

12.05 hrs.

## PRESENTATION OF PETITION

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : I beg to present a petition signed by Shri R.V. Subha Rao of Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh, Shri R.B. Maitra of Calcutta and other bidi workers requesting immediate cancellation of licences for manufacture of small cigarettes and formulation of a clear cut bidi policy.

*[Translation]*...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, before the Zero Hour Commences, I would like to inform you that I have a list of 33 Members, and I will give a chance to each of you to speak.

...*(Interruptions)**[English]*

I will take up according to seriatum.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Yesterday it was decided that it would be taken up immediately after Zero Hour ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Sir, yesterday I gave a notice to raise an important matter under Rule 193. It is a very urgent matter. I understand for lack of time, it could not be accommodated, as could be seen from the Revised List of Business. I understand that the BAC could not accommodate my notice under Rule 193 to raise a very important matter. In this connection I called on the hon. Speaker also.

Sir, I will take only half a minute to raise this matter which concerns the entire House. Shri Murlī Manohar Joshi also raised this issue. This is regarding a statement made by Naval Chief, Shri Shekawat and the Army Chief. They have voiced their concern about the shortage of officers in the Indian Army. In the context of CTBT and its fallout, there is an alarming concern about the preparedness of Indian Defence. I thought that the Minister of Defence who is very much available in Delhi, at least before the rise of the House, should make a statement as to what is the approach of the Government in this regard. It cannot be just wished away. The Chief of Army Staff in Calcutta made a statement that the Army is having shortage of officers and no officers are recruited. He said that young people are not getting encouragement. Shri Chidambaram said that there would be no shortage of money and that aspect would be taken care of. In spite of the concern regarding Defence, the hon. Minister of Defence has not been able to express anything because the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence were guillotined. Dr. Murlī Manohar Joshi has raised this issue alongwith other hon. Members. I gave a notice for a discussion under Rule 193, but it was not admitted because of lack of time. I only wish that the Government should come out with a statement because

the issue of CTBT will be taken up in the United Nations once again. You know the kind of fall out which was there in Pakistan. They are being armed and it was also shown on the TV yesterday. Mrs. Banazir is gunning with all her power at her command against India in Kashmir border. At this time, the statement of the Chief of Navy about our naval capability on the ocean and the statement of the Chief of Army about our preparedness are causing concern; and if the Government does not react to it, it is very unfortunate. That is why, I would like to draw your attention.

So, Sir, the Prime Minister or the Defence Minister or some other Minister on behalf of the Government must react to the situation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right, Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhary please

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West): Sir, I want to support what Shri Dasmunsi has said. The matter is very grave and serious. It is absolutely necessary that the Government makes a statement in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, Yesterday it was decided that the Constitution (Amendment) Bill would be taken up immediately after the Question Hour is over. But now you are permitting the Zero Hour to go on. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We will take it up after the Zero Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have no objection if you want to take it up just now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, that was our understanding ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We will take up matters under Rule 377 after Zero Hour.

...*(Interruptions)**[English]*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, the arrangement was that it has to be sent to the other House by 1 P.M. and so, we should immediately take it up after Question Hour is over. That was the impression given to us by the hon. Speaker...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Otherwise, how can you send it to the other House ? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : The decision taken yesterday was to take up that Bill immediately after the Question Hour. What is happening to it now ? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. I will give a chance to all of you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It has to be taken up after Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It has to be finished.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It will not take more than one hour.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, you are not listening to us. Yesterday, hon. Speaker has decided that in order to send the Bill to the other house, we have to conclude our deliberations by 1 P.M. Now, if you take up the Zero Hour, how can we complete the discussion on that Bill ? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, it has to be sent to the other House also ... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, the Minister also has to reply ; and today is the last day of this Session ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, is there any rethinking on this matter by any of the parties here ? We would like to know it because every party has committed to its passing yesterday. Is there any rethinking on this ? Let us find it out ..... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Lady Members have been invited to the Chamber, talks are going on. The House will be informed of the decision.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : (Lucknow) : There is no rethinking on this matter on the part of my party; and if there is any rethinking, it is on the other side of the House. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Why then is the Leader of the Opposition not insisting on taking up that Bill immediately ? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : You ask the Members on the other side.... (Interruptions)

SHRI P. M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : Sir, we have even issued a three line whip for our Members ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please allow the hon. Member to speak. Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhary please.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we have a multi-purpose Subarn Rekha project which has affected hundreds of villages in my area. (Interruptions) Lands of many persons have been acquired for this project (Interruptions) We talk here about farmers and poor people time and again ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please let him speak.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Bank has acquired the land of villagers but no compensation has been paid ... (Interruptions) It they behave like this we will also not allow them to speak ... (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. Let me tell you something.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : A meeting of all the leaders was held this morning at 9.30 in which it was agreed that all the hon'ble Lady Members should be called to the Chamber of the Speaker.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The meeting is going on. I would inform you about the decision taken by the Government.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The meeting is going on.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Ram Tahal Chandhary has to say.

