

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

(a) Energy

MR. SPEAKER: The leave is granted.
The Members will be informed accordingly.

(b) Human Resource
Development

12.20 3-4 hrs.

(c) External Affairs

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

(d) Labour

- (4) Discussion under Rule 193 regarding situation arising out of the reported nexus between Afghan rebels and terrorists in Punjab on Wednesday, the April, 1989, at 4 p.m.

[English]

Minutes

SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH (Bombay North): I beg to lay on the Table Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Sitting of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House held on the 29th March, 1989.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): The following subject may be included in the next week's business:-

The following National Highways have been proposed by Rajasthan Government as "National Expressway System" for the country:-

12.21 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing 3rd April, 1989, will consist of:-

1. Delhi - Jaipur - Ahmedabad -

Bombay (National Highway No. 8)

2. Agra - Indore - Nasik - Bombay

(National Highway No. 20)

These roads have a very high density of traffic both commercial and tourists. This is an important corridor for the major part of Rajasthan as well as to link Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra and beyond.

It is requested that they may be given top most priority.

12.23 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

- (1) Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
- (2) Discussion on the Interim and the Final Reports of the Thakkar Commission on the assassination of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, the late Prime Minister and the Memorandum of Action taken thereon.
- (3) Discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of:

SHRI AKHTAR HASAN (Kairana) : I want to draw the attention of the Government to the irrigation system for agricultural

fields. Irrigation is mainly done through tubewells, canals and their distributaries. But tubewells remain unoperational most of the time due to faults in power lines and transformers. On the other hand, even the water to be supplied by the canals is stopped or diverted at a short distance from the originating point of the canal. So farmers are not able to get the benefit of the canal water for irrigation and in spite of that, they are made to pay the water charges. Thus in this mismanaged set-up, the farmers have to face two pronged attack.

Hence, I request the Government to emphasise the need of taking corrective steps to improve the entire irrigation system in the country.

[English]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA (Sangrur): The following subject may please be included in the next week's agenda:

The country is anxious to solve Punjab problem. The Government claims to have released Jodhpur detainees but have re-arrested S. Gurcharan Singh Tohra and seventy-eight others under other cases. This has destroyed the climate of gesture. The Government should immediately release the Akali leaders and workers and take effective steps to punish the killers of November, 1984 riots. The Government should ensure that no police repression takes place against innocent citizens. Only this can create congenial atmosphere to solve the Punjab problem.

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central): The Border Dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka is pending for the last thirty two years. Fifteen lakh Marathi speaking people in Belgaum, Karwar and nearby villages are agitating for their merger with Maharashtra. Maharashtra Assembly passed a unanimous resolution for merger of this area in Maharashtra after opinion poll. It is the responsibility of the Central Govern-

ment to resolve this dispute and it should not be left to Chief Ministers of both States. As Marathi speaking people are forced to learn Kannada language, it is causing dissatisfaction. Hence the urgency to solve the problem.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): We, must discuss the alarming price spiral which has made the lives of common people miserable.

The prices of pulses, vegetables, mutton, fish and other articles of mass consumption have been rising continuously. The price of mutton has been rising by Rs. 2 per kilogram every month for the past six months with the result that its price rose to Rs. 40/- per kilogram in March.

Government should take serious notice of this spiral and curb this trend.

[Translation]

SHRI MANKURAM SODI (Bastar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following subject may kindly be included in the next week's list of Business.

Today only those areas of our country as are inhabited by poor, illiterate and backward people are showing an extra-ordinary rate of increase in their population despite the family planning programmes being operated in those areas because these sections of people are lacking in general knowledge as compared to the educated class. Even health services are inadequate in these areas as there are very few doctors and para-medical staff and as a result, all the activities in the hospitals have come to standstill in the absence of required staff. After going in for family planning if the children of a family are affected by any infectious disease, no modern medical facilities are available for them for their proper and timely treatment. Families living in such areas should not be covered under the family planning programmes until there is provision of modern facilities for their medical treatment in these areas.

[Sh. Mankuram Sodi]

Hence, the Centre is requested to give this matter a serious thought and issue directives to the States to make a change in their programmes.

SHRI KRISHNA PRATAP SINGH (Maharajanj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following subject may kindly be included in the list of Business for the next week.

The number of educated unemployed in our country is increasing day by day. There are lakhs of young doctors, engineers and teachers who remain unemployed after the completion of their education. The announcement for the Nehru Employment Scheme has infused a new hope among the unemployed youth of our country. But this scheme will benefit only those young people who are interested in self-employment.

I urge upon the Government to formulate a scheme that can provide employment opportunities to the highly educated youth of our country.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): The first point I had already raised and the Speaker was kind enough to agree to that. So I leave the first point and raise my second point.

