

their labour and now value added products are being exported from India as a result of which they are losing their labour. So, under the pretext that they found a virus, they are now banning import of all marine products from India.

Out of these marine products, about half are going from the State of Kerala. The announcement of this ban has rendered lakhs of fishermen unemployed. Fishermen there are starving. Many factories have been closed. Apart from that it is going to affect the export opportunities of the entire country. As I mentioned earlier, Rs. 4000 crore worth of marine products have been exported last year. Unless the Government takes serious steps in this regard, unless the Prime Minister and the Commerce Minister take very serious note of it and talk to the European countries and see that these products are exported, there will not be any exports after 15th August.

13.00 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

Practically, 15th of July onwards, the export trade is stopped, marine products have stopped, marine factories have stopped and fishing is stopped. It is a serious situation. The Government should come forward to do something in this regard.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : It is a very serious matter. Some response should be there...*(Interruptions)* The whole export is affected...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS (Karimganj) : Sir, the recent devastating floods in Assam have caused havoc to a large number of villages including those of southern Assam. Not less than five hundred villages have been submerged and the grains in the paddy fields have been totally damaged. More than 17 lakh peasants have been affected by the floods and hundreds of dwellings units have been washed away.

Sir, in southern Assam-Karimganj, Hailakandi, Cachhar districts have been affected badly and the road communication remained suspended there for more than one week. The condition of the districts like Dhaamaji, North Lakhimpur, Tinsukia, Sibsagar in Upper Assam, Nalbari, Dhobri, Gonpada in lower Assam is indescribable. The loss due to devastating floods is yet to be assessed but it would definitely surpass an amount of Rs. 250 crores.

Therefore, I urge the Government to take up immediate relief measures for the flood victims and at the same time, to implement the projects of the Brahmaputra Board and to construct Barak Dams on a long term measure to check floods in Assam, since Assam is a flood-torn province.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Item No. 7-Matters under Rule 377.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No Lunch Hour. You can have your lunch and come back.

Shri K.L. Sharma.

*(Interruptions)*

13.03 hrs.

RE : ENTRY OF RAILWAY MINISTER INTO MUMBAI

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is one very important matter which concerns the functioning of the Centre and the State. The present threat that has been given against our Minister of Railways by a leader of a political party in one State in this country is something unheard of. It has never happened in the past and it has been openly being said in Maharashtra by the leader of Shiv Sena, which is the ruling party. The alleged reason is that the Minister of Railways' decision to start the Konkan Railway trains from a particular station. On that count, his partymen have been directed not to allow Shri Ram Vilas Paswan to enter the State. I have never in my very humble experience - seen nothing like this. I have no doubt that the real reason is the Minister's statement after he visited those places where the *dalits* were tortured that there should be President's rule. Whether I agree with the Minister or not, that is different. Supposing the hon. Minister of the Union of India - in our country, anywhere for that matter expresses his views or even as a Minister, if he takes a decision ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : They have not opposed because of Dalits ...*(Interruptions)* That is not opposed...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will have your say.

Let him finish.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai-North East) : There is no Zero Hour and if somebody stands up and raises...*(Interruptions)* You must allow us. You must give us a chance...*(Interruptions)*