

SHRI B. D. KHOBRAGADE: About holiday, are you making the announcement today?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Last time, we declared it.

SHRI B. D. KHOBRAGADE: Last time you declared it. You don't want to declare this time?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now we go to the Special Mentions. There are eight Members wanting to make Special Mentions. So I would request them to be brief, please, and limit their observations to three minutes. Mr. Jaswant Singh. Please don't exceed that time.

REFERENCE TO THE EXPLOSION NEAR THE NUCLEAR FUEL COM- PLEX, HYDERABAD

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Rajasthan): Sir, I am grateful to you for granting me this opportunity to mention a matter of urgent public importance. Sir, it relates to an explosion near the Nuclear Fuel Complex at Maula Ali in Hyderabad. This was on the 24th of March—i.e. two days ago.

The question involved, to my mind, as indeed, I would submit, to the whole House and the nation, is of vital public importance because both the security of the Nuclear Fuel Complex and the question of disposal of nuclear waste are involved.

Fifteen people are reported to have been injured—two of them seriously—in this blast which took place at the Nuclear Fuel Complex near Hyderabad. It is reported that amongst the injured are 13 tribals. Now according to the police—there has been no authoritative statement from the Government so far and I would request the Government to come forward willingly and make a statement—the Nuclear Fuel Complex, which is

located near Hyderabad, is in the habit of disposing volatile metal powder—that is the euphemism used by the press. It is not known actually whether it is radioactive or whether it is harmful or harmless. So it is in the habit of disposing this volatile metal powder at a dumping ground near the complex itself. It is a matter open to question whether by so dumping, the complex is also not being endangered, leave aside the question of long-term implications of endangering the life and health of the locality or the area as such. It is also reported that tribals from nearby areas are in the habit of rummaging where this metal waste is deposited. This raises an important and vital question about the disposal of nuclear waste and I would request the Government to willingly come forward with a statement.

REFERENCE TO THE REPORTED OBSERVANCE OF BLACK DAY BY SOME JUNIOR DOCTORS OF FIVE MAJOR MEDICAL HOSPITALS OF NEW DELHI IN SUPPORT OF THE DEMAND OF KARNATAKA JUNIOR DOCTORS AND MEDICAL STU- DENTS

SHRI B. D. KHOBRAGADE (Maharashtra): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the observance of black day in Delhi on the 10th of this month by the medical students. About 2,500 medical students of Delhi had observed this black day in support of the medical students in Karnataka, who have been continuing their agitation for the last 3 months. Karnataka students' demand is that the capitation fee which is charged from the students for admission to the medical colleges should be abolished.

Sir, I do not understand how a poor meritorious student can get admission to a medical college if he is asked to pay about Rs. 1.5 lakh for

getting admission. It only means that sons of rich parents only can get admission to medical colleges. There are a number of such colleges in this country particularly in Karnataka. Everybody is saying in reference to Gujarat that merit must be given its due place. Where is the merit in this case? A student whose father is rich can get admission even if he gets 45 or 50 per cent marks. And a poor student—belonging to any community—who scores 80 per cent or 90 per cent of marks, because his father cannot afford to pay one and half lakhs of rupees, is being debarred from getting admission into the medical college. Therefore, what I would request is that the Central Government should intervene in this matter and declare that there will be no capitation fee charged from any student and that any meritorious student, on his own merit, would be admitted to the medical college. Secondly, Sir, if one wants to run medical colleges privately, he cannot run them because it is an expensive job. Therefore, if you want to run medical colleges and admit students on merit only and not on the basis of money, then all the medical colleges should be taken over by the Government.

REFERENCE TO THE REPORTED DELAY IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF PALANA THERMAL PROJECT IN RAJASTHAN

श्री डॉ० होराचन्द्र (तामिलनाडु) .
उपसभापति महोदय, मैं आपका अत्यन्त आभारी हूँ कि आपने मुझे यहाँ पर बोलने की इजाजत दी। मैं सरकार का ध्यान राजस्थान के एक ऐसे जिले बीकानेर की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ जो औद्योगिक दृष्टि से अत्यन्त पिछड़ा हुआ क्षेत्र रहा है और राज्य सरकार द्वारा हमेशा उपेक्षित रहा है। आजादी के 30 सालों में वहाँ पर कोई ऐसा कार्य नहीं किया गया जिससे उस क्षेत्र की उन्नति हो। पर हाल ही में आशा

की एक किरण जागृत हुई। बीकानेर के पास जो पलाना है वहाँ पर लिगनाइट पर आधारित थर्मल पावर प्लांट चालू किया जा रहा है ताकि बीकानेर डिवीजन ही नहीं बल्कि पूरे राजस्थान को इससे फायदा होने वाला है। परन्तु अभी-अभी मैं कुछ दिन पहले वहाँ गया था तो पता चला कि पलाना थर्मल प्लांट पर राज्य सरकार ने कार्य फिलहाल स्थगित कर दिया है। मैं सरकार का ध्यान उस ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि पलाना में लिगनेट कोयले का विपुल भंडार उपलब्ध है जो कि कम से कम पचास साल तक निकाला जा सकता है। सेंट्रल इलेक्ट्रिसिटी अथॉरिटी आफ इंडिया ने भी इस स्कीम की स्वीकृति राज्य सरकार को दे दी है। यही नहीं, यहाँ के कोयले को जर्मनी के विशेषज्ञों की सहायता से जियालाजिकल सर्वे आफ इंडिया को भी भेजा गया और वहाँ से भी अनुकूल पाया गया है और उन्होंने कहा है कि कम से कम पचास साल तक कोयला उपलब्ध हो सकता है। यहाँ का कोयला तकनीकी जाँच के लिये जर्मनी भेजा गया और जर्मनी से प्राप्त लिगनाइट की तकनीकी रिपोर्ट प्राप्त हो गई है जो कि अनुकूल मानी गई है। यही नहीं राज्य सरकार ने वहाँ पर कार्य शुरू करके एक चीफ इंजीनियर, डिवीजनल इंजीनियर, सुपरिंटेंडिंग इंजीनियर और अन्य कई पोटों की नियुक्ति भी हो गई। इन सब हालात के बाद पता नहीं क्यों राज्य सरकार ने इस पूरे मामले को खटाई में डाल दिया है। आज देश, प्रान्त और जिले के विकास में विद्युत प्रधान है। बगैर विद्युत शक्ति से कोई उद्योग लग नहीं सकता। आप जानते हैं, आए दिन राजस्थान को विद्युत कटौती का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। अगर ६० पी० पी० आए दिन फेल होता रहता है और राजस्थान को अपने हिस्से की विद्युत शक्ति प्राप्त करने के