

say for example, from the State of Haryana and another coming from the State of Rajasthan. The State Government of Haryana, as part of the Gallantry Award benefits, says that they would give, say, ten acres of land and a sum of Rs. 1,50,000/-. Now, the first part is not fulfilled. The second part is that somebody coming from the State of Rajasthan might receive only five acres of land and much less of money. This differential between one soldier and another becomes accentuated when they become ex-servicemen. So, my second appeal is that this differential between the benefits that is granted to the ex-servicemen from one State to another be levelised upwards.

My third request, which is also contained in that report, is that till such time as they are servicemen, their welfare is the responsibility of the Government of India.

The minute they become ex-servicemen, they become the responsibility of the respective State Government. I think we need to address ourselves to this question and at least in this 25th year of operation of 1971 - to the very significant military victory - we try and resolve what has been pending for a very long time. That is the only appeal that I have to make.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : We all support it.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Let me make a submission, Sir, There is an ex-servicemen association. Very recently I had to write to the Minister of Civil Aviation that the Bar services from the airport, which is run by them, is getting closed one-by-one. At least nine persons in Calcutta have already been discharged from service. Let us, therefore, on this day try to give at least this much consideration that the ex-servicemen do not suffer from these kind of inabilities and these kind of policies. We certainly extend our support to what Shri Jaswant Singh has said.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : It is a very good proposal. We support it.

MR. SPEAKER : The Defence Minister is here. I am sure he has taken note of it.

Today we have only 17 names for the Zero Hour instead of 60 or 70 names that we generally have. So, everybody is going to get his chance. I will call one-by-one.

15.11 hrs.

RE : LODGEMENT OF KUM. J. JAYALALITHA,  
FORMER CHIEF MINISTER OF TAMILNADU, IN  
CENTRAL JAIL, CHENNAI

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity. I am drawing the

attention of the House to an incident which has been very widely reported in the newspapers yesterday, day before yesterday and even today. Ms. Jayalalitha, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has been arrested and is under the judicial custody. The Parliament is not competent to make any comment on the judicial wisdom of any judge of India and I am also not referring to the question of judicial pronouncement. What I am interested to tell the House is, there are cases in the State of Tamil Nadu. If I recollect, I have seen burning of the Constitution of India in the streets of Tamil Nadu, defying the very concept of unity of India. I do not know the fate of these cases.

15.13 hrs.

(Shri P.C. Chacko, in the Chair)

I may recall, after the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, if there was anybody on the soil of Tamil Nadu who fought for the defence and unity of the country, it was Ms. Jayalalitha. As a result of this 'Z' category security was provided to her. I only wish to submit that the Government must assure the nation that in custody, her security shall be taken care of. While in custody she will be free from interference of any kind of terrorist element supported by LTTE.

I cannot forget Ms. Jayalalitha's contribution for the country in the field of sports, in terms of SAF games or in respect of building of Nehru Stadium. We are all against corruption. Corruption should be rooted out, if it is proved. Just now we were talking about the women's Reservation Bill. But you may see the manner in which a lady was harassed by calling the camera crew and others in just to show how the persecution can take place. It is very shameful. Cases can be tried in a court. That is a different thing... (Interruptions).

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Ms. Jayalalitha therefore, requires total security inside the custody. I demand that... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I demand that without any discrimination total security may be provided to her while she is in custody.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I may also submit that Ms. Jayalalitha is not merely a lady... (Interruptions) in the given context of India's unity, I, therefore, demand... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please sit down? Will you please take your seat?

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I may mention here, Sir, that the State in which she has been taken into custody is still infested with a number of terrorists from LTTE. I doubt whether her life is secure there or not. Therefore, it is the duty of the Prime Minister and the Home Minister of India to see that so long as she is in custody total security is provided to her. She may also be provided total security from 21st December onwards, when she

will come out of the custody. This is my demand because I feel that a life should not be destroyed merely on the political persecution. This is what I want to submit.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Mr. Chairman, Sir I am not here to make any comment upon the action that has been taken against her. But by the way it has been projected and by the way it has been brought to the people of this country and of the whole world, it seems that we are going towards a savage society. It is happening everyday and this is an extreme case. This has been the tendency of a certain investigating agency. I am sorry to say that even the judiciary does not find it necessary to work with a little more restraint. The incident that has happened in Tamil Nadu and the way Sushri Jayalalitha has been treated is just a shame. It has been widely published by the Government and by the people who are responsible for her arrest that she has to sleep on the floor with one bed-sheet, and that she was given some diet which was given to the ordinary criminals. As an accused, she is not a culprit. It is yet to be proved that she has done some wrong.

It is a new tendency in the jurisprudence of this country that if a certain complaint is filed against somebody, people are put in jail for not only days and weeks, but months and all types of rumours are passed. I am constrained to say, Mr. Chairman, Sir, that even the judicial *obiter dicta* have become an every day phenomenon in this country. Everybody knows what happened to an hon. ex-Prime Minister even in this city. I did not understand what was such a great obligation that he should have been called to the accused box but it was done. I have nothing to say on this because the Judges are supreme and nobody can talk anything about them. But a certain amount of dignity, a certain amount of grace and a certain amount of decent behaviour is expected from everybody in the society, more so from the people who are in authority and who are expected to give the judgement judicially on a particular case.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also rise to support the issue raised by Shri P.R. Dasmunsi and supported by Shri Chandra Shekhar who expressed his inner feelings in very appropriated words.

The manner in which Ms. Jayalalitha was harassed, it has become an issue of political persecution, instead of corruption. I can openly state about the treatment meted out to her. Perhaps Shri P.R. Dasmunsi could not express his views openly, I would like to ask as to whether the guilt of Ms. Jayalalitha is more serious than that of Shri Narasimha Rao and Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav? If trials of these persons can be held on bail, why this facility has not been provided to her. She was pushed into the bus and given only two sheets and asked to live with ordinary criminals. Not only this, she was told that the bathroom would be kept closed from 6'o' clock in the evening till 6'o' clock in the next morning.

the Government has even deprived a women of the facility of a bathroom, whereas only a complaint has been lodged against her so far. She has not been proved an accused yet but the way she is being harassed smacks of political vendetta. It seems that some persons who are in power in the Centre are harassing a woman even by shedding their gentleness and due to their personal enmity. I would like to say as Shri Chandra Shekhar ji has said that the entire House is agitated on it. The entire House condemn the irresponsible treatment being meted out to Ms. Jayalalitha. Such a kind of behaviour should be stopped immediately and she should be given a fair treatment.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : And a report should be presented in the House...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government must ensure her security. Tamil Nadu is infested with the LTTE terrorists. The Government must ensure her security inside the custody. I have my apprehensions about the DMK Government in Tamil Nadu...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is there anybody else who want to speak on this please?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you on the same issue?

