

pocketed by the officers in connivance with the politicians...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned till 2 p.m.

12.59 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.07 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Seven minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(SHRI NITISH KUMAR *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we want to raise the matter in regard to Bihar...*(Interruptions)* We are making efforts for that matter for the last three years.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already moved to the next item, that is, Matters under Rule 377.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The proceedings of the House will not continue like this. You did not utilize properly the time given to you earlier.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The proceedings of the House cannot continue like this. Now you try to raise this matter next day.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The speech of Sonkerji will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

14.08 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Mohammad Ali Ashraf Fatmi and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.*

\* Not Recorded

14.08 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Sukh Ram and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : First you go to your respective seats. Whether it is graceful for you to come to the well.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : First you take your respective seats and then you submit your point.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : I am raising a point of order...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is raising a point of order.

*(Interruptions)*

14.09 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Mohammad Ali Ashraf Fatmi and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.*

14.09 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Sukh Ram and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I would like to raise a point which is neither in favour nor against any party. In the whole country what...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You let him speak.

[English]

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN (Kangra) : No, Sir, we will not allow this. We are not on 356 at this moment. Himachal Pradesh is suffering...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You listen to the point of order, please. He wants to raise it.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : What can you say without hearing the point of order?

AN HON. MEMBER : It is zero hour...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not zero hour.

[English]

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN : Sir, we are raising a matter of urgent public importance.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the Zero Hour is over.

[Translation]

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN : We do not accept it. Five hundred persons have died in Himachal Pradesh. You are considering it a minor thing...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN : Five hundred persons have died there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You people please sit down for a minute. Ram Naikji is speaking something.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Chairman, Sir, if by any reason...

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN : Sir, why are you giving the chance to them. Why are you not allowing us to speak?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whether there is any such rule that only you can speak, no other can speak? You tell such rule that only you will be given the chance. If you want to say your point, you first please sit down. Ram Naikji is saying something.

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN : Five hundred persons have died there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you want to submit your point, then first you sit down please. Listen to Ram Naik ji.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I suggest that some members were to speak and could not get chance. Now tomorrow is the last day. There may be two points. I know this also that supplementary demands are important, these should be completed. The other suggestion is that the members who have given notices, should be given a chance to speak in the Zero Hour of tomorrow then they will conclude their point...*(Interruptions)* Otherwise if you give the chance to any member to speak today, then the other will say that why he was not given the chance. In this reference, I submit that if you give an assurance to this effect that all the members would be allowed to speak, then the point could be concluded...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You sit down please for a minute. You are speaking like this but nothing is going on record. You are speaking; they are speaking. All are speaking. Hence, nothing will go on record. First you listen to them please.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Therefore, I was saying that when Mr. George was speaking you please ensure that it is to be concluded, you decide it. So far as the Zero Hour is concerned, I know that yesterday also such things happened, today also it is going on then the members cannot raise their points during the Zero Hour. Tomorrow is the last day, you have to decide as to how to deal with the Zero Hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There may be one thing that the members who have given notices today for Zero Hour may be treated for tomorrow and all the members should

raise their points tomorrow. The Government business is listed for today, let it continue. It is possible.

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN : Five hundred persons have died there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If this matter will be raised tomorrow, heaven is not going to fall.

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN : Please don't take it as a routine matter. Natural Calamities have occurred.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should realise the difficulties of the House. Please listen first. Fatmiji, you are going on speaking. Now, it is the Government business which is to be discussed. We have to pass the supplementary budget. You first decide whether you want to pass the supplementary budget or you want to continue with Zero Hour. You know very well that the supplementary demands are sent to Rajya Sabha after these are passed in this House. Therefore, you can raise the matter tomorrow and let the Government business be conducted. Your notices will be taken up tomorrow.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : If you allow one person, you will have to allow others too. Therefore, it should be taken up tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Therefore, my suggestion is that if I allow him then I will have to allow others too and first of all I will have to allow George Saheb as he has not completed his speech. Now, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi has raised the point of order. It will not go like this.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Shimla) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, do you not like to listen to us?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The notice relates to Zero Hour. It is better, you raise it tomorrow and allow the Government business today.

14.14 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri K.D. Sultanpuri and some other hon. Members came and stood near the table.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am unable to hear anything from here.

