

as a dampner and threat and the terrorists would succeed in their motive of creating a situation in which industrialisation does not take place in Punjab. It is a matter of concern for the entire country and we do not want that they should succeed in their motive. The hon. Minister may give clarification in this regard.

Secondly, I would like to know as to what our intelligence department is doing? It is not a battle of armed forces. The intelligence department should take on this task.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a detailed discussion. It is only for short discussion.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SUNIL DUTT: Sir, this is very important to know why the Du Pont Company refused the arms security. This is a very important matter and it should be enquired into. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think, necessary help can be given by the Civil Aviation Ministry, the Home Ministry and, if necessary, by the Health Ministry's officials.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: All the necessary formalities will be completed. If the bodies are not embalmed, certainly the Government will take the responsibility for that.

12.24 hrs.

RE. IMPORT/EXPORT OF WHEAT

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to an important issue. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we had raised here in the House a question in regard to wheat and a statement was made by the Government—*(Interruptions)*—The matter pertains to the Ministry of Food.—*(Interruptions)*—Hon.

Minister of Agriculture, you are concerned with it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is good that the Government made statement before the discussion started and the Government also gave protest letter to the secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture in United States. The Government also assured that they would remain firm on their decision to export rice to Cuba. However, Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question relates to another significant matter which was raised only by hon. Member Shri Madan Lal Khurana in just one sentence in the House. The Government had stated that about 80 thousand tonnes of wheat was exported during the month of January. After that a delegation on behalf of the Ministry of Food was sent to United States to discuss the issue of import. As per the information available to us, the farmers do not get remunerative prices for their foodgrains. On one hand agreements are entered into to import wheat from America at the rate of 180 dollars per tonne while on the other wheat produced by our farmers is exported at the rate of 95 dollars per tonne. We are unable to understand why the Government has adopted this policy. I think it may be the first occasion in the entire history of the House that the Government have not given any clarification to such a grave contradiction. The Government must inform the House clearly as to in what circumstances such decision was taken, was it under the pressure of the American Government that the import of wheat was made. Since the Government has failed to provide any clarification in this regard, it appears that all this was a result of a conspiracy. Why the Government have, so far been, unable to give any clarification? I would like them to provide detailed information in this regard.

In this context, I would like to submit that as per the information available to us, we have to pay 145 dollars per tonne for the wheat we import from European countries but the same is provided to the farmers at the price of 180 dollars per tonne. Why there is so much difference and why we had to import wheat at such a high price and that too in this hour of economic crisis. At the same time

wheat has been exported, about 80,000 tonnes of it was exported in the month of January. On one side we import wheat, on the other side we export the same at lower rate and in this connection officials are sent to discuss the import of wheat to foreign countries and statements are made that the Government expenditure will be curtailed by 10 per cent because of the current shortage of foreign exchange in the country. Then why officials are being sent to foreign countries without any motive? What did they do there? Did they do something in the interest of the country?

One of my most important points is that the Government supplies wheat to the mill owners at the rate of Rs. 370/- per quintal and they in turn are selling wheat flour at the rate of Rs. 600/- per quintal to the masses whereas the Government through Public Distribution System sells wheat at the rate of Rs. 280/- per quintal. As per the information available with us our wheat production during the year 1990-91 was 545.22 lakh tonnes. But the Food Corporation of India purchased merely 77.52 lakh tonnes of wheat. What I mean to say is that the farmers do not get remunerative prices for the foodgrains they produce and they suffer the most. I would like to submit that a conspiracy is being hatched against the interests of the country, the farmers and the consumers. A detailed discussion should be made in this regard in the House and the Government should produce a clean record of it before the House. The Parliament and the country want to know what decision is taken in this respect. This is an issue of utmost public importance, that is why I want to raise it in the House. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): On this point let the Minister reply as to why the Government is imposing at a higher price and exporting at a cheaper price. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Look, I gave you an

opportunity to speak during Zero Hour, now let others also get the chance to speak on any one subject.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not a simple matter only to be raised during Zero Hour. Rather the matter should be discussed extensively. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am telling you that I have given it in writing. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Khurana ji, it is true that you have given in writing. But if only you go on speaking on the subject, others will complain. When you gave in writing then why did you give chance to others to speak. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is present here. I want to seek a clarification on one point. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: See, there is a question of time. I try my best to give maximum time. We expect the Members not to raise a question under Rule 377 or during Zero Hour, so that all may get opportunity. Of course there are certain exceptions as those of leaders. But it is improper on the part of Members to speak twice or thrice on one single day. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that day also, I had raised this matter pertaining to wheat.

