

governmental assistance, if needed to this undertaking so that it can work smoothly. I would like to say that much only that it would be in the interest of this undertaking and its employees if the present practice of engaging private institutions for governmental electronic works is abandoned and all the orders regarding electronics should be placed to Upton.

[English]

SHRI P. C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, this is in regard to the smuggling business which is going on in some of our border areas, especially on the Nepal border, which has been causing a very serious situation in the field of some of our agricultural products, especially cardamom. This spice which is produced by India, which is of the best quality in the world, is facing a very serious crisis. It is because low quality cardamom is being smuggled from Guatemala and some other countries of the world.

It comes to the Calcutta Port from where it is taken to Nepal by road. The smuggling is going on indiscriminately. It has been brought to the notice of the Ministry and the Government but so far no effective step is taken. Unless some effective steps are taken, the best quality cardamom which we are producing will be mixed with the low quality cardamom coming from abroad and our export in this respect, which is earning high income in the form of foreign exchange, will suffer a lot.

Same is the case with regard to clove, which is another high quality spice produced in India. The farmers are facing a very serious situation because its prices have gone down very steeply. The low quality clove comes from Sri Lanka or other countries. It comes in a similar way as does the cardamom. I would urge upon the Government to take some step in this regard. This matter has been raised by the farmers who are producing cardamom as well as clove. It has also been brought to the notice of the Government but no effective step has been taken. I urge upon the Government to take serious note of it and take serious action in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Pudrauna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Union Government towards the plight of sugarcane growers of Uttar Pradesh. In the last fifty years, the farmers had never faced such difficulties in the disposal of sugarcane. At present, there are 113-114 sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh. Since long the State Government used to fix the price of sugarcane after holding talks with the mill owners. It is true that High Court and Supreme Court have stated that the State Government does not have such power. The Governor called all the mill owners and fixed a price of Rs. 72 per quintal for sugarcane. Some mill owners refused to give this rate and insisted that they would make the payment at the rate of Rs. 62 per quintal and will raise the rates by

Rs. 4 twice thus they would make a payment @ of Rs. 70 next year. Agitations were held on this issue and lakh of people were failed. I was also jailed. Infact I have been jailed twice on this matter. All the private sector mills refused to made payment @ Rs. 70/- per quintal. There are nine sugar mills in my constituency. The sugar mills at Ramkola Khetan is making payment @ Rs. 72/- whereas its neighbouring sugarmill at Ramkola P. is not paying even Rs. 70. For months now, agitations are being held, people are sitting on fasts and are jailed. Such a situation has never been arisen previously in the country. There is no law and orders. More Surprising is the fact that there is President Rule in Uttar Pradesh.

The representative of Union Government i.e. the Governor fixes a price of Rs. 70. The private mill owners are not paying even Rs. 70. The levy sugar was available earlier at the rate of Rs. 9.05 per kg. and now its price has been raised to Rs. 10.30 per kg. The price of sugar was hiked at the instance of mill owners. Thus this resulted in an increase of Rs. 150 per quintal. As a result thereof, the mill owners earned profits of billions of rupees. On the orders of Governor, the Uttar Pradesh Corporation sugar mills are paying Rs. 72 whereas the sugar mills under Central Public Sector like at Pudrauna and Kathkuian are not following these orders. What would be more surprising than this ? The Union Government sugar mills maintain that they would not pay this much and the private mill owners say that they would not give this much. Lakhs of people were jailed on this issue ... (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Mishra, this is the zero hour. Please speak to the point and do not start a discussion.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : In the end I would request that uniformity should be ensured throughout the State regarding the price of sugarcane. All the mill owners in Uttar Pradesh should be asked to make a payment @ Rs. 72 per quintal. An additional payment should also be made to sugarcane growers in view of the hike in sugar prices @ Rs. 150 per quintal.

