

12.24 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the remaining part of the Session will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from to day's Order Paper.
2. Consideration and passing of :
 - (a) The Terrorist Affected Areas (Special Courts) Amendment Bill, 1985.
 - (b) The Government Savings Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1985.
 - (c) The Intelligence Organisations (Restriction of Rights) Bill, 1985.
 - (d) The Estate Duty (Amendment) Bill, 1985.
 - (e) The Judicial Officers Protection (Amendment) Bill, 1985.
 - (f) The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 1985.
 - (g) The Indira Gandhi National Open University Bill, 1985 as passed by Rajya Sabha.
 - (h) The Pondicherry University Bill, 1985 as passed by Rajya Sabha.
 - (i) The Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Amendment Bill, 1985, as passed by Rajya Sabha.
3. Discussion under Rule 193 regarding Racial Priots in South Africa

affecting the people of Indian Origin at 5.00 P.M. on Monday, the 19th August, 1985.

4. Discussion under Rule 193 regarding the statement made by the Minister of Finance on 23rd July, 1985, about the Report of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy on "Aspects of black economy in India".

12.25 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore): Sir, I would like the following subjects to be included in the business of the House for the next week.

Due to the timely decision of the Government of India, the Crop Insurance Scheme has been introduced by the Government of India and by few of the State Governments. But this Scheme is not applicable to all the crops grown in the country. The Scheme is applicable only for the cereal crops. Foreign exchange earners like apple, mango, coconut, banana, pineapple grapes and crops like groundnut, jute, cotton, sugarcane and cash crops like betel leaves, tea etc. are not coming under the purview of this scheme with the result millions of farmers all over the country are sustaining heavy losses. Besides, the country is losing huge amount of foreign exchange. This very important matter needs to be discussed.

2. Transportation by railways is the main source of transport for millions of passengers and millions of tonnes of goods in the country. But it is very shocking and unfortunate, too, that the Railways have no plan for gauge conversion in the 7th Plan. It is further a matter of regret that even though the Railway have taken for conversion 1606 KM of MG Railway lines to BG Railway lines in the 6th Plan period, not a single Kilometre of NG railway line was taken for conversion into BG. As per norms of the railways, this conversion is based on certain conditions. Out of many NG lines, there are some such

NG lines which are fulfilling all such norms and conditions. One such remunerative NG line is Rupsa-Bangiriposhi in Kharagpur Division of SE Railway. After its conversion and few kilometres extension to connect Howrah Bombay BG line near Chakulia, the distance will be reduced substantially by 180 KM and the time by 6 hours. This important subject of NG conversion, therefore, need to be included in the business of the next week.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I want the following two items to be included in the next week's business :—

It appears that the Government is going in for a major policy decision in regard to the public sector undertakings on the basis of the report of Dr. Arjun Sengupta.

Dr. Arjun Sengupta Committee was appointed by the erstwhile Government, and it is understood that Dr. Sengupta has submitted its report to the Government. But most surprisingly till now the Government has kept the report as a guarded secret and the Members of Parliament have been in total darkness about the contents of the report although the newspapers have come out with news about some of the recommendations of the Committee.

From whatever has been published in the newspapers and through other sources, it appears that the Government is going to take many decisions which will seriously jeopardise the interest of the public sector workers as well as the functioning of the public sector units. One of the recommendations of the Committee to replace the practice of bipartite negotiation in different public sector industries by wage Boards is of extremely retrograde nature which will do away with collective bargaining and do serious harm to the interest of the workers. In fact, the trade unions have already protested against the recommendations of the report.

This is a very serious matter. The Government should immediately place the report of Dr. Sengupta before Parliament

and provide opportunity to the Members to discuss it, and at the same time Government should consult the Central Trade Unions also before it is acted upon.

The British Airways has decided to withdraw its weekly Tristar flight to Calcutta from December 1, 1985. The flight will be redeployed to serve Bombay.

At present, the British Airways operates seven flights to Delhi, six to Bombay and one to Calcutta.

The decision to withdraw from Calcutta was surprising as well as abrupt. It is not that business in Calcutta is not good, but the British Airways is after a booming demand elsewhere.

It is understood that the income of the Airways has increased more than two-fold as compared with last year.

In view of this, I would like to request the Union Government to look into the matter and persuade the British Airways to desist from their earlier decision in the interest of the public.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would submit to you that the following important item be included in the next week's business :—

The Jammu & Kashmir State Government is planning to pass on about 200 Tourist Bungalows and Huts to the private sector and offer the same to the Taj Group of Hotels and other agencies. These Bungalows, constructed by the Tourism Development and Tourism Development Corporation over the past two decades, are now being given out to private agencies on a long lease of 60—90 years. The Government's intention to sanction the lease was communicated to the Managing Director, Tourism, and the Director of Tourism of the State through a letter dated the 9th August, 1985. This lease will cover all attractive Tourist Bungalows in Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Chashmashahi and Sonamarg.

The people of the State have raised objection to this sort of deal as it will

mean that genuine public welfare activity cannot be undertaken by the Government. This will also jeopardize the future of about 4,000 employees of the Tourism Department and Tourism Development Corporation who have already started a State-wide agitation.