MR. SPEAKER: That day, when you had raised that issue, then why did you speak on Punjab?

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I need only a couple of minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, this time I will allow, but don't do this in future.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr.

Speaker, Sir, one can raise any issue during the Zero hour. This is not any ordinary matter, but a very important one. We need either the details or some assurance from the Government in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: You see, during the Zero hour, the hon. Members raise many issues even without giving a proper notice and there is very little time. There are umpteen number of subjects to be taken up within one hour and no one gets more than a minute.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with all that. Yet, it is my earnest plea that this is a very contentious issue and we would like to get the details from the hon. Minister. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there should be a short duration discussion on it.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: It is acceptable to us. We would like to know whether the Government proposes to stall this move to import wheat? We are anxious to know that, because the Rabi Crops, including 5 crore 44 lakh tonnes of wheat are expected to arrive in the market by next week and importing of grain at this stage would lead to heavy losses. Secondly, if today there is a shortage of wheat for the Public Distribution System, and the farmer is not prepared to sell his produce to the Government agencies, it is because he is getting a higher price in the open market. Is the Government prepared to increase the procurement price from Rs. 225/- per quintal and make it at with the open market rates to facilitate the purchase of wheat from farmers? If the Government doesn't procure wheat for the Public Distribution System, at open market rates, then it will be perpetually confronted with this problem of wheat shortage. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is requested to give details pertaining to these two matters. Another aspect of this is that the manner in which wheat is being exported and also being imported, the

country stands to lose foreign exchange worth a whopping Rs. 250 crores. Therefore, we would requested you to hold a separate discussion on this matter, but for this time being, we would like the hon. Minister to give an assurance that further transactions won't take place and the agreement would be terminated.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when this matter was raised on 5th, I could say only a few words. There was no time on 6th, therefore I wrote a letter to the hon. Prime Minister in which I mentioned that wheat from our country is being exported at the rate of US \$ 95 and already 6.5 tonnes have been shipped, but we are importing wheat at the rate of \$ 160 per tonne. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have with me these two statements made by the hon. Minister. On January 1, the hon. Minister mentioned at a press conference at Hotel Kanishka that the country has surplus foodgrains and 8 lakhs tonnes of wheat is being exported. On 15th, we read in the newspapers that there is a wheat shortage in the country and the Government is going in for imports. How can the situation change so dramatically in fifteen days that the country which was exporting wheat at the rate of US \$ 95 is forced to import the same item at a higher rate? A delegation led by the Food Secretary visited the U.S.A. and signed an agreement.

He has quoted a higher price. When they were importing wheat, the big roller mills were supplied with six tonnes of wheat, at the rate of Rs. 310/- per quintal and within two months. The open market rate of wheat went up from Rs. 300/- to Rs. 500/- per quintal.

I want a committee to be constituted to probe the matter. I am prepared to place all the facts before it. The country's poor farmers are not provided remunerative prices. Wheat is exported at a throwaway price of Rs. 200/- per quintal and a fortnight later imported at a premium price of Rs. 400/- per quintal. I would like a Parliamentary Committee to be constituted to probe into it. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Massive bungling has taken place in this case. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER. Mr. Chidambaram, are you interested in saying something?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, all that I wish to say is, the hon. Member Shri Rabi Ray usually does his homework very thoroughly and makes his point very precisely. Unfortunately, he has not apparently read the two statements made in this House on Monday, the 9th of March 1992. The two statements are complete and comprehensive in the subject. The two statements bring out two vital points namely, 2.01 lakh tonnes exported in 1990-91; and 5.04 lakh tonnes pending contracts on 1.4.1991 exported during this year, totaling 7.05 lakh tonnes are attributable to a decision taken by the previous Government on the 17th of August 1990. The second point is, between April and June 1991, the previous Government did not procure adequately and there was decline in procurement of 35 lakh tonnes, bringing pressure on wheat stocks. Therefore, we have categorically stated that all the facts.... *(Interruptions)* I did not interrupt you. You are such a senior Member, why do you interrupt me? *(Interruptions)* we have made the point that 7.05 lakh tonnes which were exported - 2.01 in 1990-91 and 5.04 in 1991-92 - are attributable to decisions taken on the 17th August 1990 and the 11th of April 1991.

