

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: The issue relates to the freedom fighters.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow Geetaji to speak. It is not that you alone will speak, and nobody else will speak. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Sir, I shall proceed to the subject on which I gave you the notice. It is a very sad affair that very eminent freedom fighters who were given accommodation in Delhi have been given the order of eviction by the Director of Estates. Now, this list is very comprehensive but I will just give you a few examples to show how serious is the matter.

Shri Valmiki Choudhury who has been given the notice had been the former Secretary to President Rajendra Prasad. Shri D.K. Barua was the Secretary of Congress (I) as well as the Governor. Shri Madhu Limaye, in those days, was not pro-Indira. Even then, he was given accommodation. Then comes Shri Sardul Singh and Shrimati Prakash Kaur who happens to be a relative of Bhagat Singhji. Shrimati Kamla Bahuguna is known in her own capacity and not to say any more about her. Shri Indradeep Singh who is also a very old freedom fighter and a Member of the other House for a long time as well as a Minister in the Bihar Cabinet. Shrimati Subhadra Joshi whom everybody will remember for her role in Goa freedom struggle. Is this the thing to do against them? Now, it is being said that accommodation was given only on medical basis. Let me tell you, Sir, that these freedom fighters have applied to the Prime Minister also. They have stated with great grief that when this residential accommodation was granted to the freedom fighters, there was nothing specified that they were being given for a specific period. It was said and they were

given to understand that they will be occupying these houses either for political activities or for some other medical difficulties or whatever it may be. Now they are in great difficulty. Most of them are very old. We have never heard of freedom fighters of such eminence being dealt with on such a score. I request the Government, particularly the Minister for Urban Development, through you, to take up the matter and immediately cancel the orders which were given for their eviction.

SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG (Shillong): Sir, this morning, I have given a notice on a very disturbing news and a matter of great public importance.

Sir, 5000 employees of the Food Corporation of India have gathered in Delhi from all parts of the country to seek intervention in the affairs of the Food Corporation of India. Their main grievance has been about the mismanagement of the affairs of the Corporation by the top bureaucrats on deputation to the Corporation. Sir, four years of wage settlement for employees of Categories 3 and 4, which was due from 1st August 1987 was finalised on 28 February 1992. The dialogue on wage revision prolonged for 18 months. But during this period of 18 months, neither the Chairman nor the Managing Director of the Food Corporation of India had participated in the dialogue even for a duration of five months. The subordinate officers were made to negotiate in the matter. The top functionaries have failed to show any respect to the grievances of the staff of the Food Corporation of India. Now that the procurement season has begun, should the strike commence, we shall all suffer. 46 Members of Parliament, cutting across Party lines, have signed a memorandum and we submitted it to the Food Minister in order to see that action is taken on the matter. The Food Minister is here and we would like to know from him what action he has taken on the memorandum signed by 46 Members cutting across Party lines on this very very important matter. If no action is taken, the employees of the FCI will go on strike from the 15th of this month. The Food Minister is here and he may respond.

SHRI P. C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): There is no response from the Government....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You always speak. Let Shri Manjay Lal speak. He is also as much a Member of this House as you are.

[Translation]

SHRI MANJAY LAL (Samastipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the studio of Muzaffarpur Doordarshan Kendra, equipped with modern techniques is ready since March, 1989. At that time the date fixed for inauguration was 31st March, 1989 but it is not known why was the date cancelled. Again 13th October, 1990 was fixed as inauguration date but that too was cancelled. The studio building was built at a cost of Rs. 30 lakh nearly four years ago. Studio is fitted with modern gadgets worth Rs. 3 crore approximately. Costly O.B. Van, used in production of programmes is lying idle for one year. Employees posted at the Kendra are being regularly paid monthly salary for no work. Therefore, I would like to request the Information and Broadcasting Ministry of the Government of India to take urgent steps for early inauguration of the studio of Muzaffarpur Doordarshan Kendra which is ready for quite some time.

[English]

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): Sir, both the Railway Ministers are here and I draw their attention through you to a matter of great public importance.

Sir, CIDCO has taken up construction of Kalva-Turbhe Railway line and it has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 29 crore so far. The Railways should, therefore, be persuaded to take over the line as per the earlier commitment and they may also be requested to commission the Kalva-Turbhe Railway Line for goods traffic immediately. Railways should be persuaded for making the line fit for commuter traffic from Thane to Turbhe and for further extension to Junagar to be connected with Mankhurd-Belapur Railway Line, which is expected to cost about Rs. 58 crore. The work on Mankhurd-Belapur

Railway Line has already been started the work involving Rs. 30 crore on Belapur-Panvel. The Railway Ministry may be persuaded to upgrade this Railway Line for suburban commuter service. The work of Nhava-Sheva Port and Dronagiri and Ulva nodes is being completed by the CIDCO and it has become necessary to construct the Railway Line between Belapur-Nhava-Sheva Uran on priority. The funds to that effect are deposited with the Railways. The length of this Railway Line is more than 20 kilometres. The Railway authorities should be persuaded to take up construction of this Railway Line with similar funding arrangement as in the case of Mankhurd-Belapur Railway Line.

[Translation]

SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR (Hingoli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am going to raise a very serious matter concerning the family members of an hon. Member of Parliament. In the morning I also gave a notice in this regard. The family members of Shri Ashok Deshmukh were scheduled to go to Aurangabad on 2nd by IC-491 flight, for which they had got reserved tickets. However, on 2nd they could not board the plane and the officials of Delhi Airport did not inform him. Therefore, the family members started on 3rd out the aircraft force landed at some place for technical snag. From 3rd to 5th he did not come to know the whereabouts of his family members. On 4th when he found out that his family had not reached Aurangabad, he telephoned numerous times to the Ministries of Home Affairs, Civil Aviation and Defence and was told by the PAs that the family was staying in a hotel at Udaipur. When she made a request that his family members might be sent by the 4th but despite the request the Airport officials did not send his family while thirteen were sent to Aurangabad by flight the same day. Priority was not given to the wife and children of an hon. MP but instead 13 foreigners were sent. Action should be taken against the erring officials for not giving information about the whereabouts of the family members lodged in a hotel at Udaipur. Only after persistent enquiries he came to know at 10.00 p.m. that his family