

their labour and now value added products are being exported from India as a result of which they are losing their labour. So, under the pretext that they found a virus, they are now banning import of all marine products from India.

Out of these marine products, about half are going from the State of Kerala. The announcement of this ban has rendered lakhs of fishermen unemployed. Fishermen there are starving. Many factories have been closed. Apart from that it is going to affect the export opportunities of the entire country. As I mentioned earlier, Rs. 4000 crore worth of marine products have been exported last year. Unless the Government takes serious steps in this regard, unless the Prime Minister and the Commerce Minister take very serious note of it and talk to the European countries and see that these products are exported, there will not be any exports after 15th August.

13.00 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

Practically, 15th of July onwards, the export trade is stopped, marine products have stopped, marine factories have stopped and fishing is stopped. It is a serious situation. The Government should come forward to do something in this regard.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : It is a very serious matter. Some response should be there...*(Interruptions)* The whole export is affected...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS (Karimganj) : Sir, the recent devastating floods in Assam have caused havoc to a large number of villages including those of southern Assam. Not less than five hundred villages have been submerged and the grains in the paddy fields have been totally damaged. More than 17 lakh peasants have been affected by the floods and hundreds of dwellings units have been washed away.

Sir, in southern Assam-Karimganj, Hailakandi, Cachhar districts have been affected badly and the road communication remained suspended there for more than one week. The condition of the districts like Dhaamaji, North Lakhimpur, Tinsukia, Sibsagar in Upper Assam, Nalbari, Dhobri, Gopada in lower Assam is indescribable. The loss due to devastating floods is yet to be assessed but it would definitely surpass an amount of Rs. 250 crores.

Therefore, I urge the Government to take up immediate relief measures for the flood victims and at the same time, to implement the projects of the Brahmaputra Board and to construct Barak Dams on a long term measure to check floods in Assam, since Assam is a flood-torn province.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Item No. 7-Matters under Rule 377.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No Lunch Hour. You can have your lunch and come back.

Shri K.L. Sharma.

*(Interruptions)*

13.03 hrs.

RE : ENTRY OF RAILWAY MINISTER INTO MUMBAI

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is one very important matter which concerns the functioning of the Centre and the State. The present threat that has been given against our Minister of Railways by a leader of a political party in one State in this country is something unheard of. It has never happened in the past and it has been openly being said in Maharashtra by the leader of Shiv Sena, which is the ruling party. The alleged reason is that the Minister of Railways' decision to start the Konkan Railway trains from a particular station. On that count, his partymen have been directed not to allow Shri Ram Vilas Paswan to enter the State. I have never in my very humble experience - seen nothing like this. I have no doubt that the real reason is the Minister's statement after he visited those places where the *dalits* were tortured that there should be President's rule. Whether I agree with the Minister or not, that is different. Supposing the hon. Minister of the Union of India - in our country, anywhere for that matter expresses his views or even as a Minister, if he takes a decision ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : They have not opposed because of Dalits ...*(Interruptions)* That is not opposed...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will have your say.

Let him finish.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai-North East) : There is no Zero Hour and if somebody stands up and raises...*(Interruptions)* You must allow us. You must give us a chance...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : You should not speak on this matter. In Bihar when Laloo Yadav had threatened to stop the two Minister and they were attacked, why did not you speak at that time ... (Interruptions) The people of your party do not allow even Prime Minister to speak and yesterday they walked out. You should say something on this also.

[English]

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has not been allowed to enter the State. Here, we find that the hon. Member has not even been allowed to speak... (Interruptions) You allow him to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : What are you talking... (Interruptions) You are exaggerating what Bal Thackary has said... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru had also gone there in a car and he was also stopped ... (Interruptions) People of that area are demanding ... (Interruptions) What were you doing at that time? When Paswanji was attacked in Bihar.

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) : If he wants, let him speak. But why should he shout at the hon. Member who is speaking? What Shri Pramod Mahajan said should not go on record... (Interruptions) If any leader in any State has said that a particular Minister will not be allowed to enter the State, we have every reason to raise it in the House... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : He is trying to provoke.