After our Government came into Office, the contracts were scaled down - scaled down from ten lakhs to eight lakhs, eight lakhs to actual quantity contracted by MMTC and STC, which is 6.72 lakhs. We have put a complete ban on further exports. The need to import has arisen because of poor management of stocks, of poor decision to export, unwise decision to export and incompetent procurement. We have also said that we have not concluded any contract importing wheat; but, are looking

into the international prices. It is a crucial factor: We will import wheat if it is necessary to augment supply for the Public Distribution System and in the open market to relieve the pressure on prices. We have not concluded any contract. If a contract is concluded, we will report to the House. All this was brought out in the two statements. I would most humbly urge Shri Ray to read the two statements and then ask any question. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Savithri Lakshmanan.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RABI RAY: He has confirmed what I have said. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Sir, you should not allow this statement of the Minister to go unchallenged. Here, I have the records of procurement with me. *(Interruptions)* I have with me the record of procurement.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a full scale debate, Mr. Fernandes. The Agriculture Department will come out...

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am not saying this is a full scale debate. I want to correct the Minister's statement. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. We should not.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, you must tell us, how can the Minister go on with this statement? *(Interruptions)* How can you allow this statement? *(Interruptions)* Mr. Chidambaram, you have accused him of not doing his homework. You have not done your homework. *(Interruptions)* I beg your pardon. *(Interruptions)* Please listen to me, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: This cannot be allowed.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: The Minister is making untrue statement. From April to November, 1990, procurement was 17 million 357,000 tonnes.

MR. SPEAKER: This is fair, Mr. Fernandes.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: During April to November, 1991, the procurement was only 13 million 595 tonnes. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, no.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Here are the statistics. *(Interruptions)* How can you make such a statement? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is clear from the Minister's statement that the country has ample stocks.

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: He is misleading the House.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know whether your statement is correct or his statement is correct. You cannot go on alleging like this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): How can he mislead the House?

MR. SPEAKER: Who knows who is misleading the House?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Here is the Government statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Who has studied it? How can we come to a conclusion?

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am laying this document on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Fernandes, this does not help. *(Interruptions)* No, no. *(Interruptions)* You please sit down.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman & Nicobar Islands): He is a senior Member. *(Interruptions)* How can he throw a paper like this? *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will admonish him first, if I have to admonish.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do allow me to admonish.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now allow me to control the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You do not advise me from there. It is not necessary.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not allowed.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You alleged certain things against him. You have replied very ably. You should not feel stung.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please leave it there. We do not expect it from a senior Member like this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam). Sir, he is a very senior Member. This is not the way. (Interruptions) What is this? (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow the lady Member to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Jena, Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: He is a very senior Member. (Interruptions) There is limit for everything.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Chennithala, Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The only fact which is coming out of this discussion is that you are very much interested in making your points. Both the sides have made the point very ably.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Sir, Mr. George Fernandes' point has not been cleared. (Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: He is trying to mislead the House.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot say that.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Unless I raise my voice, are you not going to cooperate with me? I am speaking.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now this is Zero Hour

or whatever you call it. Now you cannot have a regular discussion here. Only because some senior Members raised a point, I allowed it. Can you turn it into a regular discussion, not only regular discussion but hurling abuses and allegations against each other? You cannot do that and there are other Members also who want to make their points. This is not the only point which has to be made. The Lady Member is already standing.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You allowed him to mislead the House also.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, you are in the habit of getting up all the time like this. I do not appreciate this. Please understand. Let us do it in a fashion which is really pleasant to each other. Now, you said something and the reply is given. If you are not satisfied, well, you can find out how to do it. You just cannot carry on a discussion like this. You say that he is not correct and he says that you are not correct. Then, who should decide?