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : We shall support the demand of Shri Dasmunshi that treatment inside the jail should be civilised and that category 'Z' security should be provided to her. We must also distinguish between a judicial decision and the matter of stay in Jail.

How somebody will be kept in a jail is a matter of jail reforms and not of a judicial activism. The fact that the judges have decided that she should be in prison is a judgement which deserve our support, in the sense that the judges are not decided to distinguish between the status of individuals. Therefore, we support the judicial decision. But, at the same time, as you have very correctly raised it, it is a matter of conditions of jail. Somebody should not be kept with the criminals. But we know that even in the days of freedom struggle, there were divisions of Class-A, Class-B and Class-C in the Jail.

Now, we should try to see - because we are a civilized country - that there is a need of judicial reforms in terms of which people's lives can be made tolerable. That is the essence of the matter, I believe, and I do not support any criticism of the judicial activities and the decision that they give to us...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, in our Constitution, the Judiciary, the Legislature and the Executive have been given their exclusive jurisdictions

and it is our well-laid convention that the Legislature, for that matter, the Executive, should not intrude into the areas of Judiciary. As also the Judiciary is not expected to intrude into the jurisdiction of the other wings of our democratic institutions.

Sir, we have the experience of the Emergency when Members of this House, luminaries, great freedom fighters and the leaders of the country were put behind the bars.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please be brief.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : We still remember that so many leaders of the country, trade union leaders fighting for the democratic causes have been put behind the bars and treated in the most heinous manner...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, Please, conclude.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Several box items have come in the Press and there is a complaint to the effect that in the eyes of law, everyone should be treated as equal...*(Interruptions)* It has come out that she has been given special type of treatment; she has been provided with a special box. A Minister of Tamil Nadu has come out with a Statement that exclusive treatment is being given to her. I do not know what is true.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : But we should expect that human and civilized treatment should be meted out to every citizen of the country, whatever be the position one occupies.

*[Translation]*

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to make a submissions to the House and would also like to associate myself with Shri P.R. Dasmunsi, Shri Chandra Shekhar and Shrimati Sushma Swaraj that the whole country is concerned about the ill-treatment meted out to a former woman Chief Minister. The Women are raising their voice against it. When a lady is ill-treated in such a manner, we would be definitely deviating from our cultural values. The whole House may be unanimous that she should not have been subjected to such harassment. The Government should apologise. What was said just now and what our colleagues from West Bengal was saying just now would not help. It is possible that they may be used to ill-treatment meted out to Mamataji every other day but this House is the custodian of cultural values and in Indian culture, women have always been worshipped. In such a place, if a lady is subjected to such harassment that she is not even allowed to go to the bathroom from 6 P.M. to 6-A.M., it certainly should be condemned.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri S.S. Palanimanickam, be very very brief. Just one minute.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur) : We should not supprt it just because she is a lady. In the eyes of law, all are equal. Seven bail applications were dismissed by the concerned judicial authorities. They are supporting the ill-treatment...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you want to raise anything, you can say that.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : All trial prisoners are treated like this. We are all political leaders. We know that if we request for Class-A or Class-B treatment.. it would be provided.

Without a request they will give treatment like this. Please do not charge against...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R. GNANAGURUSWAMY (Periyakulam) : It was not a political matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is over.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. I have allowed one Member, that is enough.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : What you are saying is not going on record. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please take your seat.

SHRI R. GNANAGURUSWAMY : Sir, I may be given an opportunity to speak on behalf of my party...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have allowed one Member to speak on your behalf.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please resume your seat.

SHRI R. GNANAGURUSWAMY : Sir, I am resuming my seat, but I must also be given an opportunity to speak on this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have given time to Shri Shri Palanimanickam even without giving his name to speak. You please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : We cannot have a discussion on this topic. If anybody wants to raise an issue, he will be allowed.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing is going on record, please take your seat.

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\* Not Recorded.

[English]

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL (Bhandara) : Sir, I want to raise a very important issue today. Today, the 9th of December is being observed as a day of total *bandh* in the region of Vidarbha, in the State of Maharashtra ...*(Interruptions)* The media can say anything whether it is a flop or not, but that is not the issue. The issue is, this is an emotional issue. It is an issue concerning the lives and welfare of the people of Vidarbha. Two and a-half crore people living in that region, in the nine districts are suffering because of backwardness and the unequal treatment which is being meted out by the rulers of Maharashtra

I am talking of regional imbalance. In 1960 when the States reorganisation took place, Vidarbha people joined the mainstream of Maharashtra on a certain understanding...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Wait, please.  
*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please take your seat?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Sir, I have a right to speak. They have every right to speak. They are indulging in double standards...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, you will speak.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : My friends in the BJP have passed a resolution in favour of Vidarbha and here they are colliding with these people. It is in their manifesto and not in the manifesto of the Congress Party ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.  
*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Today, every Member will get an opportunity to speak. I will allow Shri Praful Patel to continue and in between Shri Sarpotdar wants to make a submission.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, I am not allowing you to speak on this topic. If you want to raise any other point, you can do so. Shri Patel is on his legs.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : If Shri Patel is allowed to speak on this issue I must also be allowed to clarify the developments which are necessary. He is making unnecessary allegations against the State Government of Maharashtra.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not necessary and at this moment. If you want to speak now, you will not be allowed.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why do you object to his speaking?

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please take your seat? Please do not interrupt, everybody will get an opportunity today.

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE (Thane) : Sir, Shri Patel is wasting the time of this august House ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, please do not say like that.  
*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, what is this?  
*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL (Bhandara) : Two and a-half crore people living in that region...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt him. This will not be appreciated. Please do not repeat it.  
*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE : Sir, we may also be allowed to speak...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : Sir, Shri Patel may be allowed to speak first...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Wait, please, you will get a chance.  
*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. This is a very sensitive subject. He has given a notice for raising this issue. I am allowing him. Shri Sarpotdar said that anybody else wanted to speak he would also be given time. But in between, please do not disturb that will not help anybody.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Thank you, Sir. Today there is a *bandh*. The position of the people of Vidarbha in respect of development is so abysmal that really it is a cause for great concern.

In 1960 when the people of Vidarbha agreed to join a *Sanyukta Maharashtra*, that dream was fulfilled with a specific agreement known as the 'Nagpur pact'. The Nagpur pact specifically guaranteed the people of Vidarbha equal treatment and to remove all the regional imbalances and to provide additional funds and to give us development on par with the rest of the State.