...(Interruptions)\*

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Lands of hundreds of people have been acquired ... (Interruptions)

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\*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Unless you allow Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhary nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Land belonging to hundreds of people has been taken over ...(Interruptions) Crop has been destroyed but no compensation has been paid. The displaced persons are neither being paid compensation nor have been given jobs despite the assurance given by the State Government.

The roads of the village have submerged into the dam and there is no road communication available. Roads have not been provided, rehabilitation measures have not been taken. The bank cheques issued in the name of rehabilitation are not being honoured by the bank officers without illegal gratification. The farmers there are on the verge of starvation. People have been leaving on an island for six months. The situation have assumed a very serious dimension.

Sir, through you I would like to tell the government which claims to be the wellwisher of the farmers and poor people, that the poor people are not being paid compensation for their land and I would, therefore, demand that an inquiry should be conducted by constituting a Committee into the Chandil Subarna Rekha Project and compensation should be paid to those displaced families who have not been given compensation so far they should be provided jobs, they should be rehabilitated. I would also request that arrangements for their medicare and security, which do not exist, should be made, otherwise, the affected people who are agitated can resort to a big agitation. I want that the government should pay compensation to these poor farmers immediately.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Indrajit Gupta, Home Minister wants to inform the House on the tragedy of Amamath Yatra.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : Sir, I had promised yesterday that the decision of the Government regarding the Inquiry Officer to inquire into the Amamath tragedy would be announced today. So, I am informing the House now that we have appointed Shri Nitish Sengupta, a retired senior IAS Officer of the 1957 batch as the Inquiry Officer. Shri Sengupta had been holding very senior positions in the Government of India. He had been the Secretary of the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Secretary, Planning Commission, Secretary of the Department of Civil Supplies and Director-General of Tourism, Government of India. He is an eminent civil servant with 35 years of distinguished service. After retirement, he is presently working as the Director-General of the

\*Not recorded.

International Management Institute. We have requested Shri Sengupta to complete his inquiry within one month.

[Translation]

SHRI DINSHA PATEL (Kheda) : The soiled notes of the denominations of Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 are in circulation in Gujarat and the entire country which are not accepted by rickshaw pullers, vegetable vendors, cooperative banks and even scheduled banks. The State Bank does not have new notes of these denominations nor have they coins of the denominations of Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 as a result of which people are facing great difficulty. I have written in this regard to the hon'ble Finance Minister and also to the Reserve Bank of India. I will request the hon'ble Finance Minister to take urgent appropriate measures and ensure availability of new notes or coins.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai, South-Central) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have the India Workshop Limited in my areas the workers of which have not been getting their wages to the last 104 months. It is a matter of shame for the new government. I have met the former Finance Minister Shri Manmohan Singhji and the present Finance Minister Shri Chidambaramji many times and they assured me that the wages of these workers, who are doing their duty will be paid. But wage arrears amounting to Rs. 7 to Rs. 8 crore have been accumulated and no payment is being made while the workshop is selling ships worth crores of rupees. I will therefore, request the government, the hon'ble Finance Minister is not present, but the House should direct him to make payment of their wages as early as possible. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, who is present should give us a categorical assurance that their salaries will be paid.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Sir, the matter I am raising is very serious. The population of Jaipur City has gone beyond 20 lakhs which is likely to go up further because of Constitution of Municipal Corporation. We have 383 postmen there who are handling and delivering 1,58,000 Letters and parcels daily in Jaipur City while according to the work norms, 383 postmen are supposed to handle and distribute only 60,000 letters. So, there is no postmen to deliver 90,000 letters and parcels. People are receiving letters as late as 1 week to 2 weeks. The marriage invitation cards are received when the couple has been blessed by a baby. This is the situation likely to develop there. The entire system is in disarray. I had demanded from the postal department of the Government of India that 120 new postmen should be recruited but nobody is listening to my request. The dak delivery system has been rendered more ineffective because of development of new colonies such as Vaishali Nagar, Gandhinagar, Shyam Nagar, Malviya Nagar, Vishva Karma Nagar, Durgapura, Sanganer Airport etc. and these colonies are not visited even by one postmen. New posts of postmen are not being created and the old vacancies are also not being filled. This has rendered the postal system most ineffective. I would urge upon the

Government of India and also the postal department to remove the ban imposed on new appointments and fill urgently the old vacancies. If this arrangement is not made immediately I will be forced to bring the people of Jaipur city here and stage a dharna in front of the House of the Prime Minister. Therefore, the Government of India should recruit new postmen and fill the old vacancies.

