

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) to (c) To meet the demand of the commuters 3 additional EMU trains on Western Railway suburban section i. e. 1 pair on Churchgate-Borivli-Churchgate section and 1 train on Borivli-Andheri section and 3 pairs of DMU trains i. e. 1 pair on Bandra Terminus-Dahanu Road and 2 pairs on Virar-Dahanu Road have been introduced from July '93 Time Table. Besides, 10 suburban trains have also been extended and added on Borivli-Virar section.

[Translation]

Railway Projects in Gujarat

3257. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT } Will
DR. A. K. PATEL }

the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals received by his Ministry from the Government of Gujarat for setting up of railway projects in Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) the action taken on each of the proposals and the reasons for non-clearance of projects, if any;

(c) the details of the improvement and expansion work of rail services undertaken by the Government in Gujarat during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the details regarding railway projects approved for Gujarat during 1992-93 and 1993-94 including estimated cost, funds allocated year-wise and progress made so far, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) and (b): Proposals have been received for construction of following new railway lines :—

- (i) Kapadvanj-Modasa,
- (ii) Godhra-Dahod-Indore.
- (iii) Vadodara-Indore via Chotta Udepur,
- (iv) Bhavnagar-Tarapur,
- (v) Bhachau-Khavda. and
- (vi) Bhachau-Bharodia.

Besides, proposals have also been received for conversion of Delhi-Ahmedabad, Rajkot-Veraval, Surendranagar-Bhavnagar, Wankaner-Navlakhi, Gandhidham-Bhuj and Pratapnagar-Chhota Udepur and extending it to Indore.

Godhra-Dahod-Indore line was sanctioned in 1989-90 and work is in progress on Dewas-Maksi section. Nadiad-Kapadvanj-Modasa is also a sanctioned work out of which Nadiad-Kapadvanj Gauge conversion has been completed. The work on Kapadvanj-Modasa New Line project is frozen due to constraint of resources. The other new line proposals would have to wait till the resource position improves.

Delhi-Ahmedabad Gauge conversion project is an on-going work. Rajkot-Veraval is included in the first phase of the Action Plan drawn up by Railways for Gauge conversion. Gauge conversion of Surendranagar-Bhavnagar, Wankaner-Navlakhi, Gandhidham-Bhuj and Pratapnagar-Chhota Udepur would be considered in the next phase of Action Plan, subject to availability of resources.

(c) The work of development of direct B. G. rail route from Viramgam to Jodhpur-Gauge conversion/New line from Bhildi to Viramgam at an anticipated cost of Rs. 155.66 crores was included in the Railway Budget for 1990-91. Conversion of Ahmedabad-Mahesana has been included in the first phase of Action Plan and is likely to be completed during the 8th Plan itself. Conversion of Nadiad-Kapadvanj NG section into BG was completed in 1992-93.

(d) Conversion of Ahmedabad-Marwar-Phulera at an anticipated cost of Rs. 280 crores with an allocation of Rs. 15 crores during the current year has been included in the Railway Budget for 1993-94.

[English]

Attack on Multinational Seed Company in Karnataka

3258. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there were attacks on upcoming Multinational Cargill Seeds India Limited in the State of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Farmers of the Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha have reportedly attacked and damaged part of the buildings of M/s. Cargill Seed India Pvt. Ltd., (Bellary) in protest against multinational companies in the Seed sector.

(c) Necessary steps have been taken by the State Government to strengthen security arrangements.

12.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI B. L. SHARMA PREM (East Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, crores of people of this country have been insulted by the display of such posters in Ayodhya. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I would like to thank you all for helping me daily to end the Zero Hour within half-an-hour's time. According to our agreement, the Members sitting in the front benches will raise less number of issues and one Member will raise only one issue and he has to complete it within half-an-hour. I think that Shri Acharya should be given the first opportunity today.

