

of Mahatma Gandhi was damaged in Sitapur. When all this was objected to by the workers of Samajwadi party, they were booked under the Harijan Act. The awards instituted by Hindi Sahitya Sammelon after the names of Gandhi Ji and Dr. Lohia ...*(Interruptions)* The present Government has discontinued those awards also.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude Shri Brij Bhushan Tiwari. It is enough.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: The manner is which the present state Government is functioning ...*(Interruptions)* This is their infighting and these people want to shield the state Government. They once again want to incite all around disturbances in Uttar Pradesh in the same manner and style in which they unleashed and provoked violence in the whole country after the demolition of Babri Masjid by them ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, I want to raise my issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, you have already raised the same issue twice.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have not raised this before.

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised it on 4th and 5th.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have not raised this issue ever before. Please allow me to raise it now.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, please.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, after the judgement of Supreme Court of 26th December, 1996 for closing down 1,200 industrial units in and around Delhi, a serious situation has arisen there.

12.39 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair)

As a result of this closure, more than two lakh workers have been affected. There are about 35,000 industrial units in Delhi. Due to all this, a large number of industrial units also will be affected. In this, more than 10 lakhs workers will be affected.

The families of these two lakh workers are in starvation. There have also been some cases of self-immolation by the workers. This is a serious situation. I demand that the Government of India should enact legislation to nullify the judgement delivered by the Supreme Court. The units which shift to sites beyond commutable distance from Delhi should be treated as closed and the workers of these factories should get an additional compensation equivalent to six

years' wages. There are a large number of workers who are casual workers. Even those who have completed more than 240 days are still being treated as casual workers. They should also get an equivalent amount of compensation. According to the order given by the Supreme Court, six years' salary should be given to these workers. A large number of workers have been affected because of the Supreme Court judgement.

I urge upon the Government that a legislation should be enacted to nullify that judgement so that the workers are not affected and are not rendered jobless. There will be a strike on 11th August. They demand that the Government of India should enact a legislation to nullify the judgement because it is the case of a large number of workers. The Government should consider it and see that these workers are not uprooted and proper rehabilitation is done. There are vested interests who will be using this judgement to close down a large number of industries to utilise the land also. In order to prevent that there is a need to do something for the rehabilitation of a large number of workers and to help them.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (BALLIA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Basu Deb Acharia has raised a very important matter. The Supreme Court has directed in its judgement to shift 85 industries from Delhi. In this judgement the Court has said that these industries would be shifted not to some distant places but to such sites where from workers can commute conveniently. So far as I think, people can commute upto a distance of 60 kms. conveniently but a large number of industries are either being shifted to very far off sites or the industrialists are not interested in shifting these units on one pretext or the other. The workers have been suffering on that account for the last several months. Last year, one of the workers had gone to the extent of self-immolation. Families of workers of these industries have been suffering a lot as the workers have been rendered jobless which is causing a feeling of resentment among them. Nobody is listening their woes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not agree with Shri Basu Deb Acharia that a legislation should be enacted to nullify the judgement of the Supreme Court regarding shifting of the industries causing damage to the environment. However all the facilities that he has demanded for the workers and employees are quite justified. Shri Basu Deb Acharia has rightly said that if these industries are being shifted to distant sites. The employees of these industries should be given six years salary, every care should be taken to see that these employees are not forced to lose their jobs. They are facing a lot of problem in Delhi. It will create Law and order problem in Delhi if they have no hope and they are dejected and it will be a great tragedy from the humanistic point of view if the Government do not provide them every possible help as Mr. Basu Deb Acharia has also appealed ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (AGRA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice regarding the