SHRI SUKHDEO PASWAN (Arariya) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very serious issue. Following the Chinese aggression 1600 Km Farvisganj-Darbhanga Lateral road was sanctioned but a large stretch of the proposed road on Indo-Nepal border has been left out while China has constructed road much beyond Nepal border and has taken other measures. Keeping the seriousness of this development in view, the government should declare this Farvisganj-Dardhanga lateral road as National Highway and complete the remaining work without further delay. I would like to inform that this road has been approved by the Planning Commission as well as the railways. Out of this 1600 Km Banaras-Balia via Gorakhpur, Darbhanga, Farvisganj section of road, 205 Km link section remains to be constructed. So, government should complete this road. The hon'ble Prime Minister during his visit to Kishanganj a week ago had made an announcement in this regard. I would like that this road should be constructed immediately.

SHRI NAND KUMAR RAI (Raigarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, more than 14500 branches of 196 regional rural banks are functioning in 382 districts of the country in which nearly 70,000 officers and employees are working. The object of setting up of rural banks was to meet the banking requirements and safeguard the interests of rural people but these banks are unable to fulfill their objective of meeting the regional level demands because they are controlled by other banks. I would therefore, demand that zonal banks should be set up in different areas. The officers and employees of rural banks had organised a dharna in Delhi from 2nd September to 6th September where they placed some of their demands. We have been given to understand that the government proposes to allow private banking operation in these areas and the bank employees were opposing this move. The regional rural bank employees had not been extended the benefits of 6th wage agreement of the banking industry. I will request that these benefits should immediately be extended to these employees.

Sir, you are aware that the government of India has taken a decision to extend with effect from 1st January 1991 same pay and allowances to rural bank employees as are available to the employees of sponsored commercial banks as envisage under the National Industrial Tribunal Award but the same has not been implemented so far. I would request that regional level banks should be set up under as National Apex Body which should be a central agency in order to strengthen the regional rural banks

economically and to make them self sufficient. I would through you again request that the Government of India should consider this matter urgently.

[English]

DR. B.N. REDDY (Miryalguda) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I come from Miryalguda in Andhra Pradesh. There is one Amrita Nagar Sugar Factory there which is being privatised. There are about 185 permanent workers and 285 seasonal workers who are going to be unemployed once it s privatised. Is the name of losses they would down the factory and create problems for the workers. The workers would be rendered jobless and shelterless. The Government on the one hand is thinking of creasting more and more employment. Before we privatise any unit or before we close down a unit, we are supposed to provide re-employment to the workers, take care of their food and shelter. Instead of doing that the Government of Andhra Pradesh in a hasty manner decided to close down or otherwise privatise the factory. The workers who would be affected by this decision are staging a *dharna* and nobody is there to care for them.

The new management may take any action in the circumstances. I, therefore, request the Central Government and the Ministry of Industries to see that something is done for those people who are working there, before anything is done to this unit, and before it is put in the hands of other people who would run it in their own way.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kota town of Rajasthan has a lone Public Sector undertaking namely, the Instrumentations Limited whose profitability has suddenly turned into loss because of administrative complacency, inefficiency and lack of acumen. It used to employ 5000 workers and now it has come down to 3200 on voluntary appointment basis. This enterprise is continuously incurring loss and as a result 20,000-25000 members of the families of these employees are facing the situation of starvation. These employees are not getting their wages. Shri Jaswant Singh ji and I have been endeavouring to get it merged with BHEL so as to revive this undertaking. I would urge that this Instrumentations Limited should be nerged with BHEL and the workers paid their wages immediately.

I would like to make another submission. This undertaking is running in loss and not getting orders from the Department of Telecommunication. Sukhramji had set up his own factory and discouraged the development of this undertaking. The orders placed on this undertaking were cancelled. On the other hand, the top officers are making foreign tours to get supply orders. This should be stopped immediately. These officers are spending lakhs of rupees on their foreign tours inspite of the fact that this Undertaking is incurring losses worth crores of rupees. The outcome of their foreign tours is never made public.