14.15 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri K.D. Sultanpuri and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Under certain special circumstances, I am allowing to raise the matter of floods in Himachal...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should decide in this regard.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Himachal will be heard first and Bihar will come next...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then, everybody will have to be allowed.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please you sit down. If everybody has to be heard, then Shri George Fernandes should continue and complete his speech first and thereafter, others should speak. I had suggested to take up the matter tomorrow. Now, all of you want to speak. So, if all of you want to speak, then he will speak first who was speaking.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not proper to speak standing in the aisle. Please go to your seat. You should not follow others.

*[English]*

You had been a Police Commissioner.

*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Sir, there are many important issues. The hon. Members are interested in raising those points, including the flash flood that has killed more than a hundred persons in Himachal Pradesh. We are all concerned about that. Also, Shri George Fernandes and other Members want to raise certain issues. But the point is that the Government business, that is, the Supplementary Budget has to be passed today, or else it cannot go to the other House. We have hardly any time. Therefore, I only request you to please look into the Government business first and then whatever issues are there, those can be raised tomorrow. Only on Himachal issue you can listen to him....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : But nobody is prepared to listen.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : This is the predicament, Sir. Therefore, I request all the Members to raise these issues tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You request your Members. Nobody is willing to accept your suggestion.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : We just want to know that what is the result of the inquiry conducted by CBI...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You too, please accede to my one request. I would like to say to Sukh Ramji that now the Minister has responded to the point. The whole country has come to know that you wanted to raise the issue of Himachal. You may raise it tomorrow in detail. All the other matters may also be raised tomorrow. Let us complete the Government business today.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you speak tomorrow, then what will happen?

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, I assure the House that on the Himachal issue...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : I have given an adjournment notice...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Government should make a statement regarding the whole situation of flash flood in Himachal causing heavy loss of lives and property there. Now, it is O.K.

*[English]*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Yes, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : All the matters for which notices have been given including the matter raised by Shri George Fernandes, will be taken up tomorrow and today's notices will remain admitted for tomorrow. Now, matters under rule 377 will be taken up.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, it is twenty minutes past two and the budget has to be passed and thereafter, it will be sent to Rajya Sabha. Therefore, it is not proper to keep on speaking you may raise this issue tomorrow.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please raise it tomorrow, All have spoken all the things. Now do it tomorrow. Now, please you take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Raise all these things tomorrow only, why you people are standing, statement of the Government is coming. Whether you want to speak just for the sake of speaking or you have any demand.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are trying to speak for the sake of speaking.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you can speak.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is not of two minutes. The main thing is that everybody wants to speak. This is not a question of Bihar only. All the Members wish to express their concern about it. If any one gets this opportunity then everyone will have to get the time.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whether all the members belonging to Bihar will come to the well of the House, but this is not the question of Bihar only. All the members will raise questions pertaining to their respective states. This is not the question of Bihar only.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, you please sit down first. We have a proposal, please listen. I request, you please listen it or otherwise...

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you give a patient hearing or not?

*(Interruptions)*

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have given a notice of adjournment for imposing President's rule in Bihar. This is on priority. You should take it first...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : In which Court you were the justice? You please sit down, this is clear that if you want to raise this issue there is a wayout in this regard. The Budget business of the Government is quite important. You pass it without any discussion and thereafter, whatever issue you want to raise you can raise it.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : If there is consensus in the House then this can be done. You please sit down, this can be discussed tomorrow. Otherwise, this is quite important business from the Government point of view, this is to be taken up in Rajya Sabha also. You can not stall the business of the House like this just for a question. You will have to cooperate. If you want to say something about it, then the Government is also bound to complete this business. Therefore, either you pass this business without any discussion or I would like to have your opinion on it.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, it is not the matter of two minutes, it will take an hour. Mr. George Fernandes is on his legs. Thereafter, Lodhaji will speak, Shri P.R.

Dasmunsi will speak, you people too want to speak, everybody wants to speak. Therefore, it will take time. You any how get the House agree first, get this Government business passed and speak thereafter.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please listen to his suggestions.

*[English]*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Sir, I have a suggestion to make...*(Interruptions)* Please listen to the Members from Himachal Pradesh for two minutes...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your suggestions?