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Maharashtra is not anybody's family property.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I shudder to think what is going to happen in Mumbai if in the House, this is the response before I have completed my sentence. If this is the response from the hon. Members of Parliament representing that State, I do not know what will happen in the streets of Mumbai... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : There could be tension in Mumbai again.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : With one or two more sentences, I would have finished my speech. If it had been merely political response of a leader of a political party to a political issue - even I cannot support that - one might have said that. I hear from Shri Pramod Mahajan saying that that party also said the similar thing. If a Minister's decision is being challenged by saying that he would not be allowed to enter the State... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (South Delhi) : If Minister does not work then there will be protest in the whole country... (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Is it the way to protest? (Interruptions) Is it a way to protest that a Minister would not be allowed to enter the State... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : If Minister does not work then there will be protest all over the country. There is no community centre in our area, we will also protest... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldhana) : If any work is not done then it is but natural that there will be resentment.

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : Your party is in the Government there... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Chacko, please, let him conclude.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, there is an instigation to take the law into the hands against a Union Minister... (Interruptions) Mr. Chairman, I feel that the House cannot ignore such things and I hope that such a situation will not be there. I must express my appreciation that Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, our hon. Railway Minister, has accepted the challenge and has decided to go there.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldhana) : Let them say that challenge has been accepted. Why are you saying?

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I want to express my concern on the matter which relates to the relations between the Centre and the States. It will create an imbalance in the functioning, therefore, I submit that when we are asking for...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Do you not want to say anything about Bihar?

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You have Bihar-phobia and you have nothing else...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, I submit that this is a matter...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Somnathji, please also say something about the bomb blast in the meeting in Mumbai. Do you not want to say anything on that?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, our country has a sort of a quasi federal structure and the States and the Centre have their respective areas. Therefore, this is a matter which is a matter of concern which I wish to share with the House.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai North-East) : The discussion is going on in regard to our state. Please allow me to speak...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, talking of a responsible leader irresponsibly itself shows that what a small hearted person he is. This is one of the examples about it. Mr. Chairman, it is a fact that Konkan Railway is in operation in Mumbai for the last one year and all its passengers want to board the train from Dadar or Boribandar. There is a demand for the last one year that the train which starts from Kurla, should start from Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminal or Dadar Station. We have requested about it to the Minister for Railways. We have raised this issue in this House also. Later on all the MPs from Mumbai have taken up this matter to the Minister of Railways. When the Chief Minister of Maharashtra came here, then he had also brought this matter to the notice of the Minister of Railways. It will be good if this train is started from Boribandar or Dadar. In this regard, an agitation of commuters is also going on in Mumbai. We have repeatedly told the hon'ble Minister that only two trains run from there. One train starts from Dadar. It will be in the interest of the people if the second one also starts from Dadar. For starting Konkan railway, not only the Government of Maharashtra and the Central Government have given the money but at the time of financial crunch

we had purchased bonds worth Rs. 350 crore from the cooperative banks of Mumbai and in this way had extended our help. Now when the people of Mumbai, MPs and Government are demanding that the train should start from there instead of here, then why Government is not conceding to it. There was a agitation also in this regard and even after the agitation the Government is not accepting it. I had also asked a question here on 30th August. I had asked in the question that

[English]

"Whether the Government was aware of public demand that all Konkan railway trains should run from Chatrapati Shivaji and Dadar terminals?"

[Translation]

In its reply it has been said that

[English]

"There has been a number of demands to start all Konkan railway trains from Dadar."

[Translation]

Only two trains operate. Here it has been told to mislead the House that there are many trains for that place. One train is operating from Dadar. Giving such type of reply in the House has annoyed the common commuters of Mumbai. There is some way in a democratic set up to raise a demand. They have resorted to agitation in order to get their demand fulfilled. To tell their point in an exaggerated manner ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : It used to be said from the side of Congress CPM, Janata Dal and other parties that in Congress rule, Minister would not be allowed to enter the villages. Many such statements were given at several times. What is special with Ram Vilas Paswan ji that he is feeling it so much painful ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : There is a some way of launching an agitation. They want to tell them by blocking the path. They are going to launch an agitation in order to get their demands fulfilled. Now it is said that train will not be operated. What does it mean? They want to launch an agitation in a democratic way. There is no need to say much about this. You are having the phobia of BJP and Shiv Sena. Those who have phobia, talk like this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : The communist party had called for the Bandh on behalf of the State Government against the Central Government.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : What does it mean that Minister will not be allowed to enter the state ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Earlier it was said in a railway agitation.

