

paying taxes as they are not running with any profit motive. This Board is functioning to safeguard the interests of the poor workers who are being benefited now.

SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY (Tripura West) : It has been reported that several extremist groups like the ATTF and NLFT of Tripura and ULFA of Assam have called a bandh on 15th August 1997 in all the North-Eastern States. They have sought the help of other extremist groups of the region to join them in their call. This is a serious threat to sovereignty and integrity of the country.

It is needless to mention that imperialist forces are behind all these heinous activities of the extremists. Operation Brahmaputra launched by them was designed nearly two decades back with the specific aim to dismember India and weaken the country.

I urge upon Parliament and the Government of India to strongly condemn this anti-national activity of the extremist and secessionist forces operating in the North - East. I also call upon the Central Government to extend all out help to the State Governments of the region in their bid to combat the extremists and spoil their nefarious activities.

[Translation]

SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH (Mujaffarnagar) : I while endorsing the views put forth by the Hon. Member on the Employment Assurance Scheme, take this debate ahead. Though the funds are made available for providing employment but it is not possible to provide employment due to prevailing corruption in this scheme. In fact, this scheme is the mother of all corruption. The district administration has to carry out several government works, therefore it is not able to provide funds for developmental works. The Government's failure in providing funds in time also gives way for large scale corruption. More than half of the funds earmarked for this scheme goes into the coffers of the Government officers. Therefore, through you I would earnestly request the Government that the funds allocated by the Union Government under this scheme should be spent with the approval of the local M.P the guidelines laid down in regard should be adhered to.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I would request you to issue directives to the Government in this regard.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now it is Shri Ramshakal Ji turn to speak.....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMSHAKAL (Robertsganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, large scale bunglings have been committed in whatever schemes have been launched by the Government of India in the rural areas in my Constituency, Robertsganj. The officers have been involved on large scale corruption in these schemes. The labourers working on the works being undertaken in the district under the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana, ten lakh Wells Scheme and Assured Employment Scheme are not even been being paid full wages at the rate of

Rs. 47 per day. The funds allocated for the ten lakh well scheme are being looted in collusion with officers and contractors people's representative does not know even how much amount was received by the district under the Assured Employment Scheme and the Schemes on which for said amount was spent. All work is being done on paper. Therefore I would like to request the Union Government through you that a technical inquiry should be get conducted into the works being carried out under various schemes and the labourers working on these schemes should be given proper wages through the District Collector.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramvilas Vedanti. Shri Ramvilas Vedanti

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your name has been called twice. Yours is the case of railways. Please speak on the railway budget.

The leader of the House should sit in his allotted seat. It would be better if the leader of the House sits in his allotted seat.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, how callous is the attitude of the Union Government towards the States where there are the Governments of the opposition parties. I would like to give an example of Uttar Pradesh in this context.

Kanpur, has a population of 40 lakh, there has been an acute shortage of drinking water. In the tenth Lok Sabha, after a great deal of efforts, the then Union Water Resources Minister the Hon. Vidayacharan Shukla visited Kanpur on January 20, 1994 and sanctioned the scheme of constructing a barrage across the Ganges. 50 per cent of the expenditure thereon was to be borne by the Union Government and the remaining 50 per cent by the State Government. There were three objectives of this barrage. One was constructing a barrage on the river, the estimated cost to be incurred thereon was Rs.173 crore .....(Interruptions)

MR. CHARIMAN : Vedantiji, you please take your seat. Your name was called twice but you were not there. Now you will get a chance after pappu Yadavji.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : A scheme was formulated by the Jal Nigam to solve the drinking water problem of Kanpur on which a sum of Rs. 60 crore was to be incurred. In the aggregate it was a scheme of Rs. 233 crore. And this burden was to be borne by the Union Government and the State Government on 50-50 per cent basis. In the first phase the Union Government provided only Rs. 4 crore and whereas the State Government has spent Rs. 24.24 crore so far but the share of the Union Government has not been received as a result of which a question mark has been put on the fate of this barrage which is being constructed by the Irrigation Department