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : My suggestion is that you hear for two minutes the Himachal MPs, two minutes RJD Members and two minutes Shri George Fernandes...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not the question of listening them for two minutes.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, I am not saying that. I am saying that either you hear them and then start Supplementary Demands or you take the opinion of the House to finish the Supplementary Demands and assure us that today, we will be permitted to take up the issue after the Supplementary Demands are passed.

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you all are of this opinion then this is my suggestion too.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL (Monghyr) : If you allow him, then we will also speak. We should also get a chance to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : On Himachal issue, the Government have also expressed its opinion and the chair has also issued direction to the Government for making a statement in this regard, therefore, you want to raise this matter just for the sake of raising it.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I shall everybody. Please take your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nobody is listening to me.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can raise it in the House tomorrow itself. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is also requesting for it. All these things are going on, even then you are not ready to listen it. You can even raise this issue tomorrow-what is the problem?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Government will also make a statement on the issue of floods in Himachal.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please listen to me and raise this matter tomorrow. Let us now take up matters under Rule 377. You please raise this matter tomorrow.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am requesting you to take up this matter tomorrow. All your notices will be valid even for tomorrow. All the Hon. Members should raise this issue tomorrow. What is the problem in it? Those who have given notices for zero hour, they too will be valid for tomorrow. Those who have not given notice, can also give notice. Therefore, all such notices and the notices fixed for today will also come up.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) : We have been giving notices for the last several days...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, you please cooperate with the Chair. Fatmi Saheb, Ram Kripal ji, you all are senior members. We have talked a lot.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Believe me, this cannot be done. It will atleast take two hours because everybody wants to speak. How it is possible? This is not possible. You can take up this matter tomorrow.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : You may listen only to Himachal tragedy.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You perhaps don't know. This is not a matter to be discussed in just two minutes. It will take two hours.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, it is a human tragedy ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

You perhaps don't know about Himachal's tragedy. 500 people have been killed there...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will take up this tomorrow.

(Interruptions)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the High Court has made a remark on Bihar affairs that President's rule should be imposed there...(Interruptions). Home Minister should make a statement in this regard...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will take up this matter to tomorrow.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The leader of the House is sitting here. Whatever question you want to raise, can be raised tomorrow.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Please listen to us. Our leader wants to give only some suggestions ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please listen to the Minister.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I respectfully submit that there are...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : A human tragedy has taken place in Himachal Pradesh. Should it not be heard in the House? 500 people have died. So, they should be allowed to speak.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then you conduct the House. If the matter of allowing him is raised, then everybody will have to be allowed. Dasmunsi ji, are you thinking that this House is not willing to hear regarding tragedy occurred in Himachal Pradesh. The Minister has responded only after understanding the gravity of the tragedy occurred and the Chairman has directed the Government to make a statement in this regard. Then, you want to speak only for the purpose of speaking.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I am sorry to say that a Member of Parliament who represents his constituency has a right to speak. So, you cannot any like that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are a senior Member. You are creating problems.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Everybody wants to speak. What can be done?

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have a suggestion to make...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please hear the Finance Minister.  
*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, human tragedy has a precedence over all the other things.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are right. But let us hear the Finance Minister.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, let me make a suggestion. I am not trying to say anything which others have not felt or said. My humble suggestion is, please give 10 minutes or so for the Members of Parliament from Himachal Pradesh first to say something about the tragedy there. Then, please dispose of the Demands for Supplementary Grants within about 45 minutes or so thereafter and after that, please allow anyone to raise anything that he likes. I appeal to all the hon. Members to cooperate

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Chairman, we have no objection to raise the issue pertaining to Himachal Pradesh, but how the supplementary grants will be cleared in just 45 minutes?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It will not happen like this. The Budget discussions will be taken up after raising the issue pertaining to Himachal Pradesh. After this, if you want, you can raise rest of the issues in the remaining time. It will be done like this.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It will not be taken up now. Why are you so much restless?

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Heavens won't fall if this matter is raised on hour later after taking the Government business.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are grateful to Shri Chidambaram who has solved the problem.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA (Mumbai South) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have also given notice. Please give us an opportunity to speak after raising the Himachal Pradesh issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No other issue will be taken after the issue pertaining to Himachal Pradesh.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me find some way out.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : How many times it should be told as to when this issue would be taken up?

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN : Sir, we are grateful both to Shri Chidambaram and the other Minister who had responded. I should also thank Shri Dasmunsi, the whole House and you for having given us time to raise the issue.

