

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, there is a continuing neglect of the Programme Staff, ranging from the Transmission Executives to the Deputy Director-General of *Aakashvani* and *Doordarshan*. They have been demanding parity in their pay scales but their case is not being attended to by this Government. We have been raising this issue repeatedly. The agitation is continuing and thousands and thousands of employees are being compelled to take agitational path. In the last few days, so many *dharnas*, protest meetings and all these things have been continuing, affecting our national electronic media. I have spoken to the hon. Information and Broadcasting Minister and he has assured me that he will look into the case. Thousands and thousands of these employees are very much agitated because the Fifth Finance Commission has already stated that they will not look into any past anomaly. So, their interest is going to be permanently jeopardised as a result of the Pay Commission's Report which is expected to be submitted in the month of September. I have already talked to the hon. Minister to take all necessary steps immediately so that the interest of thousands and thousands of employees belonging to the Programme Staff are protected.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Thank you. This issue has already been raised once.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : Sir, I can only convey the feelings of the Members to the concerned Minister.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : The concerned Minister is sitting here. The Minister of Information and Broadcasting will of course convey it but the Finance Minister has declined to look into any anomaly. The feelings of the entire House are being conveyed. The Finance Minister is present in the House; he should at last give an assurance that he would concede the demands of the Programme Staff ... (Interruptions) His smile is not enough; he must give a positive reply. He can at least assure that he would look into the demands which would be conveyed to him by Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bhopal) : What was your contribution during 13 days?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : All the good work done by us has been undone by your Government ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Fatmi, before you speak, may I say that along with you there is another name on the same subject: Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan will speak after you.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : The Olympics being held in Atlanta are in their last stages but unfortunately India has failed to secure even a single medal. I want to draw the attention of the Government to the announcement that India would play host to the Asian Games by 2006. Whether it is the Asian Games or the Olympics, our level of performance has not been enough to win a medal.

I would like to submit to the Government to ensure that the team, which is sent to compete in any international sports event, has the competence to compete in that level of contest. Even small countries have bagged medals in this marimolli sports event. All our hopes are now pinned on leander Paes for which Government cannot claim any credit as it is an individual effort. I would, therefore, venture to suggest that before entering into competition in any international sports event, Government should select some disciplines and concentrate on them. Today, we are spending crores on sports, but no tangible results are being achieved. I would suggest to the Government to hold a high level meeting with a view to constituting a competent committees. The Committee should select some disciplines and concentrate their efforts on those disciplines only. If need be, we may skip the next olympics and participate in the Olympics to be held after the next olympics. But we must come home with some medals. Otherwise

"Bade beabruo hoken tere kooche se hum nikle"

It is regrettable that India is a vast country but has failed to win even a single medal whereas smaller countries have shown better performance and better medal tally.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a specific issue in the context of the Olympics being held in Atlanta. I would like to draw the attention of the House to the total neglect of Indian disciplines like wrestling. We could have won a medal in the wrestling events but the party politics indulged in respect Pappu Yadav and Kaka Pawar belied any such hope. I would like to bring to the notice of the House that Pappu Yadav was selected for training in Russia and while he was receiving training in Russia, it was decided to send Kaka Pawar. Pappu Yadav was recalled later on. There was a wrestling bout between the two and Pappu Yadav came out victorious.

Besides, we do not have proper coaching facilities in our country. We do have two coaches for free style wrestling, but we do not have any coach for Greco-Roman style of wrestling. Also no coach accompanied our contingent which participated in the wrestling events in Atlanta. The wrestlers who were supposed to contest in the 48 kg category, were forced to contest in the 52 kg.

category. Therefore, all our hopes to bag the gold medal in this event were dashed to the ground. The officers in the sports Federation...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : I am touching an important point. Our officials in the sports Federation fail to take the right decisions. I urge the Government to disclose their sports policy and it should be discussed in the Lok Sabha. We may not have succeeded in these events but the Youth Congress showed its powers in other fields in the Bhopal ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI (Raigarh) : The prices of drugs and medicines have risen so high during the last 2-3 years that they have been beyond the reach of the poor. The price of Glucose water bottle with 5 per cent next rose content is Rs. 8 but the price marked on the bottle is Rs. 29.90. In the rural and adivasi areas, it is being sold for Rs. 100/- why a price of Rs.29.90 has been marked on a bottle costing Rs.8? Government should make a statement on these malpractices by drug companies.

*[English]*

SHRI SHIVANAND H. KOUJALGI (Belgaum) : Sir, I want to raise one important matter regarding the situation arising out of the strike of advocates of Hubli Dharwar and other parts of the northern Karnataka. The strike is in protest against the non-establishment of the High Court Bench at Hubli Dharwar. Due to the strike the situation is tense which may lead to a law and order problem. The Government of Karnataka has requested for the establishment of a High Court Bench at Hubli. The Karnataka Assembly has also passed a unanimous resolution for establishing a High Court Bench at Hubli. I draw the attention of the hon. Law Minister and request him to take action immediately in this regard. I also request him to visit Karnataka immediately to solve this problem.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, reportedly there is a move by an influential quarter having relations with the ruling party for the shifting of the headquarters of Coal India Limited from Calcutta. This matter has also been reported in a section of the Press. I have come across a write up saying that a resolution to this effect has also been passed in one of the State Assemblies. Sir, it is causing concern and it is also creating uncertainty in the concerned quarters. Therefore, it should be clarified by the hon. Minister. If there is any such move the subsidiary company should also be consulted before taking a decision in this regard. There should not be any haste in this matter ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : Sir, I join him on this matter. I feel that this should not happen without the knowledge of Parliament...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE (Mandola) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, about 30 persons belonging to Bega tribe of adivasi tribes residing in District Mandola have died due to the break out of a serious infectious disease there. In spite of our constant endeavour to bring it to the notice of the Government, no action has been taken by them. Through you, Sir, I would urge the hon. Minister to ensure that either the State Government or the Central Government undertake measures to eradicate this menace. This Bega tribe resides in adivasi areas and the steps have been taken in this direction. I would request the hon. Minister to make a statement thereon and order necessary measures...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I may bring it to your notice that the names have been selected by the hon. Speaker.

*[English]*

The names have been selected by the hon. Speaker. I will try to accommodate others also. First, I will call the names of those hon. Members who have already been selected by the hon. Speaker ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN (Kangra) : We are not treated properly. We will not accept this...*(Interruptions)* We are not going to accept this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. Let Shri Tiwari speak first. I will allow you all.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN : We are also elected by the people but all our requests have been rejected ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you keep on shouting, you will not be called to speak.

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (Dumariaganj) : Sir, I would refer to the statement laid on the Table yesterday about Shrimati Subhawati Devi by the hon. Minister of Home Affairs. The incident occurred on the 27th February. A party worker was rushing to the district administration to inform them about an impending assault on Shrimati Subhawati Devi by some anti social elements but the worker was way laid and murdered in broad daylight.

According to the statement laid by the hon. Minister both the DIG and IG have confirmed in their respective statements that charges made by Shrimati Subhawati Devi are correct. A committee of the House should be appointed to verify the statements made by DIG and IG Gorakhpur and Shrimati Subhawati Devi and if need is felt the DIG and IG should be asked to appear before the committee.

SHRI DEVENDRA BAHADUR ROY (Sultanpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the