employees and this interest rate was fixed some decades earlier. Over the years, the value of money has come down. Since the contribution to provident fund by the employees is their only savings after retirement, I request the Government to enhance the interest rate on the provident fund amount from 12 per cent to at least 15 per cent.

Most of the public sector undertakings have been talking about modernisation of their projects plants. I am sure that the employees and the trade unions are not against the modernisation. But the trade unions are demanding that proper rehabilitation of the employee, should be made before launching modernisation drive. Modernisation can go in a big way in the interest of the country but it should not be at the cost of the workers. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to direct the Central Public sector undertakings to rehabilitate its employees before taking up modernisation of the plants.

#### **ALLEGED MORE TO SHIFT THE SRI KRISHNA TEMPLE IN MINICOY ISLAND OF LAKSHADWEEP**

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL (Madhya Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairperson, I would like to invite the attention of this hon. House, through you, to a situation in Lakshadweep Islands. There is one island called Minicoy and I would like to place before the House a special problem faced by the minority community there. Several armed forces personnel of Madhya Pradesh are located there. They are about 250 in number along with their families. There is only

one temple, Sri Krishna Temple. That is the only temple available in the whole island. In the name of locating some other office or Navodaya Vidyalaya, the residents are afraid that this temple is going to be removed and located in a far-off place making it practically impossible for the people to go to the temple. This apprehension is there among the members of the minority community. They have made a representation to me and I would draw the attention of the Government to this apprehension in the minds of the minority community in Minicoy. I would like to have some assurance from the Government that such a shifting will not take place and the minority community will be allowed to have free worship in Sri Krishna Temple in Minicoy Island. Thank You.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister is here and he will take note of it

#### **NEED TO REDUCE THE PRESCRIBED LIMIT OF 500 GRAMS OF GOLD UNDER THE GOLD BOND SCHEME TO 100 GRAMS( FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE MIDDLE-INCOME GROUP PEOPLE:**

SHRI JOHN. F. FERNANDES (Goa): I want to congratulate the Government, specially the Finance Minister, for floating Gold Bonds which came into force on Monday the 15th of March. The President issued an Ordinance and the Bill is before this House for a discussion. As the Gold Bond Scheme has already come into force, I would like to say that the intention of the Government is to unearth 7000 tonnes of gold. The impression given to the general public is that the intention of the Government is also to regularise Rs. 5000 crores swindled by various people in the securities scam.

Madam, the minimum ceiling to deposit gold against the Gold Bond is 500 grams, and the value of this gold will be about Rs. 2 lakhs. But this scheme is not going to benefit the people