

NT>

Title: Reported strike by the Advocates in West Bengal.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA (CALCUTTA, NORTH EAST): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is total failure of the judicial system in West Bengal. About 50,000 advocates are boycotting the courts in West Bengal protesting against excessive increase of court fees. The hike is from 100 per cent to 500 per cent. The court fees are paid by the people. The junior advocates and all the advocates who are members of the Bar Council have passed a resolution to boycott the courts at their own sacrifice of their daily fees. This stalemate is going on for the last one month. There are more than 500 courts in West Bengal, right from the High Court to the lower level. Instead of making a settlement, the party in power is making inciting statements. I do not understand as to what is the authority of the Marxist Party to incite the advocates and talk against the agitation. So, I request the Central Government to intervene in the matter and resolve the stalemate.

Sir, as the stalemate is going on for the last one month, hundreds of cases are pending and bail could not be properly utilised because of the interference of the Government of West Bengal. The stalemate must be settled immediately. Therefore, I request the Government of India to intervene in the matter, through the Ministry of Law and Justice, and resolve the stalemate by bringing the court fees to the normal level.

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** डॉ. रघुवंश प्रसाद। डॉ. रघुवंश प्रसाद जी, मैं आपका नाम पुकारता हूँ तो आप ध्यान नहीं देते हैं और बीच-बीच में खड़े होकर शोर मचाते हैं। मैंने आपका नाम तीन बार लिया। आजकल आपका ध्यान ही सदन में नहीं रहता है।

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you may kindly permit Shri Janardhana Reddy to make a submission on the drinking water problem in Andhra Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot permit him in 'Zero Hour' now. I will allow him to raise the issue tomorrow.