

detention without trial.. But, in Kerala, because of lack of administration there and because these committees have not been constituted .these poor children are languishing in jails. A young boy of 15 years is languishing in Edapally Observation Home and he has been in jail for the past one year. There are 19 cases involving children which have been shelved in the Children's Courts. In Cochin, a 12-year old boy, accused of murder allegedly committed by his father, is languishing in the jail without trial. About five hundred children have been locked up in jails and they have not been tried so far and no action has been taken by the Kerala Government to constitute these committees. Simply because these committees have not been constituted, these children are kept in the jails,

I would, therefore, like to request the honourable Minister of Welfare to take immediate action in the matter and issue directions to the State Government to constitute these committees and conduct speedy trials so that justice is done to them. Thank you, Madam.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V.ARUNACHALAM (Tamil Nadu): Madam, this is a State subject and I donot know why Mr. Narayanasamy is draw- ing the attention of the House to this.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: It is a national issue and it is an issue concerning children in the entire country.

SHRI SHANKARRAO NARAYANRAO DESHMUKH (Maharashtra): Madam, I support this Special Mention. I would like to mention that if there is no serious accusation and the case has not been tried within a reasonable period of time, then the officer concerned should conduct "C" summary under the Cr. PC and set free the children. Thank you.

Smuggling of sandlwood in Karnataka

SHRI R. S. NAIK (Karnataka): Madam, I want to draw the attention of the House through you to the problem of smuggling of sandalwood in Karnataka State.

Madam, India is the only country producing sandalwood which contains valuable sandal oil. Sandalwood in India is found in Karnataka and also in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh to a certain extent. Madam, sandalwood is the pride of India. It is used for extracting oil and for carving idols by the artisans in our country. It brings foreign exchange also. We may get 40—45 kgs. of oil for each tonne of sandalwood after crushing, which brings about Rs. 1,30,000 to Rs. 1,40,000. There is only one famous Mysore sandal oil factory established by Sir Vishwesh-warayya in 1917 in Karnataka. But it is Government factory which is now facing shortage of raw materials and is en the verge of closure. Why it is so? For whose sake should it be closed? This is because of smuggling sandalwood to the other States where there are many sandal oil distilleries without having sandalwood in those States.

The Karnataka Forest Act, 1963, and the Karnataka Forest Rules, 1967, have adequate provisions to catch the sandal smugglings as well as to deal with smugglers. Sandal tree in Karnataka has been made the property of Government and trade in sandalwood requires a licence issued by the Forest officers. Even private individuals also pay much attention to protect sandal trees, as also to grow sandalwood in the fields, because they have been paid 75 per cent of the value of the sandalwood in two instalments. Madam, the number of sandalwood cases detected by the Karnataka Forest Department during the last three years is 1341. The quantity of sandalwood seized by them during the last three years from 1983-84 to 1985-86 is 311 tonnes.. The Forest Officers have been empowered under the Forest Act to confiscate vehicles and give stringent punishment for sandalwood offenders. The number of vehicles confiscated during the last three years, from 1983-84 to 1985-86, is 767. I mean including trucks, tempos, cars, Matadors, bullock carts and bicycles, so on and so forth.

In spite of all efforts made by the Forest Officers to check the smuggling of sandalwood, still sandalwood worth

(Shri R. S. Naik]

lakhs and lakhs of rupees is smuggled at the bonder of Karnataka. The reason is that there are many oil distilleries in other States. Of course, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are having a little sandalwood. But Kerala and Uttar Pradesh are not producing sandalwood, though there are many distilleries there. Secondly, there is no such provision in Forest laws of other neighbouring States. Once sandalwood is smuggled out of the State, there is no uniform law in the country to check that.

So I request the Government to make provisions as found in the Karnataka Forest Act regarding sandalwood and incorporate them in all the Forest Acts of all the other States. Then only will the Government be able to tackle this smuggling business. (*Time Bell rings*) Madam, I request the Government to direct other State Governments to formulate a regulation as that of the Karnataka Government in respect of sandalwood, otherwise once sandalwood is smuggled to other States there is no rule or regulation to go and catch it.

With these words, I conclude.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Dr. Mohd. Hashim Kidwai.

Demand of exorbitant fare by auto-rickshaw drivers at Railway Stations of Delhi

DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI (Uttar Pradesh): Respected Madam, this is not for the first time that I have raised this issue in this august House. I have been repeatedly drawing the attention of the Government through questions and special mentions to the great hardships and great inconvenience to which railway passengers alighting at Delhi and New Delhi railway stations are put. The three-wheeler drivers and taxi drivers refuse to take them to their destinations in various localities of Delhi or they charge from them exorbitant fares. But I regret that so far nothing has been done to remove this great hardship. I am stating this on the basis of my personal experience. I did not find even a single traffic constable on duty after 9.00 P.M. on any of these

railway stations. This is highly deplorable. It is really very distressing that railway passengers including Members of Parliament are put to such hardship. I have received a number of complaints about this. I would suggest that either a police squad should be permanently posted at these railway stations round the clock to help the poor and harassed passengers or surprise checks should be made by the Traffic Police Officers to see that the Traffic Police Constables are present at these stations and are performing their duties. Thank you.

Alleged misuse of T.V. and A.I.R. in Tamil Nadu

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Madam Deputy Chairman, through you I draw the attention of this House to a serious threat to democracy by the gross misuse of T.V. and Radio in Tamil Nadu to spread false, vicious and malicious propaganda on the Sri Lankan Tamil issue. Since 10th October, this false propaganda, following the techniques engineered by Goebbels, is being done. All India Radio has now become irrelevant. We call it All-Fraud Radio. We call Television in Tamil Nadu as *Televishamam* which means spreading mischief. It has never happened previously. Day in and day out, Congress Party speakers addressing meetings are shown on the T.V. The pitiest part of it is that at close and start faces of the speakers are shown. Once they turned the camera towards the audience. Do you know the number of people listening? Hardly ten. I had the misfortune to see that shot. A number of notorious and hired speakers of the Congress were there. There were hardly 10 people in the audience. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Those people are not present in the House. They cannot defend themselves. It is not a platform to accuse the other party. Madam, I want a ruling on this issue. My hon. friend says: "Notorious and hired speakers of the Congress Party". Is it permissible?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: These are his observations. You may not agree with them.