

dated condition and is likely to collapse any moment. I did make inquiries with the local people and they freely ventilated their grievances that the Central Government has been totally neglecting the temple as well as the fort and no renovation work has been done. Thousands of devotees and followers visit the Shivgiri fort & the temple every day to pay their respects to the national leader and have darshan of Shivai Devi. I regret say that the State Government has not taken up the matter with the Central Government in a serious manner. Though the hon. Chief Minister of Maharashtra pays flying visits to Shivgiri every year on the 26th of April to garland the statue of Shivaji Maharaj and Vijay Mata and perform pooja in the Shivgiri temple, he has not paid much attention to renovate the temple. I would like to draw the attention of the Government through you to the sorry plight of the temple and urge the Government to take instant steps to restore the pristine glory to this most important national monument of Maharashtra and take up the work of renovation of the temple immediately. I must stress here the significance of the Shivai Devi temple to the Members of the august House and the Government by stating that Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was named after Shivai Devi and it was Shivai Devi, as the folklore has it, who presented the sword of Bhawani to Shivaji to protect and safeguard Hinduism and Hindu religion as well as its culture from the attacks of foreigners.

I once again make an earnest plea to the Government to improve the dilapidated condition of the Shivai Devi temple and immediately appease the hurt sentiments of millions of people of Maharashtra who revere and worship Shivaji Maharaj and Shivai Devi temple. Annihilation of Male Members in Patola Village of Orissa

*SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VEN-KATARAMAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr.

Vice-Chairman, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House to a very pathetic situation gripping the people of Pabla, a hamlet a top a hill, in Dhan-kenal district of Orissa. The people of this Village fear that soon it will come to be known as a 'Village of widows' because, during the last few years, only men have been dying mysteriously. Death is something certain and inevitable. But what causes concern is the fact that death has struck only men in the shape of fever or diarrhoea. It remains an enigma to the people. This has been reported by a local daily, 'The Samaj' last Tuesday.

Of the 50 tribals living in this hamlet only Six are men. There is an aluminium factory in Angul, a town situated at a distance of 25 Kms. People apprehend that the pollution from the factory could be the reason for this tragic situation. Some people even call this a 'Cursed Village' and say that some evil spirit is wrecking havoc. The District Collector of Dhankenal district visited the Village and made inquiries to ascertain the cause. He was told by the doctors of the hospital there that the drinking habit of the people in the cause of this phenomenon. People of this Village habitually drink toddy obtained from palm juice. Even the children have become toddy addicts.

Whatever be the reason, it is the duty of the Union Government to protect the tribal people and their descendants. So, I urge upon the Government to take necessary action on war footing to save the men folk from annihilation.

Thank you.

Need to exempt "Panchamritam" Prasad of Murugan Temple at Palani in Tamil Nadu from payment of Tax

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir in Palani, Tamil Nadu, there is a very famous temple of Lord Murugan

*English Translation of the Original speech delivered in Tamil.