

**(iii) Need for Early Probe into illicit traffic in Indian antiques by London-based art auction house**

[*English*]

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (JORHAT): Sir, the recent revelations that the world famous London-based art auction house of Sotheby's is involved in illicit traffic in Indian antiques are terribly shocking and shows to what an extent culture is commercialised.

What is tragic is that had there been no exposé by Mr. Peter Watson in his book "Sotheby's; Inside story" followed by the Times newspaper's serialisation and the B.B.C. Channel 4 documentary on the sale of smuggled pieces giving the names of the art dealers of Mumbai and even recording their voices how they sold the art objects clandestinely, supported by Sotheby's internal documents, this cultural plunder would not have shocked the conscience of the people of the world and would have petered out to a tame complaint voiced occasionally by the Archaeological Survey of India (A.S.I.). For, such complaints, not supported by any firm evidence, date back to 1986, if not earlier. Since no follow up action was taken in the wake of the rule that export of items more than one hundred years old was banned from India, Indian artifacts sneaked into the hands of acquisitive curators, rapacious collectors and thieving art dealers. It is shameful that those racketeers are our own people. Not only that, there is an allegation that diplomatic bags or the diplomats are also conduits for this antique smuggling.

I urge upon the Government to hold a probe into this racket as promptly as done by the trade and commerce department of British Government in the wake of these revelations in the United Kingdom.

**(iv) Need to Release more funds for providing relief to the people affected by acute drought in Orissa**

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU (CUTTACK): Sir, there is acute drought situation in Orissa. The matter was discussed in the Parliament during the third session. Hon. Agriculture Minister and the hon. Prime Minister promised to release Rs. 220 crore to ameliorate the conditions of the affected people. Unfortunately, only Rs. 13 crore were released and that too from the Relief Fund.

In the meanwhile the harvesting has been over and it has been found that 28 out of 30 districts of Orissa have sustained become cropless ranging from 50 to 74 per cent, 28,953 villages are affected by drought. The immediate requirement is provision of drinking water, employment to the affected people and sanction of short-term loans in the Agriculture sector. Government of India may take immediate steps for release of Rs. 187 crore under the E.A.S. Scheme and for short-terms assistance to the affected villages.

**(v) Need to Improve the Functioning of Telephones In Rural Areas, Particularly In Sunderbans Area, West Bengal**

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (JOYNAGAR): Sir, it

is a matter of deep concern that while Government in its anxiety to improve the living conditions in the rural areas, particularly where *Gram Panchayats* are working, introduced with much enthusiasm the Multi Access Rural Radio system (MARR). Unfortunately the Department of Telecommunications and its functionaries in the States could not ensure that this line of communication was efficiently maintained. In my constituency, Sunderbans area in West Bengal, which is renowned for its unique flora and fauna and bio-diversity, the whole system is in utter shambles. My area falls under Canning and GOSABA Telephone exchanges and I am revealing a very startling situation that telephones in most of the *Gram Panchayats* are dead since June, 1995. It is a pity that it is nobody's concern.

I request the hon. Minister of Communications to take note of this alarming and somewhat fantastic situation and ensure that telephones in *Gram Panchayats* not only in my constituency but also all over the country are well-maintained and any faults in their functioning should be eradicated immediately and these should be restored to normal working conditions, so that this paradoxical situation is barked down once for all.

**(vi) Need to Connect Azamgarh in U.P. By Direct Train Service with other Important Cities**

[*Translation*]

DR. BALIRAM (LALGANJ): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir I wish to draw attention of the Government through you, towards District Azamgarh of Uttar Pradesh. The people of this District are settled in Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai, Assam and even abroad but these people have to face lot of difficulties due to lack of any direct rail services to Azamgarh. This is one of the main reasons for its backwardness. Local people and the public representatives of this area had been demanding since long that narrow line of Shahganj-Azamgarh-Mhow should be converted into a broad gauge line by the department of Railways. This work has already been completed but no rail service has been introduced on this line from Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Lucknow.

I, therefore, urge the central Government a long route Mail and Express train Services be introduced from Delhi, Mumbai, Lucknow etc. for District Azamgarh so as to solve the problems of the people of this area.

**(vii) Need to take over Nagapattinam Port in Tamil Nadu and to Develop it as a Major Port**

[*English*]

SHRI M. SELVARASU (NAGAPATTINAM): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I raise the following matter under Rule 377.