Therefore, I would, with all the force at my command, request the government to merge this industry with BHEL to keep in alive.

[English]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : Before the Disinvestment Committee started functioning and given the recommendation before the Government, the hon. Finance Minister on the last day-probably yesterday or day before yesterday-in a Seminar declared unilaterally that 74 per cent of the non-core public sector undertakings will be disinvested. I want to know from the hon. Finance Minister whether this Disinvestment Commission set up by the Government and declared in the Budget Speech by himself is simply a matter to be described as a reference or it has got a serious meaning.

The second point which I want to highlight before you and before the House is in regard to the international situation that has developed as a result of mobilisation of war fleet in Indian Ocean and especially having its base in Diego Garcia in the Context of war that has broken out in Iraq and in the context of India's stand on CTBT. I would like to know the India's stand on the CTBT and the situation that is prevailing in Iraq. In this background, the mobilisation of war fleet in Diego Garcia and the Indian Ocean by the United States is a serious threat to the peace in the Indian Ocean. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : I want that the house should take this into serious consideration.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat— not present.

[Translation]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (Motihari) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a serious submission before you. One crore population of Bihar is in the grip of devastating floods and crop, houses and public property worth Rs. 80 crore has been destroyed. More than 6000 villages are submerged and more than 6 lakh cattle heads are stranded. The situation there is like the 'Nero is playing flute while Rome is burning'. Today One third population of Bihar is on the verge of devastation and the state government has become a mute spectator. Sir, I am not levelling allegation. The hon'ble Agriculture Minister visited Bihar and he had openly accepted that the Bihar government was not serious towards relief operations.

Sir, the hon'ble Agriculture Minister has reprimanded them and I would like to request through you the Prime Minister and the Railway Minister to impress upon the Bihar government to do something for this flood affected one crore population. Last year, 526 people were killed during the floods and it is in official record. This year more than

200 people have been killed in the floods upto the month of September but not a single penny by way of emergency relief, natural calamity relief has been sanctioned neither for those died last year nor for the dependents of those killed this year ... (Interruptions)

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : We will not allow the House ... (Interruptions) Just now I am coming from the meeting. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please let him finish.

... (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Government is deviating from its stand. (Interruptions) Government is saying that they will bring this Bill next time. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is the problem ? This is not good.

Nothing will go on record.

... (Interruptions)\*

12.34 hrs.

At this stage, Shrimati Mamata Banerjee came and stood on the floor near the Table)

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please go to your seat. You are a senior Member.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, we have got to pass this Bill. We have to take it up and pass it. (Interruptions)

Unless this Bill is taken up, no other matter should be allowed. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI P. C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) : After giving a promise to this House, why are they going back ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I request all of you to take your seats.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We were under the impression yesterday when the House rose that there is a national commitment and commitment of this House and that this Bill will be passed. So, we are requesting you that this Bill be passed and nothing else be taken up. The discussion is over. Now, let the Bill be passed.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Sir, it is not a usual thing to suspend the Question Hour and introduce a Bill. The hon. Speaker, yesterday, promised that the Bill will be

\*Not recorded.

passed after 12 noon today. Now, what is the reason for going back from that promise ? If such is the case why was it necessary to introduce the Bill yesterday by suspending the Question Hour ? This is not a show. This is not a joke. Why should the House be taken for a ride ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mamataji, please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record

(Interruptions)\*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why do not you utilise this time for Zero Hour ?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The policy matter can be looked into later on. Yesterday, we decided that if there is any further amendment that will be done. This House cannot be treated like this. OBC matter can be taken up later.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Gentlemen, take your seats please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why do not you resume your seats ?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, I am on a point of order ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is no issue before the House, so there is no question of any point of order.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Look here. The meeting is going on. You will be informed about the decision taken. Let us utilise this time as Zero Hour. Please do not waste time.

[English]

The hon. Minister will inform you about the decision taken in the meeting.

...(Interruptions)

\*Not recorded.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : Sir, till the meeting is over, you can adjourn the House ...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : Sir, the meeting is going on and I have to go there ...(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : It is listed in today's List of Business. Why are you not taking it up ?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You are not allowing Zero Hour to be taken up. The meeting is going on and the Minister will inform you about the result.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Zero Hour can be taken up after this Bill...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, you can ask the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to make a statement ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please allow Shri Chitta Basu to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Sir, with your kind permission, ...(Interruptions) I also want the cooperation of Kumari Mamata Banerjee...(Interruptions) Let me speak. I will also support your cause, there is no problem.

