

behave like this. You are not the only Member. I have to allow others also. Now please sit down. Shri Anbarasu.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANBARASU ERA (Madras Central): Sir, this is an important issue regarding rise in the price of gold. It is shocking to know that the gold price steeped up to Rs. 5,020 per ten grams, for the first time in the history. The supply of gold to the bullion market had very drastically dipped due to the unprecedented spurt in gold prices.

12.51 hrs.

*(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair)*

In this connection, I have a small suggestion to make. The travellers should be allowed to bring gold to the country. The Government should allow free flow of gold to the country of course with collection of small amount of customs duty, either by gold or by dollar so that the reserve of gold in the country will be increased and the gold price will be decreased. This will help in prevention of smuggling of gold considerably.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Finance Minister, through you, to formulated a policy to permit the tourists and other visitors to bring the gold to India by imposing minimum custom duty payment in the form of gold and in dollars so as to improve the gold reserve and also to reduce the price of the gold.

Lastly, whenever any issues is raised here during zero hour, it generally becomes unheard and unreplied. I, therefore, make an appeal to you to get the issues raised on the floor of this guest House during zero hour examined by the Government. The concerned Ministers should give replies to the Members on the issues raised on the floor of this House during zero hour.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter which, I think, will get the support of all sections of this House. The Railway Protection Force Association-which has a membership of more than 75,000 all over the Indian Railways-which was enjoying the recognition, has been deprived of that recognition. This right of forming association has been withdrawn in the year 1987 by enacting a law. When the Bill for this purpose was introduced in this House, we opposed that Bill and even at the consideration stage also we opposed it. But that Bill passed and the fundamental right of the Railway Protection Force Association has been withdrawn.

The Committee on Subordinate Legislation of this House has also categorically stated that when other Central police forces resorted to serious agitation in 1979, the Railway Protection Force men did not resort to any form of agitation for redressal of their grievances and maintained very high standards of discipline and good image. That Committee has categorically recommended for restoration of the recognition of this Association of Railway Protection Force. Two Members of the Congress (I) had also made demand in this regard, on the floor of this House. One of them, Shri Kumaramanglam, is now a Member of the Council of Ministers. He and Shri Harish Rawat held a demonstration, they staged dharna and we all sections of the House supported. *(Interruptions)*. Then the then Railway Minister, Shri Janeshwar Mishra, came and stated that decision was already taken by the Cabinet to restore the recognition to RPF Association. Sir, up till now the decision has not been implemented. There is serious resentment among these RPF personnel. When IPS officers have been trying to form an Association, then why these Railway Protection Force personnel, who are the railwaymen and not the Armed Forces, are debarred from forming an Association and their fundamental right

was withdrawn in 1987? When IPS officers have their right to form an Association, why not, Sir, the RPF personnel? (*Interruptions*).

Sir, they are not recognised If their recognition is not restored, then...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs should respond to it. (*Interruptions*).

SHRIBASUDEB ACHARIA: It was categorically stated by the Railway Minister and the decision was also taken. (*Interruptions*).

The decision of the Government is not being implemented by this Government.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: The Parliamentary Affairs Minister should respond to it. They should be allowed to form a union.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: The Parliamentary Affairs Minister should respond. It is the sentiment of the whole House and the feeling of the entire House.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, why is the Parliamentary Affairs Minister not responding? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: We want to know whether the matter went to the Cabinet or not and what decision has been taken. (*Interruptions*). We have every right to know what action has been taken on this issue. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Does he want that we should again sit in the well of the House? Only two days are left. What is the response?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, the

Parliamentary Affairs Minister should respond.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: We are appealing to the conscience of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Kumaraman-galam. (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Mangal Ram Premi.

(*Interruptions*).

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI (Bijnor): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, during zero hour today, I would like to draw the attention of the Communications Minister to the malfunctioning of the telephone system in my constituency Bijnor. The communication system in Bijnor district is so bad that the telephones always remain out of order and even my telephone has not been put in order till today and I have not been able to talk to anyone on it. As a result, the entire business of Bijnor district has almost come to a stand still. The public there is facing lot of hardship and is agitated.

Therefore, through you, I would like to request the Communications Minister that an electronic exchange in the district be set up immediately so that the communication system can be improved. I have already written letter to the hon. Minister in this connection. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister should respond to this issue. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTYSPEAKER: Nothing goes on record.

(*Interruptions*)\*