

[*Translation*]

**Financial Assistance for Abolition of
Devdasi System to Maharashtra and
Karnataka**

3477. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra and Karnataka have demanded financial assistance for programme relating to abolition of Devdasi system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of assistance proposed to be provided by the Union Government to them during 1992-93;

(d) whether the Union Government have any scheme for helping the old Devdasis; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (e). No, Sir. However, Western Maharashtra Development Corporation, Pune and the State Government of Karnataka had sought financial assistance for rehabilitation of Devdasis during 1987-88. An amount of Rs. 11.30 lacs was sanctioned to Western Maharashtra Development Corporation, Pune for providing training in the trade of knitting to 20 Devdasis at Jath in Sangli District and 45 Devdasis at Gandhlinglaj in Kolhapur Distt. The proposal from the State Government of Karnataka to train 155 Devdasis could not be considered as it was incomplete. While there is no specific scheme exclusively for helping old

Devdasis, they can be conserved for assistance under the various schemes of Government of India, if otherwise eligible.

12.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: I think yesterday the Members sat upto 2 0' clock in the night because we wanted to give an opportunity to them to express their views. I was tole that yesterday it was decided that immediately after the Question Hour, the Railway Minister/s speech would start. This was the agreement. After his reply, we can take the regular business.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:
(Bolpur) We objection, provided he agrees to our proposals.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roser):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this regard I would like to submit that Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad said yesterday that the hon. Minister wold give his reply tomorrow just after the Question hour. Today the hon. Members have this impression that there will be Zero hour for some time and the division will take place at 2.00 P.M. There are many other issues which are also to be taken up such as we have given notice of cut motion on the dismissal of employees and that is why we have asked our Members to be present in the House at 2.00 P.M. Therefore, on behalf of the Opposition Members I would like to say that by all means the hon. Minister should make his reply by 2.00 P.M. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE
(Dum dum): Yesterday, the announcement was that the reply as well as voting would take place at 2 o' clock.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD):

We don't want to press that the Railway Minister should give his reply now itself.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us do one thing. Now, we will have our regular unlisted business upto 1 o' clock. Then, we will raise for lunch and at 2 o' clock, he will reply.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have given a notice on the misuse of National Security Guards as has also appeared in today's Newspapers that the motorcade of our "Chief Election Commissioner, Shri shashen was not given passage by a vehicle. So Shri Shashen overtook that vehicle, stopped it and asked his Guards to shoot him. But when they did not do so, Shri Sheshan Abused them. When the officers of National Security Guards came to see him they were kept waiting for more than two hours. We have given notice of impeachment motion against him which is pending with you.

It is another matter whether the remains on his post or not but the National Security Guards should be withdrawn from him. Otherwise it may happen that some times if we go to see him, he may order his guards to shoot us. Therefore, it should be taken seriously. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): **Bring an impeachment motion against him (*Interruptions*)**

MR. SPEAKER: You are speaking against a Constitutional authority.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please. let me formulate my views.

You are making a statement against an authority which is mentioned in the Constitution. You are making that statement on the basis of the newspaper report. I would like to ask you whether you authenticate that.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): May I make a submission, Sir?

[*Translation*]

I had given a notice about it and had said that...

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Are you going to authenticate that?

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: We are ready to authenticate it since I came to know about it five to seven days earlier. Many people came to me and told me that such an incident has taken place, the Government has its report but it is not doing anything. I tried to collect the information in my own way, just then U.N.I., which is a responsible agency circulated it.

MR. SPEAKER: Please say what you want to say.

[*English*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I stand by every word that I will speak here.