

Ahmedabad on 16th November and he made an announcement there that the Headquarters of Western Railway, which is at present in Mumbai, would be shifted to Ahmedabad. Mumbai is an important business and industrial city where a great resentment has emerged among the people after this announcement. I would like to tell the Government that keeping in view the fact that Mumbai is a business and industrial sector it should not act like this. If it is necessary, a new division can be opened at Ahmedabad but shifting of Headquarters from Mumbai would not be a good step. Besides this, my another demand is that a new zone may be made for suburban Railway which the Government is not doing. Instead Hqrs. of Western Railway is being shifted which is not correct. The people of Mumbai will strongly protest against this decision and we will also be compelled to launch an agitation. Therefore, my submission is that the Minister of Railways should discuss this issue with MPs of Mumbai before taking any step. Further, I urge upon the hon'ble Railway Minister to give a statement here in this regard.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as you are aware India, although has its problem of poverty, is a prestigious nation in the Comity of nations and it plays a very important role also in international affairs, particularly with regard to world peace. Many countries look forward to India for leadership in this respect. But it is a matter of concern that India suffered a very humiliating defeat in the recently held election to the non-permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council. It has very adversely affected our nation's prestige and dignity and definitely, that way the Government of India owes an explanation to the people of the nation through this Parliament.

Sir, we we given a different type of impression by the Ministry of External Affairs that India was enjoying a very comfortable position so far as this election was concerned. In respect of C.T.B.T. the Government of India took a very good stand and that also had its reaction in different quarters. The Government of India, particularly the Ministry of External Affairs should have been very careful so far as its assessment with regard to this election was concerned. I want to know why things had gone wrong. In the diplomatic sphere we failed so miserably that India could not succeed in this election; but we also got a very insignificant support from different nations and definitely it is humiliating for a nation of India's stature.

Therefore, it should not be taken lightly. We would like to know as to why it happened, what are the circumstances that led to this type of situation, who was responsible for this, what action is being taken and what is the attitude of the Government of India now towards this. This should be told to the nation in very clear terms, particularly to Parliament. So, I would request you to direct the Government of India to come forward with a detailed statement before the House about this matter.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister of External Affairs has written a letter in this regard and he will make a statement on this issue. In the Business Advisory Committee also this was discussed and we can also discuss this issue here.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Let there be a discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There will be a discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE (Jabalpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 39 factories are engaged in the production of defence equipments in India in which lakhs of workers are working. For the past few years overtime has been stopped in these factories due to which condition of workers has worsened to a great extent. There are some employees who give loan to other employees and labourers of these factories at the rate of 10 to 15 per cent per month. The method of recovery of loan which these money-lenders adopt is very dangerous. On salary day, as soon as labourer comes out of factory, money is snatched away from them due to which many labourers have committed suicide. In Jabalpur, 5 such incidents of suicide have come to the notice during the last one month. These money-lenders employees have created the same atmosphere all over the country.

I would like to submit that the Ministry of Defence should ponder over this situation and formulate a such policy so that money-lender employees can be expelled from service and labourers can be saved from committing suicide.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : Sir, recently, heavy floods was experienced in Uttar Pradesh due to breaking of Gowardhan nullah of Rajasthan. Water was released into this nullah from Haryana also, which caused devastation in Mathura, Agra and Ferozabad districts. The Government of Uttar Pradesh had submitted an emergent and longterm scheme involving Rs. 300 crore for relief works but the Central Government has not given any funds for the completion of that scheme till today and has only asked to take measures for making ex-gratia payment from the Calamity Fund. The Government of Uttar Pradesh facing financial crisis due to which no work has been started there on the emergent and longterm scheme so far. Due to lack of funds no relief work has started in the affected areas.

A culvert has broken near Mahua village on Agra Fatehpur-Sikari main highway. The construction work, the said culvert is included in the Eighth Five Year Plan. The estimates of it are pending with the Ministry of Surface Transport. Had the construction of culvert been completed, destruction would not have occurred in the villages of Agra. Due to the broken culvert water could not be channelised to the other side as a result,