Essential Commodities Act. Today in Delhi; thousands of people including a large number of traders are protesting against the decision of the Government to keep this Act valid for a period of five years. They are staging demonstration. The Hon. Minister had said that this act would remain in force for one year but now the Bill moved in this House provides that it shall remain valid for a period of Five Years which is detrimental to the interests of the traders community of the country. All this is being done in spite of the Assurances given by the hon. Minister ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given the notice ...*(Interruptions)* Thousands of traders are staging demonstration outside the Parliament House ...*(Interruptions)* This draconian Law should be withdrawn... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (JHANSI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, traders are staging demonstration in Delhi against the sections 3/7 of the Essential Commodities Act. This is a draconian law and it is causing discontentment among the traders ...*(Interruptions)* Traders are facing a lot of difficulties in their business ...*(Interruptions)*. Consumers are also facing a lot of problems ...*(Interruptions)* Rawat ji has raised a very important point. ...*(Interruptions)* You please give him an opportunity to speak ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Sir, I will take only one minute.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in this regard, I have given a notice ...*(Interruptions)* Kindly listen to me. This law is being extended for a period of five years ...*(Interruptions)* The Government said that it would extend it for a period of one year even then it is being extended for a period of five years. It is a draconian law as it contains the provision of summary trial whereas the prosecution under this act should be initiated as per the general provisions of the law ...*(Interruptions)* Injustice is being done ...*(Interruptions)*. All the traders of the country are feeling aggrieved on that account. Initially this legislation was enacted for a period of fifteen years but now it is being extended for a period of another five years ...*(Interruptions)*. The period of fifteen years has already lapsed. By extending it further the Central Government is doing an act of injustice and deviating from its stand ...*(Interruptions)*. This Act is being extended for a period of another five years. Traders all over the country are unhappy with this ...*(Interruptions)* The Government is aware that when this legislation had been enacted there was shortage of foodgrains in the country. It was the hard work of the farmers community that brought about Green Revolution in the country. Even the workers made their all out efforts to increase production. However the Government is not checking their employees and officers who have been accepting bribe. Infact the traders are being harassed ...*(Interruptions)* This law is not at all required.

My second point is that in this regard there are provisions in the Indian Penal code and also in the Criminal Procedure Code ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Under the existing provisions we can effectively combat the menace of blackmarketing and punish a person indulging in such an act. But now the fundamental right to freedom to practise any trade or business as contained in the Constitution is being violated. The way the traders are being harassed and exploited by misinterpreting the rights given by the constitution, is wrong. This bill should be withdrawn. The Government should respect the feelings of the traders. That is what I would like to say in regard ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is present here ...*(Interruptions)*

Kindly ask him to say something in this regard ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is going on? Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir the Hon. Minister should give some assurance ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will allow you. What else do you want? Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (JAIPUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister should give some assurance in this regard.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please maintain decorum in the House. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all the traders will go on strike on 26th ...*(Interruptions)* the Government should take care of it. ...*(Interruptions)* the Government should think over it and withdraw this draconian law ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will allow you. What else do you want?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, a very important issue has been raised by Shri Basu Deb Acharia. I am thankful to Shri Chandra Shekhar for his very strong support.

I would request the Government to call a meeting of the Leaders of all the Parties to solve this problem. Apart from the question of Industrial development and the question of environment, human suffering is also there. For no fault of theirs, the workers are losing their jobs. They are being driven out to different places. How do we minimise their sufferings?

I know, we cannot directly nullify a judgement of the Supreme Court but we can change the circumstances on the basis of which that judgement was passed. Keeping in view the legal position and the Constitutional position, I think, a very serious consideration should be given by the Government. I implore them to call a meeting of all the Parties so that a solution can be found out.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (MUMBAI NORTH-WEST): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir while speaking on this issue I would like to say that all the workers have arrived here. They are saying that they have been duped because the industries are set up at a distance of 400-500 kilometers from their present sites and the workers are told that they would not get 6 years' salary because they have been transferred there and they should go there to join their duty. But when these workers, having filled up their forms, go to the actual site, they find there neither any industry, nor any land nor any building. That is how they are duped. This is a serious matter. What I want to say is that we should to settle this issue and come to a conclusion so that the workers do not suffer any more. The Government should honour the judgement of the Supreme Court. After all it is a matter that concerns the entire city of Delhi. As regards the gravity of the labourers problem it is not less in any way. The Government should therefore find some way out by delving deep on the issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let me say a few words.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please let me say something.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down now. Will you please sit down?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (AURANGABAD): Will you also please allow the members of my party to speak on it?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Right you yourself go on speaking.

