

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is the use of talking like this? Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have sent a motion to constitute a House Committee to go into the conduct of a Member I have sent a motion to constitute a House Committee regarding conduct of Shri Sukh Ram and please allow me to raise the same before the House... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am prepared to listen to everybody. Please make your point one by one. I shall call every one. Now, please sit down.

*[English]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I have given a notice to raise a very important matter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have received your notices. I will call everybody.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Allow me to raise it, please.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why do you not sit down?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This is a very important issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All issues are important.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : No. This is more important. All issues are not important like this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If you go on talking like this, nothing will go on record.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Allow me to raise it first, please.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do you not want to raise the issue in a proper way?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We want to raise it... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have promised you that I would call everybody. Why do you not sit down?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : All right. Thank you very much.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM NAIK : I have sent a motion regarding conduct of an hon'ble Member, Shri Sukh Ram.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yours is in the middle, I shall take it up. There are notices, I shall take them up.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Mr. Speaker had stated on the 2nd that he has not yet gone through it. That was the last day. This session has commenced on 26th... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have also not read it so far I have not get it.

*[English]*

I will get the information. Then, only, I can tell you.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Ferozepur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards a very serious problem being faced by farmers of Punjab. The Government have been purchasing paddy P.R. 106 variety from farmers in the form of super-fine quality for the last 25 years. But last year P.R. 106, which is called 'Parmal' also has been classified as Fine Quality. The rate of the fine quality was Rs. 375 per quintal last year and the rate of super fine quality was Rs. 395 per quintal. But last year super fine quality was classified as fine quality and owing to this, small farmers have to sell their paddy in *mandis* of Punjab at reduced rate as the rate was reduced by Rs. 20 per quintal. The big farmers sold their paddy in the form of super fine quality in Haryana as well as in Rajasthan and they get the same rate. In this manner PR 106 was sold in Punjab at a lesser rate. The farmers have suffered a loss of crores. The Government of Punjab promised later on that the Government would give bonus to farmers at the rate of Rs. 5 per quintal. But the same has not been paid so far I demand from the Central Government to ensure that farmers may not be allowed to be looked like last year. PR 106 should be treated as super fine quality and same old rate should be paid to them so that they are not looked.

*[English]*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : I had been at Punjab the other way. They have changed the fine variety into super-fine variety. Thus, there is a difference of Rs. 20 for the

\* Not recorded.

farmers. There is no qualitative difference as such. So, I share the feelings of what the hon. Member has said. The Agriculture Minister must direct the State Government to take action on it... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Not only that. The jute prices are also coming down. The price of raw jute has been slashed down by half. The Agriculture Minister is here. He should see that the price is raised.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him first reply for the paddy.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the question of paddy has been raised. It is a State subject. The hon'ble Member has also said that quality has been down graded. I think, he should see me, then we shall discuss the matter in the Ministry.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please examine the question of jute also.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Our Ministry does not procure Jute.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Last year the rate was Rs. 600 but Rs. 562 have been paid.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : We have not decreased but increased.

*[English]*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : That is not enough. Earlier the price was Rs. 1,500 or Rs. 1,700 and now it has come down to Rs. 800 and something... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The JCI has not come forward to purchase the raw jute from the growers.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : The purchasing is not done by my Ministry. It is done by the other Ministry... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Although that is not done by his Ministry, yet the jute growers are being looted terribly... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The senior Ministers are here. Mishraji is right that his Ministry does not deal with it. But this is a national problem. And I would request the Minister to take initiative and see that some solution is found out. It is not a question of dividing the responsibility between the Ministries. That is a matter which should be immediately looked into... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please listen to his reply. He wants to say something.

*[English]*

Madam, he is replying.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, the hon. Member has said that I should do something and write to the Textile Minister.

I can write to him immediately. When the hon. Members have raised it, I must respond but I have got my jurisdiction. My jurisdiction is limited. Even then, I will refer it to the hon. Minister and ask him to do so.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : It is a very serious matter... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : They cannot purchase the jute on payment... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : There is no jute production at all... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I feel that some lobby is definitely working deliberately to ruin the jute industry... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Anyway, we appreciate his concern... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I can do this much that in order to draw the attention of the Textile Minister I should go there and purchase the jute... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right. Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, or you please allow Call Attention on this. It is a very important issue and it should be discussed... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, I am going to take the next item.

There are four persons who have given notice on this subject. I will try to accommodate all the four.

Shri Basudeb Acharia, please.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Delhi-Sadar) : Sir, I have also given notice.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Your name is there. All of you will be called one by one. I shall try to give chance to every one, whose name is there.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, last year, this House could not function, because then we in the Opposition raised this issue—when we found that the contracts for thousands of crores of rupees were being awarded to a particular firm, giving a favour—at that time we were criticized by the Members of the then Ruling Party, Congress (I). Now, it has been vindicated... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : The Court did not give that verdict and your leader gave a clean chit to him... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Bypassing the Parliament, the order was given although there was opposition in this very House at that time... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Besides, he should be hanged.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There is no question of hanging. The prescribed punishment would be awarded.

[English]

They have not expelled him; they have only suspended him... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : We are not like South Korea... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Now, the CBI has unearthed more than Rs. four crore from his houses both at Mandi, Himachal Pradesh and from his Delhi residence including jewellery worth lakhs of rupees and also foreign currency.

He had overruled the recommendation of the two Committees to award the contract to M/s. Advance Radio

Mass, a firm of Hyderabad. He ignored the repeated warnings of the officials against awarding this contract. He directed that 900 sets be bought from that particular firm. These 900 sets were of inferior quality, that is, crystal-500, of synthesized quality.

Shri Sukh Ram by making this direction, distinctly made a favour to that particular firm—Advance Radio Mass. It is a clear case of favoritism and corruption.

The Crystal system was of inferior quality. Then the other firm was asked to supply as this particular firm was supplying inferior quality material. On 27th, Shri Sukh Ram ordered at the same price both the systems—the Crystal system and the synthesised system. A number of officers like Director MCC, Advance Planning, Member (Planning), reiterated and observed that since the Crystal version was inferior in quality, a price difference should be made... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Acharia, please take less time because three more Members have also given notice on the same subject.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : But the former Communication Minister has overruled it. Thus, he has violated the norms, rules and the system of the Telecommunication Department. It involves a huge corruption.

I urge upon the Government and demand that a statement should be made on the floor of the House giving the present status of the enquiry. The CBI should be allowed to enquire and the House should be informed of the present status and the action taken against the former Communication Minister, Shri Sukh Ram and other high officials who were involved in this large scale corruption.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : During the last few days a mega scandal involving the former Communication Minister hailing from Himachal Pradesh is unfolding. During the raids conducted by the CBI in several houses belonging to the former Minister as also some of the associates including high officials and friends of the Minister, it has come to light that the Minister was involved in granting undue favour to certain companies against monetary consideration.

This was a demand made by us during the last session and for a pretty long period, for a number of days, there was no option left to us but to protest against what was happening in the name of liberalisation in the telecom sector. It was one of the greatest events involving corruption in high places.

I can cite one example. When we are discussing at a particular forum about the efficacy of the MARS, the Multi Access Radio System, provided to the Panchayats which was