

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : What about the threats issued to the Press, the Judiciary and the Executive?...*(Interruptions)* Will you give an assurance here?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : About what?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : You should give an assurance that the statement is retracted. Your Defence Minister has said something.

[Translation]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : If something is published in newspapers and we refer to it...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I have clarified Govt's stand about Defamation Bill.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : It has not only appear in newspapers...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : He is misleading the House.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Please let us know what you have to say about the statement of the Defence Minister...*(Interruptions)* I welcome Hon. Minister's statement that Govt do not propose to bring Defamation Bill. But what does he wants to say on the statement of Defence Minister. Will be continue to threaten press, judiciary and executive in public?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record. I have called Shri Sukdeo Paswan, have else.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)...***

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Arariya) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hon. Members are aware of the situation is Uttar Pradesh...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Are you speaking in the issue under discussion.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir, Scheduled Castes people are being subjected to extreme atrocities is Haridwar and other places. Their women were stripped of clothes and put to humiliation. I would like the House to consider the situation seriously and Govt. should make a statement as to what action is proposed to be taken to stop recurrence of such incidents in future...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai - North) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir M.Ps' Local Area Development Scheme has been a non-starter. Rs. one crore is being given to

* Not recorded.

each M.P. But now orders have been issued to proceed with schemes approved earlier. Only two days before, two circulars have been issued which state that the amount earmarked for these schemes, which have been sanctioned but have not been executed yet, would lapse. When this schemes was sanctioned it was made clear that the sanctioned amount of the schemes would not lapse. The scheme was framed by the formers Speaker Shri Shivraj Patil. I urge upon the Govt. that the amount sanctioned earlier should not lapse and above two circulars should be withdrawn. Beside additional amount should be sanctioned so that the ongoing schemes could be continued.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we were told that a booklet containing guidelines would be issued to the Member, the same has not been issued so far. Therefore no work could be undertaken. I request the Govt. that the Prime Minister should make on statement as to what he propose to do with this schemes. Finance Minister has during the course of his speech in Budget stated that he would discuss this with the speaker as to whether additional funds could be provided for this scheme. The scheme has been in doldrums I therefore urge upon the Govt. to make a statement in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have got a list of members who have given notices. But the subject is move important. Those who have not given notices, I am sorry.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Jena, would you like to say some thing in the regard.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him say.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : He has yielded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please be seated.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Hon. Member Shri Ram Naik has raised the issue of H.P. Local Area Development Scheme, we have also read the two circulars issued recently by the Govt. There circulator have covered the inactive on the part of district administration. We were under the impression that the amount earmarked for schemes which have already been sanctioned would not be lapsed. The work on these schemes was temporary held up on account of the directives from the Election Commission. It was hoped the work would be resumed later on. District Administration is accountable for not executing those schemes which had been recommended by us, estimates for which had been duly prepared and people were duly informed about those schemes. Now since work could not be started on these schemes these schemes have been held up. we would like to see the Planning

Minister in this connection and in case our grievance are not resolved we would like see the Hon. Speaker who is the highest appellate authority. We did not want to disturb the Speaker because the Elections were very close and every one of us was busy. We decided to explain our position later on. Now the elections are over and former Speaker Shri Shivraj Patil is present here in the House. He may enlighten the House that this scheme was initiated on demand from M.Ps. Now persons in new dispensation do not want that this scheme should continue on the recommendations of M.P. We suggest that this schemes be dropped so that we may not be accused for its failure. And in case the scheme is to be continued it should not divide from the original idea with which it was conceived. An eight point computer format was supplied to us in this connection. The question asked was on what date the scheme was recommended, when the technical sanction was issued, when was administrative approval taken, when the work on the scheme was started, what was the target date of completion and the present position of the scheme etc. A quarterly report was to be sent by the District Megistrate. We were told that we could get up-to-date position of any scheme on the computer installed at the push of a button. The present position is that we are completely in dark as to the progress of these schemes. Now the new circular states that these scheme on which the work could not start would simply be dropped. Some action should be taken on negligence.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I clearly remember a complaint made by Smt. Rita Verma. A privilege motion was admitted in that case. It was also provided that any negligence on the part of the official would be dealt with severely. This New circular negetor all this. We can not make any complaint. Now it says that all these schemes where implementation has not started would be dropped and the amount alloted would lapse. It is a strange situation. The Govt. should clarify the position and a permanent mechnery should be evolved to remove such inaction in future. We have already suggested that a joint standing committee of the House should be constituted to look into all in grivances in this connection and to suggest measures to deal with them effectively...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please let him speak.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : The scheme was framed on demand from Shri Naik and other Hon. Members of this House. The Antulay Committee had recommended Rs. 2 crores for this scheme for each M.P. but subsequently one crore was granted. The Govt. had stated at that time that the money would be spent by the collector at the instance of the Member. If for some reasons a Member submits scheme works Rs. 50 Lakhs only in a particular year instead of Rs.1 crore the remaining 50 lakhs would be carried over for the next

