

[Shri S. N. Deshmukh]

can even be referred to the Press Council of India. I submit, Sir, if such slander is allowed to be printed, and that too in a box, people will lose faith in democracy. Therefore, this may be looked into and the matter, if possible, may be referred to the Press Council of India.

THAKUR JAGATPAL SINGH (MADHYA PRADESH): Sir, I support this.

CENTRAL ASSISTANCE TO ORISSA TO MEET THE DROUGHT SITUATION

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA (Orissa): Sir, serious drought condition is prevailing in the State of Orissa. All the 13 districts have been affected by drought except some irrigated patches. The total cultivable area under irrigation is only 26 per cent. The rest of 74 per cent of and depends on rainfall for good harvest.

The State Government has sought an assistance of Rs. 155 crores from the Centre. The Central team has visited the drought affected area and assessed the situation. But the gravity of the situation can be well imagined from a press report appearing in the "AMRIT BAZAR PATRIKA", date the 26th of August, 1987. Sir, the report says:

"Mr. M. D. Asthana, leader of the Central team currently visiting the drought-hit areas of Orissa, today assured that the Centre would provide the required financial and foodgrains assistance to the State to meet the situation arising out of the natural calamity.....

"Dr. Asthana, who made an on-the-spot assessment of the drought situation in the western Orissa districts of Kalahandi and Bolangir during the past two days, described the situation there as "very unhappy".

Sir, in view of this, besides demanding Rs. 155 crores in its memorandum, the State Government has requested the Central Government to supply 70,000 tons of rice per month against a supply of 20,600

ton per month at present in order to strengthen the public distribution system in drought affected areas.

Since the Centre has already sanctioned Rs. 250 crores for other drought-hit States, Orissa should get its due share immediately.

The Central Government should make arrangements to provide edible oil and other essential commodities to Orissa in adequate quantity.

Drinking water is a problem in Orissa, specially in backward and tribal areas and also in saline belt. Sufficient amount should be allocated for this purpose.

Liberal Central assistance should be given to Orissa to meet the drought situation immediately.

Thank you.

ALLEGED SALES TAX EVASION BY BIG INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL HOUSES

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह (बिहार) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आज इस सदन में ऐसा सवाल खड़ा कर रहा हूँ जिससे पता चलेगा कि यस सरकार पूँजीपतियों के साथ मिलकर, उनके साथ साठगांठ करके जनता को टैक्स से कितना मार रही है और पूँजीपति कितना मार रहे हैं। इसके लिए बाहर के किसी व्यक्ति ने नहीं बल्कि उनकी कम्पनी के अफसरों ने जो चिट्ठी लिखी है उनमें से केवल दो चिट्ठियाँ कोट करना चाहता हूँ जिससे आप को पता चल जायेगा कि कितना बड़ा अनर्थ इस देश की जनता के साथ ये पूँजीपति कर रहे हैं। जो टाटा आइरन एंड स्टील कम्पनी जमशेदपुर में है इस की चीजों के दाम तय होते हैं कलकत्ता में लेकिन डायरेक्टर मेटिथिल का कंसाइनमेंट एजेंसी के आदमी से सेट्रल गवर्नमेंट का सेल्स टैक्स 4 परसेंट और लोकल सरकार का 8 या 10 परसेंट लगता है। मैं आपको पढ़ कर सुना दे रहा हूँ। आप रहते हैं सरकार के पास पैसा नहीं है जबकि सरकार जनता का कराँड़ों और अरबों रुपये टैक्स मार कर