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Who should decide on the report of the Government? (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, you are correct. Please keep quiet now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvallupuzha): The hon. Lady Member is already on her legs to make her point, Sir. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALK. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have correctly observed that it is not possible to have a full fledged discussion during the Zero hour, but I would like to say with deep regret that, on three occasions when important matters were being discussed, some or the other Minister put the

blame on the previous Government, with the sole motive of deflecting the discussion and twice, it has been proved that the statements made by the Ministers were incorrect. As the hon. Minister himself said, the Government made a comprehensive statement in the form of two statements by Shri Chidambaram, I regret to say that there are so many contradictions in them and so many questions arise from them for which the House expects answers from the Government but over and above that, the Government is putting all the blame on the previous Government, that it had a poor procurement policy, so on and so forth. I think that this is the cause of this much excitement in the House.

I would like to submit to you that the House is not satisfied. There has been some bungling or some wrong decision in the Government action. This will become clear from the discussion. It is my humble submission that it would be appropriate, if you allow a full-fledged discussion on these two statements, keeping in mind, the general dissatisfaction in the House. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: By a full fledged discussion, do you mean to say a two-hour debate? If you want to discuss it for more than two hours, then we shall be soon taking up the Demand for Grants for the Ministry of Agriculture. If you want a half-an-hour discussion, then you may give notice for it, I shall consider it by a full-fledged discussion would mean.... You see, I would like to tell you that you should consider yourselves fortunate, if we are able to discuss the Demand for Grants of even four or five ministries, in this session. The question before us is that instead of discussing the Budget presented before the House, if we go on discussing some points during the discussions on the Demands for Grant of the various Ministries, how we would be able to complete the business of the House.

On the one hand, I respect your sentiments and feelings, but on the other is the fact, that certain matters are being repeatedly raised during the Zero Hour. If the hon. Members are excited over something, we

can discuss the matter, but I cannot pronounce a decision immediately. If I allow it, then the Demand for Grants for various Ministries involving expenditure worth Rs. 4,000 Rs. 5,000 crores, would be passed without even a minute's discussion. Will that be proper? So, under the circumstances, I would request you that if there is anything serious in it, you can give it to me in writing and I shall take a decision on it after consulting all of you.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Just a minute, I will take very little time. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the significance of the Budget session—*(Interruptions)*—I have kept quiet for two days, nor do I want to speak, but—*(Interruptions)*—We shall attentively listen to them, but now please give me a patient hearing. *(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, Zero Hour is the monopoly of the opposition. *(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: No, there is nothing like that. They too have a right, it may be less, but they too have a right, it may be less, but they too have right. Paswanji, please say it within a minute. I am listening.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Please be quiet.

MR. SPEAKER: You kindly speak.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Please allow those lady members to speak first and thereafter give me time. First allow them to speak.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Give your comment one by one. I will listen to each member.

[*English*]

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN (Mudndapuram) : Sir, during the last week, the dead body of one Mr. K. P. Noble was despatched by the Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia to his relatives in my constituency in Kerala. Late K.P. Noble aged about 25 years, was residing at Al Ahasa and he was missing from his residence since last July 1991. After four months, his dead body was found in a totally deserted and isolated place...

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, I thought you would raise an issue concerning all those living in Gulf Countries and not one particular incident.

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: I am coming to the point and it is very important. On investigation, it was found that his kidneys and eyes were missing. This is the most unfortunate part of that murder. Sir, the number of missing Indian citizens in foreign countries is increasing and I urge upon the Government to look into the matter and give protection to our citizens working abroad.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the business of the House is conducted as per the decision of the Business Advisory Committee. In accordance with the same no other matter can be taken up this month except the Budget and ordinances which are in hand. In spite of that important issues are taken up in the House. No issue is less important than the other. Such an important issue has been raised by Shri Rabi Ray in this august House today and Shri George Fernandes has drawn the attention of the august House towards it. I was present on the day the hon. Minister made this statement. Both the hon. Ministers made the statement. We read the statement very carefully. Since there is no provision to put questions on the statement of the hon. Ministers, we could neither ask a supplementary nor could we ask you to hold a discussion on it. Please allow a

discussion on it within next ten or fifteen days.

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to my chamber. I shall explain you all that you can do. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: That is why I would like to tell you that it was allowed by you and after having been allowed by you, the hon. Minister repeated the old thing.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing thereafter. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Many new facts have come to light Shri George Fernandes has challenged it. I want to submit only this much that either the hon. Minister should rise and say that whatever Shri George Fernandes said was wrong or you should give a ruling in this regard. Meanwhile, if you see that there is time you could allow a discussion on it.