[English]

It is not a general statement. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has visited Maharashtra twice in the last two weeks. Nobody has said so. He has every right to come to Maharashtra. But, as a part of the agitation, as he is not acceding to our legitimate demand, to say that "Unless you accept this demand, I will not allow you to come in my house"...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : The *Fatwa* has come in only after his visit...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : It has to come from all democratic systems when the Minister is unresponsive...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, many people living in the area that comes under Konkan railways are agricultural labourers. They live in Dadar, Parel, Shivri, Lower Parel, Lal Bagh, Chinchpokli, Majhgaon, Ghorpdev, Kala Chowki, Parel Gaon, Prabha Devi, Vadala, Khara Bazar and Boribander. Konkan Railways was started one year ago.

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : They have a right to ask for that. We are also supporting it. That is not a point. You are deflecting this issue. It is a question of Centre-State relationship. It is a question of democracy.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : All the members of Maharashtra have requested to Ram Vilas Paswanji about it. I myself met with Ram Vilas ji. I also met with the chairman of Railway Board. He said that a train could be started from Dadar but funds are required for this purpose. He said he would come to Mumbai to see it. Our Chief Minister had talked to Ram Vilas ji. I read in the newspaper that he had also demanded for it. You are also proposing to start a train from Dadar station. Now three trains are going to be started from Mumbai

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ram Naik has told about that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Please listen to me. Those trains are going to be started from Chatterpati Shivaji Terminal. We demand that these trains may be started from Dadar. That is why we are going to agitate. Earlier also when Maharashtra was united and our former Prime Minister Late Jawarhar Lal Nehru visited the State, all parties had given a call for the bandh and Congress had supported it...(Interruptions) ...whatever Shri Som Nath ji has said is very unfortunate. We respect him. When the Minister of Railways was attacked in Bihar

you did not utter a single word that they are attacking our Minister of Railways...(Interruptions) ..Were you afraid at that time? Do not make it a political issue. Communal tension can increase by talking against the downtrodden...(Interruptions) ..Therefore, I request that all the trains may be started from Dadar.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev please.

(Interruption)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. I have called Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev. Nothing will go on record.

(interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev's speech.

(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I am on a point of order.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Under what rule?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : My point of order is that it was clear that the threat Shri Ram Naik mentioned for a ban on the entry of the Railway Minister was not as a dalit minister.

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : What is the point of order?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : My point of order is that first you listen to me and then give your ruling. My point of order is that it has been made clear from the speech of Shri Ram Naik ji that they had challenged the entry of Minister of Railways Shri Paswan but not the the entry of a dalit Minister, Shri Paswan...(Interruptions)...but if what Shri Som Nath Chatterjeji has said in the House is published in tomorrow's newspapers then situation in Mumbai can be more tense that they are putting a ban on the entry of a dalit Minister. Therefore, I request...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Therefore, I request that this may be expunged from the record so that it is

\* Not Recorded.

not published that entry of a dalit minister has been stopped...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. There is nothing objectional in what he has said.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Well, if it is in record, then you may please expunge it because there will be reaction to it if it is published tomorrow.

*[English]*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : She is absolutely wrong...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : The tape-recorder is there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is nothing objectionable in what he has said.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Let it be played on. I do not mind.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : If he has not said, then it is all right.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I have never said it...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is very unfortunate that he wants to speak like this.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats. I have called Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Shrimati Sushma Swaraj has brought it on record.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : You have brought it on record. He has not said it but you have brought it on record.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : You have said it. I have heard it with my own ears...*(Interruptions)* and that the whole House was listening...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats. I have heard everybody.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : No. What I said is...*(Interruptions)* because he has gone there. In case of...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is nothing objectionable in his speech. Please take your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Chatterji has added it just casually.

