

Field trials of rice must be stopped immediately and exemplary penalties must be imposed for violations. The rules and guidelines for GM crops must be reviewed and strengthened to protect our environment and public interest.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Ms. Mabel Rebello.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Ms. Mabel Rebello.

#### **Need for Quick Dispensation of Justice in the country**

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA (Maharashtra): Sir, while launching the website of the Delhi High Court Mediation and Conciliation Centre during January, 2008, the hon. Chief Justice of India promised his unstinted support to the legal concept of 'Mediation and Reconciliation' and exhorted for adopting such alternative methods of dispute resolution in the face of 'alarming' backlog of pending criminal and civil cases.

Reforms in justice-delivery system, in its totality, are called for. Firstly, we have to create such circumstances that Fundamental Right to free speech in law Courts is enforced, law on Contempt of Courts is reviewed, and attitudinal change and accountability of Police/investigative agencies is ensured, proliferating allegations of corruption relating to the Judiciary merits transparent, simple, time-bound, stern approach, and lastly, Judiciary should create methodologies for liquidating huge arrears and eliminating further accumulation. Sir, it is high time that our law framing Legislatures, Executive and the Judiciary sit together to evolve ways and means, without infringing upon each others Constitutional powers, and ensure speedier delivery of justice. In umpteen cases, a poverty stricken 'undertrial' can neither engage competent lawyer nor even furnish the bail amount, thereby spending more time in jail unjustifiably. This creates agony and helplessness amongst *aam aadmi*. The justice-delivery infrastructure should be brought nearer to the people. Recent perception of the Chief Justice of India relating to setting up of zonal Benches of the Supreme Court coupled with establishment of more High Court Benches to save people from travelling to far off places requires urgent implementation. The Government is, therefore, requested to fulfil the pledge of Mahatma Gandhi that *Purna Swaraj* will have its true meaning only when tear from every eye is wiped out. Ushering in 'quick-delivery era' will be our glowing tribute to the Father of the Nation.

SHRI VIRENDRA BHATIA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

#### **Demand to revert the decision to close the recruitment Centres of Shipping Masters in Kolkata and Chennai**

SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to mention that recently, the Director-General of Shipping under the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways issued an order to close the recruitment centres of Shipping Master in

Kolkata and Chennai, and, had shifted the entire management procedures involving Continuous Discharge Certificates of the Indian seafarers from Kolkata and Chennai to Mumbai.

These decisions to centralize dealings have become a cause of miserable inconvenience for the seafarers in general. They are all being compelled to travel to Mumbai from the far away points, from the Eastern and Southern region to the West Coast for their CDC related work. Furthermore, posts of Shipping Masters are lying vacant and the whole workload has been handled by the clerical category, which does not have the requisite authority to deal with all sorts of situations, which may be the cause to any untoward incident.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Shipping to revert the decision and return to the previously existing system. I also urge upon the Government to fill the vacant Shipping Masters posts immediately.

SHRI SAMAN PATHAK (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

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## GOVERNMENT BILL

### The Gram Nyayalayas Bill, 2008

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up further discussion on the Gram Nyayalayas Bill, 2008. Mr. Ahluwalia to continue.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Sir, yesterday, I initiated the discussion on the Gram Nyayalayas Bill, and, when the House was adjourned, I was talking about the essence of Kautilya's jurisprudence, and, how we switched over from Kautilya's jurisprudence to criminal jurisprudence of Britain. After so many years after achieving freedom, we are now thinking about providing justice at the doorstep or at the door of villages, which was the real essence of Kautilya's jurisprudence. We were having all these things with us. But, all the good values were taken over by the Westerns and we followed that for 60 long years. For this commendable Bill also, which is a revolutionary step, the 114th Report of the Law Commission which suggested a Gram Nyayalaya was pending in the Law Ministry since 1986. Many Governments came and gone in between. Now, ultimately, you have brought this Bill. If you see the history of this long journey from 1986 till today, initially the Bill was drafted in 2005. That 2005 Bill was referred to the National Advisory Council which was functioning under the Prime Minister's Office. At that time a tug of war started whether Nyaya Panchayat or Gram Nyayalaya should come. I remember and I just want to refresh the memories of the Members of this House, especially the learned hon. Minister that on 18th December 2005, Law Ministers Conference endorsed village courts. At that time, he said, "Goal was to take justice to the doorstep of all those in the countryside, who cannot afford litigation for which they have to travel long distances and spend heavily". But, simultaneously, on 23rd August, 2006, Mani Shankar Aiyar, another Cabinet Minister of this Government, while replying in Lok Sabha, said, "A proposal to set up Nyaya Panchayats to