Acharya ji regarding the privilege issue raised by you, I would like to tell you that the concerned newspaper has sent me a letter asking for an unconditional apology therein.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Not only apology but they should publish it correctly on the front page.....(Interruptions).....Sir, my photograph has appeared in the Illustrated Weekly among those members who defected from Janata Dal. (A). In this the photograph is mine but the name is Anadi Charan Das. There is another photograph of Shri P. M. Sayeed but the name is Suraj Mandal.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : We are correcting them.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : They should publish it on the front page of the news paper.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : It has brought fame as well as defame. Now please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a lot of Haj pilgrims from our country go to Mecca. A Haj Committee has also been formed by the Government for their facility. It was decided that this Haj Committee in consultation with the Government there, will provide lodging and other facilities to these pilgrims. But the Chairman of the Haj Committee went there and negotiated with some private agency for providing lodging facilities etc. But the lodging provided to the pilgrims was quite far from the worship place. The concerned Minister of the Government there called the Chairman of the Committee and asked him how he had directly done all these things and the Minister wanted also to punish the Chairman for that. After tendering apologies, he was allowed to come back. After coming back he resigned from the Chairmanship of the Haj Committee. Several Members of Parliament who were in this Committee have also resigned. I have all the facts with me and I am saying this on the basis of these facts.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has been a bungling of Rs. 8 crores in this incident. All these funds were collected from the pilgrims for lodging and air tickets, but the air tickets were provided to them on the increased rates. The poor Haj pilgrims manage money with great difficulty for this pilgrimage but they are exploited even in the name of religion.

I would like to demand from the Government that a CBI investigation should be made into this issue and the guilty should be given stringent punishments.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Recently, there were some unfortunate incidents in the country. Some Members of Parliament here.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will go off the record.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Some people went to the South Avenue and tried to bribe the Members. A chaotic situation occurred and those people were arrested by the police. Later on some reporters also reached there, interviewed those persons and a video film of the incident was also made. This news appeared in all the newspapers of the country.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, not in the newspapers. You should own full responsibility of what you are saying.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : I am saying it with full responsibility and this has appeared in all the newspapers of the country.

MR. SPEAKER : Do not refer the newspapers. Are you saying it on your own responsibility?

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : This has appeared in all the newspapers of the country. The cabin news of the Daily Diary News Agency had also made a video cassette of this incident.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot bring those things to the House without my permission.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : I am presenting this cassette to you. The news agency also included this cassette in their news programme, but it was later on censored.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You understand that you cannot bring those things without my permission to the House.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV : This is not right.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : By censoring this cassette, the Government has given a blow to democracy and the freedom of the news agency. The Government should give a statement regarding the fact whether the newspapers of our country will remain free and our democracy will remain protected after such censors? Please direct the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to give a statement in this regard stating his reaction and the steps to be taken by him in the matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat now as you have finished.

SHRI B. L. SHARMA 'PREM' : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has come out in all the newspapers today that in Ayodhya a poster has been displayed by the organiser of SAHMAT. Shri Shabnam Hashmi, which says.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I would like to request you that some facts are related with our sentiments and if something has been done outside, it should not be referred to here like this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI B. L. SHARMA 'PREM' : He is being protected by Shri Arjun Singh and he has said that they have given lakhs of rupees for the programme organised by SAHMAT. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI B. L. SHARMA PREM : Shabnam must be arrested immediately.

[Translation]

He has said that Sita was sister of Ram and Ram was shown as a devotee and the son of Ram.....(Interruptions) Shabhanam must be arrested immediately. Shri Arjun Singh is sitting here and he has said that he has given lakhs of rupees. Is he being protected by the Government also? This money belongs to the Government and not to the Congress Party.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARAIA (Bankura) : There are different versions of Ramayana(Interruptions)

SHRI B. L. SHARMA PREM : You do not believe in Ram. You believe in Stalin and Lenin.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAM RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : Mr Speaker, Sir, the excitement and objection of the hon. Member may be right. But it should be kept in mind that this organisation expressed the views of a few persons in the exhibits organised at Ayodhya and at several other places. I do not want to go in the historical context of this issue and about its source. It may be a different issue.....(Interruptions)..... Please listen to me.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : A death-warrant had been issued against Salman Rushdie due to such blasphemy and he has still been trying to save his life since then. Such blasphemous things are being said here about Lord Rama also. (Interruptions)

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI (Badaun) : These statements are baseless. We want to know the source of such statement. We will not tolerate the arbitrary behaviour of any particular individual. Rama is the symbol of our faith and they are trying to distort it.....

