

answered in the course of the Business of the House and the proceedings. Now, the basic thing is that the Ministers are ready, the answers are ready, everything is ready. We never get a chance to ask the supplementaries. During this period, if you can pick up many of those, through Ballot, which have not been answered on the Floor, that is the way we can still restore Question Hour and allow. ...(*Interruptions*)... Question Hour is a very valuable time for Members to hold the Government accountable. Removing that would send a very, very wrong signal to the people of India. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have got your point. ...(*Interruptions*)... There have been precedents earlier also that when Session is extended, what happens etc. You have given a suggestion. For future, I shall keep that suggestion in mind and look into its feasibilities, possibilities and its consequences, etc. and then, take a view on that.

Now, for Zero Hour, I have admitted 25 to 26 submissions. Let us do justice to that also. Shri Vaiko.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION OF CHAIR

Environmental damage due to hydrocarbon project in Cauvery Delta area in Tamil Nadu

SHRI VAIKO (Tamil Nadu): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman, Sir, for my maiden Zero Hour mention after 23 years.

I wish to bring to the kind notice of the Union Government, the most dangerous, disastrous scheme of hydrocarbon project which is being thrust on farmers of Cauvery delta of Tamil Nadu, that is, the pernicious hydrocarbon project to extract methane gas and shale gas.

This Government, under the stewardship of hon. Narendra Modiji, is very keen to make hydrocarbon wells up to 10,000 ft. in the fertile lands of Cauvery delta to extract methane gas and shale gas totally through Sterlite Industries, Vedanta Group 274 wells and also to the ONGC 67 wells. Now, in two wells, ONGC is executing the work. On 17th July, the Government has given licence to ONGC for one well in Thanjavur District, one well in Thiruvavur District, one well in Nagappattinam District, and then, Cuddalore. They will thrust into the wells 20 million litres of water per day along with 636 poisonous chemicals under the earth and the poisonous water will be brought out, which will destroy the entire fertile lands, making it unfit for cultivation further.

The Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan is so audacious and* to say on 17th of this month that they will implement the project come what may. Millions and millions of farmers, workers, women, students, irrespective of caste, religion, political parties are opposing through peaceful agitations for the past three years. On 23rd June, we, including myself, millions of Tamils formed a human chain right from Marakkaanam in Vizhuppuram district, through the State of Puducherry, Cuddalore, Nagappattinam, Thanjavur, Ramanathapuram districts upto Rameshwaram to the distance 596 kms. human wall.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Division Number is not given.

SHRI VAIKO: I will take only one minute.

Thousands of farmers from Tamil Nadu and north Indian States were undergoing fast at Jantar Mantar yesterday. With this scheme, the Union Government will be getting enormous money, to the tune of billions of billions of rupees and filling the coffers of the Government with gold.

So, your Government will get enriched. On the other hand, the most part of Tamil Nadu Cauvery Delta, the granary of Asia, will become a desert. We will become another **. The future generation will become refugees with begging bowls.

Therefore, I emphatically urge the Government of India to give up this project and stop forthwith the activities of Vedanta and ONGC. Otherwise, the people of Tamil Nadu will rise in revolt against this dangerous move of the Central Government.**

श्री पी. एल. पुनिया (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य द्वारा सदन में उठाए गए विषय से अपने आपको संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री हुसैन दलवाई (महाराष्ट्र): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा सदन में उठाए गए विषय से अपने आपको संबद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI T.K.S. ELANGO VAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

** Not Recorded.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, we too associate ourselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No warning can be given in the House. That is number one. Number two, Shri Vaiko, you have gone in high speed, and you have made your point. Members should always confine to the issue and then, at the end, say 'this is the suggestion or this is the demand'. That is how we go about. Now, Shri Chunibhai Kanjibhai Gohel. Time is not shown because he was not yet allotted a division. I am watching it. Reference to * should also be out of record.

Starting of fishing activities by the fishermen

श्री चुनीभाई कानजीभाई गोहेल (गुजरात): माननीय सभापति जी, आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद, क्योंकि आपने मुझे ज़ीरो-ऑवर में बोलने का मौका दिया है। मैं आपके माध्यम से सदन का ध्यान एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण मैटर की ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ। सर, मछली के एक्सपोर्ट की वजह से हम अपने देश के लिए बहुत सारा फॉरेन एक्सचेंज हर साल कमाते हैं और हर साल उसमें वृद्धि होती जा रही है। अब फिशिंग शुरू हो रही है। दिनांक 45 अगस्त से फिशिंग का काम शुरू हो जाएगा और तब मछुआरे अपनी बोट लेकर फिशिंग को जाएंगे। कभी फिशिंग 18 दिन की होती, कभी 15 दिन की होती है और कभी-कभी एक दिन की भी होती है। इस बारे में आप अच्छी तरह से जानते हैं, क्योंकि आपके क्षेत्र में भी फिशिंग की एक्टिविटीज़ हैं। जब वे मछली पकड़ने जाते हैं, तो उनके पास पैसे नहीं होते हैं, इसलिए वे अपने घर के जेवरात वगैरह गिरवी रखकर और व्यापारी से पैसे लेकर फिशिंग के लिए जाते हैं।

महोदय, जब वे लोग फिशिंग से वापस आते हैं, तो वे अपना माल व्यापारी, यानी एक्सपोर्टर को दे देते हैं। एक्सपोर्टर्स को माल देने के बाद, उन्हें उनके माल का तुरन्त भुगतान नहीं होता है। उनसे पैसा मिलने में तीन-चार महीने तक लग जाते हैं। अगर उन्हें जल्दी और टाइम पर पैसे चाहिए, तो वे 7 प्रतिशत की कटिंग कराकर पैसे ले सकते हैं। आप जानते हैं कि मछुआरा बहुत महत्वपूर्ण कास्ट है और देश के लिए फॉरेन एक्सचेंज दिलाने में उनका भी सहयोग है। हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी हर साल उनके लिए कुछ-न-कुछ सुविधाएं प्रदान करते रहते हैं। इसके कारण मछुआरे आज अपने पैरों पर खड़े हुए हैं। अतः मैं आपके माध्यम से गुजरात और प्रार्थना करना चाहता हूँ कि आप और प्रधान मंत्री जी इस बारे में इंटरवेंशन करें, जिससे मछुआरों को उनके माल का पैसा सात दिन में मिल जाए।

श्री अमर शंकर साबले (महाराष्ट्र): महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य द्वारा सदन में उठाए गए विषय से अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।