

[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

countries held in Mauritius from 5-7 March, 1997. Apart from myself, and the Indian delegation present at the IOR-ARC's birth, were the Ministers and delegations of 13 other countries - Australia, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Yemen.

The IOR-ARC has been two years in the making. The Government of India, in close consultation with other friendly countries, has been actively involved in supporting this initiative and bringing it from conception to fruition. The Government of Mauritius convened an Inter-Governmental Meeting of seven Indian Ocean Rim countries - Australia, India, Kenya, Mauritius, Oman, Singapore and South Africa - in March 1995. Subsequently, the membership of the Initiative was doubled. With this, it was assessed that a critical mass had been achieved and the IOR-ARC could be formally launched.

The IOR-ARC Ministerial Meeting adopted the Charter of the IOR-ARC setting out the objectives, fundamental principles, scope of activities as well as institutional and financial arrangements. The Indian delegation had coordinated the preparation of this landmark document which establishes the basis of this organisation. It was, therefore, a matter of particular satisfaction to us that this foundational document was adopted by acclamation by all delegations.

I would like now to draw the attention of the House to some important aspects of the Indian Ocean Rim Charter :

- (i) It represents the rediscovery of the traditional bonds and relations amongst Indian Ocean Rim countries and peoples and puts them in a contemporary, forward-looking context.
- (ii) It focuses the IOR-ARC on facilitation and promotion of economic cooperation leaving out security related and political polemics. Bilateral and other issues likely to generate controversy and be an impediment to regional cooperation efforts are to be excluded from its purview.
- (iii) The approach to be followed is consensus based, evolutionary and non-intrusive and the five principles of Panchsheel are affirmed.
- (iv) The principle of non-discriminatory treatment to each other by member States is emphasised, including in terms of the grant of Most Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment by WTO members of IOR-ARC.
- (v) The scope of activities and Work Programme focus on "those areas of economic cooperation which provide maximum opportunities to develop shared interests and reap mutual benefits". These include, in particular, trade facilitation, promotion and liberalisation, investment promotion, scientific

and technological exchanges, tourism, development of infrastructure and human resources and movement of natural persons and service providers on a non-discriminatory basis.

- (vi) It does not, at present, constitute a Preferential Trade Arrangement but leaves it open for IOR-ARC members States to pursue trading arrangements amongst themselves.
- (vii) The Charter provides for a Council of Ministers and Committee of Senior Officials to be assisted by the Indian Ocean Rim Business Forum and the Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group to steer and coordinate the activities of IOR-ARC. This tripartite consultative structure is a unique feature of IOR-ARC. A Secretariat of IOR-ARC is to coordinate, service and monitor the implementation of policy decisions and Work Programmes.

The ministerial Meeting endorsed the Work Programme developed in the IOR-ARC. Among the 10 projects, the four offered by India and already being implemented are : Indian Ocean Rim Business Centre and IOR-NET, IOR Trade Fair in India, establishment of an IOR Chair in India Ocean Studies and Associate Fellows Programme and undertaking of investment facilitation and promotion as well as work on trade-creating joint ventures. Our projects evoked great deal of interest and participation from other member States and we have also offered technical and project assistance where required to member countries under our ITEC programme. We are participating in the projects on Maritime Transport, Human Resource Development and Cooperation in Standards and Accreditation, offered by other IOR-ARC members.

The Ministerial Meeting also agreed to establish a nucleus Secretariat of this organisation in Mauritius, in recognition of the valuable and pioneering role Mauritius has performed. All IOR-ARC members are to contribute equally in operational costs of this "pilot mechanism" and also depute officials to man it.

Applications for membership of IOR-ARC have been received from seven countries - Bangladesh, Iran, Pakistan, Seychelles, Thailand, Egypt and France. Additionally, some other countries and sub-regional groupings have expressed their interest in observership. We are gratified that so many countries have expressed an interest in the IOR-ARC which is a recognition of the tremendous importance of this Association. We have established a Working Group which will look at all membership issues in their totality and make recommendations to the Committee of Senior Officials and through them to the Council of Ministers.