The people of the State feel that new areas like Lolab Valley, Bangas Valley, Wuller Lake, Hapat Nullah, Boniyar, Bosian Valley of Baramulla and the Kbag Hills can be offered for lease if the intentions were to develop tourism in Jammu & Kashmir State. Since funds come from the Central Government, it should take notice of this development. I want this matter to be discussed next week, so that the Central Government pays attention to this matter.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : I submit the following urgent matter to be included in the next week's Government business.

In last week's Government business,

In last week's heavy floods in Orissa many people and domestic animals have lost their lives and crop covering an estimated area of 4 lakh hectares had been damaged in 98 blocks in seven districts of the State. The 80 blocks covered about 5000 villages in the districts of Cuttack, Puri, Balasore, Keonjhar, Rolangir, Sambalpur and Koraput. The floods had caused 156 breaches in the embankments of rivers.

In Nayagarh subdivision of Puri district flood waters of Mahanadi, Kuanria, Kusumi, Dahuka and Lunijhara rivers have severely affected many areas in Daspalla, Gania, Nayagarh, Nuagan, Khandapada and Bhapur Blocks and about 20 villages in Khunda block and 22 villages in Kanas Block in Puri district still remain submerged in the flood waters of Daya and Rajua rivers.

I urge upon the Government to include this heavy flood damages in Orissa in next week's business so that a Central team immediately visits the affected areas with a view to rushing Government help to the nearly 4 lakhs distressed people.

[*Translation*]

SHRI K.N. PRADHAN (Bhopal) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the statement given by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the following subjects should be taken for discussion along with other subjects :

1. Bhoal is the only capital where there is neither the High Court and nor its Bench. The States were reorganised in 1956 and since then there has been a consistent demand for the establishment of a High Court Bench in Bhopal. In 1976 all the formalities were completed for the establishment of a bench but due to change of Government the matter was deferred. In 1983, this matter also was referred to Jaswant Singh Commission although the case is so sound that no further arguments were called for. The Commission submitted its report two months ago. The Government should take a decision for the establishment of a Bench in Bhopal at the earliest.

2. The aim of the Protection of the Forests Act of 1980 is to prevent the illegal felling of trees. It can never be the aim of the Act to defer the construction works of the schemes undertaken in public interest for an indefinite period. Today work on many schemes like irrigation schemes, road construction, work on the expansion of power are at a stand still because the sanction has not been accorded by the Centre for a long time. The extraction work of stones is closed because the mines are situated in the forest area. For example, under the Kolar scheme, which is being executed with the assistance of the World Bank, the work on the construction of the dam has not been taken up this year because even after two years, approval has not been received from the Centre.

[*English*]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : Sir, the following item may please be included in the next week business.

I want to draw the attention of the House towards the news item that appeared in various newspapers and journals about

the miserable financial condition of veteran freedom fighter and former Prime Minister Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda.

It has been mentioned in the news item that Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda has no source of income except pension amount of Rupees Five hundred a month. With the tremendous price increase of essential commodities it is difficult for him to maintain even one servant. Since payment could not be made to his servant, he had to remove his servant. And at this pretty old age, one time former Prime Minister Shri Nanda is facing tremendous hardship. He has to wash his clothes, clean his rooms, prepare his food and also for purchasing vegetables, atta and ghee etc. he has to go himself.

In view of the above, all honourable members of this august House will agree with me that Government must do something to help veteran freedom fighter and former Prime Minister who is passing through a difficult period during the evening of his life. I, therefore, request the Government that Shri Nanda's pension may be raised so that he gets minimum Rs. 2000/- per month.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : Sir, the following subjects may be included in the agenda for the week beginning from 19.8.85.

1. Following an agreement between the Governments of Rajasthan and Gujarat on the use of Malvi river in 1966, 419 feet high Kahana dam was constructed. The water of that dam fed by Mahi river was utilized for irrigating the district of Khera of Gujarat State. There was a condition in the said agreement that after the award of the tribunal about the Narbada river, district Khera would be irrigated by the Narbada water and the water of the river Mahi would be released for irrigation in the upper areas of Gujarat and the worst drought prone areas of Barmer and Jalore of Rajasthan through Kahana Canal. The Gujarat Government is not abiding by the agreement. This urgent issue should, therefore, be referred to the National

Council of water Resources as per the recommendation of the National Development Council. The Prime Minister should take special interest in it so that the dispute could be settled at the earliest. Thereafter active steps should be taken in making the water of Mahi river available in the desert district of Barmer and Jalore so that the region could be irrigated.

2. A number of States in the country are facing acute power crisis. The power crisis in Rajasthan State is most acute. The first unit of the Atomic Power Station, Kota was commissioned for some days after having remained closed for about three years. Now it is again lying closed. The other units remain closed for 15 days in a month.

Rajasthan is not getting its full share from the Satpura Thermal Plant. The Singrauli Super Thermal Plant is also not supplying to the State its full share.

