

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue which I was raising yesterday, has become more serious today. The issue pertains to the sensitive index of Mumbai Stock Exchange. It has touched the lowest point of 2745 during the last three years. This downfall of the sensitive index is very serious and can be seen as a dangerous signal of country's economic condition. When this Government came into power in June, 1996, the sensitive index was 4131 point and now it has touched 2745 points yesterday which means there is a fall of 1386 points in sensitive index. It is creating doubt in the minds of small investors and they are almost afraid and nobody is showing his interest in share market the financial institution of the Government. It is being observed that foreign financial institutions are playing some game in it. The situation has become so grim that the daily turn over of Mumbai Stock Exchange which generally used to be 15 hundred crores, has fallen to seven hundred crores i.e. below fifty percent. Sir, please see the headings of today's dailies...

[English]

In this regard, today's edition of The Indian Express says, 'Sensex tumbles to its lowest in three years'; The Hindustan Times says, 'Sensex falls' and The Times of India says, 'Sensex dips further'.

[Translation]

I, therefore, demand that the hon. Finance Minister should make a statement on this serious situation and I also demand that there should be a discussion in the House on deteriorating state of economy of the country. I have worked in Joint Committee on Security Scam. It is being doubted whether another security scam is not taking place. Therefore, I demand that the hon. Finance Minister should make a statement in this regard and a discussion should be held in the House on today's state of economy.

[English]

SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA (Narsaraopet): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the rail track along the coast of Andhra Pradesh has been swept away by recent cyclonic floods.

This has become a regular phenomenon every year resulting in heavy economic loss to the nation.

So, the Government must think of an alternate line to the interior of the sea coast.

So, I suggest an alternative line from Nadikudi to Venkatagiri via Vinukonda, Darsi, Podili and Kanigiri. This would be an alternative to the coastal railway line. Moreover, this proposed line would cover backward areas in the district of Guntur, Prakasam and Nellore. So, I would suggest that the Government should take up the matter and lay a new line to serve as an alternative line to the coastal railway line from Madras to Vijayawada.

[Translation]

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise an important question in the

House regarding Bagaha-Chhituni Rail bridge linking Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. A Railway overbridge was constructed at that place and a bridge on road was also being constructed along with that. The pillars of the bridge have already been constructed but the Ministry of Railways has stopped the construction of bridge. I, through you, would like to inform the hon. Minister of Railways, present in the House that the Government of Bihar has released Rs.18 crore out of its total contribution of Rs.22 crore and the Government of Uttar Pradesh has released its full contribution of Rs.18 crore for the contribution of the bridge but the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India did not release its contribution of Rs.22 crore so far. I request the hon. Minister of Railways, present in the House to use his good offices to press the department of Water Resources to make available Rs. 22 crore immediately so that the construction of this important bridge linking Uttar Pradesh and Bihar can be completed soon. He should give assurance in the House for early completion of the said bridge ... (Interruptions) I request the hon. Minister of Railways, present in the House to make a statement in the House. Sir, the hon. Minister of Railway is ready ... (Interruptions) He himself hails from Bihar

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have made your point. I won't prevent the Minister from speaking on the subject if he wishes to.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Hon'ble Minister has rightly stated that Bagaha-Chhituni Rail-Road bridge is a very important bridge connecting Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The Ministry of Railways has discharged its responsibility. As you are well aware that the Government has a collective responsibility. So far as the Ministry of Water Resources is concerned, earlier when the Ministry was under the charge of Shri Gujral, a letter was sent by the Ministry of Railways. Later on when the charge of the Ministry was handed over to Shri Janeshwar Mishra, we wrote to him also and I personally made a request that since this is a very important route, the sanction should be accorded as soon as possible. I request the Minister once again. Even it would be better if Hon'ble Member also speaks to him about it.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Please have the proposal passed in the Cabinet meeting. After all, you are the leader of the House.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : This is not a Cabinet matter. It pertains to one Ministry only.

SHRI RAM SAGAR (Barabanki) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Lucknow is the capital of Uttar Pradesh. All the trains and buses starting from Lucknow and proceeding towards various destinations throughout Northern India pass through my constituency i.e. District Barabanki. After Lucknow, Safedabad is the second Railway crossing where traffic remains jammed for hours together.