*[English]*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You go through the records.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mohan Rawale, please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : All of you kindly go through the record.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please have patience.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Nobody in this House can dispute about the demand of the public of Maharashtra that 'start the Konkan Railway from a particular point'. We all support it. The news item, which has come today whether right or wrong is another thing, has been a shocking news for all of us. Whether a Minister is a Dalit or he belongs to a upper class or a lower class, he is a Minister. His entry is being opposed by whom?

It is by a gentleman about whose conduct the Home Minister of this country has said in this House that in future he or his Party will not behave in that manner. Now, Shri Mohan Rawale has said that they have the right to be agitated. Nobody disputes it. But Shri Pramod Mahajan, who is a good friend of mine, a very eloquent speaker, has said, 'in my house whether he will come or not I will decide.' Mumbai is not your house, it is my house also...*(Interruptions)* That attitude of your Government must be changed. By winning election, do you think, Mumbai has become your personal property?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Please go through the records. I did not say that it is my house...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : What type of discussion has been started by Shri Ram Naik on this petty matter? Is it not a petty matter?

*[English]*

The Minister has the right to travel anywhere in the country. People have got the right...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Personal accusation has been made against members ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : You behaved like that...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

They may say anything and we may not reply to them?...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : People have the right to demonstrate against us. When I was the Minister from Assam, the Assam Ganga Parishad did not receive me for two years; did not go to any meeting, but protested. They did not say that they would not allow me to Assam. I must say this to their credit.

So, if whatever has come in the newspapers, is a correct news and if it is said by that particular leader, I fully condemn it on behalf of my Party ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Police went to arrest one M.P. of your party...*(Interruptions)\**

*[English]*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : We did not disturb you...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev is saying.

*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : We fully condemn it. That should not be the attitude. The proof of how the B.J.P. will behave will come on the 8th August when Shri Ram Vilas Paswan will visit there. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan is capable of convincing the people of Mumbai whether this demand should be accepted or not. It has been said, very rightly, that there is a shortage of money and other things. I think, he can sort it out ...*(Interruptions)*. He has said yesterday...*(Interruptions)*

Incidentally, I would like to tell today in this house that a Member from Dibrugarh wanted to raise the matter regarding a train to be started from Dibrugarh, which was assured by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. He wanted to make *halla* here. I said, 'no'; the Minister is there, you go and hand over your memorandum. I will also go and speak to him'....*(Interruptions)* So, let us not protest the demand. I fully believe that nothing will happen in Maharashtra. But one thing I am learning from my sister, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj is that in Zero Hour there is no point of order...*(Interruptions)*

\* Not Recorded.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : The chair would decide it whether it is a point of order or not ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The matter is over now.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : This statement is regarding the Konkan Railway ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Shri Ram Vilas Paswan is the Leader of the House. He is one of the active and efficient Ministers in this Government. He should not be described to be a Minister of a particular section or a particular caste. If people take it so and if people say it outside, I can understand.

I shall request, through you, Mr. Chairman, to all our colleagues that he should not be mentioned as backward or *dalit* or upper caste in this House. I think, he might not have been listened properly. But Shri Somnath Chatterjee is one of the persons who ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolapur) : What I said was that the reason of this might be that he had gone to that place where *dalits* were tortured ...*(Interruptions)* I never said because he is a *dalit* ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : What was the need to say 'May be'? 'May be' means it could be possible ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You find out from the records...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Chairman, I say that if a particular statement has come in the Press and if it is causing some provocation in the minds of the Members here, he should not do anything that adds to that provocation or that situation. Very respectfully, I shall request Shri Somnath Chatterjee that he should not have referred to the *Dalit* problem in Mumbai ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Somnath Chatterji has not said any such thing.