SHRI MAHENDRA KARMA (Bustar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister of Railways towards the fact that the people of Chhatisgarh have been struggling since the sixties for creating a seprate Railway zone at Bilaspur. Not only this, the Chhatra Sangharsh Samiti is going to start relay hunger strike at Jantar Mantar Road, New Delhi. Under the leadership of the Chief Minister Shri Digvijay Singh, the matter regarding setting up of a new zone at Bilaspur was discussed with Hon'ble Minister of Railways and Hon'ble Prime Minister. Inspite of that, Hon'ble Minister of Railways did not pay any attention in this regard. The Railway Reforms Committee has also given its approval on the justification of setting up of a new zone at Bilaspur. However the Fifth Pay Commission has not only opposed but also condemned the setting up of the newly announced zones.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is the zero hour. No written statement should be read out. Whatever you want to say should be said without reading any paper.

SHRI MAHENDRA KARMA : All right. Due to lack of financial resources, the setting up of new zones has been projected as a wasteful expenditure. Alongwith it has been stated that new zones should be set up only when there is excessive pressure of work and lesser expenditure is incurred. In view of the above specifications, Bilaspur is such a zone which is the best amongst the five zones and earns more revenue than the rest of the zones.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to me. I also know about this zone. When the Rail Budget will be presented, you may participate in the discussion.

SHRI MAHENDRA KARMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all I want is that this matter should be included in the forthcoming Rail Budget in view of the sentiments of the people of Chhatisgarh and that the Government should seriously consider upon it.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise an issue pertaining to my constituency, Giridih. The Konar irrigation project was launched 20 years ago, however at present, no work is being done on it, because you may work out for yourself as to what would have been its estimated cost 20 years ago and if this irrigation project is completed, at least the people of Hazaribagh, Giridih and Bokaro will be benefitted and thus Government will be credited for the development of the most backward tribal areas of the society.

Hence, through you, I would like to request that this project should be got completed at the earliest.

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA (Jammu) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you and draw the attention of the House towards the speech made by my colleague, Shri Chaman Lal Gupta wherein he has drawn the attention of the House towards the situation prevalent in Jammu and Kashmir and stated as to how our Muslim brethren are migrating to Jammu.

In view of the situation prevalent in Jammu and Kashmir our Prime Minister visited the State thrice and during those visits, he had made announcement in public meetings as well as in this House regarding re-launching of certain projects in order to improve situation in Jammu and to generate employment opportunities. However six months have already been over but the schemes have not been implemented so far. I would name all such Schemes and hope that the concerned Ministries will take concrete steps to implement them. Out of the schemes announced, I will mention only a few...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No please mention only one or two points in zero hour.

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : I am not reading, I have noted down the points. An announcement was made to restart the Mughal Road project and to handover the project to Border Road Organisation for completion; however it was not implemented. An announcement was also made regarding setting up of Agricultural University, that too was not implemented. Another announcement was made regarding conferring 'B' class status to Jammu city that again was not implemented. An announcement was made regarding according tribal status to *pahari* speaking people living in Punch, Rajori districts of Jammu however that too was not implemented.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : So you are demanding that all those announcement should be implemented.

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : Hon'ble Minister has announced in the House that Rail line would be laid from Baramula onwards and works project will be taken up at Kathua and Udhampur also. About Rajori and Punch, he has announced that the funds will be earmarked in the next financial year and that no funds will be allocated this time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may mention these points while speaking on the budget. This is the zero hour.

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : A demand has been made regarding district Laddakh that special funds should be allocated for the Hill Development Council, however nothing has been done in this regard. I welcome the announcements made by the Prime Minister and hope that the Government of India would take effective steps in order to implement the announcements made by him and also take effective steps in respect of the three packages announced by him. I also hope that the Government would allocate funds money in order to normalise the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and would launch the appropriate projects so that peace may prevail in the State and Pakistan's attempts to create disturbance can be checked.

SHRI SHYAM BEHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, presently Uttar Pradesh is under President's Rule and there is no power supply in rural areas from 5 to 10 p.m. Power supply has been totally suspended for this period. Three municipalities and eight town areas are included in Kanpur Dehat areas and not a single town is being supplied electricity during this period. Students cannot study, poor farmers and labourers are not getting electricity even to cook their food. They are compelled to have their food amid darkness. What is the use of taking up electrification in rural areas if power is not supplied from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. because during this time electricity is needed most and people are unable to manage their day-to-day work. This discrimination between rural and urban areas is not correct. This issue has already been taken up with Hon. Governor, Electricity Board, but electricity was supplied just for three days and again it was curtailed. I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government to ascertain