

celebrate his birth that thing, centenary Or not, but what he had preached, how he had acted, the time has come when the people of this country should know for what values Vinoba Ji had stood. As such, it is necessary that seminars should be organised in the country so that people may know the views and works of Vinoba Ji. He was just like a saint. We have visited Paunar Ashram. You are from that area, Madam. What sort of feeling we have when we go there. I think the Government must have some Committee to see that the people of our country are made aware of Vinoba Ji's views and his works. As such, I request the Government to take note of what I said.

Release of 80 Patented Microbes in Japan

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI (Uttar Pradesh): Madam Vice-chairman, I want to bring to the notice of the Government and this House a matter which is of great import particularly for the scientific development in our country. It has been reported that at least 80 different patented microbes, which were meant or which were genetically engineered for nitrogen fixing and for purifying the sewage, were legally imported into India and they have been distributed under the pretext that they would increase the crop production in the fields in New Delhi, Pondicherry, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. Madam Vice-Chairman, the Department of Biotechnology has a responsibility to see and ensure that Indians are not treated like guinea-pigs. A Japanese firm, namely the International Nature Farming Research Centre, has admitted that a large number of bottles of micro-organisms have been sent to India, have been smuggled into India, and that against all rules they have been utilised. The *mala fide* intention of this foreign Company is obvious from the fact that the Indian sci-

entists were not agreeable or they felt that the claims that they made were not justified; that is why it is unfortunate to see that they resorted to some kind of a pretext. I hope that the facts are not correct. I may be proved wrong on this score, but, at least, it has been reported in a national weekly that our Minister of Agriculture as well as the Minister of Environment had earlier visited the firm's headquarters and they, probably, unwillingly or unconsciously became a tool for sending this kind of material for use in our crops. But this is an extremely dangerous proposition because of a large number of scientific implications which I would have liked to mention but for want

of time—I would not mention, except saying that the Department of Biotechnology has been completely ignored in this regard, and secondly, among the possible dangers involved is the transformation of the microbes into a pest, the transfer of new genetically engineered genes to hitherto unknown species of the mutations thereof. This is a grave danger to the scientific world and, particularly, harmful to the agricultural community of our country

The Department of Biotechnology issues the guidelines but unfortunately, the difficulty is that those guidelines get ignored for the simple reason that when the patented things are brought into India, it is not known as to what the other elements are, because they will claim that these are patents and nothing will be disclosed: that is why this kind of a situation arises. I hope that there will be a full complete clarification in regard to the entire situation that has arisen.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Shri Sanjay Dalmia — not here.

Theft in a Tenrole of Lord Shiva in Thane

***श्री सतीश ब्रह्मान (महाराष्ट्र) :**

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया आपने मझे बोलने का मौका दिया है, इसके लिये मैं आप का शुकृगुजार हूँ। मैं सदन का ध्यान