

ample, one Pushpa Das is now there in the jail. Her mother was charged for committing the **murder** of her husband and she was convicted on April 9, 1969. But the High Court acquitted this lady on the 8th August, 1971 on the ground that she was insane. The mother is in jail because she is insane. Because the mother is in jail, the daughter is also in jail, even though she wants to come out of the jail and wants to lead a normal life. One Majida Khatun was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1969 and normally speaking, after fourteen years, the sentences of life imprisonment are reviewed. In this case, it has not been reviewed with the result that one daughter aged 19, another daughter aged 16, another daughter aged 14. are in jail. These have committed no crime whatsoever. There is no case against them. Simply because, their mothers are in jail, they (are) in jail. One of the girls has said:

"When I came here with my mother, I was a small child. Now, I am a young girl and like all the girls outside, we have our hopes too. We too long for a happy home and a husband. Why should we be deprived of the joys of life?"

And there has been a case where a girl because of frustration that she is there in the jail for no reason whatsoever, has committed suicide. The paper has thrown a challenge to the country by posing this question.

"Cannot this problem be sorted out? If there is a legal hitch, cannot a judge step forward and do what he or she can do to help? Cannot the Government and the bureaucracy enquire and see how quickly they can get these girls out of their misery? Cannot some voluntary agency take the responsibility for these utterly destitute?"

Sir, this is against all human conscience. Why should these girls be in jail when they have attained majority and when they have committed no crime? They are in the jail for no fault of theirs.

I would request the Home Minister to enquire into this case and see that these

girls who had to go with their mothers to the jail are no longer kept in jail. Because living with convicts and criminals has its own impact. It leads to helplessness and frustration and I feel that the Home Ministry should examine this case and if there are similar cases in other jails also, they should also be examined in depth.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I fully associate myself with the views expressed by Mr. Goswami and I hope, the Home Ministry will examine this case.

REFERENCE TO THE NEED FOR DECLARATION OF BAKARWALS AND GUJARS AS SCHEDULED TRIBES

SHRI GULAM MOHI-UD-DIN SHAWL (Jammu and Kashmir): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir. I thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise this matter of urgent public importance in regard to the question of Bakarwals and Gujars in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Their condition is appalling. Economically, socially and educationally, they stand nowhere. Gujars are dispersed throughout the State. But it is mainly hills where they are populated. They have no means of livelihood and they are extremely poor. As far as the Bakarwals are concerned, they are nomadic shepherds. They come in winter to the Jammu region and during summer, to Kashmir and they are very much backward, educationally and socially. So, as far as the State Government is concerned it has done a lot for their welfare and betterment, but due to constraints on funds it is not able to do what is required to be done for them. So, the necessity arises that the Gujars and the Bakarwals of the State of Jammu and Kashmir be declared as Scheduled Tribes to ameliorate their lot economically, socially and educationally, and that will go a long way for their betterment and welfare.

REFERENCE TO THE REPORTED UNPRECEDENTED DAMAGE CAUSE DUE TO DROUGHT TO CASH CROPS IN KERALA

SHRI M. M. JACOB (Kerala): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I draw the atten-

[Shri M. M. Jacob]

tion of the Government through you, to the unprecedented damage caused to the crops of cardamom which is a foreign exchange earner, rubber, coffee, cocoa, cloves, nutmeg, coconut and arecanut in the State of Kerala. Sir, the drought has affected all the crops though one or two rains must have come now. The plants that were already there have either vanished or have been destroyed. In the case of paddy and other crops the results can be seen next year itself but in the case of cash crops it will take three to seven years for the plants to mature, to start giving yields.

Sixty per cent of the cardamom is grown in Kerala and 80 per cent is grown by the small growers, poor farmers. Fifty per cent of their crop is estimated to be lost; it has to be replanted. According to the estimates about 25 hectares of cardamom are to be replaced and the cost is about Rs. 25 crores for replanting cardamom in this year. A large number of workers are being affected because their livelihood has lost. Same is the case with the coffee. Coffee plants in Vayanad and other areas have been lost. Farmers are now without work and their income is nil. Credit under the drought relief assistance is required. Assistance is required to be given to the farmer so that they can replant the seedlings.

Regarding rubber, new plantations are affected badly. Thirty per cent of the first year plants are lost, twenty per cent of the second year plants are lost and ten per cent of the third year crop are also* lost. This also requires subsidy. Planting materials are required to be rushed immediately. Otherwise, this industry will be affected very badly.

The point is we earn foreign exchange by capturing markets abroad. Once we are out of market, for another three, four or five years we will not be able to capture the same. Similarly, cocoa, coconut and arecanut crop is also completely lost.

We request you kindly to rush aid through the Commodity Boards and also through the Agriculture Ministry, through

the State Government to give immediate assistance to the farmer, in these areas to replant the crops already lost as a result of this severe drought. Thank you.

REFERENCE TO THE NEED TO EXPLORE EXPORT MARKET FOR TANNED GOAT-SKIN

DR. M. M. S. SIDDHU (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, I thank you for giving me this, opportunity to bring to the notice of the Government the sad plight of small scale sector tanneries and those engaged in sale proceeds and buying of goat skins.

Goat skins are being smuggled to Nepal, from where they are re-exported. It has affected our export market, Nepali products being cheaper as they are not subjected to as high duties as in India. This has caused a glut of goat skins in the markets of Lucknow and nearabout. While previously goat skins were being sold at about Rs. 40 or so, the price has fallen to Rs. 10 to 15, as there are a few buyers. This has affected also the price of mutton which has risen by Rs. 2 to 3 per kilogram.

Sir, Uttar Pradesh produces nearly one-fifth to one-fourth of the total goat skins. The export of blue tanned goat skins has fallen due to low demand from USSR. The export quota of U.P. of tanned goat skins is miserably low. Therefore, it is requested that the Government may take measures to persuade the USSR to restore the previous year's demand of goat skins. Secondly, it should explore other markets as to depend on only one major export market is not desirable. Thirdly, strict and effective measures be taken to stop smuggling of goat skins to Nepal. Fourthly, the quota of Uttar Pradesh of tanned goat skin, to be exported be increased.

In case effective measures are not taken, I am afraid the tanneries in Uttar Pradesh will be forced to close down, leading to large scale unemployment-