

important issue which is agitating the people of Kerala. The hon. Minister of Food and Civil Supplies is sitting here. In the Chief Ministers Conference also, the Kerala Chief Minister raised this issue. According to the Press reports, the Government of India is proposing to change the Public Distribution System for the purpose of excluding some people from the list. If this proposal is implemented, a large number of people will be out of Public Distribution System. I can understand the purpose. But if there is any misuse of the system, the Government can definitely streamline the system. But if we implement this new proposal which is formulated by the Government, a large number of people will be out of the system. The State of Kerala has already expressed its reservation about this proposal. Nearly ninety per cent of the people of Kerala are dependant on the Public Distribution System. Excluding people above povertyline, a large number of people will be beyond the reach of PDS. The price of Foodgrains will also increase in the State. In the Chief Ministers Conference also, reservation had been expressed about this proposal. All the other political parties in the State have given representations to the hon. Minister to have a fresh look on this proposal for revamping of the Public Distribution System. The Minister for Food and Civil Supplies is sitting here. I would like to hear from him as to what is the position on this very important issue which is agitating the minds of people of Kerala.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have collected the information. The hon. Member has expressed doubt because he is unaware of the facts. The proposed new scheme is under consideration of the Government. Therefore, I shall keep in mind the doubts raised by the hon. Member in this regard.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring a matter of national importance to the knowledge of the House. The common man either do not get the notes of Rs. one, Rs. two and Rs. five denomination or they get soiled notes which are good for nothing. The printing of notes of these denominations should have been stopped but new notes of these denominations can be obtained at 20 per cent or 25 per cent black. This situation is prevalent in the entire country. Sir, new coins have been minted in the country. You too would have visited foreign countries and seen that coins of different denominations have different sizes, but the Government in our country has minted coins of Rs. one, two and five denominations of the same size which are very difficult to differentiate in darkness. In place of Rs. one, sometimes two or five rupees' coins are given. The poor farmers and the uneducated are facing a lot of difficulties. There should be difference in the size of

these coins like the difference in the coins of 25 paise, 50 paise and one rupees' denominations. Rikshaw-walas, autorikshaw-walas and the poor shopkeepers are facing a lot of difficulties. I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to transfer the officer concerned in RBI responsible for doing so Notes of One, two and five rupee should be such, as can be easily indentified. Has the RBI turned bankrupt. The new notes should be printed. It is an important issue and it concerns everybody. Therefore the hon. Finance Minister should make a statement in this regard... (Interruptions)

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you know that the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir remains closed for seven months in the year. This time it was closed for eight months and after remaining closed for eight months, the roads are opened. The Border Security Force is responsible for maintaining the road but that organisation is not maintaining the road properly. It is marred with corruption. Trucks get stuck there and the bulldozers charge thousands for rupees for towing them away. Secondly, the CCP of army is maintaining the traffic in that area and they allow only army trucks. Atleast 400-500 trucks of army are allowed daily and only 30-40 civilian trucks are allowed. As a result the famine relief work in Ladakh did not open in time and closed early. This year, the situation is that neither salt, flour, rice, match boxes nor edible oil is available there. We have only two and half months left for supply and if the supply is not completed within this period, the situation in Ladakh will worsen.

I, through you, would like to urge upon the hon. Defence Minister to issue necessary instructions to army authorities to allow the civilian vehicles inadequate numbers. The army is harassing the people there and extorting money for entry. Such practice should be stopped and some permanent arrangement should be made for regular supply. I would like that the civilian trucks and army trucks should be allowed in equal number. I would like to urge upon you to bring it to the notice of the hon. Defence Minister ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him speak first ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of this House towards an important issue. In Bodhgaya area of Bihar, recently 300 human skeltons have been found in four bags. These skeltons are of children and adults between the age of 5 years to 35 years. These skeltons have complete bones of human body. I would like to draw the attention of the House towards it because as per the customs of Hindus dead body is burnt and according to the customs of Muslims

dead body is buried in graveyards. Now question arises that howcome such a large number of human skeletons. This matter is being hushed up on the plea that these were gathered by traders during a period of time Bihar is a state where in fodder scam it was told that 5 or 10 buffloes were taken on a single scooter in view of such a falsehood, in today's situation it may be possible that these human skeletons are of Congress workers or BJP workers. Killing of 30-40-50 persons is a common thing in Bihar, thus it is an important issue. The Government has no reply to it and trying to hush up the matter by linking it with traders. This requires a thorough inquiry Does the Janata Dal Government of Bihar have a gas chamber like Nazis in Germany. In such a situation a statement on Bihar should be given by the Government. I would like to know the reasons behind these human skeletons. This matter should be inquired into

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Okay, that is enough Thank you.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a serious matter which concerns the Railway Ministry.

13.00 hrs.

For the last one week illegal coal-mining in Dhanbad area has caused serious threat to superfast railway track between Dhanbad and Calcutta. Zee TV Network have exposed the threat yesterday threadbare. A lot of villagers are panicky. The people are living in the colonies within half-a-kilometre of the railway track Rajdhani Express and superfast trains are in danger.

International experts have expressed the opinion that if the Railways do not caution the coalmine authority, a dangerous accident may take place.

I would request the Railway Minister to get in touch with the coalmine authority immediately and take immediate steps to prevent any kind of accident in that place.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now the House stands adjourned till 2.00 P.M.

13.01 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till
Fourteen of the Clock*

14.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunch at
Fourteen of the Clock*

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : How you can be on point of order when there is no issue before the House.

[English]

There is no issue before the House. So, there is no question of any point of order.

Now, Papers to be Laid.

14.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Union Government for 1995 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : On behalf of Shri P. Chidambaram, I beg to lay

(1) A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under article 151(1) of the Constitution —

(i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 1 of 1996) for the year ended the 31st March, 1995 (Civil)

[Placed in Library See No. LT-106/96]

(ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 2 of 1996) for the year ended the 31st March, 1995 (Civil)

[Placed in Library See No. LT-107/96]

(iii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 7 of 1996) for the year ended the 31st March, 1995 (Posts and Telecommunications)

[Placed in Library See No. LT-108/96]

(2) A copy of the Union Government Appropriation Accounts (Civil) for the year 1994-95 (Hindi and English versions)

[Placed in Library See No. LT-109/96]

(3) A copy of the Union Government Finance Accounts for the year 1994-95 (Hindi and English versions)

[Placed in Library See No. LT-110/96]

(4) A copy of the Union Government Appropriation Accounts (Postal Service) for the year 1994-95 (Hindi and English versions)

[Placed in Library See No. LT-111/96]