

Sir, the journalists will continue to be insulted in this manner.

[*English*]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Will the Prime Minister assure that the strike by the jute workers.....

MR. SPEAKER: You have agreed to speak one after the other and also if a Member has spoken in Question Hour he will not speak during the Zero Hour.

Yes, Shri Virendra Singh.

[*Translation*]

You had given a very good suggestion. Please speak on it and don't go into other issues.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will speak only on that. Sir, I had gone to my constituency. There we had discussions on the miserable life led by District level, State level and national level sportsmen. It sent shivers down my spine, when I heard all that.

I would like to draw the attention at the Government towards a basic problem faced by the sportsmen, which is linked to our national honour. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is related to the condition of our sportsmen and women from rural areas who play at the District, Zonal, Regional and National level, who dedicate the prime of their youth to bring laurels to their districts, States and the country. Unfortunately, the Government doesn't make any provision to provide a livelihood to these people, once they retire from active sports. As a result of this, people living in rural areas are not taking any interest in sports. It is also because, while on the one hand rural sports is being neglected, on the other, the sportsmen from the rural areas lead a

pitiable life at the end of their career. Government servants are paid monthly salary for the service they render to the nation and they are also assured of pension or other pensionary benefits after their superannuation. They are provided these facilities because while in service, they contributed their mite to the nation's prestige.

12.48 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

But Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, why doesn't the Government pay attention to the conditions of the rural sportsmen, who through sheer hard work, dedicate their youth, to the service of the country and add to the glory of the nation? It is precisely because of this that our sports standards are falling, despite allocation of crores of rupees for sports.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not against the benefits being provided to the Government servants, but I would certainly like to know the remedial steps being taken by the Government to improve the lot of those sportsmen, who devote their prime of life for the country's esteem. I sincerely hope that you will be kind enough to direct the Government to pay attention towards this very important national problem and provide facilities to the sportspersons due to them, at the level they play and also make a provision to provide pension to block level, district level, state level and national level players. Similarly, it seems that the miserable condition of sportspersons in the rural areas. Therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the wide coverage given to urbane games and players should be restricted. I am not saying that I am opposed to cricket of Tennis but the village level sportspersons should be given similar coverage and facilities... (*Interruptions*) ... Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this

would give a big boost to sport across the country and raise the standard of Indian sports to international level. Those managing sports activities in the country including the President of the National Olympic Committee do not have any sports background whatsoever and this explains the reasons for the mismanagement of sports in the country. In this regard, I would like to say that the matters concerning sports should be taken up for discussion ... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV** (Sahasra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the plight of the poor in this sprawling metropolis of Delhi. About one or one and a half months back some labourers from Bihar were doing the work of loading and unloading at the Railway Cement Shedding at Shadurbasti, and were staying in the nearby Jhuggi clusters. Some personnel from the C.R.P.F. and Delhi Police set on fire their Juggis and made away with their household items. I wrote letters in this regard to both the Hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Home Affairs, but no action has been taken on it so far. The Hindi daily 'Rashtriya Sahara' and another monthly magazine have published complete details about this gory incident. The Government has neither taken any legal action against the culprits nor has it initiated any relief work. I urge the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to take stringent action against the guilty officials and provide relief to the hapless labourers... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

**SHRI RUPCHAND PAL**: Sir, the jute mills strike in West Bengal is entering the 44th day today. When the Members of Parliament had gone and met the Prime Minister, he had given an assurance that

you do everything and intervene to settle the dispute between the workers and the jute mills. The West Bengal Government has done everything still no settlement could be arrived at. More than two lakh workers in West Bengal are suffering. It is an important industry. It is a very important foreign exchange earner but the Government of India has not done anything in spite of their assurance. (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI SUDARSAN RAY CHAUDHURY** (Serampore): Sir, I went to the Prime Minister myself in the middle of January. I asked for his intervention. The Prime Minister assured me as well as Mr. Gurdas Dasgupta, Member of Rajya Sabha that within two or three days, the matter will be look into. You first try to locate Mr. Ashok Gehlot and necessary steps will be taken. Unfortunately, 44 days have gone by but nothing has come out. (*Interruptions*) Shri Hannan Mollah has raised the matter in the Question Hour. The jute industry is an important foreign exchange earner industry. (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA** (Bankura): You direct the Textiles Minister to make a statement on this or you allow a Calling Attention on this. It is a serious matter. Their lives are at stake. The Government should come out with a statement.

*At this Stage, Shri Sudarshan Ray Chaudhuri and some other hon. Members came and stood on the Floor near the Table*

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Does the rule permit that the Minister should respond on the spot? It is impossible. You can bring this matter on the Floor of the House either under Calling Attention or under some other rule. Then the Government will take action. But you cannot expect the Government to respond on the spot. Kindly resume your seats.