MR. SPEAKER: In this regard my ruling is that since it is the Budget Session, it will be proper if we take up Budget provisions for discussion. If we do not hold a discussion we will pass grants worth crores of rupees to the Government without discussion on them. It is true that the other issue is no less important. Even then if this august House is not willing to hold a discussion on the Budget and is asking time, I have no objection. The House is yours and the time is also yours. You can sanction as much funds as you want to the Government. I have no objection. Even after this if you feel that how there can be a discussion on it, you may please come to my chamber, I will tell you the way.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Can it be assured that the Commerce Ministry's Grants will be discussed? That is the difficulty. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Now I am calling Shri Agnihotriji. If you act

like this, how can the business of the House be conducted. You may please take your seat.

SHRI RAJANDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Railways is present here and I want to draw his attention towards the Clerks Grade Examination held by the Railway Recruitment Board, Bhopal on 23rd February, 1992. The question papers of the aforesaid examination were sold on 19th and 20 March in the open market but despite this the examination was held. The police apprehended some officers, employees and students in this connection and later remanded them to police custody. The examination was not cancelled. Due to this there is widespread resentment among the candidates and the reliability of the Board has also become doubtful.

As such I requested that this matter should be investigated and action should be taken against the erring people.

[*English*]

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an important news item in today's Times of India, "Lanka willing to help India-Prabhakaran to be extradited." Sir, the Sri Lankan Government has noted in the Press that the extradition process could be stepped up if India passes enabling legislation in its Parliament on the Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism which all SAARC countries signed in Kathmandu in 1987.

So, I requested the Government to make a statement in the Parliament or come forward to accept the willingness of the Sri Lanka Government in extradition of Prabhakaran, who is the chief offender in Shri Rajiv Gandhi's assassination case.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention as well as that of the hon. Environment and Forest Minister, Shri Kamal Nath

towards a very serious but interesting incident. The Sanjay Gandhi National Park is located in my constituency, North Bombay. A national park in the city is something very unusual as they do not exist in cities. The number of panthers in the park has increased. (*Interruptions*)

13.00 hrs

Since they do not get rabbits, deer etc. to eat they are moving out of the national park and entering the city. Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the last two years the panthers have lifted six children from the slum areas. The children became preys of panthers. Two months back a panther entered a factory. When the guard opened the factory, the panther pounced upon him. You can well imagine what would have been the situation. Day before yesterday the photograph of this panther had been published in the Times of India in which it was reported that a panther had entered the city and was sitting under a bus. When the people saw it they were panic stricken. People called the fire brigade and police but the panther did not budge. Thereafter, the General Manager of the national Park and the veterinary doctor were called. They sprayed tranquilizer on the panther to make him unconscious and thereafter took it to the national park. (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to this, people of the slum areas and areas around the national park live under fear. Six children have been killed. In order to check recurrence of such incidents in the future the manager of the National Park has sent a proposal to fence these areas in order to protect these vulnerable areas. Three to four similar proposals have already been sent but they have not been given clearance till date.

I urge the hon. Forest Minister to pay attention towards this aspect and take measures to fence the vulnerable areas for people's protection.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: It is certainly interesting.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (Ernakulam): Sir, it is a very important matter. Eight years back, a Housing Society called Dakshin Housing Society was formed. There were two hundred Members, including a number of Members of Parliament, Journalists and senior Government officials. From each Member Rs. 80,000 to Rs. 85,000 were collected. There were Rs. 2.7 crore and after eight years, nobody knows what has happened to this amount: There is not even a single plot of land.

SHRIBASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Are you also a Member of that Society?

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: I have also applied. More than that...*... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Anything like this can also be alleged against you.

(Interruptions)

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: I have given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into it. You give me in writing and then I will allow you tomorrow and not today.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, I am not making any allegation against any individual (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow like this. Anybody can make allegation against you also. You give me in writing.

I will examine it. I am not going to allow you like this. This is not going to be a part of the record. You give me in writing, I will examine it and if necessary, I will allow you tomorrow.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS: You examine this. That is enough. I will give it in writing.

