

[English]

The matter was discussed only on 12.5.97. In addition to that, I want to inform you that at 2.00 p.m. today, provided we complete our Zero Hour till then and even otherwise also, the hon. Minister will be making a statement regarding Delhi Rent Control Act. If there is any question, you can ask him at that time.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : On dt. 12th when this issue was raised it was said from the Government side that a statement will be given within two days. Now you are saying that the statement is being made at 2'O clock, so I do not want to say anything.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mangat Ram Sharma.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Sir, you called Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi on the issue of mines.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I did not call him. That issue is over and the Minister has replied.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please understand that all the Members from Orissa who had given notices were allowed and the Minister has given a reply. That will be brought to the notice of the Government.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Sir, he is the former Minister of Mines from Orissa.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you are also joining that issue, just make a one-sentence statement.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur) : In 1957.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not give any figures or statistics. Just say that you are supporting the issue.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : In 1957, this Mines and Minerals Act was envisaged. After that, in every three years, the royalty for minerals is fixed. My suggestion is that this Government should decide whether the royalty should be fixed on *ad valorem* value or differently for different minerals. Orissa, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are the most backward areas. It is mentioned in the provisions of the Constitution that these areas are backward. My suggestion is that, like in the case of petroleum, since any mineral or other product is a national product, the Government of India should give royalty to that

particular State on those minerals on the basis of 50 per cent of the net profit and not on the *ad valorem* value. This is my suggestion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The suggestion of the Member may be brought to the notice of the Minister please.

[Translation]

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA (Jammu) : Chairman, Sir, the land of small farmers in Jammu & Kashmir is in possession of C.R.P.F., B.S.F. and Army and they either give rent for this land to those farmers or they purchase the land from them. Farmers are not getting the reasonable rent for the land in possession of Army in Laddakh, Jammu region or Kashmir valley. The Ministry of Defence has given direction that the rent should be increased in two-three years but neither the rent is increased in two-three year nor they get compensation according to market rate. I would like to request the hon. Minister of Defence that the farmers should be given rent on increased rate and such arrangement should be made so that the rent is distributed among them quickly. Compensation for the land which the Government wants to procure, should be given quickly as per prevalent rates in the market, so that the poor farmers, whose livelihood depends on that land, could get atleast some amount and they can keep the both ends meet. I would like to bring this matter to the notice of hon. Defence Minister.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : I would also like to say something in this regard. As they have stated.. At present they are paying the rent which was fixed in 1947. The orders to increase the rent have already been passed from here and the rates have been revised. Earlier these orders were passed in 1990 and then 1993 but unfortunately they have not paid the enhanced rates to the persons' whose land was procured. I would like to call the attention of the Government of India towards this because the whole land of many farmers is in possession of Army. Many places are being converted into cantonment areas. Army is purchasing land everywhere but whenever it procures the land from the civilian, they do not get the compensation for it and even they are not paid any rent. Therefore, many families are virtually starving. I fully agree with Shri Mangat Ram ji. I join him while expressing my view that the Government should immediately pay the outstanding rent to all concerned.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the eminent litterature of Marathi language Shri V.S. Khandekar, whose birth centenary commenced. From 11 January, 1997, was

[Shri Ram Naik]

a famous writer in all fields of literature like story, novel etc. Shri Khandekar was the first recipient of Gnanpith Award in Marathi language. His literature was translated in Tamil, Kannad, Telegu, Hindi, Gujarati, English and many other languages. I personally, met and requested the hon. Minister on 16 October, 1996 that a postal stamp should be released in his memory. The hon'ble Minister had given reply to me on 18 November that we are considering the matter. Later on, I sent one more reminder but unfortunately the Government has not taken any decision for releasing a postal stamp on this great litterateur till date. I would like to request that the postal stamp in memory of such a great litterateur should immediately be released. I would ask the Hon. Minister to give statement as to when the stamp would be release. Some time, we feel that whenever the question of Marathi speaking people is raised, centre shows apathy towards it.

A Birth Centenary of Shri C.D. Deshmukh passed last year but to commemorate him no postal stamp was released. There should be no such discrimination. By doing so we have shown disrespect towards Shri C.D. Deshmukh. At least it should not be done in the case of Shri Khandekar. It is my submission. I urge the hon. Minister to take an early decision in this regard.

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I associate myself with the demand made by Shri Ram Naik on the issue of release of a postal stamp for Shri Khandekar.

Now, I want to raise another important issue regarding the huge default in respect of inland air travel tax owed by private airlines. As you know, all airlines, including private air operators, collect inland air travel tax at the rate of 15 per cent from all domestic passengers. This tax is required to be deposited with the Customs authorities within 30 days. However, the private air operators have not deposited this inland travel tax amounting to over Rs. 45 crore even after repeated reminders. Half of these dues are owed by the air operators who are still active and the other half is owed by the airlines which are no longer active. They have, probably, wound up. One airline owes as much as Rs. 13 crore. One Chennai based group which operates two airlines owes Rs. 15 crore and even Vayudoot, a wholly Government owned airlines, owes Rs. three crore.

Sir, why is the Government silent on this issue ? Why

are the Customs authorities so lenient with these air operators ? Why are these private air operators allowed to illegally use huge amount of public taxes ? It is reported that the Customs authorities have now issued an ultimatum forcing the airlines to pay by this evening all the taxes worth Rs. 45 crore which are required to be deposited.

I would ask the Government to please assure the House that no further extension will be granted and also that the interest will be collected on the delayed payment. I also want to know what action is going to be taken against those airlines which have stopped operating. Whether their properties will be attached or their aircraft would be impounded I want a statement in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention towards increasing infiltration from Pakistan border near Gujarat. Pakistan has increased its industrial activities in Badin and Tharpakar areas and is going to invest rupees 800 crores. there. Pakistan has concentrated its troops at the border also so that it can start its industrial activities. Eight power stations having a capacity of 5200 M.W. are being installed there. There might be a vast reserves of natural gas and oil and 224 billion tonne coal is also estimated there. According to the news published yesterday 17 persons of Bangladesh were also arrested there. Sircreek is also on the border of this area which is encroached by Pakistan and issued notification showing the area as its territory I have drawn the attention of the House several times that this area is a vast reserves of oil where no good and latest technology is available. People of Pakistan Intelligence service ISI impersonating as fishermen come in speed boats. If no attention is paid to this area, they will infiltrate Kutch also as is done in Kashmir. Besides Gujarat, Barmer, Bikaner, Jaisalmer areas of Rajasthan and District Palanpur of Gujarat are also adjoining this border. Position of barbed wires and light arrangements have helped to reduce the infiltration there. Therefore, it is my submission that the remaining area should also be covered with barbed wire. I request the Government to pay attention towards this.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE (Bilaspur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, even after 50 years of Independence, the Government is not able to solve the problem of potable water in state, hence the common man has to go 2-4 kms. to fetch the water. In some villages due to non availability of handpumps and wells the villagers are facing problems.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Mohle, Please do not read this.