

the Fertiliser Corporation, the Salt Corporation, the Cement Corporation, there is a mandatory provision to purchase jute bags. Now, it appears that these mandatory provisions have been liberalised; and they are purchasing synthetic bags instead of Jute bags; and the whole Jute industry is now facing shortage of marketing of jute bags.

Now, I urge upon the Government to announce the minimum support price for the raw jute immediately without any further delay and JCI's operations should not be restricted.

The JCI should be provided with adequate funds so that it can effectively intervene in the market and can ensure a minimum support price for the jute growers.

Side by side, the Government should also impose a mandatory provision for purchasing of the jute bags on public sector organisations so that the jute industry can survive and it can also get a good market for selling their jute goods.

It was earlier announced by the Government in this House that the mandatory provisions would be there. But now that mandatory provisions has been liberalised. It should be imposed on public sector corporations like the Salt Corporation, the Fertilizer Corporation and the Cement Corporation so that the Jute Corporation can sell their jute bags to those public sector undertakings.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARAYA (Jadavpur): Sir, as you have had patience with the others, please also have patience with me. I will just add a very few words expressing my concern and adding my voice to the voice of Shri Rabi Ray regarding the newspaper reports as to the Cabinet decision that has been made regarding the privatisation of the Metro channels on Doordarshan.

First of all, we want to know how such an important decision—which has been debated in every other forum apart from the Parliament—could be taken without even referring it to Parliament at all. That is the first question that I want to ask the Government.

Secondly, we do find that already a very large share of the Prime time on Doordarshan is being given to private producers for sponsoring programmes. They are being given time for commercial advertisements. The Government in the meantime has abdicated its own responsibility regarding the use of the audio-visual media for education, for instruction and entertainment. Now we find that it is not just abdicating the responsibility, but by giving over these time slots to private producers the Government is also abdicating its possible revenues. All the revenues that it used to get from the advertisements are going to be drawn by the private producers. Not only that. We have it from a reliable source that things like the transmission of the Olympic Games are also being given over to the private sector whereas the Government could make some money out of it, could collect some revenues out of it, it is being given over to the private sector.

I do not know whether the Doordarshan wants to liquidate itself. I only want to say that the Doordarshan has no right to liquidate itself because it belongs to the people.

We find that while demands for enhancement of time for regional programmes have not been paid heed to, the Government has turned a deaf ear to the demands of the State Government to be allowed to run the second channel. At the same time, we find that the private producers are being favoured in this way.

If the Prasar Bharati had been implemented, then the Government run Doordarshan might at least, through its auton-

omy, have acquired a certain degree of efficiency to compete with the private producers. Now as it stands, it is completely dependant on Government support. It is completely held on the strings by the Government. It cannot enter into competition with the private producers at all. So, without the implementation of the Prasar Bharati this privatisation of Television is going to have a ruinous effect on our mass media.

I can only say that this commercialisation at this stage can only increase vulgarisation, it can only increase the most rampant consumerism and it can only lead to the centralisation of cultural values to a kind of mechanical uniformity imposed upon regional linguistic varieties such as our nation thrives upon.

Therefore, Sir, I demand that the Government should make a full-scale statement on what it proposes to do regarding these reports that we have hearing from the newspapers. Let there be a full-scale discussion in the House regarding any such proposes that the Government may have. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I piloted this Zero Hour sixty minutes after it was started. The hon. Members are very much agitated and they wanted to ventilate their grievances. The Zero Hour is being extended with the sweet will and pleasure of the hon. Members of this House and not at my pleasure.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMAN-GALAM : Sir, I do not think that any Member will be objecting to this.

[*Translation*]

SHRIGEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Deputy, Speaker, Sir, I will not take much time of the House. I support, what has been said by Dhananjay and Deve-

gowda ji. I have observed that the Parliamentary Affairs Minister has raised some objections.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia): Just for the sake of formality.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: But I would like to say only this much about his objection that one and half month ago a shot was fired from the stengun by a Minister and one man was killed, but the man who fired the shot has not been arrested so far. The F.I.R. was lodged on the same night at 2.30 P.M. There is not only one but are fifty or sixty with their names and addresses but even then he has not been arrested so far. The F.I.R. was lodged under section 302.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am raising this issue for two other important reasons. When you are running the Government to maintain law and order in a State, but if you fail to maintain it, then there is no other place where we should raise this issue, that is why we are raising it here. Secondly, we want to know as to what is the stand of hon. Prime Minister about this issue. Shri Devegowda ji tried to raise this issue every where the next day and gave information about it to the hon. Prime Minister. This is not such an incident about which the hon. Prime Minister would not have been informed. It is not an ordinary thing that a Minister of Government of his own party who is considered to be a very powerful minister, kills someone at a public place in the presence of hundreds of people in an attempt to capture the booth. It is not an ordinary thing that a person is shot dead by that man. At first the hon. Prime Minister refused to interfere into it. When Bangarappa came to meet him, he was advised not to drop him. This is the statement of Bangarappa which had appeared in the newspapers. The hon. Prime Minister has asked us not to do anything, it has also appeared in the newspapers. When an agitation was launched in Karnataka and when the situ-