Today villages do not have drinking water, roads, etc...*(Interruptions)* Today unemployment is on the rise ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him speak. Then, you will get a chance to speak.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Industrialisation is absolutely neglected. All the industries are only coming around the Mumbai region and all the Western parts of the State. I am not trying to justify the actions and deeds of the previous Government. I want to say only that after all these years, the backwardness and the imbalance is on the rise. There was a proposal to create Development Boards to remove this imbalance. Three years ago these Development Boards were constituted. We thought that

there will be a change in situation; there will be more money provided to remove imbalances and to clear the backlog. However, during the three years - one year with the previous Government and two years with the present Government - our experience has been that the Development Boards are nothing but a mere farce. The money has not been provided; the Development Boards have no work to do. Now, why have these Boards been created? After all these years of fighting and demanding for these Boards, we are really worried as to what will be our fate.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the present Government also has taken an attitude of neglect towards the people of Vidarbha. Our friends in the B.J.P. have included in their manifesto that the Vidarbha should be created as a separate State. But I am also at a loss to understand that the manifestos are only for the purpose of elections. When it comes to implementing those manifestos and just to sustain their Government in the State, they have adopted a dubious method and are just trying to buy time.

Our friend, Shri Sarpotdar got up with a lot of anger and passion. I would like to tell him that his Leader has asked for two years to clear the backlog of the people of Vidarbha. After two years now he is asking for another two years. What is the fate of the people of Vidarbha? There is no other choice but to ask for a separate State.

Today, 9th December is an historic day. The people of Vidarbha have today announced a total *bandh*. It is a symbolic *bandh* just to let the people of the country and the Leaders of the State know that the people of Vidarbha are not going to tolerate this injustice.

Therefore, through your august Office, I request the entire House to take up this case for the creation of a separate State of Vidarbha.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar. Every issue is becoming a discussion. So, please be brief.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is also from the Maharashtra State. We are allowing maximum number of Members.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : I am not replying. I have raised this objection initially only because this particular issue was raised on not less than four occasions. Whatever issue hon. Members raise, every time it was replied here and they were also trying their best.

Today, according to him, one or two Congress M.Ps., not all, have given this notice. So, the entire Party also is not with him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You make your point please.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please make your point. There is some agitation going on and the hon. Member has.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : There is no agitation there...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, he has given a notice.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please understand. Why do you shout like this? The hon. member has given a notice. So, he was allowed. Even without a notice, you are being allowed and Shri Ram Naik will be allowed. So, please be as brief as possible. I request other Members not to insist, please.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Sir, I am just clarifying the position about whatever the hon. Member has said. Firstly, there is no response whatsoever to whatever movement they are undertaking in the Vidarbha region. All the people have totally ignored it. Secondly, Rs. 2,000 crore have been sanctioned for the Vidarbha region and that amount is going to be utilised for the development of Vidarbha region. Thirdly, whatever allegations they are making against the Government, those are also baseless because for 35 years these very people were ruling and they have done nothing in that regard. Today also nobody in the Vidarbha region is asking them and they are trying to unnecessarily raise it again and again and waste the very valuable time of this august House. My contention is that, this should be stopped.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Mr. Chairman. Sir, I thank you for having given me the opportunity to speak. We are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the Constitution. On this day, we ought to consider the issue of re-organisations of States as it is a very important matter. The separate State of Vidarbha should be formed. There are no two opinions about it and it has our utmost support. At the same time, it is also very important to know what happened on 9th December. According to our information, the Congress 'Bandh' was a failure. Now they are saying that it was symbolic. I would like to tell you about a saying in Marathi - "Male ghatale radaya". I will translate it in Hindi for you. It means that you pay someone to cry. They are shedding crocodile tears. The Congress has lost its bastion in Vidarbha to Bhartiya Janata Party and Shiv Sena. Now they are crying but is that going to help the matters. It is complete failure. The rightful demand of the people of Vidarbha should be fulfilled and this is a very apt time to re-consider the issue. In this context this is my submission that Vidarbha should be developed. The Central Government should extend its co-operation and should take up the matter of re-organisation of States. I also urge upon the Government to express its views in this regard.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, today all the employees of the Life Insurance Corporation

and the General Insurance Corporation are observing a one-day strike against the move of the Government to open the insurance industry of our country to the multinational companies. Why is the insurance sector required to be opened to the private sector and the multinational companies? Are the Life Insurance Corporation and the General Insurance Corporation not efficient? Is it not a fact that since nationalisation in the year 1956, LIC has invested to the extent of Rs. 33,000 crore for the development of our country?  
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : On one hand, they are supporting the Government and on the other they are opposing it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, let him speak.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, last year, LIC has paid Rs. 3,000 crore and the GIC has paid Rs. 1,135 crore as dividend to the Central Government.

Sir, the settlement of claims of these companies is more than that of the insurance companies of both America and the U.K. What is the necessity to open the insurance sector to the multinational companies? Why should the Government of India invite the multinational companies to the insurance sector which is efficiently running? There is a move to introduce a Bill to regulate this insurance company. We have decided that we will oppose any move by the Government to pass a Bill to regulate the insurance company or to open the insurance sector to the private sector or to multinational companies. This will harm the interests of our nation because these two companies are doing a lot of work. They are efficient and the insurance sector should not be opened to the multinational companies. The Government should not take such a step to open it to them and weaken our insurance sector... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, on one hand, they are supporting the Government and on the other ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, they are on strike today. The argument they are putting forward is... (Interruptions) They are trying to draw a parallel with the banking sector that there is foreign sector in our banking activity. These two are totally different... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us not waste the time of the House. There are many other speakers.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, these two are totally different things... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to move a Calling Attention Motion through you... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kumari Uma Bharati, please wait for a minute. He is speaking on the same subject. Shri Chatterjee, please conclude in a minute.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, they talk of the opening of the banking sector. We have to have banking business in the U.S.A. and the U.K. The branches of our banks are there. That question does not arise in the case of the insurance sector. Therefore, whatever may be the intention of the Government, whatever they may have indicated to others, we must totally oppose the introduction of this insurance regulatory Bill... (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, please allow me... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. We cannot go on like this. The point has already been made.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. The point has been made by two hon. Members.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, the Government should assure this House... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please resume your seat. You are not allowed.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the Government should assure the House that they will not take such steps... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing is going on record except what I am saying.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please take your seat?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : How long will this double role continue.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Basudeb Acharia, you did not give a notice for the Zero Hour submission. In spite of that, you being a senior Member and because the subject that you have taken up is serious, you are allowed and Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee is also allowed. Five to six other Members want to speak.

(Interruptions)

Not Recorded.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, the Government should assure this House that there will not be any move for privatisation of the insurance industry and allay the apprehensions of lakhs of workers who are on strike...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. I am standing.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is very unfortunate. We have 33 subjects here. Hon. Members are waiting for making their submissions. Certain things are coming on the spur of the moment. Considering the importance we are allowing some Members. But all Members cannot be allowed. So, you have to bear with the Chair. Now I am allowing Kumari Uma Bharati. Excenting what she is saying nothing else will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, the Government is not responding.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, I have not disturbed anything earlier. Our party's views have to be put on record through you. The issue of insurance which has been raised by other hon. Members is very serious. I also do not agree to the move that the Government is taking. A huge number of employees is involved. It is a very serious affair. The Government should rethink before bringing in such a Bill ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Madam, you will be called. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have moved a Calling Attention motion in this House through you. I have a information published in the 'Times of India' wherein a statement given by the Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram during his visit to London has been given. I would quote two-three lines from that speech.

Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Britishers entered our country through the East India Company and ruled our country for 200 years. Bhagat Singh was hanged, Subhash Chandra Bose lost his life at a very young age and Mahatama Gandhi spent his whole life struggling for freedom. Lakhs of people, faced bullets. Freedom fighters right from the time of Rani Lakshmi Bai laid down their lives. Agitations were also launched. In order to attain independence, many people faced bullets and many were killed and then we got independence. I would like to quote only two lines from the speech given by the Finance Minister of our country during his visit to london and on the basis of that I would request you to kindly admit my Calling Attention Motion. The

\* Not Recorded.

'Times of India' is a reputed newspaper and I am quoting some lines from that very newspaper which says :

*[English]*

He then referred to his remarks at a speech delivered in London last week when he told his British audience "you came to India and stayed for 200 years; now come prepared to invest and stay for another 200 years and then, there will be a huge award."

*[Translation]*

His statement should be severely condemned and censured. Our countrymen have made so many sacrifices for freedom of our country and if a responsible person holding such a key post of the Minister of Finance gives such a statement, he should be asked to come in this House and whatever action is required to be taken in this regard, should be taken against such a person. Probably such an action invites the charges of treason. Those who enslaved us are being invited to come again for another 200 years just as they had came earlier for 200 years to rule the country. The Britishers left the country but left for us these brown sahibs who have not been freed from slave mentality.....*(Interruptions)*. All rights. Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir. I will abide by your orders and sit down...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are not allowed. Please take your seat. I am calling the next Member.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargoda) : I had given a notice for discussion on the matter of LIC and GIC employees' token strike today. The matter is already submitted and broadly discussed here. So, I support the issue.

*[Translation]*

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : The Minister should be called and an explanation should be sought. If he has made such a statement, he should be punished.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Umaji, please sit down. You have to give a notice to the hon. Minister before raising this matter. You know the rules very well. I have allowed you. Please do not go beyond that because you should have given a notice to the Minister.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Anyway, you have brought this matter to the notice of the House. That is enough. Please be satisfied.

*[Translation]*

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk-Delhi) : Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, as you are aware that the Supreme Court has ordered the closure of many industries keeping in view the environmental

aspect, however, there are a number of post-mortem houses in Delhi and its neighbouring cities which are located in thickly populated colonies having schools and markets. These post-mortem houses are located in residential areas and are not being shifted from there in spite of repeated requests. As the Government is already taking so many measures, why is it not taking any steps to shift these post-mortem houses. Whenever one passes from that area, one can see a number of dead bodies lying there. The children have to pass through the area to go to their schools. Is there no such place in India where these could be shifted. How will we be able to keep the children away from passing through such places? The Government should shift the post-mortem houses elsewhere. The Government is taking such major decisions and the smoothly running industries are being shifted and even closed down, hence there should be no hinderance in shifting the post-mortem houses. I hope that you will give directive in this regard so that these post-mortem houses may be shifted immediately.

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ (Jamshedpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to add that as you are aware and the House also is very well aware that the dead bodies dumped round the area causes environment pollution and also gives rise to cases of bird-hit accidents in Civil Aviation Section. Hence it should be taken seriously because whenever these dead bodies are left in the open grounds, they attract birds and as a result of which the possibility of occurrence of major accident in Civil Aviation Sector also increases. Hence this matter should be taken seriously.

[English]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Balrampur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have given a notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes; you will be called.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, if the question raised by our friend Shri Jaswant Singh and some other matters raised in the House are replied to by the Government at the same time, the people feel satisfaction. Hon'ble Minister of Defence is present in the House. It is a matter of fact that all the Members do not attend the sittings of the House because the matters raised by them in the House are not replied to by the Government. Fifteen days back the House unanimously desired that the Government should ask all the State Governments to direct all the District Collectors and Commissioners to invite all the ex-servicemen, who had participated the 1971 war, for a cup of tea at the district headquarters on 16th December. On that day Paswanji had told that he shall inform the Government in this regard. Today is 9th of December, if the hon'ble Prime Minister is not able to write letters to the Chief Minister in this regard then the Hon'ble Minister of Defence who

is sitting here, should given assurance to the House that he discuss it with the Chief Ministers of all states...*(Interruptions)*. I personally discussed the matter with two or three Chief Ministers : I think all the Chief Ministers will be ready to do so. The initiative should be taken by the Central Government.

Second issue raised by Shri Jaswant Singh is that the commitment made by the state Governments 25 years ago have not been fulfilled. It has appeared in the yesterday's 'Indian Express' that the receiptants of Mahavir Chakra and Vir Chakra, who were assured by the Government to be given ten acre and five acre land, have not received the land so far. I therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Defence that he should obtain information from all Chief Ministers in this regard and inform the House as to whether the claims have been settled and if no, the date by which these claim will be settled. It will help satisfying people that the Government is willing to take steps for the welfare of the families of those who had laid down their lives for the security of the country.

I agree with Shri Chandra Shekhar and Shri Dasmunsi for the issue raised in regard to Jay Lalithaji that she has been illtreated during her Chief Ministership. The House should find out the reason behind this. Today morning Hon'ble Vice-President and the Speaker have made it clear in their speeches that Shri Ambedkar had said that if there is any kind of decline in the standard of our institutions then we all in the House will be held responsible for it. Shri Ambedkarji had mentioned in his speech, "If the standard of our political character has declined so much then we are also responsible for it". The House should find out the reasons for this. Earlier also, during 1952-57 people used to point out such things.

Today when anything goes against politicians or they face any action, people say that the course of action is right. It shows that our credibility has been decreased too much. All the political parties should sit together and consider that if we want to maintain the credibility of the House, the legislature, we should bring reforms within us and politics of moral values will have to be revived. Only then we will be able to face the issues. It is not good to criticise any institution. Therefore, I urge upon the House to take a decision as to what should be the further course of action in this regard. Today, the position is that members can do anything in the House but outside the House people are supporting the action taken against them for their wrong doings.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mulayam Singhji, before you speak, I would like to say that Shri Jaswant Singh raised the issue relating to 1971 war heroes which was the first point raised by Shri Rajesh Pilot and not about the second point.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : Sir, I will tel lonly on the issues raised by hon'ble Shri Jaswant Singh and Shri Rajesh Pilot and I am happy that they have raised such issues in the House.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar) : All right, you will call Defence personnels and B.S.F. personnels but we should be given information as a number of young people laid down their lives during freedom struggle...*(Interruptions)*. This issue is very sensitive, you might be aware that Mujjibnagar is a place near Coochbehar district which is also known as Padgram. Bangladesh got freedom first of all at that place for which Indian youths had laid down their lives. Therefore, when you will call the Defence Personnels and B.S.F. personnels, you should also invite these Indians who have participated in the freedom struggle and the family members of those who were killed during the war.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : So far as giving reply to all the question is concerned, this depends on the ruling given by the hon'ble Speaker but the question raised by hon'ble Jaswant ji and Rajesh Pilot ji is very important. I would like to tell you that after 25 years we are now going to celebrate 16th of December as 'Vijay Diwas' just two days before we have organised such a programme at a place near to the constituency of Shri Jaswant Singh. This August House might be aware that when I was Chief Minister of U.P. I wrote letters to all the Chief Ministers on this issue because the condition of the ex-servicemen was pitiable. District Administration is not paying attention towards their problems. They are harassed by the administration. So I personally wrote letters to all the Chief Ministers. The contents of my letters were appeared in newspapers.

