

[Translation]

I have said that the matter is serious. When decoity and every other thing has taken place in the train there cannot be more serious matter, than this

[English]

The Government should take notice of it.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : The only point is that there should not be any remark regarding Bihar Government. That is my point.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Pudukkottai) : Why do they not ask it from the Minister of Railways...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I would like to draw your attention towards corruption and scandal. There was a case of hawala scandal in the country recently and now a more serious hawala scandal has taken place. We have raised a matter here regarding Indian Bank Scam in the last session. That matter has been referred to the courts and is now under its supervision. I do not want to comment over it but, another scam has come to light. Some of businessmen here have collectively sent billions of rupees outside the country. I am not saying all this. This statement has been made by the Director of the Finance Corporation of India Shri Jaidev Agarwal in 'Jansatta' of 1st February recently that Rs. 570 billions have been sent outside the country through Export-Import channels. If there is any truth in his statement I would urge upon the Government and demand that the matter be thoroughly investigated. This sum of Rs. 570 billions, which was sent to America was reviewed by three economists there who disclosed that this amount has been deposited there illegally and it has come through Import-Export channels from India. If this illegal transaction to America had not taken place, the external debt of the country which is to the tune of 19 billion dollars would have come down to 16 billion dollars...*(interruptions)*. You are supporting corruption. This matter does not pertain to you. You talk about yourself. But the external debt burden of 19 billion dollars would have come down to 16 billion dollars if this money had not gone outside the country and the payment on account of interest would also have reduced by 15 percent.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can not read from written material. You just have to mention your point in brief during zero hour.

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I will conclude in one minute. Our foreign Exchange Reserve would have increased from 25 billion dollars to 40 billion dollars and rupee would have gained value against dollar in the country. Therefore, I would urge upon the Government of India to take action against those businessmen who have sent money outside the country in the last three years through illegal means and also make a statement in this regard.

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (Jadavpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have been observing what has been going on in the House for the last half-an-hour or so. That is why, we need more women in the House. We cannot compete in lung power with our male colleagues. I am trying to raise an important issue. But I am being drowned by all the shouting of the men around me.

Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House to the dangers of dual pricing of foodgrains, the policy which the Government has just initiated. The Government's decision to help the poorer sections of the people is very well intentioned. But is the Government aware of the serious and far-reaching problems it would create? Firstly, how are we going to identify millions of people below the poverty line which is an impossible task? Secondly, foodgrains meant for the poor usually get into the hands of undesirable people and land up in black market. That has been our experience in the past. Last, but not the least, the huge burden of food subsidy which the Finance Minister has taken upon himself will certainly result in inflation. Thus, instead of helping the poor, we might end up in increasing the sufferings of the people. I would like to know if the Government has taken adequate safeguards against all these three points that I have raised. I thank you for giving me the time.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Sadar-Delhi) : The incident of bomb blast in Delhi is a very serious...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have already allowed you.

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS (Karimganj) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there are many sick and weak tea gardens in Assam, particularly in Southern Assam. The condition of sick and weak tea gardens of my constituency of Karimganj in Southern Assam is very serious. Some of the tea gardens have already been abandoned by this time and some are going to be abandoned.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Please give me a chance too.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Since you have already spoken, you will not get a chance now.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : No, I have not spoken...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : Sir, I have drawn the attention of the Government regarding this matter on several occasions. But nothing has been done to revitalise the sick and weak tea gardens. What is more pathetic is that the tea labourers of such tea gardens are living in inhuman conditions without their weekly