As the House knows that our nation is celebrating 50th Anniversary of our Independence ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please allow him to speak and sit down.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : It is a sad experience for all of us to know that the Government has withheld, from our scholars and historians, official records relating to the freedom struggle of this country.

12.44 hrs.

(At this stage, Kumari Mamata Banerjee went back to her seat)

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Sir, it is all the more ironical when we find that the researchers at Institutions, such as Indian Council of Historical Research, are denied access to any papers relating to the Indian National Army, disappearance of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and records of evidence of his activities and whereabouts since August 1945. All these are being withheld from public knowledge, researchers and other interested historians only under the purview of Official Secrets Act of 1923.

Sir, this has led to distortion of history writing and to some other kind of misinterpretation of the history of the freedom movement of our country.

It is our rich legacy and it is our rich heritage. We, the Members of this House, the other members in the Public life, young generation, and men and women should know the traditional history of the freedom movement of our country when the country is celebrating the Fiftieth anniversary of our Independence.

Sir, it may be mentioned *inter alia* that the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front has promised to review and to amend the Official Secrets Act keeping in view the need for transparency, freedom of speech and expression guaranteed under Article 19 (1) of the Constitution.

Sir, having regard to its importance and significance, I would request the entire House, the leaders of all the political parties including the Congress-I to see that the history of our country is made known to young generation and to the present generation also.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question that has been raised is very important. I would like to remind the House that government had taken a decision to celebrate the centenary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose from 23rd January 1997 and a Committee had been constituted for this purpose and all these matters were raised there, but we do not know what the Committee has done so far. I am one of the Members of this Committee but no meeting of it has taken place during the last one year. We are told that an executive committee will be constituted which would process the programme further. Now January 1997 is approaching. May I know what government propose to do in this regard. This is a very important matter.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, I would request the honble Minister Shri Bommai to call a meeting of this committee ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I had asked for convening the meeting of this committee and raising all these issues therein. I had demanded that various academies should be named after Netaji, chairs should be provided in Universities after Netaji, his correspondence should be published because it is a part of the History the records which are outside the country should be acquired. I have raised all these issues but the government is sleeping over it. I would therefore, request that some decision should be taken in this regard as early as possible.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West): Sir, I would like to suggest that whatever Committee that is in existence should be revived and the Members of the different parties should be taken in that Committee. This matter should be expedited. That is my humble suggestion. The birthday of Subhash Chandra Bose falls on the 23rd January. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : In the Subhash Chandra Bose Centenary Celebration Committee, some young people should be there ... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Sir, the Government may form a Committee relating to Netaji Centenary Celebration and a Committee relating to Independence Golden Jubilee Celebration. In those Committees, the people, who are above 65 years and who had suffered imprisonment during the national struggle, should only be there, and none else who did not fight for our freedom, should be there ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that the people of 28 districts of Bihar have been ruined by the vagaries of floods and the government of Bihar has not repaired any embankment of any river of Bihar. The funds earmarked for this purpose were either siphoned off or utilised as administrative expenses as a result, the embankments are breaching rapidly and a population of more than 1 crore is today facing the fury of floods. Sir, the Agriculture Minister had visited the area and announced that an assistance of Rs. 500 per acre would be provided to small and marginal farmers out of the Central Flood Relief Fund but the relief has not reached there so far. Last year, 526 people were killed in the floods and this year 200 people have died so far, but the dependants of none of them have been given the amount of emergency relief. Sir, through you, I request the government of India to ask the Bihar Chief Minister not to be concerned about the construction of a railway bridge at Patna, not to remain involved in Folder Scam but make arrangements for providing immediate relief to the flood affected people of Bihar ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have the list of names of all of you, I will give each of you a chance to speak.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now I call Shri Rup Chand Murmu to speak.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please allow him to speak.

SHRI RUP CHAND MURHU (Jhargram) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, a good number of passengers daily avail themselves of the trains running in between Kharagpur Railway Junction and Tatanagar at Nimpara railway halt station for their avocations.

But there is not ticket sale counter. Hence the passengers have to travel without ticket which is illegal and punishable. Further, the platform level of that station is very low causing much trouble to the passengers to get in and get down the trains. This station is used mostly by the tribal people. They have been appealing repeatedly to the local officers for doing them justice but to no avail. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, again we have come. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUP CHAND MURMU : Under the circumstances, the hon. Railway Minister is urged upon to look into the matter of opening a ticket sale counter and raise the platform at Nimpara Halt Station under South Eastern Railway. Thank you.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today morning the press boycotted the Question Hour proceedings of our Parliament from 11.00 hrs to 12.00 hrs. All the organisations of newsmen throughout the country are demanding the grant of interim relief.