Several serious accidents have occurred at the Safedabad-Barabanki Railway crossing and the possibility of accidents is always there. In view of the traffic jam and heavy rush at this Railway crossing, the people of Barabanki have constantly been raising the demand for an overbridge, when Shri Janeshwar Mishra was holding the charge of the Ministry of Railways, he had promised to get it constructed. We made a request to the present Minister of Railways in this regard. He says that if the Government of Uttar Pradesh contributes 50 percent of the total cost of the overbridge, he would get it constructed as soon as possible.

Sir, as you are aware that Uttar Pradesh is under the President Rule. Hence if Hon'ble Minister so wishes, he can get a report regarding the overbridge at Safedabad crossing in Barabanki and can also issue orders to start the work immediately. This is the major problem being faced in District Barabanki. Hon'ble Minister is present here and if he so wishes, this problem can be solved. Hence, through you, I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister of Railways that he should give the orders to start the construction of overbridge at Safedabad Railway crossing in the District Barabanki without further delay. I also request him to kindly make an announcement to this effect in the House.

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR (Kargone) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the news published in yesterday's newspapers that the Government has decided to discontinue the circulation of currency notes of one, two and five rupees denomination and the notes would not be printed in future. If it is true, it would not be printed in future. If it is true, it would be very wrong to do so because the condition of currency notes of Rs. one, Rs. two and Rs. five denomination is deplorable. The notes available are soiled and torn.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the currency notes are indicators of economic situation, stability and dignity of the Government of that particular country. The currency notes of our country are soiled and torn which evoke a pitiable reaction. Sir, the traders and shopkeepers are looting the villagers on this pretext. Hence I demand that the circulation of such notes should not be discontinued; rather their number should be increased and these notes should be printed in larger numbers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir at present, coins of Re.1, Rs.2 and Rs.5 denomination are in circulation in the market but the actual position is that, a two rupee coin looks like a one rupee coin and a five rupee coin looks like a fifty paisa coin. Due to this confusion, the villagers are being looted by the shopkeepers. Besides, a large number of notes can be kept easily, however, it is not possible to carry a large number of coins in one's purse. Otherwise also, the notes have their own importance. Hence, I urge upon the Government that the printing of currency notes of Re.1, Rs.2 and Rs.5 denomination should not be discontinued, rather they should be printed in large numbers.

[English]

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN (Kangra) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am raising a very very serious matter before you. There is great anger, anguish and resentment in Himachal Pradesh. While all the other States have been given economic package, people of Himachal Pradesh have been denied an economic package.

[Translation]

Are we being punished because of our decorum and decency?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Government had constituted a committee. The Ninth Finance Commission did injustice to us when it removed the name of the State from the list of Special Category States. Thereafter a Rangrajan Committee was constituted which recommended that non-plan allocation should be curtailed. We made a request for permission to impose generation tax on electricity but we were not granted the permission. Our consent is not being sought. Royalty is given for Chamera and Barasyl Hydrel Projects but we are not getting any money. We have deficit of Rs.1200 crore. Ever since reorganisation of the States, we are getting 2 percent whereas we are entitled to receive 7.50 percent. Injustice has been done to us. Himachal Pradesh Assembly, cutting across the party line, has unanimously passed a Resolution on 2nd of this month.

[English]

The Central Government must come forward with a package. We are losing our patience and I warn the Central Government not to put the hills on fire.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad) : Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Uttar Pradesh. There are 66 districts in Uttar Pradesh and Hon'ble Members from all these districts, whether they belong to Ruling Party or the Opposition Party, would agree that there is a serious power crisis in the State. The supply of electricity being unsatisfactory in all the districts, the Power and Water Crisis has taken a serious turn. As you know that electricity plays a very important role in our daily affairs Uttar Pradesh is presently under the President rule, hence the Central Government can directly intervene in this matter. Hence, I make a request that the present Government should give instructions to the administrative authorities to ensure power supply in these 66 districts without further delay. Power is not being supplied in even 40 districts out of these 66 districts because of which the lands of farmers are unirrigated and their crops are getting destroyed.

At the same time, I would like to submit, through you, that there is a severe power crisis in Agra and Ferozabad. The Government of India should ask the