

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. I will not allow you to seek any clarification. It is already decided that we will have a discussion. Mr. Joshi. please be seated.

*(Interruptions)*

MR CHAIRMAN : This is Zero Hour.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Chairman Sir. This is a very important question. Discussion on this issue should start right now. Wheat is not available. Bullets are being fired. People are being killed. The Government is prepared for a debate. We are prepared for the debate. Then, what is the problem? This discussions should be initiated at this moment itself. What else can be more important and a issue of concern for this Home? We are public representatives. People are being killed. People are being shot. They are dying of starvation. Are you going to let loose food riots in this Country? Would you allow food riots to occur on this country? This debate should be held right now. today itself. What is the problem in it?

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the Govt. react to it.

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Chairman Sir, the opposition party has made a demand that after the Minister's reply, a number of supplementary question's arise and there should be a discussion on food or wheat problem in the country. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has stated that the Govt. has no objection thereto. But, the discussion in the House is held under certain rules. It may be under an Adjournment Motion, under rule 184, rule 193 or Calling Attention Motion. Such discussions are usually held under these rules. This should be decided in the Business Advisory Committee as to under which rule the discussion should be held. We are prepared for that. We feel that after the reply by the Minister, discussion is held under rule 193. The Govt. has no objection it the discussion is held under the rule 193. You can old food problem or wheat problem to this discussion. The Govt. has no objection. The discussion can be taken in the Business Advisory Committee ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : This House respects the feeling of the people and is meant to obviate the problem and difficulties being faced by the people. Therefore the discussions should be started right now suspending the rules in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Today, the meeting of the Bussimen Advisory Committee is going to be held at 4.15 P.M.

*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : B.A.C. meeting is to be held in the evening. By that time in India ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Why we are not called to the meeting?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : You suspend all the rules and start discussion. After all the rules are meant for soothing the problem are difficulties big faced by the people...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. no. this is not allowed.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : The Statement give by the Minister can satisfy the Minister, but it will neither satisfy the members nor the people. Our leaders have demanded immediate discussion on this issue suspending all the rule and practices. Our party had demanded that the using should be debated today, right now. The statement given in the House is more about self praise and less about the issue of wheat ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : If we do not allow her to speak, then they will say that that we have no regards for the women...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at least I should be allowed to speak as I have tabled the notice for this discussion on the issue.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : It has already been listed. I am going accordingly. It is not that I have decided about it at this moment.

*(Interruptions)*

\* MR. CHAIRMAN : Don't do it.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is Zero Hour. Now, Shri Veerabhadram Thammineni.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called Shri Thammineni.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VEERABHADRAM THAMMINENI (Khammam) : Sir, I am speaking...*(Interruptions)* They are disturbing me. How can I speak when disturbance is going on?

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI THAMMINENI VEERABHADRAM (Khammam) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, we are going to adjourn for lunch. All of us are hungry. But when we go for lunch, while having lunch, we should not forget one important point. When 94 crores of people in the country

\* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.

have lunch or dinner, one should think wherefrom this food is coming? This food is being produced in our rural India. Farmers and agricultural workers toil night and day round the year, unmindful of rain or shine to produce the food grains required to feed us. Sir, we Hon. Members of this august House are here today, only by the blessings of these very people who have voted for us. And, among the people who voted for us, the agricultural labourers constitute the majority. We owe our position to those humble agricultural workers. We are consuming the food produced by them. But Sir, unfortunately, even after 50 years after independence, we have failed to enact any legislation for protecting their rights and for providing safety and security to those poor agricultural labourers. We have to hang our heads in shame for this lapse on our part. It is our duty and we should not shy away from the responsibility. At least now, we must try to bring forward legislation for the protection of the rights of our agricultural workers. These workers should have the registration facility. They should be provided with identity cards. They should be provided with at least minimum wages. The future of their children should be safeguarded. They should be provided at least the minimum required facilities to lead a decent life. Sir, the Common Minimum Programme, chalked out by the United Front Government, headed by Shri Deve Gowdaji, has also promised to bring in one such legislation for the benefit of agricultural labourers. It is most unfortunate that our Hon. Prime Minister is ignoring the Common Minimum Programme. What is more, he has started ridiculing us for criticising the Government for its failure to implement the CMP. He is reported to have said that the criticism of supporting parties was only meant for the consumption of party workers and not for the people. The Hon. Prime Minister is reported to have made such remarks at the recently concluded Surajkund meet. We take serious exception to these remarks of the Hon. Prime Minister. Sir, we are not saying anything for the consumption of our party workers. We are criticising the Government for its lapses and for the sake of the people in the country. No responsible Member from all sections of this House including the Hon. Prime Minister should make such kind of statements. Today the Government has totally forgotten the CMP. They are speaking for feudals and other influential sections of the society. Today we shouldn't be forgetting the Common Minimum Programme and the welfare of the farmers. Hence, at least now, the Government should come forward with a legislation ensuring the minimum wages, protecting their rights to meet their basic needs. This Hon. House should at no point of time forget the welfare of the agricultural labourers who happen to be the backbone of the country. No one should politicise it. Let us not forget the fact that it is they, the agricultural labourers, who are feeding the country. An assurance to bring about a comprehensive legislation for the welfare of the agricultural labourers was given on the floor of the House. But the assurance just remained on papers. The assurance has not been fulfilled.

Hence, I again appeal to this Government to take steps to introduce a comprehensive Bill for the welfare of the agricultural labourers as early as possible. I conclude.

*[English]*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, this is about a matter which we have been raising in this House for the last several years. This concerns the poorest of the poor in this country - the agricultural labourers. About eight crores of agricultural labourers and about 35 crores of people in all - including the family members of these agricultural labourers - are living in this country without any legal protection. Sometimes it gives us a feeling that we are not living in a civilized society. A large number of people in this country are without any legal protection. We have been demanding for a Central legislation for the agricultural labourers. There should be a system of registration for the agricultural labourers where - there should be a system of providing identity cards to them; there should be minimum wage for these people; there should be a guarantee for regular work for them and there should also be a provision for welfare fund and pension and a provision for dispute settlement machinery. All these things should be there.

In spite of holding several meetings by the Government on this aspect and in spite of several promises made that this Bill would be brought forward, the Governments at the Centre have only deferred the bringing forward of the Bill on this subject. The Bill has not yet been finalised and there is no sign of bringing forward this Bill. Wherever a matter concerning the poor people comes, any Government drags its feet on that. I demand that this Government should bring the Bill, which concerns the interests of the poorest of poor, in this Session of Parliament so that these large number of people can live with proper legal protection.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai-North) : Only yesterday the country and the Parliament has celebrated the golden jubilee of the completion of 50 years of the Constitution of the Constitution Committee. On this occasion the Hon'ble President has stated that this democracy should purpulate to the people. Judiciary, Administration and Justice should reach the people as provision of the Constitution. If we want to achieve this objective, then the administration should be run in the regional language and judiciary should also work in regional languages. This is the demand from all sections of the people. The one difficulty is being faced in this regard is that the Constitution's authoritative version in the regional language is not available if the Courts and the Administration in the State has to work as per the provision of the Constitution then the authoritative version of the Constitution in all the regional languages