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :*

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : Mr Speaker, Sir, please cool down Swamiji. Sir, it is not necessary that we should agree with those statements. I would like to tell you that I am also not agreeing with them. But I would like to make it clear to those who are trying to monopolize Ayodhya and had tried to play with the conscience of the entire country that those cultural people had tried to break that communal frenzy. I would like to appreciate them for it. You people are only disturbed as to how they went there and what did that do there. *(Interruptions)* If the Hon. Speaker gives permission. The tape-recording of the entire programme can be brought here so that the hon. Members may be able to listen. They have only presented the cultural, social and religious sentiments of the entire country before the people and that is the only way to bring communal harmony in the country. It is necessary to preserve and understand the cultural, political and religious heritage of our country.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir. I donot know the siege about which Shri Arjun Singh is talking. A few days ago a Som Yagna was performed in Ayodhya. I do not want to go into the controversy about the people at whose insistence the Yagna was organised. But the person who wanted to perform the yagna went to Ayodhya. He performed the yagna there. It is a different story that nobody came there to participate in the yagna. I am not going to relate that story. The siege about which he is talking? A clear issue was raised here for which Shri Arjun Singh said that he was not agreeable to that. I would like to know from him about the issue that has become the centre of controversy in Ayodhya.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : Who is responsible for that?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : You are responsible for it as you have made it a centre of controversy.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : You are trying to convert the whole country into a battlefield and you want to implicate us in this siege. It will never happen and we are not going to be influenced by such provocation. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar) : His quarrel is with Shri Narasimha Rao and not with Atalji.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I said that Ayodhya has become the centre of controversy and he is asking now as to who is responsible for that. He admits that Ayodhya has become a centre of controversy with which people's sentiments are attached. I have no objection to holding an exhibition or organising Sahmat's programmes there. I would like to clarify it. The artists, who were demanding freedom for organising programmes in Ayodhya prevented Sonal Mansingh from going to Washington for participating in Vision 2000. They criticised her. Freedom of artists does not mean freedom of artists from a specific field.

Organisation of programmes there is not objectionable. It was stopped by district officials first. The State Administration advised not to organise such programmes there, but Shri Arjun Singh put his pressure and took people there to organize the programmes. He himself went there. I have no objection to all this Shri Arjun Singh can go and so I am.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question is about the exhibition. An exhibition was held there. Now he says that he was not agreeable to the poster. In the poster displayed there Sita was shown to be the sister of Ram....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : That is from Jatak.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I know that, but what was the need and rationale for showing all these Jataks in Ayodhya. It is also a historical fact that a Ram temple was demolished there in the past. If such an exhibition is shown there, what will be its consequences. That is why you are not exhibiting it. In the same way structure recently demolished was not exhibited which could have provoked people's sentiments the organisers of the exhibition should have taken care and Shri Arjun Singh should have told that the posters displayed in the exhibition were wrong and these should not have been displayed. if he does not say so, it will tantamount to dereliction of duty on his part. Rs. 25 lakh have been given to lift the siege

*Not recorded.

which was not in existence. I would like to say that the sparks you have emitted will prove to be disastrous.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hold Shri Vajpayee in high esteem. I said clearly that I do not fully agree with this part of the exhibition. *(Interruptions)* Please just listen, there was a cultural programme also along with that exhibition.

[English]

...and I must say, hon. Speaker, Sir, that we should be grateful to the cultural community of this country that they have lifted the siege on the conscience of this nation which was forced by these people who wanted to communalise the entire country, who wanted to gain political advantage out of an act which is not only against the interests of this country but it is against all religions, against all confessions of behaviour. This is the reward that they wanted to seek. That siege has been lifted. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not continue because there are others to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, nobody has the monopoly of wisdom and patriotism in this country.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not necessary that we should prolong it on this point.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, this is an issue which is agitating the people of this country. I want to convey the gratitude of the people of India to those people who had gone there—these cultural artists and litterateurs who had taken up the cause of the secularism in this country and are fighting this poison, this menace with all their might. We must commend them; we must support them and give them all the encouragement they need. *(Interruptions)* *

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Handique's statement will go on record.

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE (Jorhat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, an ugly incident

which is not only a slur on our society but the whole nation...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, this is an attempt to impose hegemony that they will not be allowed to do. They want to impose a particular type of formulation which is not correct.

