

been conceded by the Central Government. Considering the importance of the project considering the fact that the State Government is in stringent financial condition and also considering that every time the Central Government was expanding its demands, through you, Sir, I would like to request the Government to take a more liberal view of it. After all, it is a national project vital for the country. These are the considerations which should weigh with the Central Government and I would like the Central Government to let us know what the reaction of the Government is to the Chief Minister's request, whether there is a deadline for completing this project, whether there is some time-bound programme and if so, when, this project will be completed? Miserable plight of Disabled Persons in the Country.

Miserable plight of disabled Persons in the Country

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH (Gujarat); Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, through this special mention, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to the miserable plight of the disabled in this country. ■ Sir, about 1.52 crore disabled persons in India including 15 lakhs of mentally retarded persons survive on a meagre amount of just 8 paise per day allotted to them by the Union Government and the State Government in this country. The Union Ministry of Welfare has made available a sum of Rs. 14.52 crores for the upkeep of the disabled all over the country. This roughly works out to 4 paise per day with State Governments and other voluntary agencies contributing another 4 paise per day. Sir, the disabled in this country live on just 8 paise per day allotted by the Government and various agencies. Sir, in a pilot study by the B. M. Institute of Mental Health, Ahmedabad, it has been pointed out that the Government has agreed that the disabled persons are a part of the weaker sections of the society. Article 46 of the

Constitution of India enjoins responsibility of the Government to promote special care for educational and economic interest of the weaker sections and this can be promoted by providing proper rehabilitation programme for the disabled. A variety of new techniques and methods have been developed in this field abroad, but such things are not imported, the Pilot study pointed out. It has also been pointed out that private organisations which run on 100 per cent Government grants are misusing the funds and arbitrary acts of management are discouraging the scientists in these institutions. Sir, the B. M. Institute, Ahmedabad is one such example where the management tried to ruin the institution and after years of legal battle, the employees and scientists in this institution were allowed to run the institution which was on the brink of closure. The Khushal Chand Training Institute of Baroda received 100 per cent grant from the Government, but poor facilities to the blind inmates and meagre salaries to the staff resulted in a quarrel with the management. Sir, most of the voluntary agencies in this country pay very poor salaries to their employees and I, therefore, plead that the Government, particularly the Ministry of Welfare should release more funds for the rehabilitation of the disabled and also for stricter norms for private organisations which are working in this field. Thank you.

Defects in the Swedish Bofors Gun

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER (Haryana); Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, by this special mention, I would draw the attention of the House and the Government to an issue of great public importance. It involves the security of the State. The Swedish FH 77B 155 mm guns, commonly known as Bofors guns, have been the subject of a good deal of controversy. These guns have been posing serious problems to our army on account of manufacturing defects. Instead of

[Shri Mohinder Singh Lather]
being an asset, they have become a liability.

On trial, that is, when these guns were put to use, the following defects were detected:

1. Leakage of oil seals.
2. Failure to pass Inclination Tests.
3. Failure to hit target although it is claimed to be computerised and accurate.
4. Bursting of the battery-box while taking the gun up on inclined planes.
5. Leakage of nitrogen gas cylinders.

Sir, these serious defects could not be rectified by our technicians and that is why four Bofors men had to be summoned. It is said that the defects are manufacturing defects. Our country has spent crores of rupees on these guns. On trial, they have been found to be useless and we cannot rely on such weapons. I suggest that these guns should be packed and sent back. We must get back all our money including the commission paid for them. It will be good for the health of the Congress Government also as these guns have become a nightmare for them. We cannot rely on these guns.

SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I am on a point of order. This is a special mention. And the point raised by the hon. Member had already been discussed in this House at length. I think this is not a subject of special mention. Secondly, he is casting aspersions on the Congress party. It is not proper. (Interruptions). There may be something which he wants to bring to the knowledge of the House. But the way he is trying to put the argument is not proper. I think you should look into the record and if there are any aspersions cast on any person or party,

they should be removed. (Interruptions). In this very House, the Opposition has raised the issue of Bofors. (Interruptions).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): What is your point of order? A point of order cannot be a speech.

SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: I am not making a speech. I request you to see that he is not permitted to cast aspersions on a party or an individual.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): I rule that your point of order is out of order.

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: I have been permitted by the Chairman to make this special mention. I have a right to make it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): Yes. You continue.

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Sir, I am going to read from the 'Tribune'. It is a report from a special correspondent in Ambala where all those technicians from Sweden came. I am quoting Sir:

"The sources describe the faults as manufacturing defects".

I am not talking about the purchase of the Bofors guns now. I am only talking about the defects which have been found by our army.

"The Army men were equally baffled by the gun's failure to hit the target though they were given the impression that its computer ensures an accurate hit. The sources feel that perhaps the sand of Rajasthan was responsible for the erratic target hitting by the gun, and its computer. However, a probe is on to find out the exact cause."

The Technical Evaluation and Negotiation Committee headed by the then Director-General of Weapons and Equipment, Lt. Gen. Maya Das, had reservations about the sturdiness and reliability of the gun.

A bizarre incident took place during the firing when Army men tried to take a gun up an inclined plane for the inclination test. The battery-box of the gun burst when its crew tried hard to take the gun up the inclined plane which was well within the specified limits. No other gun was put to the test."

There are hundreds and thousands of guns available in this country.

6.00 P.M.

"Four Bofors men, Mr. Peter Ericsson, Mr. Mats Danielsson, Mr. Bengt Johansson and Mr. Thomas Andersson, came here to repair the guns on January 21. They stayed here for about a week...."

Another Bofors technician came to Ambala on January 28. During the practice, the gun also did not achieve the range of 30 kms. as promised by the manufacturers.

My submission, Sir, is that the Government must take note of it. There are a variety of guns available, and the best weapon must be provided to our Army. These Bofors guns must be discarded as we must discard this Congress Government. Thank you.

SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with this.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA (Delhi): Sir, whatever the hon. Member has said whether it is justified or it is parliamentary or it is suitable to go into the record—will you kindly have a look through the record?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): Definitely I will go through the record. Shrimati Asima Chatterjee.

Child Abuse in Madhya Pradesh

PROF. (MRS.) ASIMA CHATTERJEE (Nominated): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India to the alarming situation on child abuse in Madhya Pradesh. This report has appeared as a news-item in the 'Hindustan Times' on the 27th March, 1989. The children there are raped, maimed, sexually abused and thrashed fatally. Due to inhuman torture a large number of children have been disabled mentally and physically as revealed from the report by a team of doctors who have examined the children.

The medical examination of the children has been going on for the past 20 years. I am so much concerned about child welfare. That is why I am mentioning this. The study done by the doctors during this period comprises 3000 cases of deliberately inflicted physical, sexual and emotional injuries on children by adults. The injuries include burns and disabilities like deafness, loss of eye-sight, mental backwardness, hemiplegias, failure to thrive, chronic infections of urogenital tract, sexually transmitted diseases, rape, behavioural and emotional problems. Deliberate killing of children below the age of 14 years is also going on. Doctors found in a few cases bald patches on scalp caused by forcibly pulling hair or braids which even affected the brain because of intracranial haemorrhage. Branding of the skin of the interior abdominal wall by red hot iron was observed as a social custom in the district of Durg, particularly in rural areas, and was responsible for a high rate of morbidity and mortality due to skin infection and septicaemia. Commonly seen thermal injuries are circular blisters caused by burning cigarettes, triangular area of burn by hot electric iron, and blisters produced by hot water.

According to the study as reported by the doctors 90 per cent of the