Second issue was about honouring the soldiers of 1971 war. It is a fact that in 1971 war has our country earned honour. Therefore the soldiers who participated in the war and the martyrs of the war should be honoured at every level. They should be honoured not only at functions organised by the Government but also by the General Public and Valuntary Organisations. You should also honour such persons In your areas. However as per your suggestions, I assure the House that I would like to urge all the Chief Ministers in writing to honour and remember all the soldiers who had participated and sacrificed their lives in the war of 1971 at District Headquarters, at commissioner level, at University level etc...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Not only we should remember them but also we must fulfil all those assurances including assurance of providing 10 acres of land to them...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : My sister sees politics in everything...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : I have not spoken yet then how could you talk of politics ...*(Interruptions)* I have not yet opened my mouth.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I have already told that I have written letters to Chief Ministers ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : I was on my legs just to remind you that when you were not here ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Dear Sister, the Government cannot punish all the Chief Ministers in respect of the problems pointed out by you. If the question of giving punishment arises then first of all the Chief Minister of Rajasthan should be punished ...*(Interruptions)* I have written letters to all the Chief Ministers and also held a meeting with them. If still they are not doing so, we will issue directions again ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Please collect the details in this regard from every state and then place it in the House because almost all the parties have their government in one or other state so that we can know as to which states are not doing so.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : I have objection to the statement given by the hon'ble Minister of Defence as he has named the Chief Minister of Rajasthan to be punished.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You go there to be apprised of the position.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : I think that too much is being done there but nothing is being done in many other states. We request you to fulfil the promises made to those who were awarded medals for their gallantry during 1971 war.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This won't do.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I have already stated that Shri Jaswant Singh and Shri Rajesh Pilot have raised a very important issue.

16.00 hrs.

I have already told that I have written to all the Chief Ministers. I have talked to them and all of them have given the assurance. It is true that every party except ours has a ruling Chief Minister.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Your party can also have a Chief Minister.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : That is also true But even then we will hold talks with the Chief Ministers. We will write to them and ask for details and would also enquire from them as to whether they have fulfilled their promises as per the assurances given. Whatever decision is taken by the House in this regard, will be implemented. We can not force any Chief Minister because our democracy has certain system and the

Executive and politics are two separate things. Even thus we will do our best to ensure that the soldiers are given due respect and honour, their needs regarding land and other requirements are met and they get what is rightfully their due...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Chairman, I am not talking about the Chief Ministers...*(Interruptions)*

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please allow her to make a point; will you please sit down? Joshi ji, will you please resume your seat? Why do you behave like this Joshi ji?

*[Translation]*

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, no Chief Minister of any other State has been able to do so much as has been done by the Chief Minister of Rajasthan.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the point I wish to make, is not concerned with the issue of Chief Ministers...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. Hon. Members, please take your seat. Please resume your seat. Will you please take your seat? Joshi ji, please take your seat. Will you please sit down?

*[Translation]*

SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS (Sitapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Joshi ji is a very senior member...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please resume your seat.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not going on record. Nothing is going on record. Please take your seat. This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why do you waste your energy like this? This is not going on record. Why do you waste your energy like this?

*[Translation]*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Sir, if they are going to talk about the Indian culture, you will have to teach them civility...*(Interruptions)*

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Only a particular community is given protection...*(Interruptions)*

Not Recorded.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is this Joshi ji? What is the point of shouting like this? There will be no further discussion on this.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a very good issue was raised which was above any politics. If you want to take it this way, it is all right. You may be my senior in age but I have been a MLA and MLC nine times, hence in the field of politics, I am senior to you...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to say to the Defence Minister what you have said about the Chief Ministers...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : There will be no further discussion on this Sushmaji. We will stop it here, otherwise this will continue.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Chairman, Sir, kindly listen to what I have to say...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : We do not want to continue this discussions.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Chairman, I am only trying to remind that in the conference of Presiding Officers...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please take your seat? Without the cooperation of the senior Members, the Chair will find it difficult to run the House. Please understand that we do not want to prolong the issue raised by Shri Jaswant Singh and Shri Rajesh Pilot and we do not want to go into a partisan kind of discussion. The Government has responded to the issue properly.

The House expects that proper follow up action would be taken. So, we pass on to the next subject.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : If you want to make any suggestions, you may give them to me separately.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : All right, I will do that.

*[English]*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : I would like to bring a very important issue before this august House. Thousands of Indian nationals are working

abroad, especially in the Gulf countries. The UAE Government has given a general amnesty to those people who are working in the Gulf countries without any proper records and visa and passport. By this amnesty which is declared by the UAE Government, thousands of Indian nationals are coming from these Gulf countries, especially from the UAE. Actually they are working there for many years. You know that 70 per cent of the Indian nationals who are working abroad, especially in the Gulf countries are from the State of Kerala.

The economy of Kerala is dependent on the foreign exchange which is coming from Gulf countries. In each and every household, one or two people are working abroad, especially in Gulf countries.

By this general amnesty which is declared by the UAE Government, thousands of families are in great difficulty. They are now coming from the Gulf countries and on the way back to India, they have to suffer a lot. Even in the coasts of Mumbai and Gujarat, they have to suffer a lot.

The point that I want to raise is that those people who came from the Gulf countries should be rehabilitated. The Government of UAE is prepared to take some of the skilled workers who have already come back from the UAE to India. Therefore, the External Affairs Ministry should take necessary steps for their return to the Gulf countries. Those people who have worked earlier in certain companies and factories in the UAE and other Gulf countries can be rehabilitated there itself with proper record and proper visa and passport.

Secondly, the Government of India, External Affairs Ministry should properly plan their rehabilitation. The State Government of Kerala has already drawn up certain plans for the rehabilitation of the people who were evacuated from these Gulf countries by this general amnesty.

So, I request the Government through you that a certain plan should be drawn up to rehabilitate the people who have been evacuated from the UAE and other Gulf countries to India so that they can earn their livelihood.

