

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk-Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are making so much hue and cry that we have to eradicate illiteracy from India. We have to impart education to those who are illiterate by organizing classes for this purpose which we have done. We have granted permission to many schools but the situation today is that these schools are charging very high fees ranging from one thousand to fifteen hundred. There is no check on them when we allot school lands, we put a condition that those schools would reserve 20 per cent seats in the admission for poor students and no fee would be charged from them or they would be imparted education free of any charge. But today these poor children are being ousted from such schools. They are not being given admission in these schools. They are put to many troubles. They are declared as unsuccessful in their exams.

I, through you, would like to draw the attention of the Government towards this matter and request that such a practice, should be stopped immediately by enacting a suitable law in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The matter you are raising is a State subject.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : But I have given you a notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is all right that you have given a notice, but it is a State subject.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : I have given another notice also in which I have mentioned that due to closure of industry, a poor man has set himself on fire because he had no money for his survival. I do not know as to which subject you have selected for me.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am going by the list. Do not interrupt. By this way, you are losing the time.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my notice is in respect of railways. Just now when we were having discussion on the Railway Budget, several hon. Members said that there was a time when people from far flung areas used to come to see a train but now those areas are being linked with railways. However, contrary to this, there are also certain places which were earlier well connected with railways but now rails are being removed from there. The train in which my parents, my son and I, travelled for a long time is no more available now for my grandson. The line between Phatwa and Islampur remained operative for many years which was being run by a company but after nationalisation, that line was removed. I have been raising matter for the last so many years.

I, through you, want to draw the attention of this House towards this matter and request that a new line be laid on that route with the extension upto Bodhgaya. In railways, there are many.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are not speaking on the subject for which you have given notice.

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : My notice is very much in respect of railways.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your notice is on some other subject.

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : I have given my notice only in respect of railways. I have also said in my notice that there are large scale bungling and mismanagement in the railways.....(Interruptions) I have given my notice regarding those mismanagement.....(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw your attention towards the temple of Guru Ravi Das in Tughalaquabad of Delhi. This temple was constructed 45 years ago and inaugurated on 1.3.59 by the then Railway Minister, Babu Jagjiwan Ram. I want to draw your attention as well as the attention of this House towards the dilapidated condition of that temple. Are you aware as to how much damage DDA has caused to this temple ? This 45 years old temple was having its own boundaries which was replaced by the boundaries of DDA which it constructed around the temple.

13.00 hrs.

But now the D.D.A. is demolishing that temple. The area around the temple is inhabited by some of our Dalit and Harijan brothers. The D.D.A. is demolishing their houses also due to which there is a great resentment and anger among the people of the area. My points that this Government on the one hand, claims itself to be the messiah of Dalits and Harijans and on the other, it is allowing the demolition of their houses. There is a road named after Guru Ravi Das. I request you to direct the Government to stop the ongoing demolition immediately.

Shri Jaina is not taking note of my point.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is taking note of it.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : This demolition should be got stopped immediately.

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, I want to raise a very important question facing the youth of the country. The very prestigious Joint Entrance Examination of the Indian Institute of Technology was held on 3rd and 4th of this month. For the first time in the history of the Indian Institutes of Technology, the paper was leaked. It is very shocking. This is the only institution which enjoys a very high level of credibility – not only in India but internationally. If the paper is leaked, the credibility of the IITs will be ruined locally and internationally.....(Interruptions) The Controller of Examination has already ordered an enquiry. I request the hon. Minister, who is here, to make a statement on what exactly happened. It is shocking that the paper leak occurred in Bihar and Lucknow. It is very significant.

I request that the role of the private coaching institutions be investigated. They are causing corruption to enter into these prestigious Indian Institute of Technology. There should not be an internal enquiry but an enquiry through C.B.I. and I.B. and all leakage of papers should be checked

and the high credibility enjoyed by the I.I.Ts. should be maintained.....(*Interruptions*) Sir, the hon. Minister is here. He should make a statement on this, it is a very serious issue.

Thank you.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Sir, this is a very serious thing. There should be a statement by the hon. Minister.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum) : Sir, I also gave notice. It is a very serious issue. The hon. Minister should make a statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You and Shri Samik Lahiri have given notices. You can only say that you are associating yourself with Shri Chavan.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, the hon. Minister is responding.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are two hon. Members associating with you.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, this is very shocking. There is a very bad nexus between the coaching institutions and the concerned authorities.....(*Interruptions*) I would urge upon the Government to hold a high level enquiry into the matter to check it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may say that you are supporting Shri Chavan. That will do.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Sir, strict punishment should be given to those found guilty.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you want to hear the hon. Minister or not ?

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Yes. We want to hear the hon. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAL) : Sir, for the first time, in the history of I.I.T. the Mathematics paper is reported to have been leaked. Immediately after the matter came to the notice, an urgent meeting was held and the Government has already taken a decision to hold re-examination in July. Not only that, the Government has already taken a decision and it has referred the matter to the C.B.I. for enquiry and I.B. also.....(*Interruptions*) These are very reputed institutions. The credibility and reputation of these institutions will be maintained. The first instance that was reported will not be repeated and we will take all precautions. In this I seek the cooperation of all the hon. Members.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, it has caused untold misery to the parents of the students.....(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of this House and the Government towards a very serious issue.

As all of you know that Andaman and Nicobar Islands are situated in the Bay of Bengal, about 1500 km. away from the main land. Wheat and rice is supplied to the Islands by the Government to be sold through PDS at the Fair Price Shops. During the year, 1996-97, the allocation of rice and wheat was 30 thousand tonne and nine thousand tonne respectively. This year the Government have decided to distribute 10 kg. of rice per unit for the people living below poverty line. Today population of these islands is more than 3.5 lakh. From this point of view, PDS quota of rice and wheat should be increased by the Government. But surprisingly this year 1997-98, the allocation of rice and wheat has been reduced from 30 thousand tonne to 12 thousand tonne and from nine thousand tonne to three thousand tonne respectively. Such a situation has been created. All of you know that the islands are situated amidst the sea and this is the monsoon time. During the rainy seasons, ships do not reach in time, thus delaying the delivery of the ration. It means that people of those islands have been virtually put on the verge of starvation.

The Chief Secretary, Secretary and the Deputy Governor of the islands, all of them, have apprised the Union Government of the situation and requested to supply maximum quantity of wheat and rice to islands but just now our Secretary, has told us that there seems no way out to the problem. The Union Government think that Andaman and Nicobar Islands are self sufficient in the matter of foodgrains. But this is not a fact because the rice which is produced there suffice only for local consumption and after which we will not get even one thousand tonne surplus. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that he should on behalf of the Government clarify the position on this matter and give us an assurance that now onwards there would be no reduction in the PDS allocation of rice and wheat for Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I can only assure the hon. Member that I would bring this issue to the notice of the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies and steps would be taken to see that there would be no problem in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (Outer Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw your attention towards the bomb blasts which took place recently on the fifth and sixth day of this month itself in East Delhi. The blasts took the lives of fourteen people. The day United Front Government took over the charge at the centre, law and order situation in the capital has started.....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

Law and order is with the centre.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Do not you have this much knowledge that law and order is with the centre ? Delhi Police is under the Central Government.