

[Sh. Piyare Lal Handoo]

shot dead yesterday when he was on his way to his home. We have been repeatedly asking the Government to ensure security of political activists in Kashmir generally and in the rural areas particularly on the Punjab type. After the promulgation of the President's Rule we had hoped that things would improve, but yesterday an activist of the Janata Dal and an ex-MLA of the National Conference were shot at—one was dead yesterday and the other is dying in the hospital. We appeal to the Government that immediate steps must be taken to ensure that political activists remain mobile and politically active. They should be provided security immediately on the Punjab type.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, more than a thousand employees of the National Projects Construction Corporation have been on a peaceful *Dharna* near the Parliament House for about three weeks. The Government has turned a deaf ear to it. It is a violation of its previous commitment. Even the commitment of the present Minister of Water Resources is not being implemented.

I want to submit that we value the very existence of the NPCC. In Bihar, in 1984, it has been allotted the construction of a syphon across the river, Kamla, on western Kosi canal. The NPCC dithered for five years and it did not even begin the work.

This year, the new Government have again awarded and accepted the tender of the NPCC for the same job. We are serious that they should implement it. If the NPCC constructs the syphon, then all these employees can be absorbed. Neither they are beginning the work nor are they allowing the employees to resume the work. Only for this, they are resorting to *dharna* without following any violent methods.

I urge upon you to direct the Minister to make a statement in the House and also

begin negotiations with the employees who are on *dharna*.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR (Quilon): Sir, Indians from the Gulf are now returning in two planes every day. They are being fleeced and given inhuman treatment by the Customs. You know, they have come with whatever belongings they could take. Yesterday, one person came with a small TV. He was wearing a lungi. He had nothing else. He had no money on his person. He was charged Rs. 6,000 for that TV. So, we desire that Government should give instructions to the Customs that up to Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 5,000, there should not be any duty.

Also, the Railways are giving Rs. 25 only to these people to travel for three days to Kerala. They must give a decent amount. Under the present conditions, it is a very small amount. It is insulting to them. So, instructions may be given by the Government speedily.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned for Lunch to reassemble at 2.30 P.M.

13.28 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes past Fourteen of the clock.*

[English]

*The Lok Sabha re-assemble dafter Lunch at thirty four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

RE: PRIVATISATION OF NATIONALISED BANKS - *CONTD.*

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): Sir, in the morning, a point was raised regarding privatisation of banks and

there was a demand that Mr Shastri should clarify it So, Mr Shastri would like to clarify that point now

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) MR Deputy Speaker Sir, I wish to clarify that there is no proposal by the Government to privatise nationalised banks What had happened was on Sunday, there was an open house discussion in Baroda in which I had participated There were a number of suggestions given for improving the functioning of the banks There was also a speaker who stated that when 115 foreign branches can give a profit of Rs 100 crores, why 55000 nationalised branches could give us a profit of only Rs 65 crores There was also a suggestion that five banks can be privatised by the Government on an experimental basis But I said that this is a matter which concerns so many people and it could be taken up as a national debate I would like to once again clarify and reiterate the Government's stand in this matter that there is no proposal whatsoever to privatise any nationalised bank.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) Even then Sir, such a statement made by the Government is highly objectionable That gives a wrong signal (*Interruptions*)

SHRIP UPENDRA He says that he did not make any statement

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE He has responded to in this manner that this is a subject which can be discussed He says that the Government has no policy

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI In the open house or seminar, suggestions come and anything can be on a national debate What is on a national debate today is the malfunctioning and the deterioration in the services of the nationalised banks There is a Calling Attention Motion going on in the Rajya Sabha malfunctioning and deterioration in the services of the nationalised banks So, this is a matter which can be taken up by people in the open

house discussion If a suggestion comes, we cannot stop it If the matter has to be debated, it can be debated and if there is any suggestion which can improve the working of the banks, I think we all will be happy with it

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE One can talk about the malfunctioning of the public sector banks One can also talk about the malfunctioning of the Government Therefore, does that mean that you should privatise the Government? That can be the subject matter of the discussion The point is that false alternatives have been posed One is profitable and the other is not The functions are different Does any foreign bank give loan to the poorer section of the population? So, what I request through you, Sir, is that if any Minister of the Government is accommodating even to this extent that this is a question which has to be discussed then it gives a wrong signal to the country Particularly, in the context of this I would like to say that all segments of the House are critical about the industrial policy and about the liberalisation policy and if such a hint is there then one does not know where the country will go I, therefore request that the Government should be more cautious in their pronouncement and indicate absolutely firmly that there is no consideration of such matters at all

SHRI SONTOSH MOHANDEV Sir, the news item attributed that the Minister has suggested it and now the Minister is saying that the suggestion came from one of the participants If that is the case then an official statement should be released and just telling the Parliament is not all right You have clarified it here but it should come in the news

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER I think that Hon Minister has categorically stated that there is no proposal Are you saying that you have not made a statement?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI What I would like to say is that in the open house discussion, as the hon Members are aware, anybody is

[Sh. Anil Shastri]

free to say whatever he likes. He can give any suggestion he likes otherwise the same member will complain that the Deputy Finance Minister was trying to censor the open house.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): The remark was made by one of the participants and the Minister was present there. He should have reacted to it stating the Government of India's point of view in that regard. On the other hand he has said that this is a suggestion and there should be a national dialogue on it. Therefore, this means that the Government is also of the view that this kind of discussion should be taken up by the people as a whole. That gives a wrong signal, I must say that.

14.40 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to introduce EMU train service between Arakkonam and Madras** (402 377)

[Translation]

\*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM (Arakkonam): Sir, at present, there is an EMU train service starting from Arakkonam at 8.30 AM and reaching Madras Central at about 10.00 AM. There is also an express train starting from Jolarpet at about 7.15 AM touching Arakkonam and reaching Madras Central at about 9.00 AM. But this train is already full before it touches Arakkonam railway station.

Sir, there are more than 20,000 people belonging to different walks of life who are residing in Arakkonam and in the neighbouring areas who are finding it extremely difficult to reach Madras Central daily. The above-mentioned trains are already running to full

capacity as they cater to various segments of commuters.

It is, therefore, requested that the Railway Ministry should take immediate steps to introduce an EMU service starting from Arakkonam at about 7.45 or 8.00 AM reaching Madras Central at about 9.15 AM and in the evening the same service should be introduced starting from Madras Central at about 6.30 PM reaching Arakkonam at about 7.45 PM so that the plight of the commuters is mitigated to a great extent.

- (ii) **Need for expeditious completion of upper Bhadra Project in Karnataka** (402 377)

[English]

SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA (Chitradurga): The long pending Upper Bhadra Project is considered as panacea to the drought hit Chitradurga district. The project if implemented would be a boon to many taluks in Tumkur and Kolar districts also. The people of Karnataka especially from the drought hit Chitradurga, Kolar and Tumkur are urging for the immediate implementation of this vital project on priority basis.

The Planning Commission would be providing only 30 crores of rupees for the irrigation projects in Karnataka during the current year and it is apprehended that this important project may not be implemented in the near future. It is very essential to take up this project immediately to save the poor farmers. The percentages of irrigated land in Karnataka is the lowest when compared to the neighbouring States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

I, therefore, strongly urge upon the Government of India to expedite the sanction of this key irrigational project and allocate at least 150 crores of rupees during the current financial year to complete it.