It is most unfortunate that the discussion on question of compensation to Bhopal gas victims, an important matter, is hanging unfinished. In the meantime, new petitions have been filed in the court about the out of court settlement of the Government with Union Carbide and the former judgment with regard to that. This discussion must not remain pending as it is now.

SHRI MADAN PANDEY (Gorakhpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, it is well-known that India has the largest number of Muslims in the world and every year nearly one lakh Indian Muslims go to Saudi Arabia to per-

form Haj. The Central Government has constituted Haj Committees at various levels for the convenience of Haj pilgrims. The facilities being provided by these Committees are praiseworthy. But recently the Saudi Arabian Government have expressed their inability to provide lodging facilities to the Haj pilgrims from India. This necessitated the Haj Committee constituted by the Central Government to make its own arrangements for the lodging of these pilgrims. For this purpose 1500 Riyals which is equivalent to Rs. 6000 approximately, are being charged from each of such Haj pilgrims. Since this amount is an unbearable burden, a majority of the prospective pilgrims are deprived of performing the Haj Pilgrimage. Persons desirous of going on Haj have demanded that if this much of amount has to be paid compulsorily then it should be made 'voluntary'. The Haj Committee may arrange lodging for those who are willing to bear this surcharge. Other pilgrims will have to make their own arrangements for their lodging.

Hence, I request the Government to give a serious thought to this problem and make the amount of lodging surcharge of 1500 Riyals to be charged alongwith the ticket, 'Voluntary'.

[English]

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South): Sir, I beg to submit that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

Hike in prices of paper unilaterally by paper mills has affected thousands of printers in the country. The printing industry will not be able to manage with the above hike. The price of cream woven paper or white printing paper has shot up from Rs. 12,400 per metric tonne in September 1988 to Rs. 17,000 per tonne now. The prices of other qualities of paper like Maplitho and pump board have also been increased by nearly 35 per cent. The Union Government should allow more import of paper to meet the growing demand.

Secondly, Sir, Karnataka has been receiving power from Ramagundam Super Thermal Plant. Tariff for energy supplied from this plant has been increased, affecting Karnataka State Electricity Board which has been supplying power to irrigation pump sets at ten paise per unit which is far below the production cost. Neither the State Government nor the Central Government is giving any subsidy to Electricity Boards. I request the Government to direct the National Thermal Power Corporation not to increase tariff for energy supplied to Karnataka from Ramagundam Super Thermal Plant.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF IN-
FORMATION AND BROADCASTING
(SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): Sir, I will bring the
observations of the hon. Members to the
notice of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.33 hrs.

MOTION RE: REPORT OF COMMISSION
ON CENTRE-STATE RELATIONS -
CONTD.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we shall go to the next item—further consideration of the motion moved by Shri Buta Singh on 30th March, 1989. Shri B.R. Bhagat.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT (Arrah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since yesterday, the House has been debating the very important and significant Report of the Sarkaria Commission. The Sarkaria Commission went into the question of the Centre-State relations in all aspects very painstakingly and submitted a very comprehensive report. Basically, the Commission has come to the conclusion that even after the working of the Indian federalism for nearly four decades thirty-seven years or a little more than that—the basic structure and the concept of federalism have stood the test of time and so much resilience has been provided. It also speaks of the new changes that have taken place in

the light of the changes taking place all over the world. In the system of governance of federalism, one trend all over the world is the trend of centralisation—tending to centralise at the top. Because of the dynamic functioning of modern State, the Defence, the industrialisation, the Science and Technology try to enter, pervade all the grounds resulting in the centralisation of powers. But it goes to the wisdom and far-sightedness of the founding fathers of the Constitution to have provided for enough resilience and I want to mention what Dr. Ambedkar the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution, had said. He had said that a country like India's diversity, a country of India's regional, linguistic, ethnic, religious and all kinds of diversity can only be welded together in a scheme of federalism. The basic concept of Indian federation is that with a strong Centre, with equally a strong State autonomy and all the powers, distribution of powers, whether legislative or executive powers or the financial powers. I have been provided and put into this so as to make the Indian Centre a strong as well as the State autonomous, resurgent and effervescent. It is not a stagnating kind of State autonomy, but in its source, various things have been provided. He said at that moment of time that the real days of federalism the working of Indian federalism would come one day. Today the Centre as well as the States are ruled by only one party, one political party. But Dr. Ambedkar prophesied that a day will come that there may be a situation where the Centre will be ruled by one political party in the Indian federalism and most of the States will be ruled by different political parties and at that moment of time the working of Indian federalism will come. This is what he prophesied and for that he had provided enough resilience. He had taken care of almost everything. Nobody can take care of the future. Any time a new development may take place and that is to be taken care of. But he was confident and he had spoken in this House that the Indian federal system would stand the test of those days also and those days had come. At first that had arisen in 1957 when as many as in 8 States, the Congress lost the power and at the Centre its