Sir, the whole of Himachal Pradesh is in great anguish and agony. The whole State of Himachal Pradesh has been submerged in water. There was a cloud burst and it is reported that about 500 people have perished. This is the minimum number that I put. The number of people who have died could be more. The Government buildings and many villages have been washed away in flood. A lot of trucks and buses have also been washed away and there is no communication left there. Similarly, all foodstuffs have been washed out. Our problem is, how will the State Government respond. Last year, they gave a memorandum to the Government asking for financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 400 crore. The Central team had gone there. They enjoyed the hospitality in Himachal Pradesh, but not a single paisa was given. We are devastated by floods, but they will not give us any money. That is the problem. Last time, they estimated that Rs. 10 crore was to be given and they gave only Rs. 18 crore. They enjoyed our hospitality, but they did not give a single paisa.

*[Translation]*

What is the result, nil. We want some positive step should be taken in this regard.

*[English]*

Do not give us a lollypop, but give us genuine help. We are in tragedy, we are in agony. We are a small State. We are wiped out. In Chamba district, properties worth Rs. 25 crore have been lost. All the trains have stopped running. The National Highways have been washed away. We are away from the humanity. We are submerged in water. Please help us; the whole House should help us and the Government should respond sympathetically towards us.

[Translation]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Shimla) : Mr. Chairman, Sir. I want to say that Rahru is a place in my Shimla Constituency. This entire Tehsil has been submerged in water. At least 40 people have been washed away in river water there. Apart from this village approach roads have also been damaged at various places. National Highway is also in a very dilapidated condition. Road from Kalka to Kinnaur have submerged in water at different places. This has caused damage not only to Himachal Pradesh but it will also affect Punjab and Haryana. I would like to thank Chidambaram Sahib, and our beloved leader Shri P.R. Dasmunsi as also the members of this House, who have allowed us to raise this issue.

Mr. Chairman, I am also grateful to you that you have given us opportunity to speak by setting aside all the rules and norms. We have demanded Rs. 800 crores from the Government of India, but we have not been given even a single penny so far. I would like to say that Hon'ble Prime Minister should visit there and we will also accompany him. If it is not possible for him to go there, he may direct Chidambaramji or Parliamentary Affairs Minister to go there. We would like that he should personally go there take stock of the situation and send a team at the earliest, so that people there can get some relief. All the approach roads have blocked there. The Government should try to improve the situation there.

[English]

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN : Sir, I wish to add only one sentence that the hon. Prime Minister should visit Himachal Pradesh immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKH RAM (Mandi) : Mr. Chairman, the incident which took place in Himachal Pradesh has perhaps never occurred earlier in the history of this stage. Such a big tragedy has not occurred till date. As K.D. Sultanpuriji was saying, a large number of villages have been washed away in a river. All the villages have ruined. Nobody has survived. All the routes to Kinnaur district have been blocked. All the existing national highways and bridges there have been damaged. About 15-18 villages have completely ruined. Land sliding of a mountain and damaging of a road at one place, has taken a dam like shape over the river Satluj. Seven kilometers of area has submerged and has converted into a lake.

• 14.37 hrs.

(SHRI CHITTA BASU *in the Chair*)

There is no means of transport there. All the roads are lying blocked in Himachal Pradesh. There is no

traffic. Telephone is the only medium there through which information can be obtained. I got information at night that the situation in Kinnaur, Lahul spiti and Ladakh which is the highest desert is very grim. There are sandy mountains and only 2 1/2 inch rainfall is received there in a year, but due to heavy rainfall the situation has deteriorated there and information can be obtained only through telephone. On the basis of information received, 500 people have died, but there are many other places about which no information could be obtained. So many cow sheds have been ruined in flood and cattle heads have perished. Thousands of people have been rendered homeless. I want to tell you that when there was an earthquake at Sundarnagar under my constituency, Mandi, I had met the Prime Minister, but no assistance has been given by the Central Government. I want to bring this fact to the notice of all the hon'ble Members that Himachal Pradesh is passing through the financial crisis due to financial mismanagement. I do not think that as much amount or relief required for repairing the roads and as much...

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please speak about the incident only.