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA (Jhabua): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to

draw the attention of the House as well as yours towards the tribal districts of Madhya Pradesh.....(Interruptions)..... Mr. Speaker, Sir, many districts of Madhya Pradesh, specially the tribal districts, are in the grip of severe drought. The news, to this effect have also appeared in many newspapers. Five to Six people have died of starvation in Sarguja district and a tribal died in Neemuch tehsil of Mandour district. The State Government is neglecting these tribal districts and is unable to provide employment to the people. The people are dying of hunger. There is a provision in the Constitution that the President shall protect the tribal areas. I would like to request you and the House that it is the responsibility of the Government to provide employment to the people for their welfare. For this purpose, a committee of the House should be sent there to assess the situation and arrangements should be made to provide employment to the people so that no starvation death may occur there in future. In the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly, the whole of the opposition has been boycotting the House and the Bhartiya Janta Party alone is sitting there.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. hon. Member whatever happens there should not be discussed here.

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this House is Supreme. It is our responsibility to look into such atrocities and injustice wherever they occur.

MR. SPEAKER: That House should not be discussed here.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, more than two dozen harijan and adivasi students of Maharani Laxmibai (Mahwa) Medical College, Jhansi are being led to commit suicide as they are fed up with the exploitation by some senior professors and heads of department. The students had written a letter three months ago to the Governor for dispensing justice to them and to save them from the exploitation by the professors and heads of the departments.

On the directive of the Governor, the Vice-Chancellor wrote a letter to the Principal and asked him to furnish the details of the complaint regarding the harassment of students. Instead of taking action to meet the justified demand of the students, they are being detained in the same class for four times and sometimes even for six times. More than one dozen senior professors and heads of the departments of Malwa College have opened nursing homes in front of the Malwa College and Jhansi city in the name of their wives, sons and daughters. The harijan professor is also being ill-treated like the students and junior doctors in Malwa College.

I urge upon the Government to order an enquiry into all these things immediately so that the students, who are thinking of committing suicide, after being fed up with the behaviour of the professors and the Principal, are dissuaded from doing so.

SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM (East Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a senior engineer of the corporation was killed in Delhi day before yesterday. If the killings of senior officers or any officer will go on like this, then it will have demoralising effect on officials. Land grabbing, encroachment and unauthorised constructions are done in East Delhi. I have referred as many as 175 matters to the L.G. Sahib during the last eight months. I accept that all the officers are not honest, but solution does not lie in killing an officer. Compensation should be paid to the family of the person killed. The officers of the corporation say that the local police does not help the M.C.D. employees in any way.

I want to submit only this much that when the corporation employees go to remove the encroachment, the police should give them maximum protection.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF-FATMI (Dorbhanga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government through you to a significant matter.

Recently, when the Prime Minister of Nepal visited India, some agreements were signed between the two countries. People of Bihar saw a ray of hope in these agreements. There was a proposal to construct dams and barrages on the rivers which originate from Nepal. But there was a report in the newspapers some days back that some obstacle has come in its way. The problem is that Nepal is asking for access to the sea through the river Kosi.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

13.09 hrs.

This has become an obstacle. Bihar will also be benefited by their demand. It would be easy for the people of Bihar to transport goods through water route. It will also prove beneficial to the people of Nepal. It will also cover some areas of Bengal.

Therefore, I request that the Government should take immediate steps in this regard and the project which they have been asking for should be accepted.

[*English*]

SHRI B.N. REDDY (Miryalguda): The clearance of the irrigation projects of Andhra Pradesh has made a very sad saga. They are always pending from the beginning to the end. I am a Member of Parliament for the third time. Whenever I go and enquire I am told that they are pending. That is why there is no commitment either by the Centre or the State Government to pursue the matter and get the projects completed. My only request to the Centre is that there is a big variation between the statements being made by the Centre and also the State about the proposals pending. The State Government says that there are 22 project proposals pending whereas the Centre says that there are only three pending. That is why my request to the State and the Centre is that they should pursue with responsibility and commitment and get them cleared at least in the Eighth or the Ninth Five Year Plans.

