

was constructed with the donation provided by the society. Peace should be maintained in that area and action under court martial be taken against Army Cantonment. I want that the Government should give reply in this regard. The Government has not given any reply in this matter. The Government should give an assurance to this effect that the hon. Minister will take an action. This will pacify the people...*(interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (MURENA): Sir, the telephone lines of Shyopur Kalan which is located about 225 kms. away from my parliamentary constituency Murena are completely out of order. The people have to go to Sawai Madhopur to avail telephone facility. They feel a lot of inconvenience. I request the Central Government to take action to solve this problem. I would like to say that OFC facility provided in the area be linked with Sawai Madhopur of Rajasthan.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Very good. We want Members like him who take very less time in Zero Hour so that others also get chance to raise their issue.

SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH (BELLARY): Mr. Chairman, Sir, from today all the Steel Rerolling Mills in the secondary sector, that is, small and medium, in the country are closed indefinitely, throwing almost 12 to 13 lakhs of Labour Force out of job.

There is a crisis in the Steel Rerolling Industry in the country because of the notifications No. 22/97 to 27/97 and 42/97 to 45/97 dated 25.7.97 issued by the Central Board of Excise & Customs, Ministry of Finance with respect to the new method to pay the Excise Duty on Steel Rerolling Mills.

In India, there are around 1800 steel rerolling mills in the secondary sector, i.e., small and medium units employing approximately six lakh labourers directly and another six lakhs indirectly. They produce approximately six million tonnes of steel per annum.

The new modified system of excise duty collection is based on the production capacity of the rerolling mills and the formula prescribed by the Board gives the total production capacity as 50 million tonnes. Thus, the steel rerollers are asked to pay almost ten times of the actual duty payable by them, as per the defective formula notified by the Central Board of Excise and Customs without taking the realities into consideration.

Besides this, the notifications are affecting only the secondary sector, i.e., small and medium scale units and the main plants like SAIL, TATA, RSINL, IISCO and other Integrated steel plants in the private sector like Mukand etc. are left untouched, creating a disparity which is against natural justice.

I request the hon. Speaker to intervene....*(Interruptions)* The whole industry is in crisis. I would request the hon. Minister of State for Finance who is here to at least call

the representatives of the Rerollers Association and work out the capacity utilisation and resolve the crisis.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kondaiah, during Zero Hour, this is not the method to adopt. You could have taken resort to raise this matter under Rule 377.

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VARMA (JALAUN): Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards the proposal sent by the Uttar Pradesh Government for the development of the waste land. Nineteen district of the State have been included in the said proposal and Jhansi-Jalaun district is one of them. My parliamentary constituency Jhansi is an economically backward area. Most of the people are unemployed and living below the poverty line. Most of the areas of Bundelkhand are uneven and wasteland. This land needs to be developed for agricultural purposes. I request the Union Government that the proposed scheme for 1996-97 may be approved and the funds may be released so that the land of Bundelkhand are made fertile and the people may be benefited therefrom.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (SAMASTIPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards a very sensitive issue. A news item was published in the new magazine 'current News' of 30th July "Pak spy is working as an employee of the Ministry of Defence". Sir, there is nothing confidential in this matter as some persons employed in the Ministry of Defence have been apprehended on the charges of espionage. Three employees have been apprehended during the period from 1st January 1995 to 30th June 1997. The disciplinary action has been initiated against one of them and he has been kept in the custody of the Army but only disciplinary action has been taken against the other two employees.

Similarly, Delhi Police arrested 6 persons on the charge of espionage for Pakistan. Among them the two employees were from Intelligence Bureau, three employees were civilian staff of the Defence Ministry and one was businessman. In April, 1997 the Rajasthan Police arrested a constable posted at Jaisalmer Sir, this is a very serious matter. Pakistan is running the espionage activity in the country in three ways. Their way of conducting espionage activity is to infiltrate ISI agents into the Indian territory through Nepal under different names and await the riots to break out by creating rumours.

13.00 hrs.

The second way is that they enter into those sensitive areas which are already disturbed. The extremists give them money and arms. The third way is that they persuade the employee of the Ministries of External Affairs, Defence and Home Affairs to indulge in espionage. It is very surprising to note that the employees of these Ministries entertain them just for the sake of a bottle of wine and a few thousand rupees. About ten thousand people have died due to extremist activities. With these words I conclude...*Interruptions*