*[English]*

It is very much on the record.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : If he has not spoken, and even if he has spoken and if he says that he has not said this, then it is the courtesy of the House that it should be taken that what he says is correct. This is the elementary parliamentary practice and it should be observed by everybody. I think that some observation has been made there in Mumbai. I hope that leaders on this side and my friends from the Shiv Sena will see that this will remain only a statement and we should not say that it will be tested, as my friend Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev said 'we will see how they behave on the 8th of August'. This language should be avoided in this House. We should not do anything which aggravates the provocation. I hope that as Shri Pramod Mahajan said, this is just the language to be used and not translated into action. This happens all the time in our political life and it has become more these days. But this should be avoided in this House. I trust that the statement that has been issued will be negated not only by House...*(Interruptions)* I think that Shri Ram Vilas Paswan is very responsive to the demands of the people and if there has been a demand and as Ram Naik has said that they have been surfacing it for one year, we should not make it a prestigious issue. Three trains are going to be started and there is no harm if one train is started at the place where they are demanding...*(Interruptions)* Have I not tried to suggest something to the Railway Minister? I am not raising the railway issue, I am just trying to pacify the issue. If you want that you should agitate on that issue, I have no objection. I said that this statement is very unfortunate and such statement should not be made, and if this statement has been made in the spirit in which Shri Mahajan said, we should not take objection to it and we should see that the situation is restrained ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this discussion is with regard to the Konkan Railways. We should, therefore be given opportunity to speak...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : There cannot be any regular debate on this.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are not given opportunity to speak in this House, We could not even agitate outside the House and we could not make any statement.

*[English]*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I request that the transcript of what I have said is sent to the Leader of the Opposition and to Shri Chandra Shekhar.

Secondly, Sir, now that the Imputation that has been made on me is not correct, the Member should apologise here on the floor of the House...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER : Why should we apologise, Sir?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Let a copy of what I have said be sent to Vajpayee Ji, let it be sent to the Leader of the Opposition and let it be sent to Chandra Shekhar Ji...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Chatterjee has said that he has not used the word on which objection is being raised. We accept his views and the matter should be closed...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Ram Naik ji, you have said that it is a matter of meanness. It is not unparliamentary. But if you agree beyond this matter also then...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : I would like to thank you. This is not a matter of meanness but it is a matter of large heartedness, I don't have any objection in it. I have only said that it is like a jaundice. He is seeing from that angle and it seems to me there is nothing unparliamentary in it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : No. This is not unparliamentary, but...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, what has been said by Shri Pramod Mahajan and Shri Ram Naik only reiterates the attitude revealed here...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we should also be given opportunity to speak...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I would like to say on important thing about Konkan Railway...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, you please take your seat.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : The Minister of Railways is ready to listen...*(Interruptions)* you please give me one minute...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, the Leader of the Opposition is sitting here. On similar occasions earlier he had condemned when such threats were given. But now I find that he is sitting here. It is unfortunate ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rupchand Pal, please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have allowed Shri Mohan Rawale from your party. Now the hon. Minister of Railways will speak.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, our leader has spoken. If you allow them we also should be allowed ...*(Interruptions)* We must be given a chance to clarify ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will allow Shri Suresh Prabhu for one minute.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Konkan Railways is for the people of entire country. Kindly listen to me...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, Shri Ram Naik ji and Mohan Rawale ji have expressed your views. Please take your seat...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH PRABHU (Rajapur) : Sir, the then Minister of Railways was present there on the inaugural day of Konkan Railways. He has said that the demand of the people is genuine and he will take immediate action in this regard. He has given this assurance on that occasion. One year has elapsed for this assurance and in the meantime whenever we get opportunity inside or outside the Parliament we have been reiterating this demand. But inspite of all this, the Government is not taking any action in this regard. In these circumstances, it is a duty of every political party to say something about the demand of the people. If the entire House altogether raises objection on any issue then I request him to concede this demand. Mahatma Gandhi had taught us that if our genuine demands are not accepted, we should follow the path of satyagrah movement ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Kindly tell us something about the threat he has given...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Chavan, have you any new point? I will allow you for one minute.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, this is not a railway matter. Our leader has very clearly stated and supported the demand. The attitude on the Centre-State relations is the point...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. When you spoke, he did not disturb you. Let Shri Chavan complete his point.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : It is not that the Opposition leader is speaking. The person who has made the statement is running the Maharashtra Government. He is an extra-constitutional authority. He is a 'remote-control'....*(Interruptions)* The person to whom the statement has been attributed is virtually controlling or ruling the State. I want to get an assurance from him

that protection will be given to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan...*(Interruptions)* There are many issues in Maharashtra...*(Interruptions)* Shri Indrajit Gupta, the Home Minister visited the place...*(Interruptions)* So many issues of Maharashtra are there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat now.