The projects which are pending are,

Polavaram, Telugu-Ganga, Tungabhadra High Level Canal, Galeru-Nagari, Sri Ram Sahar - II Stage, Srisailem Left Bank Canal, Jaruala (to be completed) and Bheema (to be undertaken). All these projects should be undertaken and should be completed by the end of the Eighth of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

SHRIBASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): The Secretary of the Railway Protection Force has been on hunger strike.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, my personal request to all the hon. Members is that those who get a chance earlier should not stretch it to a very great extent. You should also remember that there are other members who have never spoken in the House.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I will not take much time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please think of the weaker sections. Weaker sections are there everywhere. It is unfortunate that some members do not get a chance in the House at all. Injustice should not be done to them.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I will take very little time. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have asked Shri Basu Deb Acharia to ventilate his grievance.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I will be very brief.

The General Secretary of the Railway Protection Force Association has been on hunger strike. This RPF Association was recognised by the Railway Ministry. This recognition was withdrawn by an Act of parliament in 1967. From 1967 we have been demanding the repealing of this Act and restoration of recognition of the RPF Association because it is a Fundamental Right to form an association.

This will have the support of all sections

of this House. The entire House demanded that the recognition of the RPF Association should be restored.

The Committee on Subordinate Legislation of Lok Sabha had also recommended it. *(Interruptions)* Shri George Fernandes, the former Railway Minister had also issued an order and then Shri Jhaneshwar Mishra made a very categorical statement that a decision had been taken to restore the recognition of the RPF Association. Shri Fernandes is here. He can support us.

The Railway Minister is here. I demand that he should give an assurance to the House and make a categorical statement that the recognition which was withdrawn in 1967 would be restored to the RPF Association. He is here. He can give an assurance.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, please hear me.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This is the demand of the entire House and I want to mention it once again. Shri Kumaramangalam is also here.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is Zero Hour. This matter is being repeatedly pressed here.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Secretary of the RPF Association is on hunger strike in front of the house of Shri Kumaramangalam. To save the life of Shri Jha, the Railway Minister should make a statement here.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman & Nicobar Islands): Sir, I endorse what Mr. Acharia has said. In the past, our party has also agitated over this issue. In the past, we also said that this recognition should be done immediately. The General Secretary of the RPF Association is on hunger strike. The Government should make a statement on this immediately. The Government should not take it as a prestige issue. The Railway Minister is here. Sir, you can give a direction to the Minister... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I do not issue any direction.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Sir, this is a very serious matter....(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: This is the question of life (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is a matter which is being pressed over and over again. This is not the latest one. This is a continuous process.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: But the Minister is not responding.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, why do you not restrain yourself in your own humble seat?

I do not like to say any thing more than this. 'Zero Hour' is an extraordinary weapon wested in your hands. Any important matter which comes to your notice before 10 A.M. can be raised at this time to bring to the notice of the Government. The Government is a vigilant Government and it takes proper action at the appropriate time. I think, the honourable former Speaker will agree with me 100 per cent. This is the purpose for which 'Zero Hour' is meant. Though it is not recognised in our Rules of Procedure, somehow it is being prectised. You are expecting the Government to answer on the spot to the issues raised at this time. It is impossible for any Minister to answer on the spot. There is a procedure.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, in order to save the life of a person, the Minister should respond....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can make use of the rules available and bring the matter on the floor of the House at the appropriate time and discuss it. In this way, nothing will happen and you cannot get proper answer also.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the decisions of the earlier Governments have not been implemented....(*Interruptions*) In order to save the life of Mr. Jha, he should respond and say that he is going to consider the restoration of its recognition. Why is he not responding?....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Kapse.

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House to the tragic medical deaths of 17 Adivasi Children, which occurred in Thane District of Maharashtra recently.

The deaths took place when viral pneumonia epidemic spread in Mokhada Tehsil of Thane District. 101 Scheduled Tribe children of the village Vavar were seriously affected and 17 out of them expired as on medical treatment was offered to them. These were medical murders in a way.

101 children were reported to be ill for a week. But nobody from the Health Department of Thane Zilla Parishad visited the place. No medicines were available in the Dispensary. The Health Officer of Zilla Parishad has admitted that this tragedy took place because of carelessness on the part of the Health Department.

I ask the Government to make a statement in the House about the deaths of 17 Adivasi children and also as to what steps are being taken to avoid such medical murders.

[*Translation*]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is one more issue related to it. Election was held in the House on 9th. I will sum up within a minute....

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Everybody wants to speak only for one minute. Is there any member who wants to speak for half-an-hour during the Zero Hour?..

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We should have some system...