This is a very serious issue which necessitates the External Affairs Ministry of the Government of India to take adequate steps. The External Affairs Ministry should extend help to the State Government of Kerala for the rehabilitation of the people who have been evacuated from the UAE.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a very serious matter. Fortunately, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and other prominent Ministers are also present in the House. Through you, I would

like to request them to use their influence to protect this country from yet another scam.

Sir, this morning, Hon'ble Speaker and the Vice-President had drawn the attention of the House towards corruption prevalent in the country and weakening of our institutions as a result thereof. It is a very timely warning. I would like to bring a similar matter to your notice. A New National Telecommunication Policy was formulated in our country in 1994, on the basis of which the private sector was invited to enter the basic service in telecom sector. This policy was formulated in 1994 and in continuation of the same, the Department of Telecommunications had invited bids for all the states in June, 1995.

There were tenders and tender-conditions for the bids to be invited. It was clearly mentioned in tender-conditions that negotiation was possible in technical bids but there would not be any discussion on financial matters. Bids may be accepted or rejected. Technical Evaluation Committee had issued proposed rates.

I want to draw your attention to circle 'B' of Rajasthan. It was broadly published in the newspapers during last few days. I also had attracted attention of the hon. Law Minister by writing a letter to him. The Telelink Network India Limited had given its bids for this. Telelink Network is a consortium type part of Advance Radio Masts and P.L.A. of China and Harris of U.S.A. are its partners. They have quoted Rs. 1100 crore in place of probable levy of Rs. 1700 crore. Circle 'B' of Rajasthan is going to suffer a direct loss of Rs. 600 crore in the next 15 years. The ex-Minister and the present Member of Lok Sabha, Shri Sukhram ... (Interruptions) Please give me an opportunity. The House should express its concern over it. Shri Sukhram wanted to award this company to circle 'B' of Rajasthan. But in the meanwhile, elections were declared and the Election Commission put a ban on it ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have made the point. Now, you conclude.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : No, Sir, I have yet to make my point.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What you have raised is about Rs. 600 crore loss to the Exchequer. You have already made that point. Do not go into the entire topic, please.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYADEO SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the basic question is very important and the entire country is concerned over it. The entire political machinery of 10th Lok Sabha as well as 11th Lok Sabha was concerned on it. Several cases are pending in court. Many scams have taken place. Another scam involving Rs. 600 crore is likely to come out. Will the august

House not allot some time for it? I urge upon you to pay attention to my point...*(Interruptions)* : I want a full-fledged discussion on it...*(Interruptions)*.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Regarding that, you can give a notice. You have already made a specific point about the Rajasthan Telecom Circle. Now, you conclude.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SATYADEO SINGH : I want to tell you, what is happening. The previous Government resorted to bungling and the present Government is also demanding the second opinion in this regard. Previously, the Legal Department had demanded to cancel the tender on the plea that the bid was below expected limit of revenue despite of that, Teledink Network Advance Radio Masts is facing CBI inquiry again. I would like to urge upon Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav to advise his senior colleague Shri Beni Prasad Verma, the hon. Minister of Tele-Communications to save Rs. 600 crore of the Exchequer and stop his own name from being included in the black list of political system of the country which is being questioned at present. Shri Rajesh Pilot has rightly said that we may say in the House whatever we want but it happens quite contrary outside the House.

I want that the hon. Minister will come forward with an assurance that he would table all the facts in the House regarding tender conditions which was altered later on and will not permit to award any contract or licence to this company unless it is ensured and the House is taken into confidence that bungling is not taking place in this deal and Rs. 600 crore are not being looted.

Hon'ble Shri Mulayam Singh is a part of the Government. He should give an assurance in the House...*(Interruptions)*. The Chairman of the Telecommunications has released a press statement that he would take a decision on Rajasthan Circle in next week.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Satya Deo Singh, will you please conclude? You have made your point. You cannot drag it on like this. You cannot insist on a reply now itself.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : I am making a submission to the Chairman...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot ask the Government to respond. But, as a routine, I can ask the Government to make a response. Please understand this.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Of course, you cannot ask them to respond. But why can they not respond? They can respond saying that they will place all the papers on the Table of the House before taking a

decision about the Rajasthan 'P' Circle. That sort of a response should come from them. What is wrong in that? The Chairman of the Telecom Commission is saying in the Press that they are going ahead and allotting the licence to the same Company which is under question.

*[Translation]*

Will you allow a loot to the tune of Rs. 600 crore in this manner? If the hon. Minister wants to say anything, he may do so.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I do not want to say anything in respect of Shri Satya Deo Singh. Just now, a question was raised by Shrimati Sushma Swaraj and Shri Krishan Lal Sharma on which the hon. Members were agitated. It is an important question because December 16, is being celebrated as victory day not at Chief Ministerial level but at Central level.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mulayam Singh, you can discuss with the hon. Member as the House has taken up another topic now. We cannot go back.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : It is not so. I would like to inform you as well as the whole House that victory Day is being celebrated at Central level in which the hon. President, the Prime Minister and we all are participating; parade will be organised, dignitaries will be honoured and grand tableanu will be there at Central level.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Please say, something about teledink. Since you are representing the Government in the House, why do you not give an assurance?

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Satya Deo Singh, he was not responding to the question that you raised.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Balrampur) : I thought he was making a response to my question...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : It is a matter of Rs 600 crore and belongs to the entire State of Rajasthan. If licence is given to the company, there may be scams like Shri Sukhram's scam. Therefore, the hon'ble Member has made the submission through you, that either the Government may be asked to give response or no decision be taken in this regard unless all the documents are presented in the House.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Shri Beni Prasad is very close to Shri Mulayam Singh. The image of Shri

Beni Prasad is good till now but if it happens, his image would be tarnished.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have to bring one point to the notice of all the hon. Members. There are certain questions where you have to give notice to the Minister concerned also. Such questions should not be raised on the floor of the House without giving a notice to the Minister especially when there is an allegation made.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Josh, do not take the House for a ride. It is too much. I have told you many times about it. You are a senior Member. Please cooperate with the Chair. I cannot allow like this. We have passed on to another topic. We have to allow other Members also. Please cooperate.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRA (Cannanor) : Sir, about 70,000 employees of the Regional Rural Banks all over the country are on an agitational path due to the non-implementation of the recommendations of the National Industrial Tribunal. This Tribunal has been constituted at the Instance of the hon. Supreme Court. I do not know why the Government is not implementing these recommendations. The main recommendation is about the party in wages of the employees of the Regional Rural Banks with that of the nationalised banks. I appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to intervene in the matter so that the impending strike is averted.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora) : Sir, transport subsidy being provided to the industries in Uttar Pradesh has been stopped after imposition of President's Rule there and declaration made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister with regard to form a separate state as a result of which these industrial units are not getting raw material. Besides, production is also withheld in electronics, Tele-tronics and in all public sector industries like Vacnisite Limited and Co-operative Drug Factory, Ranikhet, Paper worth Rs. 17 crore of "Century Paper and Pulp Mill Limited" located at Nainital, Uttranchal has been lying dumped in godown. Consequently, administration and management have decided for retrenchment of thousands of labourers. It is being said that the multinational companies are providing paper at cheaper rates.