MR. SPEAKER: May I request the Hon. Members not to prolong this? I think whatever was to be said had been said on the floor of the House. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Sir, I have been asked to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you after Shri Advaniji.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been the tradition of this country not to impose any restrictions in the field of art, literature and seminars. A few decades ago there had been no restrictions on even totally opposite views that hurt the feelings of others. Nothing of the sort will do. But now a days the Government takes immediate action if anything has been said about a particular section of the society. During this discussion an hon. Member said a very relevant point. If the Government had a different viewpoint on it. *(Interruptions)* I would like to say that the charge levelled against secularism in our country and the danger apprehended in secularism is due to these double standards which will not pull on for a long you all are responsible for that.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): What is the relevant thing in this? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagat-singhpur): Shri Advani has been the incarnation of double standards. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrack-pore): You are inciting the people against the minorities.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): It is not Calcutta that you can do whatever you like. *(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Naik, please resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down now. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You must sit down first. What are you doing? This is not correct. Mr. Topdar,—when I say, 'Mr. Topdar', you know the meaning of my saying, 'Mr. Topdar'—hon. Members are quite capable of putting forth their points of view in a very forcible and convincing manner. Let them do it. Now, what is the point in just having the talk across the table? Please don't do that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Sir, I was making a very brief point to add to what Shri Vajpayeeji has already said, namely, that this issue of secularism also, one of the things that are really polluting it, disturbing it, is the approach of double standards. You cannot have double standards about this poster and a different standard about Salman Rushdie's book. After all, Salman Rushdie's book hurts the sentiments of some sections. I can say that I differ with it, but this Government went to the extent of banning it without even reading it, and on the other hand in this case... (Interruptions) without even reading it, that is what the official spokesman said. The official spokesman said that the book has not arrived, but the portions that we have seen, we think that they are objectionable. Therefore, we banned this book. It is the only democratic country in the world, mind you, in which this book was banned. I disapprove of the book, but at the same time you have one standard for that and another standard for Sahmat and that Sahmat which publishes this objectionable poster about which a reference has been made, is given the Government grant.

[Translation]

On the one hand the Government gives them grant and on the other it gives them protection. This double standard will not be allowed. There is resentment among the people against it.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: I hope honourable Advaniji understands what the meaning of

'double standard' is. Advaniji, you were in Ayodhya on 6th December. What were you doing about the double standard?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Our outer limit is 12.30 p. m.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Don't join with them. (Interruptions) you have joined with them even for No confidence motion. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please. Why do you have a cross talk like that?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, all people of this country have been given the right to expression under the Constitution. Whatever views you have, you can express them according to the Constitution. Therefore, whether you are a political worker, a cultural artist or a writer, you are free to express your views. So far as the question of secularism is concerned, it has been made clear in the constitution that ours is a Secular State and there is no dispute about it. Though, there can be dispute over the definition of Secularism and it will remain because there are different ideologies exist in this country. Just now discussion was held on the controversial Poster, so I would like to know as to how we would fight these fundamentalist forces. Would we fight fundamentalism by raising another fundamental forces or by performing somyagya? We have to think over it.

A discussion was held on the controversial Poster. I would like to quote Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia here. No one can doubt his secularism if any one do so, it would be his own fault and not of Dr. Lohia's thoughts. He accepted that Ram, Krishan and Shiva have a very important place in our country and faith of crores of people is connected with them. They have different aspects of these personalities. Different people get different kinds of inspirations from their personalities. That is why he has mentioned about Ramayana melas in his life time. Today's discussion is about a poster on Jatak Katha. The question is that some people believe in Jatak Katha and some do not. But the point is that the faith of crores of people is connected with it. We may believe it or may not believe it: We may be a theist or we may be an atheist: we may con-

sider Rama a human being or may consider him a Lord; there can be dispute over it. We can deny the existence of Rama, but sentiments of crores of people are connected with Rama and they believe that Sita was the wife of Rama and Rama fought battle with Ravana. I do not know as to how they have strengthened secularism by this act. Therefore, as Shri Arjun Singh has said that he is not agree with it, I also would like to say categorically that I am disagree with such type of posters. This type of posters will not help in creating healthy atmosphere in this country. They may have good intention of strengthening secularism in the country but ultimately such acts would strengthen fundamental forces who claim monopoly on Rama that whatever they say about Rama is correct. Therefore, I would like to request the organisation like 'Sahamat' to avoid such things. If we really want to promote secularism in the country, we should expose their misdeeds and expose their attempt to use religion for political gains. In addition to that we should also give proper definition and explanation of secularism. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Atalji has raised this issue and I think there should have been a categorical reply that as far as religious harmony is concerned the thinkers and other artists have done a great job. They deserve appreciation, but putting such posters in a disputed place like Ayodhya where many people have lost their lives, was not good in any way. They may be great thinkers philosophers or artist of repute, but the work done by them no way was in national interest. Had the hon. Minister said all this the whole matter would have ended there itself.

It is unfortunate that we raised unnecessary matters just to outcompete each other and through this debate in the Lok Sabha the whole issue reaches every hook and corner of the country. It is unfortunate for the country that the situation further deteriorates. We want freedom of expression, but we have no right to hurt the feelings of others. That poster was improper and unforgiveable and the Government should have banned it. (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadaupur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow me for a minute, I have seen the exhibition.