[English]

Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (CHANDNI CHOWK-DELHI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is an issue that concerns Delhi I may be allowed to speak just for one minute ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This issue concerns not the city of Delhi alone but the entire country.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: I have raised this issue several times that is why I request you to give me only one minute to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Every body will speak on this issue. What should I do?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am saying on behalf of all of you.

[English]

The whole House is agitated over this issue. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: The way he ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am saying on behalf of the whole House.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am sorry.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The whole House is agitated over this issue. I shall request the Government to take a serious notice of this and find a way out.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): Sir, I can only assure one thing. As suggested by Shri Somnath Chatterjee, a meeting of all the party leaders can be

*Not Recorded

organised to discuss this issue because this has arisen because of the decision of the Supreme Court; and in that all party meeting of leaders, the Government will not hesitate to discuss this issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Thank you. Shri Ram Naik.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (MUMBAI NORTH): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the famous scam of Chaitan Ram Bhansali i.e. C.R.B. capitals. Common man, the small investors have lost Rs. 1200 crores by way of investment in the C.R.B. Capital who so ever is responsible for it whether it is SEBI or the Reserve Bank or the Ministry of Finance each one of them is blaming the other for that. It is just passing on the buck. Presently there are about 37,000 non-banking financial companies working in the country. Today itself it has been stated in a reply during the question Hour that 10 million thousand crore people have invested in them. In that regard one scam has come to surface.

But SEBI has not properly discharged its duty in this case. The Reserve Bank had granted their permission in principle to establish a global bank. Now when the whole scam has come to light the Ministry of Finance. The Finance Minister is present here, so he may please pay attention that his Department has given exemption for Esteem bond on March 15, 1997. Earlier we used to say that

[English]

In Government, the right hand is not knowing what the left hand is doing

[Translation]

but now we have come to a situation when one finger does not know as to what is being done by the other finger of that very hand.

We met the Prime Minister twice regarding this matter. A delegation of M.Ps from Mumbai met him. The Prime Minister had given an assurance that he would look into the matter. We put forth three demands. While telling about the first one we told him that the lessons were derived from the security scam but

[English]

those lessons have not been learnt by the Government.

[Translation]

In the earlier scam a bank had been involved but in this scam, small investors have been entrapped. Therefore, a Joint Parliamentary Committee might be constituted to probe into the C.R.B. Capital Scam. At that time the Prime Minister had said

[English]

"I am not averse to such a Committee"

[Translation]

Therefore, I demand that a Joint Parliamentary Committee be constituted to look into this matter. Secondly as per the existing provisions of law, the bankrupt party before going into actual liquidation, has to pay at first the Government dues. It, being so the small investors will not get anything. Therefore my second demand is that out of the money realised from the CRB Capital through the liquidator, payment should be made first to the small investors and then to anybody else. Care should also be taken to ensure that there is no recurrence of this type of incident and to achieve that end it may be ensured that out of the total amount of deposit kept in all such non-financial banking companies, at least an amount upto Rupees two lacs should be kept as an insured amount in the same way as it is done in case of Bank deposits. This is my demand and as the Prime Minister is not present in the House I would like to know as to what action is proposed to be taken by the Finance Minister in this matter. He may kindly apprise the House about it ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance is here. He may say something about this matter ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): I have taken note of it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has said that he has taken note of it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Please stand a while to speak so that the entire House may come to know about it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has stated.

SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ: I have noted down your points.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (PATNA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the flood situation in several districts of Bihar State.

Recently, almost every area in Bihar state experienced floods due to heavy rains and farmers had to face a lot of difficulties and losses. Patna, Darbhanga, Madhubani, Katihar and Supaul are the places where the floods wreak havoc every year. I went to meet the hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture as well, in order to draw their attention towards this problem.

Bihar has suffered a loss of crops worth crores of rupees due to floods. You are requested to provide assistance to compensate that. But as per my knowledge, so far nothing concrete has been done by the Govt. in this direction and as a result, the farmers are facing a lot of difficulties. The seeds, which were sown, have been