

[Shri John F. Fernandes]

at large, the people in general, the common people who will not be able to avail of this facility.

Therefore I suggest to the Finance Minister that the ceiling of 500 grams should be reduced to 100 grams so that people in the middle income group can also avail of this facility and can benefit from this scheme. Thank you.

SHRI JOHN P. FERNANDES: Madam What about the Home Minister's statement?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will find out and inform. As the Home Minister has said, it all depends on the return of Mr. Rajesh Pilot. Let there be proper information, let there be much more information, from the Government. I will find out and inform the House accordingly. We will announce it on the television monitor.

The House is now adjourned for lunch, till 2.30 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at thirty-one minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty three minutes past two of the clock.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM) in the Chair.

Re demand for Statement on Bob-blast in Calcutta —contd.

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI (Gujarat): Sir, I have a point of order.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): When there is no business, what is the point of order?

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: At 12.15 the Chair had directed the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that within

one hour he should give an indication as to at what time the Home Minister would make a statement on Calcutta.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): When the House adjourned for lunch, the direction from the Chair was that as soon as they got the information, it will be shown on the monitor. Anyway, is there any information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENARY AFFAIRS DR. ABRAR AHMED: No.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): The moment they got the information, it will be announced.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): At 12.15 if I heard correctly, the Chair had directed that within one hour at least they must give an indication of the timing. I think within one hour she did give an indication that as soon as the State Home Minister comes from Calcutta it will be flashed on the monitor and the House will be informed of the timing when the statement will be made.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Now we go to special mentions. Mr. Viren Shah.

SPECIAL MENTIONS—Contd.

Outbreak of Jaundice in villages on the Banks of River Krishna in Western Maharashtra

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH (Maharashtra): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I want to make a special mention about the health hazards that prevail in the rural areas of Western Maharashtra, particularly in a place called 'Karad'. There has been a major outbreak of jaundice in Karad. I am referring to a report which appeared in the 'Indian Express' of 3rd

March, 1993. The report says that 11 people have died because of the jaundice that broke out in Karad, 11,070 households have been affected by the epidemic and 1,300 have been affected in the past few days, and it is continuing.

How did it happen? According to reports and according to what the Divisional Commissioner and the Deputy Director of the State Health Department have mentioned officially, the outbreak of jaundice is due to the contamination caused by snags in the newly installed drinking water supply network in that town. Rightly so, the Government wants to have drinking water supply network all over India for pure drinking water which has become a rare commodity these days. Here that itself has caused a severe situation of death and destitution to a large number of people. The report says that they were affected by the epidemic. According to the Deputy Director of the State Health Department, it was a large-scale contamination of drinking water during October-November last by the seeping in of sewage water from the open gutters as the main cause of the epidemic.

The point Sir, is that sewage water getting into the newly established system for drinking water is something that must cause concern to all. The President's Address as well as statements from the Prime Minister and others talk about taking care of the health of the people all over the country. This is a rural area. If such a thing happens in the State of Maharashtra, one feels distressed that anything could happen anywhere else also. Contaminated water was supplied to the entire city during this period, according to Dr. Pushpa Somayya who has been conducting research on this aspect.

Through you, Sir, I want to draw the attention of this hon. House to the need that if such a situation is prevailing in the last three or four months, I think the Government of India also need to take a note of it and enquire from the Government of Maharashtra why it has happen-

ed that the newly installed system of purified drinking water was carrying water from the drainage, from the gutter, which was much worse than what people were drinking earlier. Why has it happened, and what steps are being taken to see that it is mended? Such schemes will be in operation all over the country. What kind of steps will the Government advise the State Governments to take to see that this sort of situation is not repeated and that the lives of the people are not endangered.

Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Mr. Bhadreswar Gohain. Not present.

Shri Manmohan Mathur.

Hardship to Scientists, Technicians etc. Due to Governments decision to Abolish Fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research Division in Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited

SHRI MANMOHAN MATHUR (Orissa): Sir, the Fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research Division under the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited is functioning in the eastern region of the country since 1969. There are 170 scientists and technicians and more than a thousand workers working in this organisation. They have been trained at the Agriculture Extension and Rural Development Division of the Reading University, United Kingdom. The country has spent about Rs. 30,000, Rs. 40,000 per officer for that training. Each of them has about 18 to 23 years of service, experience. After their recruitment in the field of agriculture, fertilizer promotion and agricultural research, they have attained experience in dry-land agriculture and forestry also. These scientists are helping in agricultural production in the country by educating marginal, small, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and resource poor farmers in the rural areas of