The Planning Commission has not still granted clearance to the Palana Lignite Plant in the desert areas. The Project report for Kapoordi Lignite Plant has not been prepared to-date. The gas based unit of Ramgarh Thermal Plant is progressing at a slow speed. The cut in power supply to the industries is being made regularly. The electricity is supplied to the farmers for four hours in a day. The implementation of urban and rural water supply schemes for potable water is uncertain due to power crisis.

It is, therefore, submitted that the power problem of the country and particularly of Rajasthan may be included in the agenda for discussion in the House.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : I submit that the following matter may please be included in the business for next week.

Orissa is richly endowed with tourist potential in her fascinating beaches, beautiful forests, rich in wild life and famous places of pilgrimage, all kinds of topics of flora and fauna including many medicinal

[Shri Somnathrath]

plants. But it is a matter of regret that the tourist potential in Orissa has not been developed upto the expectation in the absence of adequate assistance of the Government of India. The development of Orissa's tourist potential is necessary in the interest of the country as a whole. This will open up the flow of international business and foreign exchange to the country. I would, therefore, request the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation to take up the following measures immediately in order to give a boost to Tourism in Orissa.

1. Banaras, Khajuraho, Bhubaneswar and Port Blair are on the Tourist map of India and as such Boeing link should be provided daily between Delhi and Port Blair via Banaras, Khajuraho and Bhubaneswar. This will also reduce congestion at Calcutta airport.
2. Boeing link should be provided between Calcutta and Madras via Bhubaneswar in order to facilitate foreign tourists.
3. Bhubaneswar should be linked by middle level air service (Vayudoot) daily with places like Rourkela, Jharasguda, Behrampur, Jey-pore and Joshipur.
4. Bhubaneshwar air port should be expanded.
5. Flood lighting system should be introduced at selected archaeological monuments of the State.
6. Ropeway should be provided between Khandagiri and Udayagiri.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Howrah) : I would like the following matters to be taken up for discussion in the next week :—

1. The preparation for the next Asian Games in Seoul and the coaching programmes for the next Olympic Games in Seoul have not yet started in any sports disciplines in our country.

By this time all the experts and important foreign coaches have already been engaged by other countries and India will be in great difficulty to provide superior coaching specially in the field of Hockey, Football, Swimming, Shooting and Volley Ball.

It is a fact that the Sports Ministry has taken initiative to consult various Federations in this regard but the House and the people are unaware about the outcome of it. So the matter needs to be discussed in the House.

2. The film industry in West Bengal has been facing severe crisis for the last few years after the sudden death of their matinee idol, Uttam Kumar, both in terms of box office and production. Nevertheless a few talented and upcoming directors and producers courageously took up some ventures and found success. Yet the overall position has not yet improved.

NFDC should have a definite programme to promote the West Bengal film industry and the film Finance Corporation should have a flexible attitude in terms of sanctioning loans and the projects for West Bengal film industry that badly needs attention by way of modern equipment, technology, colour processing, camera work and modern studio arrangements.

A discussion about the entire film industry of India is necessary to find out the imbalances as well as for necessary support to the respective centres for marketing, exhibition and distribution. A Film Finance Authority can be instituted.

[Translation]

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir the following matter be included in the next week's business.

Due to heavy rains in Punjab, about 30 thousand cusecs of water is flowing

in to Pakistan from Heerke barrage. The Indira Gandhi Canal of the Rajasthan State or the Bhakra System Canals have no water in them. The paddy crop in the Ghagra river area is withering. Even in such a period the officers are releasing less water. The Indira Gandhi Canal is drawing about 7,000 cusecs of water at present whereas its capacity is 18,000 cusecs. If more water is released from Punjab in the canal then the project area and the crops of the Ghagra river area can be saved from being destroyed. Similarly, if Punjab gets more water from the canals of Bhakra then the crops of this area can be saved from destruction.

I, therefore, request the Government of India and the hon. Minister for Irrigation that the water which is flowing into Pakistan should be released in the canals of Rajasthan.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : Sir, I will put all the points raised by the hon. Members before the Business Advisory Committee for their consideration.

12.40 hrs

TERRORIST AFFECTED AREAS (SPECIAL COURTS) AMENDMENT BILL

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The house will now take up item No. 11 of the agenda.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : Sir, on behalf of Shri S.B. Chavan I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Terrorist Affected Areas (Special Courts) Act, 1984.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Terrorist Affected Areas (Special Courts) Act, 1984.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

12.41hrs

ESSENTIAL SERVICES MAINTENANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : Sir, I beg to move :

“That the Bill to amend the Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1981, be taken into consideration.”

As the House is aware, the Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1981 was brought on the Statue Book as part of a major effort to keep the wheels of production moving and with the object of ensuring uninterrupted maintenance of essential services so essential for national security and defence as well as for the economy. I would like to recall the circumstances which necessitated the enactment of this law. In 1980-81 there were certain disquieting trends on the Labour front affecting the maintenance of essential services in some vital sectors of the economy. The locomen agitation and the prolonged agitation by public sector workers in Bangalore were illustrative of such trends. The labour situation which was marked by increasing violence brought matters to a head. It was considered necessary that if disruption of the normal life of the community was to be avoided and if production essential for national security and