SHRI SUKH RAM : I do not think that Himachal Pradesh will be able to combat the tragedy occurred there unless it is provided financial assistance. I would, therefore, request the hon'ble Prime Minister and the Finance Minister, who is sitting here, to provide an amount of Rs. 2-3 crores to the State Government of Himachal Pradesh immediately so as to provide relief to the public there. Telephone is only one source through which complete information can be obtained ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Sir, I being the Incharge of Himachal Pradesh on behalf of my Party would like to express my viewpoint in this regard. Due to heavy rainfall in Shimla and Kinnaur districts of Himachal Pradesh and owing to the incident of cloud burst and due to devastating floods in Satluj and Andhra river, hundred of people have died. Thousands of people are missing and property and live stock worth crores of rupees have been damaged. The situation there is very dreadful.

Sir, the State Government of Himachal Pradesh is having very limited resources. Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to provide assistance to the flood victims and efforts should be made to obtain information about the persons who are missing.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Finance Minister has to respond to the discussion on Himachal Pradesh.

SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM : Government shares the anguish and concern of the hon. Members who raised

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

the issue about the flash floods in Himachal Pradesh. We send our deepest condolences and sympathies to the bereaved families, to those who have lost property and to those who have suffered. We stand by the Himachal Pradesh Government in its efforts to provide relief. I would request my colleague, the Minister for Agriculture under whom the subject natural calamity falls to immediately depute a team to Himachal Pradesh, as soon as the Himachal Pradesh Government is able to indicate to us either today or tomorrow, then they are ready to receive a team. Secondly, I will also convey to the Prime Minister the request of the hon. Members that immediate relief be granted and I am sure that by tomorrow, the Prime Minister will be able to announce immediate relief to Himachal Pradesh.

14.41½ hrs.

#### BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

##### Sixteenth Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : I beg to present the Sixteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us move to next item. We will take up statements under Rule 377.

14.42 hrs.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to ensure benefit of LPG Agency/ Petrol dealership provided under reserved quota.**

[Translation]

SHRI VIDYASAGAR SONKER (Saidpur) : Sir, the Department of Petroleum invites applications for allotment of LPG Agency and petrol dealership under reserved quota. But after interviewing applicants, inordinate delay is caused by the Department in allotting LPG Agency/Petrol dealership under reserved quota for Scheduled Castes. Even after allotment of the quota the Department makes the allottees run from pillar to post on the pretext of non-availability of land. While in the advertisement inviting the application it is clearly mentioned that the entire arrangement for the agency and dealership will be made by the company itself and

the whole money invested therein will be realised by the company from the dealers in instalments, which, however, is not being done in actual practice.

Sometimes, agency or dealership is even allotted in favour of some other persons due to which the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes do not get any direct benefit of the reserved quota.

Therefore, the hon. Minister is urged upon to take suitable action in this regard, so that Scheduled Castes and other reserved categories may be really benefited from the quota meant for them.

- (ii) **Need to provide adequate funds to State Government of Uttar Pradesh for industrial development of Ferozabad.**

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad) : Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention towards my constituency, Ferozabad. Tehsil Kharagarh, Fatehabad and Bah, near Agra, have a population of about 20 lakh. Industrially this area is deprived of every development scheme. The entire area has been dacoit infested. This area lies between Chambal and Yamuna. Unemployment, starvation and deprivation are rampant in the area. The educated unemployed youth are forced to become dacoits due to non-availability of employment opportunities. We are celebrating 50th anniversary of our independence but it is misfortune of the people that potable water is still a far cry there due to which the people have to drink dirty water from taps and ponds. This causes infectious and fatal diseases among them.

Therefore, through you, I urge upon the Union Government that the above area of my constituency may be declared backward so that both the Union Government as well as UP Government may together carry out development works in these areas and a big industry may be set up there with a view to check the growing unemployment.

- (iii) **Need to provide financial assistance to State Government of Madhya Pradesh for providing relief to the people affected by earthquake particularly in Jabalpur region.**

SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE (Jabalpur) : In Jabalpur division of Madhya Pradesh a fierce earthquake was experienced at 4.22 a.m. on 22.5.1997. Since then, i.e. within two months thereafter, as many as 20 tremors of earthquakes have been experienced there causing 38 deaths according to the Madhya Pradesh Government while non-governmental figure shows more than 50 deaths. The earthquake experienced at Latur district of Maharashtra three and half years ago caused more than 10 thousand deaths as per the Government figures. The intensity of the earthquakes experienced in