On one hand, it is being said that Uttranchal would be provided the status of a separate State but I do not want to go into the details as the Central Govt. is keeping mum in this regard. But infrastructure of that area is becoming extinct before giving it the Status of a separate state. It has been reported that thousands of families of labourers are on the verge of starvation there. Not only this, there is a "Saraswati Woolen Mills' Limited' there, the case of which had been referred to the BIFR but it

has been kept pending. This Mill is experiencing capital constraints due to which labourers of this Mill are going to be rendered jobless.

I demand from the Government to intervene in this matter immediately. The Government should take necessary action to re-employ the labourers of this Mill and to provide it financial assistance through a scheme. Thank you very much.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on the direction of the Supreme Court, the Department of Environment has submitted a project in the court regarding uninterrupted supply of power to the Taj projected area with the objective of protecting the Taj from environmental pollution. Environment Secretary had got this project prepared by the Department of Energy of the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh. The Ministry of Power, Government of India had also given its clearance to this project. To ensure the time bound implementation of this project, the Ministry of Environment and Forests had submitted an affidavit in the Supreme Court and stated that with the implementation of this project, uninterrupted supply of power could be made available to the Taj protected area. In this project, it has been envisaged to make arrangements for evolving power transmission system. Arrangements have not been proposed in the project to evolve a power transmission system in the rural and urban areas of Taj protected area. The Supreme Court has been provided with wrong facts through the affidavit that with the implementation of this project we would be able to make available supply of powers everywhere. The objective of protecting Taj from environmental pollution cannot be achieved with this project. Due to non-availability of power, use of generators and diesel engines will continue for the purpose of irrigation, small scale industries and other works in powerless areas and thus pollution will also continue to spread. Even after drawing attention of the various Departments of the Government, Planning Commission and the State Government, this problem has not been resolved. I demand from the Government that a power distribution system may also be evolved to ensure uninterrupted power supply to all villages and urban areas of Taj protected area so that Taj can be protected from environmental pollution created by running of generators and diesel engines. The Government of India has presenting wrong facts to the Supreme Court regarding this project. Therefore, I would like to tell that this matter could have further implications. Hence, this is very important matter.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Sadar-Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, ration is not being made available in Delhi.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Vijay Goelji, your name is not in the list. Please wait for the list to finish. Then, you will get a chance to raise your issue.

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ (Jamshedpur) : Hon. Mr. Chairman, I rise at this moment to express my deep

concerns about the repercussions of the software programmes which are being shown on television in today's India.

In 1991, Dr. Manmohan Singh came out with his Economic Liberalization Policy and since then India has seen a sudden influx of television channels both Indian and foreign channels. Today, the electronic media is increased in India so much that it has almost become an alternative way of learning for children. An independent report of a newspaper shows that the electronic media, especially, the television today has become so infiltrative into drawing rooms and bed rooms of children that they have almost forgotten the ways of learning the real life experiences through the natural wonders. They learn everything through the medium of television. And that is why, it is very important that we take adequate care as to what is being shown on our television screens.

Hon. Mr. Chairman, there is this sudden influx of television channels but there is no Infrastructure whatsoever, there is no regulatory body in India today to control the quality of television software or there is no censorship body today in India to control what should be shown on television and what should not be shown on television. That is why the cheaply made programmes especially the film songs-oriented programmes, are innumeraly being shown on television. Those songs, unfortunately today's film songs, are propagating the female nudity and obscenity.

[Translation]

Which in Hindi is called 'Vibhartsna' and 'Vikriti'.

[English]

These are the kind of things which are being imbibed on to the children's mind through the television software programmes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very serious problem. I am talking about the future of this country.

If we talk about the 'Star Plus' channel, it has come out with its new policy of Hindi programming, which is fine, by me and I welcome it but at the same time, they have started showing a soft-porn programme 'Bay Watch' in Hindi, that too in the family viewing time.

8 o'clock is such a family viewing time that everyone sits together in a family room watching television. 'Baywatch' is a programme which is considered even in America as a soft porn programme and it has become famous only for the female nudity and obscenity which goes on in that programme. That programme may be fine for the American culture, but I do not think that the programme is fine for family viewing from the Indian culture point of view.

I think these are serious problems. But unfortunately the Information and Broadcasting Ministry does not find enough time in today's situation to even call a proper Consultative Committee meeting. Meetings are called for one hour and fifteen minutes to discuss the future of electronic media and I think that is ridiculous. I urge upon the Government and the I & B Minister to please take electronic media and the structure of electronic media in today's India very very seriously because it is affecting the psychology of our children and our children are the future of this country. So, let us not take anything lightly.

Mr. Chairman Sir, we have been hearing a lot about the Prasar Bharati Bill that the Act is going to come very soon and all these things.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now that you have made your point, please conclude.

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : I am on my final point.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not on the Prasar Bharati, but on the point that you have given notice of. You have finished that also.

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : It concerns the obscenity on television.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot go on to the related topics. Please make only one point and then conclude.

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : All right, I will stick to it.

All I would say to the I & B Minister is to pay enough attention to the Ministry because he must understand that it is not a bomb attack or a cyclone which immediately show its disastrous effect, but it is a kind of slow poison that we are feeding our children on. So, please understand the seriousness and the repercussions of this slow poisoning of our future generation and take appropriate action as soon as possible.

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' (Jalesar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, recently there was a news items in 'India Express' dated the 6th December to the effect that our Government wants to sign an agreement with the Government of Bangladesh on Ganga water. For this same old arguments are being given i.e. if this agreement is not signed then the Government of Shekh Hasina will not survive and if it is signed then the problems of Bangladesh will be solved. In this context, I would like to mention that when agreement of Teen Bigha was signed then the same argument was given and at that time the Government of Shekh Hasina was not there. But this time we must solve the serious problems first. The main point is that the agreement should be signed only if all the refugees of Bangladesh are repatriated. Secondly, there should not be any scarcity of water in Calcutta Port. Thirdly, it should be ensured that there will not be scarcity of water for our

farmers and public. I want to say that it would not be wise to care for some one who is suffering for cold instead of getting treatment for our Cancer. Moreover this is the issue of National interest. Therefore, if an agreement is signed about sharing of Ganga water by sacrificing national interest then it would not be proper. But if we sign an agreement by promoting National interest then it would be a welcome step. However, it is not obligatory that the Government should take the Lok Sabha into confidence but it would be better if the House is taken into confidence and the agreement is signed after a discussion is held because this is a very important issue.

