

It is a question of how we tackle the ULFA secessionist movement in Assam. Not only the ONGC workers, but many others are also feeling insecure to live in Assam. Many are coming out. Extortion of money is going on. We have to have a discussion on this. I thought the hon. Minister himself would come with a *sou motu* statement. But in today's list of Business, I do not find any mention of it. That is why I am compelled and constrained to raise this issue, despite our commitment that we would not stand up today during the zero hour. I request you Sir to ask the hon. Minister to inform this House about the situation. How long are we going to suffer this heavy loss? How are they dealing with this situation? How are they tackling the secessionist movement led by the ULFA. The employees and their leaders are here. I think they have met the Minister yesterday. We would like to know what came out of that. I request the Minister to take the House into confidence.

**SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR** (Mangalore): Sir, we fully support the demand made by Shri Saifuddin Choudhury. Leaders of the employees union have come and met our senior leaders like Advani Ji and Jaswant Singh Ji. They have expressed their concern about the loss that has been sustained. Every day the Government of India is losing about Rs. 30 crores on account of the employees going on strike. We all know that this has happened because of the policy adopted by the Government of Assam in giving general amnesty to the ULFA people. This has very severe repercussions and we are very much concerned about the safety of the people who have been abducted by the ULFA activities.

The Government, of course, has expressed its concern about this but it has not come out with concrete proposal, as to how they are going to tackle this problem. Government should make a Statement on the floor of the House and it must initiate an early dialogue with them. Government must secure the release of the people who have

been detained and it must come to the rescue of the people who have been abducted by the ULFA activities, otherwise, we will have this recurring loss on the one side and on the other side the safety to the lives and property of the citizens of this country, who are working hard to earn and to add to the economy of this country, will be put in the danger. Therefore, the Government should come to the rescue of these people.

We all join to support the demand made by the hon. Member on the floor of the House. Sir, I hope that when I am making this reference, Government will definitely take up this matter seriously and the hon. Minister, who is present here, will make a statement in this regard and he will ensure the release of the abducted people today itself, at the earliest possible opportunity. *(Interruptions)*

**MR. SPEAKER:** Those of you who are treated as senior Members will not be called today.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI MOHAN RAWLE** (Bombay South Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to narrate the problems being faced by the Maharastrians in Maharashtra. There is a very peculiar situation in the country today. Wherever the public sector units are set up under the control of the Central Government, in all fairness the local people should be given 80 percent of the jobs in every category in those units. But this is not happening in Maharashtra. It appears that perhaps the Central Government has not issued any directions in this regard. As a result, there is a widespread resentment among the local people because there is a problem of unemployment also. Therefore, I would request the Government that it should issue such instructions immediately as in all the undertakings of the Central Government in Maharashtra, the local people may be given 80 per cent of the jobs in every category.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you. Please, sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRISHIVASHARAN SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House and the hon. Prime Minister towards an important issue. In Bihar the Congress Party has started an agitation against the State Government. They started this agitation on 11th of September in Patna in the prohibited area of the State Assembly and it is a matter of regret that a Central Minister also took part in it and deliberately violated the laws. Secondly, is it justified for a Central Minister to take part in an agitation, which is being launched by a political party against the State Government? I would like to draw the attention of the House and the hon. Prime Minister towards these two points. I remember an incident, when Shri Raj Narain was a cabinet Minister, he had also violated the rule in a prohibited area in Himachal Pradesh and as a result, the then Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh had expressed his displeasure against his action. The hon. Prime Minister should give clarification whether there is any code of conduct for the Cabinet Ministers. Through you, I would like only to draw the attention of the House towards this. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roseria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important issue and I also support him. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, you have allowed other issues to come up.

But so far as ONGC is concerned, it is a very serious matter. What is the response of the Government to that? They must indicate. The Minister was saying and also the

Prime Minister that Shri Shankaranand is going there. He was there for two days. We must know what is the position.

Sir, as you thought it very important, that is why you allowed Shri Choudhury to raise it. But the Government is just sitting. There is no response from them on this matter.

Sir, some statement must be made today. Let us see what is the intention of the Government on this matter.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: If he remains silent, it will be misunderstood.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, he is nodding his head. I do not know in whose favour he is nodding his head. For whom? For what? you say 'yes' or 'no' (Interruptions) He wants to stand up.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Let the Minister react. Because, it is after all a very serious matter. You will agree that it is a serious matter. When is he going to make a statement? At least, you ask him that he must come and make a statement. Let the country know what has actually happened. We are reading this in newspapers. (Interruptions)

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): He met the representatives of the ASSTO-Association of Technical Officers.....

MR. SPEAKER: In this way, the other Members will not be able to get a chance. Because all the senior Members, on one point will make the speeches and the other Members will not have an opportunity to speak.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Only one minute, Sir, kindly listen to me.

MR. SPEAKER: No, Shri Basu. You get ample time. You should do justice to other Members also.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: The hon. Minister said that technical employees have met