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. The Minister of Railways will tell whatever you want to say...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say one important point about Konkan Railways...*(Interruptions)* I will not take more than one minute. Kindly give me a chance prior to the Minister of Railways...*(Interruptions)* I am demanding for it since the discussion took place on railway Budget ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Sir, please listen to us for a minute...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will not allow. I have allowed Shri Mohan Rawale and Shri Suresh Prabhu from your party. You were not there. You came just now and are asking for it.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, I will not allow you. I have allowed Shri Prabhu and Shri Rawale. Will I have to allow all of you? I cannot allow you.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Sir, my humble submission is that you please listen to us and then I will sit down...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, Shri Sarpotdar, please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, I have not allowed you speak. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. I have allowed two Members, Shri Mohan Rawale and Shri Suresh Prabhu, from your Party.

Now, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan will speak.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Ever since the passage of Railway Budget, Shri Anant Gangaram Geete has been has been pressurising on this point which Shri Ram Vilas Pawan has not taken into account. He

has not paid any heed to his demand. Since Shri Anant Gangaram Geete is an MP from Konkan area, he should be allowed to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan knows his demand.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : The discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) is coming up...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Supplementary Demand is likely to be taken up the next week, then he can speak. At that time, you can express your views.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Minister is about to reply and once he replies what will be the use of speaking.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister is not going to reply just now. He will speak later on over Supplementary Demands. This discussion is not on the Supplementary Demands. This discussion pertains to the statement. Please sit down...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, if the hon'ble Minister starts the Konkan Railway, every problem will be solved...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, nobody except Shri Ram Vilas Paswan would speak.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please allow him to speak.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Chairman, Sir I am not going into the details of what the leader of a particular party stated. As I have said, I will visit that place on 8th. Whatever is going to happen will happen. We, who are in public life, are not afraid of threats, such tactics wont work...*(Interruptions)*

That is different issue. Emergency is a different issue. The matter is being raised to score a point. Hon'ble Chandra Shekhar ji and Atal ji are present here. I do not want to state about anybody else. I want to say

about myself that as a Railway Minister I do not belong to any party or any place. Mr. Chairman Sir, You may be aware that Rawale Sahab visits Railway Board or Ministry of Railway thrice a week. Many hon. members visit there. I on behalf of these hon. members plead their case before the officers of Railway Board and the Ministry of Railway as an opposition leader and invite their wrath but get their work done.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Minister, for that, We praise you.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Hon. Chandra Shekhar ji and other hon. members sitting in the House know that I at once try to take action on the issues raised by them. Some new trains have been introduced. Chandra Shekharji asked whether any train is to be introduced via Ballia? I am pleading his case in the Ministry but everybody in the Board and Ministry is opposing me on this issue, still we are trying to get the work done. Hon'ble Nitish kumar ji, Kumari Uma Bharati ji threatened me that they would stage Dharna. I have done my best to get their work done as they want. I can state with full confidence that if anyone belonging to their party had been Railway Minister, he also could not have been able to construct Singrauli-Lalitpur rail line but I have made my best efforts in this regard.

Hon. Patilji is not present in the House but Smt. Rajni Patil is here. Beed rail line as demanded by them could have never been completed. Likewise, there is a rail-line from Dansa to Gangapur demanded by Smt. Girija Vyas or there is any other issue, I never play any party politics in any matter...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chaiaman, so far as this matter is concerned, Shri Ram Naik, Pramod Mahajanji and Prof. Ram Kapse. are always ready to speak and remind me. I fail to understand as to how a person has knowledge of entire episode when he has no information in this regard? He is an expert. Now this matter pertains to Konkan Railway. In Railways, the most prestigious train is Konkan train and the most prestigious route is Konkan route and in this regard, all the parties including BJP, Shiv Sena, Congress, Samajwadi Party, CPI and CPM demand that any new train should be started from main railway station. I have introduced a number of new trains on the occasion of Golden Jubilee celebration but these are being started from Nizamuddin Railway station. Who does not like that these trains should be started from New Delhi Station instead of Nizamuddin. Now, we are constructing platform No. 15 and 16 at New Delhi Railway Station but the Hon. Members from several parties came to me urging me not to take any decision on the ground that there are Jhuggis. I talked to state Government. Any how, the platforms are being constructed and the next platform will be constructed after the completion of the first one. I also want that every train should start from New Delhi. The same situation is in Mumbai. The number of platforms can be increased in Delhi but in Mumbai there is no possibility