Overall, it is a matter of great satisfaction that this initiative which had been nurtured by us in cooperation

[Shri I.K. Gujral]

with other participating countries has had such a smooth and positive start. Every member country expressed its commitment and determination to contribute to IOR-ARC's success. A spirit of understanding and consensus prevailed - a happy augury for the future.

The Indian Ocean Rim is linked to India's destiny by name, by the Indian diaspora and by the opportunities these Rim countries hold for an expanding and globalising the Indian economy. IOR-ARC includes countries that are important regionally and globally and are among the more dynamic and emerging economies. With all IOR-ARC countries, we have growing trade and investment links and they too recognise India's role and potential contribution to regional economic cooperation. Already the IOR-ARC accounts for over US \$ 700 billion in global trade and US \$ 100 billion in intra-trade, which will multiply greatly with the evolution of a common regional identity.

Indian participation in IOR-ARC takes further our wider neighbourhood strategy, South Asia, South East Asia, Asia-Pacific, the Gulf, Eastern and Southern Africa are now a part and parcel of our close neighbourhood approach and nodal points of intensified interaction. It is yet another dimension of South-South Cooperation.

The successful establishment and institutionalisation of the IOR-ARC in the Mauritius meeting provided a sense of great achievement to all of us, who participated in this historical event. To us, in India, it should be a matter of particular relevance and satisfaction. The construction of a community of Afro-Asian nations among the littoral States of the Indian Ocean Rim, including Australia was a cherished Nehruvian ideal. It is particularly rewarding and apt that we were able to realise this vision in a significant manner this year, when India is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its Independence.

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BEHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the kind attention of all the Hon. Members and especially the Union Home Minister present here in this House that the situation in Uttar Pradesh is anarchical. The Governor of Uttar Pradesh is repeatedly asserting that the situation in the State is normal. However, the biggest and burning example in this regard is the village Samastipur under police station, Kakwan-Patwan of Kanpur (Rural), my Constituency. There, Shri Gialal Kuril of the Kuril family was clubbed to death at the midnight of 5th and 6th March and his young son Ram Babu Kureel aged 22 years was shot dead.

12.19 hrs.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that there is no inspector in the police post in this area. Six Constables are posted in this police post out of whom two are on leave. The person killed was alive for two and half hours before dying and the information was given to the Constables present in the police post but no Constable reached the village which is just two kilometres away from the police post...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will call all those - one by one - whose names there in the list. Please have patience.

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BEHARI MISHRA : In this village 60 families belonging to scheduled caste and two families belonging to the oilmen community, reside. On their both sides reside people belonging to a single class. Anil Yadav had threatened them. Even then the police did not provide them any security cover. The village is still terror stricken and PAC has not been deployed in this village. Even the arrangements for the cremation of the dead father and son were not made.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI SHYAM BEHARI MISHRA : Sir, I would like to say one thing more. On 6th of the month he cremated and on 8th...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why are you making noise. Hon. speaker has allowed him to speak. Please maintain piece.

SHRI SHYAM BEHARI MISHRA : Sir, on 8th, the Governor Shri Romesh Bhandarji goes to Kanpur alongwith Defence Minister of India and comes back after making an ariel survey. They did not even offer sympathies to the bereaved family. The law and order situation has worsened to much that the Hon'ble Governor can not dare to walk on road and instead and come after an ariel survey. There is to much awarding that in the two programmes which were at a distance of one and half kilometers from one another the Hon'ble Governor went by helicopter. I want to say one more thing that this family has been terrorised six times by their neighbours. There is no enmity between them there is no political murder. Even after terrorising them six times the police, local administration did not go these to investigate till today. I demand that both the sufferers of this family be given Rs. five lakh each as compensation and P.A.C be deployed there. The fear in the minds of poor people of the village should be governed, and they should be provided security. They must be banned from the false allegations ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Umaji, I will give you a chance.