

SHRI K. MOHANAN: There are contradictory reports. Even a Member of your Party has said this. (*Interruptions*) what can I do? I have no statement before me. There is no authentic report before me. That is why, I am raising this question.

SHRI KALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Government have accepted the letters. They have not raised any doubts. Why should you raise any doubts?

SHRI K. MOHANAN: Even now, there are contradictory reports. Your Party Member has raised this question. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Arunachalam, you can have your say. Let him make his observations.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: Madam, we all prey for the speedy recovery of Mr. Ramachandran and his return to India, immediately. But nobody knows how much more time it will take. According to newspaper reports, he is coming back to India on the 4th February.. Even now, we have no authentic statement or report from the Government side. I am very happy to see him in a good condition. But contradictory reports are there even on this account. The people of this country, especially the people of Tamil Nadu, are doubtful about his present condition. There is a feeling among the people in Tamil Nadu that the authorities in Tamil are deliberately trying to conceal something from them. Therefore, I would appeal to the Government to come out with an authentic statement regarding his present condition.

Madam, we have our great regards for Dr. MGR. At the same time, we have our great regard, honour and respect for our Constitution. The present position in Tamil Nadu is an abuse against the people of the State, the Parliamentary system in this country and even our Constitution. We should not allow it to become a precedent or convention in this coun-

try. I would, hence, urge the Government to act immediately and instal a new Ministry in Tamil Nadu on the basis of the verdict of the people without further delay.

REFERENCE TO THE REPORTED POSSIBILITY OF GAS LEAKAGE IN THE NATIONAL SILICON PLANT AT BARODA

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA (Andhra Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very important issue. The shock of the gas leakage at Bhopal has hardly died. Now we get report that similar things are likely to happen elsewhere. I am referring to the Baroda plant, National Silicon factory. I understand that an agreement has already been signed and this Baroda plant is likely to use the obsolete technology supplied by one M/s Hemlock Company. Obviously, I do not have any other access to the report and, therefore, I have to depend upon the newspaper report. It is for the Government to say whether the newspaper report is correct or not. Anyhow, there are two sides of the issue. One is that this obsolete technology may have deleterious effect on the people living in Baroda. Secondly, in our own country another concern has developed a technology which is more reliable. The technology has been developed by M/s Mettur Chemicals. Not only in terms of the danger that is there by the use of the obsolete technology of a foreign firm but even in terms of the product there is a dispute. This Mettur Chemicals is producing the required amount of the product which is used in India today. If this Baroda plant is allowed to have its own say, it will be surplus for which there will be no market. Also the product produced by the Indian firm will have a favourable cost benefit analysis. After using the obsolete technology with which the Government have entered into an agreement with a foreign firm the price of the product produced by this new firm will be higher

[Prof. C Lakshmanan]

by about six-fold. While the world price will be about Rs. 225 per kg., the product of this company will cost about Rs. 1200 per kg. Therefore, either from the cost point of view or from the safety point of view, this is not suitable. After using obsolete technology it will take them about 3 years to expand by which time the patent life of the technology will be over and that too will become detrimental to the health of the people of Baroda.

Therefore, I plead with the Government to look into this problem very seriously so that such a tragedy does not recur in Baroda. One may say that the things have always been looked into but see what happened in Madhya Pradesh Assembly when the issue was raised, an effort was made to sidetrack the issue and ultimately thousands of people had to pay the penalty by losing their lives. This is all due to the mistake committed by the bureaucracy, by the Government.

Therefore, I request the Government to look into this matter carefully and see that a similar tragedy does not befall again as it happened in the case of Bhopal.

REFERENCE TO THE REPORTED SHORTAGE OF COOKING GAS CYLINDERS IN DEHI

श्री शमोम अहमद सिद्दीकी (दिल्ली) :
डिप्टी चेयरमैन साहिब, मैं आपके माध्यम से पेट्रोलियम मिनिस्टर साहब का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि गुजिस्ता दो-तीन महीनों से दिल्ली के अंदर गैस की शार्टेज है और उस शार्टेज की वजह से लोगों को काफी परेशानी है क्योंकि जिन लोगों को गैस कनेक्शन मिलते हैं, उनको न तो कोयला मिलता है और न ही मिट्टी का तेल मिलता है और खास तौर से पिछले 15 रोज से तो यह हालत है कि लोग बीस बीस रोज से पैसे जमा करवाते हैं, लेकिन सिलेंडर का कोई वक्त नहीं होता कि कब मिलेगा। शहर के अंदर आप जैसा कि जानती ही

है कि बहुत कंजस्टेड एरियाज हैं और खास तौर पर जो इस शार्टेज से मुतासिर हो रहे हैं, वह जामा मस्जिद का इलाका है, सदर बाजार का इलाका है और बल्ली मारान का इलाका है।

मैं पेट्रोलियम मिनिस्टर की तबज्जह इस ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि वह इस तरफ तबज्जह फरमायें और शहर के लोगों को जो दिक्कतों, परेशानियाँ उठानी पड़ती हैं, उसकी तरफ कौरी कार्यवाही करें।

REFERENCE TO THE REPORTED RETRENCHMENT IN THE BENGAL POTTERIES LIMITED, CALCUTTA

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN (West Bengal):
Madam Deputy Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the condition of a very important industrial unit in West Bengal—the Bengal Potteries Ltd. It is one of the oldest units in the pottery industry in India. In fact, it is a pioneer in that industry and the products of this unit are appreciated all over the country. That industry employs 3500 workers, all in Calcutta. But this industry has fallen sick over the last several years and after a prolonged trade union movement the Government took over the management. But the Government has entrusted the management of this industry to such persons as are again by their mismanagement and inefficient financial control leading the industry towards further sickness. Now the condition is such that at any moment the industry may be closed down. If it is closed down, not only 3500 employees and workers will be thrown out of job but a pioneer industry in the field of pottery will be shut down. That will be, a very sad affair.

Madam, for a long time the workers of that industry belonging to trade unions, affiliated to various central trade unions are demanding nationalisation of Bengal Potteries Ltd. This