*[English]*

12.51 hrs.

*At this stage, Kumari Mamata Banerjee and another hon. Member came and stood on the floor near the Table.*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : The newsmen are demanding a 50 percent minimum relief of the relief recommended last year by the Wage Board and they have raised this demand many a times and have met the government also. Today they have not covered the Question Hour in the Parliament.

I demand that they should be granted an increase of 50 percent interim relief of their basic pay. The salaries of all other salaried persons have been enhanced because of price rise. We do not know when final recommendation in this regard will be received. I would request the government to invite the representatives of pressmen and exceed to their demand.

Secondly, the government has not framed any rules so far in regard to the official residences allotted to newsmen as a result of which the High Court and the Supreme Court are creating problems for these people. I would demand of the government that it should frame rules and regulations for allotment of government accommodation to the newsmen based on the rules framed for government employees and

the pressmen should be allotted government accommodation under those rules. If a pressmen with a salary of 5000-7000 per month is forced to rent private house in Delhi then I think he will not be able to discharge his duty honestly. He would not be able to support his family. I would like the government to take immediate decision on these two demands and accept their justified demands.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri G.A. Charan Reddy, please.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have allowed him. Please let him say.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : The distinguished lady Members are raising a very important issue. Please hear them. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Mamataji your Government is backing out. We are not backing out. Your Government is backing out.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji, have you to say anything ?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please listen to him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please listen to him.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.54 hrs.

*At this stage, Kumari Mamata Banerjee sat on the floor near the Table.*

12.54 hrs.

*At this stage, Shrimati Sandhya Bauri went back to her seat.*

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House adjourned to meet at 2.00 P.M.

12.55 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.*

[English]

1405 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appeal to you that the Bill relating to reservation for women in Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies should be passed today, according to your commitment. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have promised that this Constitution (Amendment) Bill would be passed. That promise of yours should be kept up.

MR. SPEAKER : Who said that it would not be passed? Has anybody ever said it ? I have not heard about it. Why are you presuming things ?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know. I have not been told that it would not be passed. But I do not know how you have got this impression.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Then we are happy. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We will resume the discussion on the Constitution (Eighty-first Amendment) Bill. But before that, there is one Bill for introduction which is again a very important Bill, the Lokpal Bill and then, the next item is the Matters under Rule 377. It is the right of the Members. We will complete these two items and then we will resume the discussion on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very sorry to say that under the historic initiative you took yesterday the Question Hour was suspended, all the rules were waived but today you are taking up unimportant matters and you will now take up Matters Under Rule 377. Then a Bill was introduced. We have one and a half hours time with us because the Private Members' Bill will be taken up at 3.30 and the House will adjourn *sine die* at 6 O'clock. Yesterday you took a historical initiative which has sent a right message from this Chair world over. It was a revolutionary initiative. Why your revolutionary fervor has got worsened today ? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, No. I have not slackened.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : It is a most revolutionary Bill, it should not be treated as an ordinary Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : No, not at all.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Yesterday you suspended the Question Hour at your own initiative and asked the Prime Minister to introduce the Bill and exhorted the Members to pass the Bill without discussion. This Bill has seen many ups and downs since yesterday and ultimately there is talk of referring it to a Select Committee ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think it is enough. Now you listen to me. Again, you all wasting the time. It is the question of time, do not waste it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If the House can sit for the Railway Budget discussion till 7.30 in the morning, do you have any objection for this Bill ? I am available upto 6 O'clock tomorrow morning. My first flight to Beijing is at 7 O'clock tomorrow morning. I am prepared to go to the airport from here. This is my personal position. I do not know what the position of the Government is. The discussion will resume.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : You are talking of the night, but what is the incidence of presence during those hours of proceedings of the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will go by what the House says.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : The House says that the Bill should be passed today without any further discussions ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister is here.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appeal to the Prime Minister that this Bill should be passed immediately. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let me dispose of the introduction of the Bill. It is also very important and let us also finish Matters under Rule 377.

14.09 hrs.

LOKPAL BILL, 1996

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAM) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of the institution of Lokpal to inquire into allegations of corruption against public functionaries and for matters connected therewith.