

could have gone and given this award.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have seen many political leaders and have worked with them. But a few great personalities like Shri Morarji Desai are now there in our public-life. Had Prime Minister himself gone and given this award to him personally, it would not have made much difference. It would have been better if the Governor or the Chief Minister of that state had gone and given this award to him. I would like to know whether due consideration was given to this issue or everything was decided abruptly at Joint Secretary or Secretary level.

[English]

SHRI SOBHANADRFESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijaywada): Sir, the entire House agree with the views expressed by the Leader of the Opposition... (Interruption).

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN I AL KHURANA (South Delhi): The same treatment was meted out to Sardar Patel. He was also given the award in the same manner... (Interruption).

SHRI RABIRAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with Advaniji on this point. The M. Ps. like me were shocked to read all this in the newspapers and we failed to understand as to why were we not invited to Bombay to attend the ceremony. I am of the firm view that many of us would have been very happy to participate in that ceremony. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think the Government of India do not think on proper lines. The bureaucrats are dominating and influencing the Government. That is why it failed to take right decision in this matter. It is very painful

that neither the Chief Minister of Maharashtra nor the Myor of Bombay was invited to that ceremony nor was there any political leader present. Though the Government's decision of conferring Bharat-Ratna Award on Morarji Desai was a good one but the manner decided by bureaucrats to give the award to him was very painful for me. It has hurt the feelings of many people. I have received many telegrams from the people seeking clarification. Sir, I would like to request you to take interest in this matter. Some grace must have been shown at the time of giving the Bharat-Ratna Award to the former Prime Minister, Morarji Desai... (Interruptions)...

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Sir, one thing I can say that there can never be any question of showing any disrespect to a senior leader of the country like Shri Morarji Desai. So far as the details and the facts of the case, as brought out, are concerned—I would like the Members to bear with me—I shall bring all these things to the notice of the Prime Minister and suitable steps will be taken.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): The Government should tender an apology (Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through this House, I would like to draw the Government's attention towards an important issue. Sir, the ULFA militants have kidnapped 8 Senior Administrative Officers including some Senior I. A. S.

Officers on 1st July. One of the kidnapped officers is Shri Siva Kishore Tiwari belonging to 1970 batch of I. A. S. He has seniority of 21 years. Four senior officers including 3 senior engineers belonging to O. N. G. C. were also kidnapped. Two months have passed but the Government has not taken any initiative to get these 8 senior Administrative Officers released from the custody of the ULFA militants. Today the 27th has been fixed as dead-line by the militants and they have threatened to kill those officers daily one by one from tomorrow. But the Government of India has not taken any initiative in this regard.

Sir, the Government must give statement in this House detailing the steps taken by it to save their lives and to get them released from the custody of Militant and the present position of those officers. I urge upon the Government to tell this House as well as to the whole country whether the ULFA militants have killed any of them or all of them are safe and sound in their custody

[English]

SHRI K. V. THIANGKABAIU (Dharmapuri): "Vazhaga Vaiyagan" and "Vazhaga Valamudan" are the two fake finance companies which are operating. They have duped the innocent public of Salem, Dharmapuri and surrounding districts in Tamil Nadu to the tune of Rs. 150 crores. The duping operation is actually on with the connivance of Central and State Governments officials, particularly in Salem district. This kind of fake organisations come up now and then but no action has been taken by the Central Government so far. In this particular case I request the Finance

Minister as well as the Home Minister to intervene immediately and get back the money of the subscribers particularly in Salem and Dharmapuri districts. More than 10,000 depositors are involved and they are on the streets. So far nobody has been arrested and the people have been deprived of their hard earned money. So I request you, Sir, to advise the Finance Minister as well as Home Minister to take proper steps against the culprits and get back the money of the poor depositors

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman-Nicobar): Since November 1, 1985 the Central Administrative Tribunal, Calcutta Bench with two benches started functioning. In its jurisdiction the service disputes of the Central Government and Railway employees of West Bengal, employees of Sikkim Government and Andaman and Nicobar Administration are adjudicated

Apart from the pending cases transferred from the Calcutta High Court about 1200 new cases are being adjudicated annually by this Tribunal. At present the number of pending cases in the CAT, Calcutta as on 30-6-1991 is 3990. In view of burden of arrears cases the necessity for establishing a third bench of CAT at Calcutta was felt long time back. In the meeting of Vice-Chairman of the Central Administrative Tribunal held at New Delhi during 21st and 22nd September, 1990 in Agenda No. 10, the establishment of the third Bench of CAT at Calcutta was resolved. However, the same has not yet been implemented

At present, there is only one regular Bench at CAT, Calcutta and since 10 July, 1991 the second Bench is being