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL (Varanasi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

I would like to draw the attention of the House through you towards the fact that the Ganga, has come into being as a result of the untiring efforts of Bhagirathi and which has been serving the country and especially the North India has been polluted. The Government has spent 49 crores of rupees to make it pollution free in Varanasi under the Ganga Action Plan. But the water of Ganga is still polluted and all the schemes proved faulty. The Ganga is still polluted in Varanasi. Danapur and Bhagwanpur are still getting its polluted water. The water is still polluted. I would like to urge, upon the Government, through you, to re consider the allocation made for the Ganga Action Plan with a view to implement it again so that the water of the Ganga could be made pollution free.

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS (Krimganj) : Sir, there is a proposed extension of railway line from Lala to Bhairangti in the Hailakandi district of Assam.

Bhairangti is a small urban area just inside the border of Mizoram. The proposed extension has already been surveyed by the railway authorities and then left out on the ground that this proposed extension would not be economically viable. I cannot understand on what basis the Ministry of Railways could draw such a conclusion. The area through which the proposed extension is to pass is a most backward area, mainly inhabited by SCs, OBCs and STs. This proposed extension would be the only means of communication for about one and a half lakh people.

Moreover, if this extension is constructed, this would facilitate the business in perishable commodities between Mizoram and Assam. Further, this will help in the establishment of small scale and cottage industries in this backward area. So, I urge upon the Government, especially the Ministry of Railways to construct this proposed extension from Lala to Bhairangti at a very early date.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, thanks God the House is

functioning today. It seems as if the Minister of Railways is not much worried about the accident that took place on the nights of Friday and Saturday with the Lucknow-Delhi Mail train. It has been a great miracle that 20-25 M.Ps and V.I.Ps travelling by it did not receive any injury. Two-three days ago the Minister of Railways had expressed his concern about the outdated and weak rail line. There is a great traffic on this route and paying no attention towards it is a matter of concern. I do not think there is any need to go into the details of this incidents 11 boggies were de-railed. It is not easy to digest that no one was hurt even after derailment. Even then he is not worried about it, then it is a very serious matter. I would like to know as to what is being done by our Department of Railways to save the public from such incidents? In the opinion of people travelling by trains was safest and comfortable mode of transport but the manner in which this accident has taken place has compelled us to think in which direction we are taking the country. The Minister of Railways was present in the House a short while ago. He should take this incident seriously. The details published in the newspapers highlight that the passengers escaped by the grace of God, but having a view of the boggies it does not appear that nobody would have been hurt in the accident. Unfortunately, topmost officials of Railways were travelling by that train. All the officers of Railways left the spot at 1.00 A.M. Officials of Muradabad Administration reached there at about 6-7 o'clock while the accident took place at 1 o'clock. Thus work could have been started by the Railway authorities within 2-3 hours of the accident. The Minister of Railways should enquire into the fact whether it was a sabotage or something else because the engine of the train was not damaged but all the compartments attached to engine were derailed. This aspect should be investigated and Minister of Railways should give details in this regard as to why the accident took place and what steps are being taken to check the recurrence of such incidents in future. Many M.Ps sitting here were also with me in that coach...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA BAHADUR ROY (Sultanpur) : Sir, this accident took place at 12.55 A.M. on 6th of December and Shri Kaw was also travelling by that train. His saloon was also attached with that train. There was a great hue and cry after the accident. Children and women began to cry. Train was amid forest but Shri Kaw did not talk to anyone and escaped from that place secretly. D.M., S.S.P or any other officer of District Administration...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is what he has said it.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA BAHADUR ROY : Sir, he did not reach in time.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not repeat it.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA BAHADUR ROY : Sir, Saloon was never attached with Mail trains before but now it has become a practice that saloon is attached with Mail-train. This practice should be stopped. On 6th Lucknow Mail met with an accident and on 7th 5 boggies of Kalka Mail were derailed. Accidents took place on two consecutive days. The Minister of Railways should have given resignation but it seems that he has no such morality.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Gangwar has made all these points.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA BAHADUR ROY : Atleast an inquiry should be made into the matter and there should be an improvement in the single track between Ghaziabad and Muradabad. There have been so many accidents. There is no guarantee for our lives. What is the reason that there is single-track on the route of Lucknow at places like Ghaziabad and Muradabad... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister of Railways has levelled this allegation with a view to defame them... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not make it a political debate.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : The Minister of Railways has levelled this allegation... (Interruptions)\*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not going on record.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, there is acute shortage of cooking gas in Madhya Pradesh, especially in Shajapur and Devas districts. Private gas agencies have increased Rs. 80 per cylinder of 14 K.G. and consumers are not getting gas. There is no L.P.G. outlet in Agal, Sujalpur, Hat-piplia, Sonkath etc. of district Shajapur having a population of 30-40 thousand. Advertisement, were issued one year back and applicants have also applied for that but no action is being taken in this regard. I would like to urge the Government through you to reduce the rates of L.P.G. by private agencies in Madhya

Pradesh and open L.P.G. out lets in district Shajapur so that the consumers can get L.P.G. in time and at reasonable rate.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we will take up item No. 11, Matters under Rule 377.

16.40 hrs.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need for construction of an overbridge at railway crossing near Jaunpur, U.P. on National Highway No. 56.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH (Jaunpur) : I would like to draw the attention of the Government and Hon'ble Railway Minister towards a Railway crossing No. 4 B/E on National Highway No. 56 at the outskirts of Jaunpur. Emergency cases and other serious patients are taken for medical treatment to Varanasi through this road from Jaunpur district but due to the frequent closure of this railway crossing for 45 minutes to one hour, many patients die on the way due to lack of the requisite medical facility in time. Many leading trains going from Varanasi to Lucknow pass through this way and passengers can not reach in time due to closure of the railway crossing. Therefore, the Government is requested to construct an over-bridge on this railway-crossing as early as possible.

- (ii) **Need for taking urgent steps for protecting the interests of sugarcane growers.**

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : Every year the crushing of sugarcane is started by sugar mills during the first week of October, however this year, the mills started this work in the last week of November. The sugarcane growers could not sow wheat this year. It is not only the farmers who have suffered losses as a result thereof but the national interests have been affected as well. Production of more than 20 lakh tonnes of wheat has been stalled due to arbitrariness of mill owners and then they are not paying the support price of Rs. 76 per quintal announced by the Government to the farmers. Hence I urge upon the Government that in order to reduce the dependency of farmers on sugar mills, permission should be accorded to small khandsari units to procure vacuum pans to ensure their recovery increase from 6% to 9%.

Secondly, the crushing capacity of sugar mills should be increased and the mill owners should set up new mills. The new sugar mills which have been issued licences after 31 March, 1994 should also be brought under levy encouragement scheme.