The Nagapattinam port is one of the ancient and historical ports built by the Dutch. The export of leather, salt, dry fish and the import of onion, cement etc. were being carried out through this port. Lakhs of NRI citizens of Singapore, Malaysia and Burma visit their families in the adjoining districts. They used to visit India by sea which is their cheapest mode of transport.

[SHRI M. SELVARASU]

In 1988, the movement of ships was stopped and the activities in the port came to a grinding halt depriving thousands of people of their livelihood. Lakhs of people were directly or indirectly affected due to the closure of the port.

I like to mention here that the port already has the basic infrastructure necessary for a port. It has light house, warehouse, Customs office and railway network. The proposal to revive the port has already been supported by the State Government. So, I request the Union Government to take over the port and declare it as a major port.

The operation of cargo as well as passenger ships should be started and a unit of Dredging Corporation should be set up.

14.59 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS...CONTD...

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we take up motion of thanks on the President's Address.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (OUTER DELHI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Yesterday I placed some points before you. Without taking much time I shall make a few more submissions in brief. The Prime Minister of the Present Government is being perceived as a Prime Minister of promises. He makes too many promises which he may not fulfil. He never feels miserly to make promises but his action does not give any indication that he is serious about the promises. For example, he made an announcement from the rampart of the Red Fort that a separate State of Uttarakhand be created. The same thing he said at the time of electioneering in Uttar Pradesh. But neither any Bill has been brought nor any effort has been made by him in this regard.

15.00 hrs.

There was a newspaper report that during the last 8 months he made as many as 8,000 promises. We do not know the exact number, but it is my sincere advice to him that he should not make promises and if he makes he should fulfil them. This will increase the credibility of his Government. One more thing that, I would like to bring to the notice of his Government is about Delhi. Delhi has been given a legislative Assembly. The strange thing is that, now it is neither a Union Territory nor does it enjoy the powers of a full State. In the entire country there is hardly any other State which has no control on land or law and order. A State can not function without law and order under its control. We have heard about landless labour, but not landless Government. There is a Government; but it has

no right on land. There are small States in the country which consist of 5 to 7 lakh population, but they have been given the status of full statehood. So I feel that, the Government should enact a new Act in respect of Delhi and it should essentially be given the status of full statehood. Till such time law and order is placed at its disposal, it will be difficult for the Government to effect full control.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many a thing has been said and we were branded communalists. If a Government is constituted in violation of the constitutional provision, what should it be called? Under the directive principles of State Policy Article 48 of the Constitution states that the State shall endeavour to organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and shall, in particular, take steps for preserving and improving the breeds and prohibiting the slaughter, of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle. Till such time these provisions continue to remain under directive principles, Cow slaughter will continue in one or the other state. I therefore, demand that the Government should enact a Central Act for this purpose and put a ban on cow slaughter. If making a demand to put a ban on cow slaughter in this country is communal, I cannot help without farmer, cow and ox, we cannot move. While Article 48 makes the above stipulations, Article 44 speaks of a uniform civil code for the entire country. The Government goes to the extent of speaking against Article 44. It may be Article 48 or 44, if the Government or the members of treasury bench speak against these provisions, what should we call it? The 42nd amendment was made in 1976. This amendment and the preamble of this Constitution state that the country will be a secular and socialistic country. Words like unity and integrity were added to it. The provisions of socialism and secularism incorporated in the preamble in 1976 have not so far applied to Jammu and Kashmir. Is Jammu and Kashmir a separate state? Is it not a part of this country? Don't we need secularism there? This type of situation is being created. It is the duty of the Government to abide by the constitutional provisions and get them implemented. It does not believe to the Government to speak against the constitution or to disrespect it.

Under Chapter-IV, Article 51(a) of the Constitution states that it will be the duty of every citizen of India to abide by the constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem. If the Government disrespects it or does not abide by its provisions, what should we do? In a democratic set up, there can be no argument for violation of the constitution by the people who are at the helm of affairs. You will also agree that it is not good for any one.

Sir, I will conclude after making few more submissions. A lot of things have been said in the Address about poors. As I have said earlier that the situation of 1971 is being repeated and crocodile's tears are being shed for the poors. In this regards I would like to state here the feelings expressed by the poor people. They say that you have shed enough tears for them but now leave them to their