year. It was made very clear that the funds under this scheme are non-lapsable. It was also made clear that the new Members elected after the election would be entitled to use the remaining amount not utilised earlier and the funds would not lapse after the elections. Rules were also framed in the respect so as to define whether the funds could lapse or not. It was else mentioned not the Plan implementation Ministry would see to it if the scheme was being implemented properly. If there decisions or conclusions made earlier are to be changed or modified these could be done only after consultation with the Speaker. It was also pointed out that no modification was made in the scheme without cousuling the speaker during the last three four years. Hon. Member used to approach me in connection with this scheme if their suggestion were worthwhile we accepted them. If they would not, we told them that we can not accept their suggestion. I feel that this scheme has come as a great relief to Hon. Member of various parts of our country. Therefore the scheme should be continued in its present form. If Govt. considers that certain changes are necessary in this scheme these can be incorporated only after consultation with the Speaker and other Hon. Members. As regard the issue whether the funds would lapse, the Govt. have itself stated that the funds would not lapse. It there are funds which had not been spent under this scheme, the newly elected Member should be entitled to spend this amount...*(Interruptions)* If there is some confusion it could be sorted out in consultation with the Hon. Speaker, Parliamentary Affairs Minister and the Finance Minister. But the final decision should vest with the speaker. Is the provisions of the scheme require some change that can only be done with the conspect of this House. In may view the schem does not require any change.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : As per the suggestion of the former Speaker, Shri Shivraj Patil, a meeting can be convened with the Speaker before any decision can be taken.

[English]

Then the Government would come before the House.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What have you got to say in connection with the circulars issued.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : A meeting can be called in which the Planning Minister and Finance Minister should be present alongwith other leaders, The matter can be sorted out there...*(Interruptions)*

MANY HON. MEMBER :... Shri Shivraj Patil should be invited in that meeting...*(Interruptions)* Shri Ram Naik should also be invited in the meeting...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : The decision has been accepted...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : But that circular must be withdrawn first...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK (Aska) : I request the hon. Minister that the circular should be withdrawn. The former Speaker, Shri Shivraj Patil had projected the entire idea and the scheme was prepared by him, under his aegis. The scheme should be implemented...*(Interruptions)* The House should go into it and then the new circular should come...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ABDUL REHMAN ANTULAY : Sir, a High-Powered Committee was constituted by the then hon. Speaker, Shri Shivraj Patil, in consultation with the Government, in which all the top leaders of all the parties were the Members.

The Committee gave an Interim Report wherein, as hon. Shivraj ji just now mentioned, Rs. 2 crore was recommended. The Government instead agreed for Rs. 1 crore. Inflation has its cruel hand every sphere of life. Therefore, I would say that the amount should be increased to the 2 crores. All the Members of the Committee applied their mind and gave a unanimous Report. These recommendations were made with a view to make the MPs better functional and more effective. This is not meant as some sort of perks or privileges of the members or any such additional facility. What the committee has recommended was for the purpose of making the Members more effective and functional so that they can discharge duties in a better way and at the same time remain in touch with constituency by doing service as MP's. Various recommendations were made keeping all these things in view. Had that Interim Report been accepted at that time, we would have surely, thereafter final Report. Unfortunately, the Interim Report has not been accepted fully, as even though it recommended Rs. 2 crore but only Rs. 1 crore was given and that is the end of it. No other recommendation was accepted. Even so, a lot of criticism was made. I think this all informed criticism should not have been made. Criticism was mainly made if it was for special perks for Members of committee including me. But no benefit has been given to any Member so far. I am for his Constituency aggrieved. I had almost told the then Speaker in anguish. "I was tired. The Government is not doing anything. I am very sorry about it and, the best and honourable course for me was to quit." It is high time that this Government accepts the recommendations of the committee *in-toto*. The committee comprised of all the top leaders as I said. Mr. Justice Lodha was also there. No Party was left out. Shri Somnath Chatterjee was also there. Shri Indrajit Gupta was also as Member. All the Parties were represented in that Committee and it gave a unanimous report. What more is required taking the advantage of today's opportunity when I am asked by many Hon. members to interfare. I would urge upon the Government to accept the recommendations, *in toto*, made in the interim Report. Till the Interim Report is not accepted, the question of final Report does not arise.

[Transation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Just wait for a moment. Shri Antulay please do not tender your resignation from the Committee. There is no reason to get angry. You should continue in the Committee. Second point is that this matter would be sorted out in a meeting in consultation with Mr. Speaker, Leaders of various parties, Minister of Planning and others as has been mentioned by the Parliamentary Affairs Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Shivraj Patil would also be there. They will sort out the matter.

[English]

SHRI ABDUL REHMAN ANTULAY : No, further avoidable and unnecessary delay occur in this matter. Further discussion means, I may humbly suggest further delay... The Interim Report be please accepted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It will be done as early as possible. It is better if we can have a discussion during this week itself.

SHRI ABDUL REHMAN ANTULAY : Sir, my information is, that the hon. Speaker and the hon. Deputy Speaker are going to accept it. I had discussed it with the hon. Speaker and he said that this would be done as per the rules. Modalities will be worked out to do whatever is permissible within the rules. Whatever needs to be brought through legislation before Parliament, I mean in the form of a legislation, this should be done, all this should be over within the next two weeks.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, and of the House, to a very important matter...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please wait for a minute. You have been pressing for a long time. Have you given something in writing. Your name is not there in the list. I am sorry. When you give a notice I will consider it.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : The important matter that I would like to raise - and draw the attention of the Government - is that it is the duty of the Government, especially of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. To maintain harmony between the Engineering and the programme staff of the Doordarshan and the All India Radio. Otherwise, programmes cannot be conducted properly and the messages cannot be conveyed to the people through this important media. Unfortunately, the Programme Staff Association is compelled to go on an indefinite strike from today onwards. They are sitting on 'dharna'