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: It is related to that issue. An M.P. was admitted in the hospital for heart ailment. He could not attend the House on that day. There was voting in the House on 9th of March and he could not come to the House to cast his vote, so some arrangements should have been made for him.....

[*English*]

SHRI S.B. SIDANAL (Belgaum): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House on a very important issue that is disturbing the minds of drug industry in the country.

During the Winter Session of the Parliament, when the question on formulating the Drug Policy was asked, the Minister had assured the House that it will be announced very soon. Till date this Drug Policy has not been announced.

According to Press Reports, the Ministry had prepared a note and formulated a policy which was submitted to the Cabinet. After the Cabinet had approved it, the Ministry had raised certain objections.

There are about 467 drug manufacturers who have been affected because of the delay in announcing the policy. Therefore, I do not find any reason why drug policy is not being announced.

I urge the hon. Minister to come forward and give specific date by which the drug policy is likely to be announced to mitigate the hardships of drug manufacturers in the country. Thank you very much.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): Sir, the Supreme Court, for the first time in its history, quashed the appointment of a High Court Judge yesterday. The Judges

quashed the appointment by the President to the Guwahati High Court, of the erstwhile Law and Judicial Secretary of Mizoram, Shri K.N. Srivastava, on the ground that he did not fulfil the minimum qualification laid down in the Constitution for such an office...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Anna Jashi, is it a rule that anything which appears in the Papers shall have to be ventilated on the floor of the House? It is pertaining to the appointment of a Judge. It is let to them. Why should you raise it? If at all you want to raise it, give it in writing and bring it under the relevant provision of the Act. Do not reduce the Zero Hour to zero. There is no relevance in it.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: No, Sir, it has got relevance.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is something like appointment of a particular officer who is not qualified. Is this the forum where we shall have to discuss it?

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: No, Sir, it is a lapse on the part of the duty of the Government, right from the Prime Minister to the Chief Secretaries of the two States. I am not criticising the decision of the Supreme Court.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Anna Joshi, there is a rule. Certain things are barred from being discussed on the floor of the House. This comes under that category. This matter cannot be allowed on the floor of the House for discussion. It is pertaining to an appointment. Therefore, it does not come under the scope of the discussion here....

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Sir, I am not criticising the appointment...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whether regular or irregular or legal or illegal, appointment cannot be discussed here. This is not the proper forum...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may feel it is very important but it should fit with in the framework of the rules of the House.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI (Bijnor): Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Communications to the poor communication network in my constituency Bijnor.

Sir, the population of my constituency is nearly 14 lakh and in the Chandpur Assembly segment there is a huge industry of Khandhari, in Kiratpur segment there is a huge market of gur, in Najibabad copper and brass utensils are made and in Nagina there is a huge industry of wood from where these goods are exported to foreign countries. Sir, I would like to submit that the telephone system is so poor that what to say of ringing up at a distance, it is not possible even to ring up within one's own district and it is not possible to talk at ease. If I myself wish to speak to anybody in Delhi, it is not possible to get through. This is the reason the merchant in Delhi is very harassed and it is difficult to run the business smoothly.

Sir, the Government has sanctioned the establishment of an electronic exchange there and a building is ready for the electronic exchange and the material has also been purchased, but no electronic exchange has been established here so far. Therefore, it is my request to the Government that they should immediately take the trouble to issue directives for the establishment of an electronic telephone exchange there. (Interruptions).

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have got to make a request. There is a provision to raise matters under Rule 377. It comes under special category. Zero hour should not be converted into an occasion where you can raise various matters which could be raised under Rule 377. These are the matters which virtually come under that category. We are dragging the zero hour to a very

great extent. It does not fit in. I request you to kindly go through the Rules of Procedure book for a short period.

(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, already one-and-a-half hours are over.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I need not tell you what are the matters to be raised in zero hour. It is unnecessary. You are all experienced Members of this House. You have also got a lot of experience serving in various Houses. I have also hinted what are the matters to be raised on the floor of the House during zero hour. We are converting this into an occasion to raise small matters and in having debates. It is not correct.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, let us take up the next item. Now Papers to be laid on the table of the House.

(*Interruptions*)

13.26 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Memorandum of understanding between Engineers India Ltd. and the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas etc.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): Sir, on behalf of Shri B. Shankaranand, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of Memorandum of Under-