

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Goel.
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : I would like to draw attention of the House towards the issue of security of the citizens. Two incidents of bomb blast took place in my area, i.e. Sadar Parliamentary Constituency...(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum) : This is a very important issue...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (WB) The revival package is a must...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : The Minister is here. He should respond to this...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : We demand a statement from the hon. Minister...(Interruptions)

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : We want to know the response of the hon. Minister...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : In Delhi 15 incidents of bomb blast have taken place since September 1993 till date...(Interruptions) There was bomb blast in Lajpat Nagar, in a bomb blast in Paharh Ganj eight people were injured. In the bomb blast incident of Geeta Colony 4 persons were injured, in a bomb blast in Sadar Bazar on 3rd January...(Interruptions). I want to point out that the Intelligence Bureau had not given any forewarning even in a single case of bomb blast. Delhi Police gave no hint of any apprehension in any of these cases...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Goel. After that I will ask the Minister if he wants to say anything.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : What message will go to the nation if so much sense of insecurity prevails in Delhi, the capital of the country. In my constituency two bomb blasts took place, that too in the crowded area of Sabzi Mandi but the incidents were not reported to the Chief Minister...(Interruptions) I want that the Union Home Minister should make a statement in this regard. This is the sixteenth incident of bomb blast in Delhi which has jeopardized the security of denizens of Delhi. The Intelligence Bureau should be asked as to why no caution was issued by them even in a single case of bomb blast...(Interruptions) Sir, You please ask the Home Minister to make a statement in this regard ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do you want to say anything?

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : They have not been paid wages since January. What does the Minister want to do about it?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, two days ago some comrades of a Union had met me and given me a memorandum seeking to know as to how that unit could be revived. After obtaining complete information from the Department I would certainly appraise them of the latest position in this regard. They had met me in my office. I have my sympathies with them but you see the nation is passing through severe economic crisis. I am helpless in this matter, even then I am trying to find out as to what can be done in this regard.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet at 14.10 hours.

13.08 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till ten minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.16 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Sixteen Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to strengthen core sector for generation of Power

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Even after five years of Liberalization of the economy the country could not make desired economic progress to lack of strong basic infrastructure mainly due to inadequate availability of power. The Government has made an arrangement of separate captive coal mines for the core sector to solve the problem of inadequate availability of power. Despite this the private entrepreneurs could not make any significant progress in this direction. It is, therefore, essential that the Government should strengthen this core sector instead of totally depending on private entrepreneurs. Allocating one mining block to various users is not the only solution. The private entrepreneurs will adopt latest technologies to maximise their production which in turn will reduce the employment opportunities. This apart, motivated by an urge to maximise their profit these private entrepreneurs will remain indifferent towards maintenance of mines, in the same way, as was seen prior to nationalisation of Coal mines. It would be better if the Government streamlines the coal mining operations and restructures the coal mines as it would attract the

private entrepreneurs to make capital investment on equal sharing basis. Though since inception the Coal India Ltd. has been catering to the needs of steel sector and also to the needs of the entire country, but it is earning profit only for the last five years and is not in a position to mobilise adequate funds to develop or restructure its mines to match the needs of the next decade.

The Central Government should therefore, streamline and restructure this core sector on the same pattern as has been followed in the case of captive coal mines of Tata.

(ii) Need to review the declared support price of Copra

[English]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargoda) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Agriculture Minister and the Government of India towards the poor support price declared for copra. The coconut farmers are totally disappointed by this. As Kerala's economy is based on coconut price, ups and downs in coconut price would also affect the economy of the State. There is no representation in the Central Agricultural Evaluation Commission from Kerala. The Government of Kerala had convinced the Centre about the increase in copra price. It is a just demand to evolve a separate fund for agricultural damage from natural calamities. The Government of Kerala has demanded to include all crops in the agriculture insurance scheme and to exempt small and marginal farmers from paying premium. It is true that the coconut production in Kerala is declining because of various diseases. Till date, the Government has not succeeded in providing effective preventive measures. There must be a comprehensive project to remove ill and old trees and plant new hybrid varieties.

I request the Union Agriculture Minister to reconsider the declared support price for copra.

(iii) Need to Protect the interests of Sugar cane growers particularly in U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (Dumariaganj) : There is wide spread resentment and confusion amongst the sugar cane growers of Uttar Pradesh as a result of quashing of the orders of the U.P. Government by Allahabad High Court on fixation of sugar cane prices and non-payment of increased sugar cane prices by the sugar mill owners. A huge sum of Rs. 250 crore is still outstanding for payment to the farmers. Whereas as per the UP Sugar cane Purchase Act and rules thereunder, making payment of price for sugar cane within fifteen days procurement is mandatory and in case the payment is not made within the stipulated period, then an interest of 12.5 per cent would have to be paid on it. But this rule has never been followed strictly as a result of which the condition of sugar cane growers have become even more miserable.

Out of 118 sugar mills in the state crushing is going on only in 115 mills. The Central Government sugar mills at Gauri Bazar and Anand Nagar have been closed down as a result of which the sugar cane crop is decaying in the fields. As a result of closure of mills at Anand Nagar, the condition of sugar cane growers of Maharajganj and Siddhartha Nagar has become very miserable because sugar cane is the only cash crop growth by the farmers of this area.

It is, therefore requested that the Government should ensure the payment of the same price for sugar cane as was fixed by the U.P. Government. Arrangements should be made for sale of sugar cane of the farmers of Siddhartha Nagar and Maharaj ganj who are affiliated with Anand Nagar Mill. These two mills of the Central Government should be revived up at the earliest and immediate steps should be taken to ensure remunerative price to sugar cane growers.

(iv) Need to waive off outstanding Special Term Loan against Punjab

[English]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Special Term Loan of more than Rs. 5500 crore is outstanding against the Punjab Government. This amount has accumulated over the years when the State Government was handling the problem of militancy which was a national problem. The Punjab Government is not in a position to make payment of this huge loan. It is requested that the Central Government should waive off this loan.

Last year also, a delegation of the Punjab MPs had met the Prime Minister on this behalf and he had assured of a favourable consideration in the matter.

The former Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao had declared the waiver of the loan when he visited Punjab in 1995 but no action was taken thereafter. I, therefore, request the Union Government to waive off the outstanding loan of the Punjab State for the overall development.

(v) Need to set up a new Railway Zone in Bilaspur District, Madhya Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE (Bilaspur) : The people from various political parties, ordinary citizens and members of Yuva Sangharsh Samitee of district Bilaspur of Madhya Pradesh have been agitating and going on hunger strike for the past 158 days. There is great resentment among the people of that areas against the Government over this issue and the situation can be explosive. Last year such agitations the Bilaspur Railway Station in Madhya Pradesh was set on fire and railway property worth Rs. 300 crore was damaged.

I, therefore, urge the Government to give sanction for setting up a new Railway Zone in Bilaspur district.