

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I want to make one observation. I would like to know whether the Government of India has asked for this rating. If not, I do not know on what basis the questionnaire has been put. It should be clarified by the Government.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : That is what I said.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Certainly, there is no question of compromising our dignity. We shall never allow that to happen.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : The Government should tell that. The Government should explain their position. *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : The Government should reply. No compromise will be made with the sovereignty of the country.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue raised is very important and it is related with the self esteem of the country. Any private agency may undertake rating on its own we do not bother about it. They are free to do that. But the way of questioning and the stance shown by them indicate as if our future depends on their questioning and rating. They have tried to create such an impression. The Government should tell Moody company that we will not give any reply to your queries. Ours is an independent and open country. You may draw any conclusion that you like but we do not like such questioning. This should be clearly told.

*[English]*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, just one point. I do not think that is enough.

MR. SPEAKER : I think that is enough. I shall have to ask the Leader of the Opposition that something should be done.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : We would like to know from the Government whether they approached Moody on their own.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the same question has been asked by Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : No. It is because that itself will indicate to what level of subservience we had been dragged into in the last few years. Therefore, that question should be answered first by the Government. And secondly, they have to confirm whether or not such a questionnaire has been sent to them. It is because, all these are Press reports.

MR. SPEAKER : I think it has already been said. Shri Somnath Chatterjee has already said this. Now, Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, from our side, we share the concern expressed by the hon. ex-Prime Minister along with other leaders of this House. The country's prestige, sovereignty and dignity should not be compromised with any one, private company or any other country. This is our policy. Having heard what has been said here, I think, the Government will be kind enough - if any such thing is there - to come and apprise the House and with the consent of the House, that should be done. Nothing else will satisfy us.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Sir, at least, the Government should clarify whether such questions have been asked ..... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Your Leader has said so Why are you repeating it?

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : That is not being responded.

12.48 hrs.

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

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Dr. Bhoi.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, before you go to the other issue, I would like to say just one sentence.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We have already gone to the other issue. That issue has already been closed.

..... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : That is why the issues are getting mixed up.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Dr. Bhoi, you may speak after him.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I would like to say only one sentence. It has been stated that the Government of India should inform that private concern that they are not going to reply to their questionnaire. I think instead of replying to them, the Government must simply ignore that questionnaire altogether and consign it to their files. There should be no reply. The questionnaire that had been put by that concern to our Government asking so many questions must be totally ignored and not replied in the interest of the honour and dignity of the nation. .... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, I fully endorse Shri Banatwalla's view. We should just ignore it ..... *(Interruptions)*

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur) : Sir, the 'Rhur' of our country is the danger. That means the most important mineral belt which is there in Orissa where mining activities for iron ore, manganese and bauxite in Barbil and Barjamda sectors of Keonjhar and surrounding districts are carried on, is in danger. The activities have come to a standstill after the Supreme Court Order. The mines have been close down

following the Supreme Court verdict due to non-compliance of the environmental norms. Because of this, Thousands of workers now are not getting any job in those mines.

So, I want to urge upon the Government of India to request the Supreme Court again to give a Stay Order in this case from six months to one year so that the mine owners, both in the private sector and public sector, fulfil the environmental norms during this period and that thousands of workers get their job and earn their livelihood ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If so many members speak simultaneously then it will not be proper. Two names Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma and Shri Ashok Kumar Pradhan, and attached with Shri Sukdeo Paswan. ....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you I want to say that on the occasion of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's centenary celebrations the Government of India had decided to construct Dr. Ambedkar memorial on 26 Alipur Road, where he lived. The then Prime Minister of India has agreed to it and the Government had assured the House that provision for necessary funds have been made for requiring land for the purpose. Dr. Ambedkar Foundation has been demanding for additional funds for acquiring the land. On this, questions have been asked in the Lok Sabha twice. This matter has come up eight times before the Assurance Committee. During 1995-96 a provision of Rs. 10 crores was made by the Planning Commission to acquire the land. The Minister of Welfare has made no arrangements in this regard with Delhi Administration, therefore, the funds have lapsed. If arrangement of Rs. 10 crores is not made by 31 March, 1997 then the funds would again lapse. Hon'ble Minister of Welfare should take immediate steps for withdrawal of funds so that the work at Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial, 26, Alipur Road, Delhi could be started immediately. When the funds had been arranged earlier then why has this work not been completed yet? I would like to have an assurance from the Government that the funds would be released by 31 March and the work would definitely be started.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN. (Khurja) : I also want to attract the attention of the House towards this issue raised by Hon'ble Member. An amount of eight crore rupees was allocated for the purpose during 1995-96. After that 10 crore rupees were given. I want to know that on the death of certain leaders their memorials were constructed within few days and not in years or months. Work is done by installing fog light. But Baba Saheb whose principles are followed by this House and this country. His memorial has not been constructed till date. It is really very sad. Delhi Government have been constantly demanding that we have to give notice for acquisition and for this purpose funds should be given by the Union Government. The Union Government have not given any funds for this purpose. This provision got lapsed twice .

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I want to say that Government should have a time limit so that this memorial is constructed within a specified time schedule because he was a saviour of the poor and this is what is happening. Where memorials with large lights were constructed for other leaders. This Government is for poor people. They have leaders who are Dalit leaders and claim to be well wishers of dalits but they are silent on this issue they tell lies before the people and mislead the people. So, I want to say that this work should be completed within a time limit.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH (Jalaun) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am very thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak during Zero Hour. I agree with the statements made by Shri Ashok Pradhan and Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and I want to say that the Ministry of Welfare, Government of India had earmarked provision of Rs. eight crore in the last budget for the construction of a national memorial for Baba Saheb Ambedkar but the officers in the Central Government took no action and this money got lapsed. Now, this year, again a provision of Rs. 10 crore has been made. I demand that this amount of rupees 10 crores should be immediately handed over to Delhi Government .....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANOJ KUMAR SINHA (Ghazipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, this is a very important issue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All issues are important. I will call all of you one by one.

SHRI MANOJ KUMAR SINHA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Hindu University is closed for the last one month and students are agitating there.

*[English]*

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargoda) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Hindustan Latex is one of the most nationally famous and prestigious Public Sector Undertakings. Its contribution is laudable. Its achievements can be seen in the field of population control.

The Company started in 1966. Now it is functioning with a work strength of 2,000. It is topmost in the production of contraceptives. Hindustan Latex supplies its products mainly to the Government at a minimum price of 3 paise each. This helps immensely the Government of India to propagate the birth control objectives even though the birth rate in our country has not yet come down.

There is a recent move of the Government of India to disinvest 74 percent of its share worth Rs.13.64 crore. This will surely lead our famous Hindustan Latex in the hands of greedy private capital. Not to say more, the private capital is an instrument of only making profit. This will affect the cause of national birth control. For the past five years, our nation experienced the bad results of disinvestment and unprecedented corruption. So, the entire patriotic people of our country are against this disinvestment. It will harm national economy and our cherished national cause.