

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue in the House. Several factories in Uttar Pradesh are being closed down unnecessarily. The issue pertaining to 'Uptron' was raised earlier. Now the Government is angling for the 'Hindustan Cables'. This company was manufacturing very sophisticated equipments including optical fibre cables and today an order has been issued to close it down and handover it to the private sector. About 350 highly qualified engineers and staff are working in this company. This company was set up in 1987 and commenced production in 1990. This company alone supplies its production to Tele-communication's Department. However, its management is in the hands of Heavy Industries. I would like to suggest that this company should be transferred from the Heavy Industries to the Communication Ministry. The Telecommunication Ministry should issue orders as this company was set up only for this Ministry by investing crores of rupees in it. This is very good company. Similarly, it is being said to remove C.O.D. Chioki from the scene and it is also being contemplated to close down ITI. I would earnestly request that this injustice being meted out to the employees and the factories should be stopped and by formulating a definite scheme, it should be allowed to function properly.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, with regard to the Hindustan Cables, I want to say something.

MR. SPEAKER : Do you agree to whatever he has said?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I support it. There is a proposal from the union saying that the Department of Telecommunications should place orders with the Hindustan Cables...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not shout like this, please. This is not the way the Members should behave.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : With 50 per cent advance, order was given.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, how can you go on debating it?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Advance for three months was given. This is important.

MR. SPEAKER : I know it is important. Every matter is important.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : The point is that this is a major unit which has to be defended at all costs. I think he has done a service by raising it.

MR. SPEAKER : You just say that you all support it.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I want to raise a very important issue. Whenever I try to raise an important matter, they are not allowing me...(Interruptions) Sir, you have allowed me to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, But what can I do? Every Member wants to get a turn. What can I do? You talk louder.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I am raising an important issue. Every year, because of the administrative lacuna, the question papers in respect of Secondary and Higher Secondary class, are leaked and the students are facing hardship. Sometimes, it happens in the case of CBSE. Sometimes, it happens in West Bengal, Yesterday, in West Bengal, more than four lakh students were in hardship because the mathematics question paper was leaked and the examination was cancelled. I want that the HRD Minister should inform the House as to what is actually going on about the question paper leakage. Why does the Government not punish those people who are responsible for this?

Therefore, through you, Sir, I appeal to the Government, particularly the HRD Minister, to intervene in this matter. I am not saying about West Bengal only but throughout the country it is happening. In West Bengal, the question paper was leaked and four lakh students were in trouble. Late night at 11 of the clock, they came to know that the question paper was leaked and the examination was cancelled. I think the Parliamentary Affairs Minister should inform the HRD Minister who should, in turn, make a statement. Let him inform the House as to what has actually happened.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the hon. Foreign Minister has to make a short statement.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you after this. Do not worry. You keep quiet. Be patient. You will get a chance.

12.09 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Launching of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation

[English]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have great pleasure in informing the hon. Members of this august House of the successful launching of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC). This was pursuant to the First Ministerial Meeting of the Rim