[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : I am raising a point of order under Rule 376...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There should be some decorum in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Please at least listen my point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes tell me what do you want to speak.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir. my submission is that those Members. who gave notices during the Zero Hour but could not get an opportunity to read out their notices. they were told that they would be given a chance today. My submission is that we may be given a chance today.

13.07 hrs.

(Mr. Speaker *in the Chair*)

Sir. Yesterday you gave a ruling that the Members who gave notices yesterday during the Zero Hour but could not get a chance to speak. they all would be given a chance on the next day. i e. today. I got only one chance during the entire session. I did not get a chance to speak during the discussion under Rule 377 as well. so today a chance should be given to us.

MR. SPEAKER : Then what will you do?

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : I want your patronage. I may be given a chance.

MR. SPEAKER : What I may do?

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : You please give me a chance.

MR. SPEAKER : You may extend the duration of the House I have no objection to that. I am prepared to sit even for 10-15-20 moredays

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Hon'ble Speaker. Sir. Yesterday you gave such ruling. that is why I am making a request to you...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Before we take up the Calling Attention. the Prime Minister has to make a statement. He has got some appointment.

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* Not Recorded.

13.07½ hrs.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

Decision to Celebrate the Birth Centenary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA) : Hon. Speaker. Sir. recently. concern has been expressed in this House as well as outside about the celebration of birth centenary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Let me first of all dispel all doubts in this regard. The Government of India had set up. as far back as in November. 1995. a National Committee under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister to celebrate the birth centenary of Netaji in a befitting manner.

The National Committee met on 5th December. 1995 and decided that the celebrations would commence on 23rd January. 1997 and continue for one year thereafter. The National Committee had also constituted a Sub-Committee and had entrusted to it the task of preparing an action plan for the celebrations. This Sub-Committee met on 25th October. 1996 and formulated programmes for the inaugural function on 23rd January. 1997 as well as during the centenary year. I also met the Floor Leaders of both the Houses of Parliament on 9th December. 1996 to discuss the manner in which we should celebrate this event. The Sub-Committee is giving a final shape to the programmes and activities of the centenary year in the light of the suggestions received.

I would like to inform the hon. Members that the Government shall do its utmost to make the birth centenary celebrations of Netaji. in cooperation with the people of India. a memorable event of our national life befitting the great and momentous contribution made by Netaji to our freedom struggle. Netaji enjoys great respect and affection amongst the people of India from all parts and the celebration would be designed to reflect this in full measure.

There is a suggestion that 23rd January should be declared Rashtriya Sewa Divas (National Service day) or Rashtriya Shourya Divas (National Day of Courage) on the pattern of Children's Day (14th November) and Teachers' Day (5th September). We shall welcome more suggestions in this regard so that the birth day of Netaji is commemorated by posterity in a befitting manner.

It is proposed to declare 23rd January, 1997, the day of the commencement of the centenary celebrations, an administrative holiday and to have an inaugural function on that day at the Red Fort. A commemorative stamp on Netaji will also be released in that function.