of increasing the number of existing platforms. Some other arrangements can be made in this regard. The leader of every party came to me for two minute stoppage of every party came to me for two minute stoppage of every train at Thane. I thought there would be no difficulty in doing so since the big leaders want it. I wrote to Railway Board. Railway Board replied that it was ready to obey my orders but I should go for a while and see their problems. I called most of the leaders. They started demonstrating the position on the computer. Computer showed running of the train upto Nagpur. The train came and slowed down and when this train picked up speed again, the two suburban trains could not be accommodated on the route. Then the officials asked me whether we want to stop the train for two minutes and discontinue these two trains. Then, all the leaders stated that this decision would create a greatness. It affects five thousand passengers. Therefore, do not change the schedule of this train. Sometimes it so happens that we want to take political decision and because of technological hurdles we are not able to take these decisions.

There was the case of Kurula. All friends said that Dadar would be better than Kurula and we also want that the train should be halted at Dadar. For this, we told the General Manager that we are prepared to provide extra fund. If there is need of making expansion of the Platform and if that can be done, we are prepared to do that also. I think that you people and the Chief Minister have talked to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan for more times than to any other Minister of Railways in the past. Probably, no one pressurises the officers more than us. You cannot blame our intention. Our Chief Minister had came five days ago. We said that you tell us that we would send it to our General Manager. We would give it to all operating incharges. There, you can sort out this issue. If it is possible, we would be the happiest. There is this demand that Dadar Railway Station should be named as 'Chitbhum'. We have written to Home Ministry also in this regard. That ministry is not doing it. Then how we can do it. I want to say that we are prepared for it but we are being told that you can remove the train coming from Punjab. Keep it in place of that. We did say that a prestigious train is coming there. Today, if we cannot give an extra train we also cannot withdraw existing train. You can hold a meeting and if any train is to be removed, you can do that and add it. Discontinue the train of Bihar, the train of U.P. and add that. We are prepared for the extra arrangement to be made for this purpose, but if our operating Incharge says that it is not possible and if you do it you would have to do it by withdrawing some train, then, it is not possible. We would have to make expansion of the Platform only then we can do something. If we are threatened that we would not be allowed to enter into the Railway Station, I don't know

as to how this country would function, how this House would function...*(Interruptions)* I am not saying anything on what he said and what he did not said...*(Interruptions)* I have put the reality, facts in this regard. I want to assure the hon'ble Members not only in case of Dadar but the whole country, when I go from here, you see what happen to us. I never close down my six number office. Whenever any one comes to me, I talk to the officer and ask him to sort out his problem. What more can we do? I can not do anything it inspite of it I am threatened.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : I have requested you...*(Interruptions)* I have given you a proposal...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have given a proposal to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan that all of us should go to Dadar and Kurla, have a survey and assess the situation there.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would go to Kurula and Dadar on 8th. Whatever we can do, we would do but I want to tell you one thing that no one can force me to yield by threatening. You note it.

13.50 hrs.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to set up an L.P.G. outlet in Mohanlal Ganj, U.P.**

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI PURNIMA VARMA (Mohanlal Ganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is not even a single LPG outlet in Mohanlal Ganj, Parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesh. Whereas there are more than one L.P.G. Outlet at many places in the remote areas of the country. People are facing lot of difficulties in my constituency due to the shortage of fuel.

Therefore, the Government is requested to take immediate steps to set up an L.P.G. outlet in Mohanlal Ganj constituency in Uttar Pradesh.

- (ii) **Need to overcome the problem of shortage of Foodgrains in the drought affected Districts of Barmer and Jaisalmer, Rajasthan**

*[English]*

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer) : I represent the backward and underdeveloped districts, Barmer and Jaisalmer, of Western Rajasthan.