

[Shri I. K. Gujral]

This brief review will, I hope, bring home the fact that on the whole, we enjoy excellent relations with our neighbours in the region. Where problems persist, we have embarked on a process which, I am confident, will yield results in the future.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Sadar-Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the honourable Prime Minister give statement regarding Rent Control Act . . . (Interruptions).

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you. Why do you not have patience when I have repeatedly told you that I am going to give you a chance ? Will you not allow me to say something in favour of the Members ?

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people in Orissa are dying of starvation . . . (Interruptions) If you would have taken this matter earlier, we would have got the Prime Minister's reply . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

Mr. Speaker : I have also received a request saying that those Members who had given notices under Rule 377 and did not get their chance because of the ballot, they should be allowed, today being the last day, to raise it. I have gone through this. We have a precedent that shows that this had been done in the past. Unfortunately, we have got 50 notices with us. I am going to impose one condition. Those who have already raised Matters Under Rule 377 during this week, will not be allowed to do so. I do not think that everybody will be present here. Those who want to raise Matters Under Rule 377 and given notice already but did not get a chance, may please send their names to the Table Office. Whosoever has given a notice, will get a chance.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, Since three-four years a population of 25 lakhs of four districts

of Orissa-Bolangeer, Kalahandi, Dhankanal and Koraput have come close to the starvation. On One hand, they are suffering from natural calamity and on the other the negligence of the state Govt. and the indifferent attitude of the Central Government, consequently a large number of youth has left their homes leaving their aged parents alone. No arrangement of food has been made for them. A team of the Members of Parliament headed by Shri Krishan Lal Sharma, Convenor had gone to visit the Orissa. After that I had also gone to see the situation. You can't imagine that any living person can live in such a situation. When we go there, a crowd of people appearing to be skeletons, came and touched our feet because they fear they would die of starvation. Several requests have been made to the State Government. Our Ex-Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowda himself gave this assurance in the House that he would provide special assistance to Orissa. But he says that state Government is not utilising it. In view of the starvation in the state it seems that there is a need to provide some more assistance. Hon'ble Prime Minister is present in the house. I request him and I also request hon'ble leader Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji to put the complete picture of the situation before the house. We want that the Prime Minister should not only give the assurance but also state the specific amount of assistance he will provide for Orissa. If the state Government is not utilising the full amount, will the Central Government give strict instructions to Orissa where people in the four districts of Orissa have reached to the doors of death due to starvation ?

When one of our delegation met the hon'ble Prime Minister, we had asked him that if the state Government pays no heed, he himself should visit the Orissa and see the plight of the people there. Lakhs of people, there are living a dead life. Our government should in no way be indifferent towards them, the foremost duty of the Prime Minister and the Central Government.

[English]

SHRI PINAKI MISRA (Puri) : When a reference has been made to the State Government, I would like to clarify. Just give me 30 seconds . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (Outer Delhi) : Sir, my notice is also there, on the same subject.

SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Sir, the BJP delegation had gone there. Why had the BJP delegation gone to Orissa after five years, we all know. We do not want to elaborate on that. The fact of the matter is that after five to six years . . . (Interruptions).

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, why is he objecting to the BJP delegation going there ?

SHRI PINAKI MISRA : If you do not mind, I have not objected to it . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

Politics of vote will not do.

[English]

Several times a reference has been made in this House . . . (Interruptions).

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Sir, There is a notice of Krishan Lal ji, Please allow him to speak. He has not even given the notice.

[English]

SHRI PINAKI MISRA : The difficulty is of the State Government . . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think, he has made any allegation for anything. It is one of the facts.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Sir, which aspersion I have cast. These people want to play politics on deads. They dont even know to speak the language of the house.

SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Do'nt teach me the language . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Sir, I have also given a notice on the same subject. I will take only one minute . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I think, it is enough.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PINAKI MISRA : The Chief Minister of Orissa had come and met the hon. Prime Minister. Our difficulty has been there about the severe drought situation. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is concerning his State.

SHRI PINAKI MISRA : The State Government had

given a proposal to the Central Government that they needed about Rs. 550 crore to meet the drought situation. The then Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda had paid a visit to the State and he declared that he would give Rs. 550 crore. Now, the difficulty that the State Government is having is that the Prime Minister had said on the floor of the House that 'they will need Rs. 450 crore.' Unfortunately, this Rs. 450 crore is a part of the Budget allocation. There is nothing as *ex-gratia* which the State Government is expecting because of the unprecedented drought.

Mr. Speaker : I think, it is all right.

SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Sir, because of the unprecedented drought, we need an *ex-gratia* . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Everybody is discussing about Bihar, U.P. and Orissa.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the Prime Minister will reply now. Yes, Mr. Prime Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you want to interrupt when the Prime Minister is about to speak ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Order please, otherwise, we would not be able to complete.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : We have gone there. It should be known to us as to what are they going to do. That is all.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : Sir, I have heard with great respect, what my friends have pointed out regarding situation in some parts of Orissa. During my last visit to Orissa, I had discussed the issues with the Chief Minister and his officers. We have gone into the whole details. I have assured the Orissa Government, and I can repeat it here, that no such programme will suffer for lack of funds. I have already undertaken that. We know that last time, allocations could not be distributed and a part of it could not be utilised due to lack of infrastructural activities. So, I have assured the Chief Minister that if there was such a situation, the relief problem, the Government

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of India was willing to finance, even to the extent of creating of infrastructure.

Therefore, on this basic issue, our stand is very clear. It is a human issue. I do not look at it in terms of parties, I look at it in terms of human sufferers. Whatever the Government of India can do, it will do its best.

The delegation of the hon. Members had met me and I have assured them that I would definitely try to find time and visit myself to the suffering areas.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : All the hon. Members are agitated about the Members' facilities and privileges as recommended by the Antulay Committee Report. We would like to hear the Prime Minister about it. He is here now. We would like to hear him. Please ask him to intervene . . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : All are quiet now.

AN HON. MEMBER : Let us here some good news on the last day.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : I am very much aware of the feelings of the hon. Members about the revision of some rules. I include the hon. Member also in that ! . . . (Interruptions) My friend Shri Sharad Pawar was saying that I must mention his name; I am mentioning his name. He has been very much concerned about it. I am well-aware of this. I assure the House that I will see what I can do . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Some concrete assurance is required. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called him. You will get your chance. Why are you not having patience ? I told you that up to 2 o'clock it will go on and every will get a chance.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, Chaubeyji, this is not the way.

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have the privilege motion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have raised the privilege issue yesterday also. You cannot raise the same privilege issue everyday. It is under my consideration. I will look into it.

I have to take a decision. It is with me.

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : Mr. Speaker Sir, it was not raised, Nothing has been said on my notice. I had not been allowed to speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Your privilege notice is with me at the moment. The file has come to me. I will take a decision accordingly.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : the Railway Minister wants to say one sentence.

12.33 hrs.

#### STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Re: Correcting the Budget speech given while introducing the Railway Budget for 1997-98

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was mentioned on page 17 para 47(c) of part-1 of my budget speech delivered while presenting the Budget on 26.2.97 in the Lok Sabha that the survey for doubling the line from Dehri on Sone to Jadunathpur via Banjari would be started.

I am sorry that the above information is found to be incorrect. In fact this should be read as follows :

Para 47(c) – The work for updating the survey for new line from Dehri-on-sona to Jadunathpur via Banjari will be started.

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, is privilege treated like this ?

MR. SPEAKER : Privilege is treated like this, speaker takes the decision.

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : You have given chance to them, who have given the notice of privilege . . . (Interruptions) You are ignoring me. It is improper to