

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) Mr Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government to the fact that the Reserve Bank and all its branches increased the rate of interest from July 1 on loans already given to the people without giving any prior intimation to them (*Interruptions*) The consumers, traders or the establishments which had taken loans were not given any prior intimation in this regard Sir, I would like to submit to you that the rate of interest at several places has been increased from 17 per cent to 25 per cent due to which many business establishments are in difficulty, their business will come to a stand still. I think price-rise will certainly have an effect on it. Thus in case the rate of interest is 2 per cent then the money lenders would definitely charge 4 per cent interest. Therefore my submission to the Finance Minister is that he should follow the Election Manifesto of the Congress where in an assurance had been given that there would be no price rise. The Reserve Bank of India should also be directed to review the matter and reduce the rate of interest.

[English]

MR SPEAKER Shri Chitta Basu

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) I do not like to mention anything today. I will speak on matters under rule 377.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jidavpur) I have a very serious matter to communicate to the House. I have information that a producer of TV Serials was called and given a proposal by the Director General of Doordarshan to make a programme on the Budget.

Then, subsequently when he was about to produce this programme, he was called and told that he would have to select his interviews from a list of economists who are supposed to come from the very top and he was also specifically told that he should not

include those economists in the programme who were critical of the Government's economic policy.

If this is true then it is a very serious matter. On the one hand, the Government is talking of autonomy of the Doordarshan and on the other hand the Government is trying to suppress the freedom of expression of people who are critical of its policies.

I want a statement from the Government on this. I want to know whether this has really happened and whether the said programme is still on or whether it has been rejected.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE This is a very serious charge against the Government. The Government must come forward and make a statement on this point. This comes after the circulation of non-official economic note through the Parliament baggage. We have to be beware of this kind of thing being done by the Government.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) Will you please ask the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to find out enquire and report on this to the House?

MR SPEAKER It is not like this.

(*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER You do not direct me to direct please.

SHRI AMAL DATTA We are requesting to you. We are submitting to you. You have a duty to this House also. (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER You have made the point.

(*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER You are taking others' time. Other Members also have something to say. I have allowed to make this point. You have made that point. Other Members also do have some points to make. Please allow them to make.

Shri Dileep Singh Bhuria. Let Mr. Bhuria say.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: We are asking you, please do this. (*Interruptions*). I want to know whether the Government is spreading disinformation regarding possible consequences of devaluation. (*Interruptions*) IMF and the World Bank are orchestrating this kind of dis-information by the Government of India. (*Interruptions*).*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

[*Translation*]

Bhuriaji, if you do not want to speak, please sit down.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA (Jhabua): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that Cholera and gastroenteritis have broken out in Madhya Pradesh for the last several months, and these disease have claimed thousands of human lives there. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has been adopting a pathetic attitude towards this and the diseases are spreading in other States also. Therefore, I would like to submit to the Government that a medical team should be sent there to control these disease; because these are spreading to other states rapidly.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is still very grim and about two lakh people, who have migrated to Jammu, Delhi, Amritsar or other parts of the country, have no hope in their lives. I would take up this issue on some other occasion. However, the employees of Hindustan Machine Tools, who have shifted from Srinagar to Delhi or Jammu and in regard to whom an agreement was made in writing, are not getting their salary for the last few months as per the agreement. Thus they are very unhappy. Therefore, I would submit to

the Government that the provisions of the agreement should be implemented and their salary may be paid to them as per agreement. As far as I remember, Shri Saifuddin Choudhury was also present at the time of execution of the agreement.

[*English*]

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTH (Silchar): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that only today I received a telegram that several lakhs of tea garden labourers of Barak Valley of Assam are facing starvation because of non-movement of wheat from the fields to Barak Valley and, as a result, there has been a very critical situation in the tea garden areas. So, I request the Food and Civil Supplies Minister kindly to enquire into the matter and to take up the matter so that immediate supply of wheat is made in tea garden areas of Barak Valley.

SHRI K. P. REDDAIAH (Machchilipatnam): I want to bring to the notice of the Government that the Hindustan Shipyard Union has signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 1-2-1990 since the earlier agreement expired on 31-1-1990. The Government assured the management several times that it will be implemented and funds will be released. The union, after waiting for 1½ years, are pressing the management to implement it immediately. I request through you the Government to sanction and release the funds.

The second point is that the Shipping Corporation of India is purchasing the ships at the rate of Rs. 27 crores each. This rate is concluded five years back. Now the cost of the ship building is Rs. 61 crores as per management's estimates. So, they have undergone a loss of Rs. 274 crores. Government may kindly give escalation for the rates because of the present trend of the raw materials and labour cost. I request the hon. Shipping Minister kindly to consider these few issues sympathetically and save the situation.

*Not recorded.