MR. SPEAKER: Sonmathji has already spoken.

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Sahasra) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sant Kabir was born in this country and he was the most secular man. He was trusted by Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians alike. When he was leaving for heavenly abode he also said that once he had also visited Ayodhya. And a Math has been constructed there after his name. People have faith in religion. You all are learned people and you know that no one is prepared to believe that Sita was the sister of Rama. Sita was the wife of Rama and she will remain the wife of Rama. Sant Kabir has said it and the entire country believe so. Therefore, whatever you have said, is wrong and I cannot agree to it. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: How many persons will speak on the same subject? Same things are being repeated. There are other issues also in on which you can speak.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: What will happen to this country if some people do politics in the name of Rama and some by projecting Sita as sister of Rama. Whether it is Advaniji, or Vajpayeeji, Arjun Singh or, Narasimha Raoji, I would request them to stop such things. Like National Front, they should also move in a particular direction in a secular manner.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am not saying about *puranas* or otherwise of that controversial document.

There are differences of opinion. Let us not emphasise on that. What we want is that the real message of that function there, the fight against communalism, the fight against fundamentalism for which the cultural people, artists, literators and others have taken part to give the message to the people of this country that the fundamentalism should not be allowed to overtake this country, should not be diluted.

In politics, we should not bring in religion. That is the real message of that function. That should not be diluted. Today the issue has been raised only with a view to dilute that message which has been given to the people of this country. This has been done with that motive. That is why, I say there are differences of opinion. My hon. friends are entitled to object and I respect their objections, their feelings. But that does not mean that the real purpose of that function

should be ignored or should be diluted. That is our message to the people of this country.

I hope Parliament also will give that message to the people.

(Translation)

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it would have been better had Shri Arjun Singh, Atalji and Advaniji spoken simultaneously on the issue which has become controversial today. About 5-6 months ago I had gone to attend a function and listen to sermons delivered by some saints. If you listen to the story of Kamb Ramayana written in Tamil, you will find it different from the Ramayanas of North India or East India. It does not mean that there is some misgiving in the Ramayana of North India or East India or in Kamb Ramayana. Similarly there is different kind of Mahabharat in Indonesia. What I mean to say is that the organisers of the programme were intellectuals of high order, common people like us cannot oppose them. I agree with Shri Arjun Singh that the poster shown could generate misunderstanding among the rural people. It is not good for national unity. The entire House believes in a pluralistic society. We swear in the name of the Constitution and that is why we all believe in a pluralistic society. Shri Advani, Atalji and all Congress leaders also believe in it. I would like to request with folded hands that we should send such message to the country which could strengthen the foundation of pluralistic society. We should make a self introspection for this. The entire House should unanimously raise its voice against the efforts being made for narrowing down the scope of nationalism.

SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL: Sir, some Members are allowed to make such a long speech whereas we are not even allowed to raise some important matters.

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise them tomorrow.

SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL: I will not be here in the House tomorrow and will sit on a fast. *(Interruptions)*

(English)

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUÉ: An ugly incident which is a big slur on the whole nation occurred on 13th August in a DTC bus

when an African girl from Kenya was assaulted and molested by a group of boys.

MR. SPEAKER: No. It is going out of proportion. Government will certainly take action against the culprits. It has international implications when we discuss it on the floor of the House.

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUÉ: The point is the girl and the boys belong to the same College.

MR. SPEAKER: It is going out of proportion.

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUÉ: No action has been taken either by the Police or by the College authorities. Our society and the Government have failed to protect the dignity of the girl.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you tomorrow.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Today is the date. Today election to the Rajya Sabha are being held in West Bengal where only members of Legislative Assembly are the voters. For the first time, in this country, after almost 50 years of our constitutional functioning, five observers have been appointed for the Council of States election and the Election Commissioner has said that until he gives clearance there will be no counting and until he gives further clearance, there will be no declaration of results..... (Expunged as ordered by the Chair)..... Are the MLAs going to rig the election there inside the Assembly building? Is this the way everybody will be insulted in this country? MLAs and the Government are being insulted. This is being done by the Chief Election Commissioner in this country and this Government is sitting tight. This is high time that one must wake up.**How can he? This is a clear reflection on the Members of the Legislative Assembly. Five observers for one election. Rajya Sabha election are there. Has it ever happened in the past? This is nothing but an insult and a reflection. I strongly oppose and I want the Government to respond to this.

** Expunged as ordered by the Chair.