

श्री नीलोत्पल बसु : सरकार स्टेटमेंट देगी या नहीं यह पूछ लीजिए।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yesterday, I saw two contradictory statements on the television. The Minister of Health said on the floor of the Lok Sabha that they have tested the water and the water was clean. While the Minister of Consumer Affairs said that he was withdrawing the ISI mark. Now, there is some confusion in everybody's mind, including mine, because I did not know that is right. So, will you please ask the Government and the concerned Minister to come out and enlighten us as to what is the truth?

संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा श्रम मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री विजय गोयल) : उपसभापति जी, वैसे तो कल जो स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जी ने लोक सभा के अंदर बयान दिया है उसमें उनका यही कहना था कि जो मापदंड हमने बनाए थे उन पर तो यह पानी अभी खरा उतरता है, किन्तु अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार के अंदर जो नए-नए और अच्छे मापदंड आए हैं, उनके हिसाब से उसमें कुछ पाया गया है कि शायद कुछ कमी हो सकती है। लेकिन वर्तमान में जो मापदंड है उन पर तो यह पानी खरा उतरा है। इसलिए घबराहट की उसमें कोई जरूरत नहीं है। किन्तु फिर भी उपसभापति जी ने मेरे ध्यान में यह लाया है कि जिसके कारण जो दूसरा मंत्रालय है उसने आई.एस.आई. मार्क विदड़ों किया है, तो मैं चाहूंगा कि संबंधित मंत्री इस सदन के अंदर कोई बयान दें।

डा. अबरार अहमद : दोनों मंत्री बयान दें।

Need for rehabilitation of tribals in the country

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): More than eight crore tribal population in our country today are economically deprived and socially oppressed section. They constitute a major portion of landless rural poor and contract labour in mines, plantation, etc. Due to curtailment of P.D.S., cut in the social sector funds, large-scale privatisation, attack on public sector, repression perpetrated on them by the mafias, contractors, etc., the lives of this section of rural poor are most deplorable. They are today faced with the threat of losing their language and culture also. Forest is their natural habitat. The relationship between tribals and the conservation of forest is an integral part of their existence. Any eviction of the tribals without solving their problem would be detrimental to their interest. The Government should, therefore, think over the problem very seriously.

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY (West Bengal): Sir I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Prasanta Chatterjee.

Need for holding Panchayat elections in Pondicherry

SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU (Pondicherry): Thank you, Madam. Pondicherry people have been crying hoarse for Panchayat elections for the past 35 years. The dream of Shri Rajiv Gandhi was that Panchayats and Municipalities should exist and the elected representatives should rule the gross root of Government machineries. So, in 1992, the Constitution was amended by the 73rd and 74th Amendments. By virtue of the Amendments, it is mandatory that the States and Union Territories should conduct elections once in five years. In spite of the amendments, there is a silence about the civic elections to be held in Pondicherry.

Even though several demands have been made in this House by me, no action has been taken to conduct the elections. The Government has not issued any notice to the Government of Pondicherry, as per the Constitution, to conduct the elections. This amounts to dereliction of duty on the part of the Union as well as the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

About 1148 persons are deprived of their political offices as Presidents, Chairmen and Ward Counsellors of these civic bodies, Sixteen per cent of them are Scheduled Castes. After elections, these persons would attend to needs of the people and welfare of the people and it would be implemented properly through various schemes.

So, I request the Government to issue a direction, as per Article 256 of the Constitution, to the Union Territory of Pondicherry to conduct elections to the civic bodies immediately. These have not been conducted for the last 35 years. Thank you.

Building of homes for homeless families in Bihar

डा. रमेन्द्र कुमार यादव "रवि" (बिहार) : उपसभापति महोदया, बिहार राज्य में 20 लाख आवास-विहीन परिवार हैं जो पूरे देश में आवास-विहीन परिवारों का 11 प्रतिशत हैं। परंतु केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा बिहार राज्य को प्रति वर्ष 1.75 लाख आवासों का लक्ष्य दिया जाता है जिसके कारण आवास-विहीन परिवारों को आवास मुहैया कराने में 10 वर्षों से भी अधिक समय लग सकता है।