[Shri Bhadreswar Tanti]

delivers the letter or throws it to the dust bin. There is no authority to oversee him. There are some post offices where the service is found to be worse.

In every State, there is a Post-master General. But in Assam, there is no Postmaster General, as yet. One post-master General is posted at Shillong for the entire Northeastern States and he has to control the entire Northeastern States. Even after 39 years of our independence, you could not create a separate post of Post-master General May I ask the Communication for Assam. Minister why this has not been done. people have been denied their rights. We have demanded a separate Post-master General and his offices in the State of Assam but that has been turned down.

In my constituency, at Golaghat, the population is 50,000. But there is no post office yet. The post office located at Golaghat had been shifted 10 years back to the outskirts for the purpose of construction of the old building. But it has been deserted today. In the present post office, which is located outskirts the town, a dacoity was also committed because of its insecurity. People are getting a lot of difficulties in the abselve of permanent post office in the heart of the town. What for the post office has been shifted to the outskirts, may I know from the hon. Minister? The fund for construction has also been allotted but it has been diverted to some other place.

There is a village called Kamala Miri which is named after the freedom fighter Kamala Miri who was a martyr of the freedom movement in 1942. But suprisingly enough, there is no post office even today, after 39 years of independence. People have to go 12 miles across two rivers, for purchasing postal articles such as postcards etc. There is no communication in the village. May I request the Minister to reply to the point and also see that the post office is opened there immediately? The hon. Minister of Communication also belongs to the States of Assam.

My suggestion would be that Government should not create the laws alone and it should not go on amending the laws. That will not help unless the Government implements the law. It should be implemented properly and under proper supervision. Then only proper things will come out. Otherwise not.

17.36 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

[English]

Package deal for the Setting up of Various Projects in West Bengal

MR. CHAIRMAN: We now take up the Half-An-Hour discussion. Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

SHRI SOMNATH **CHATTERJEE** Mr. Chairman, like the words (Bolpur): "21st century", recently a figure namely, Rs. 684 crores has become a very publicised figure in this country and also somewhat mysterious. To resolve this mystery, I had put a question which was mutilated and changed, to suit probably the Minister's convenience and wishes and the reply was given on the 5th November, 1986 about the details and the break-up of the figure Rs. 684 crores which was announced by the Prime Minister at Calcutta to be given as assistance to the State Government or to the State. The reply having made the matter more mysterious, I gave notice of this discussion. At last, the ballot has now favoured me.

From the way the publicity is being given and an attempt is being made to propagate, it appears that the Central Government for the first time since independence of this country has shown its grave concern for a State Government and has showered its largesse so far as the people of the State of West Bengal are concerned and that the Prime Minister has not only verywidely opened the purse strings of the Central funds but he has himself gone with the entire array of Ministers and Officers—I do not know who were there and who were not—to deal with the problems which have been pending.

There was some similar situation in the history, of course, during the pre-Moghul

days. I do not wish to remind ourselves of that. I do not wish to grudge any encomium which is due to the Central Government in this matter. But there is a certain situation which has developed soon after the visit and the announcement made by the Prime Minister.

I find that the walls of Calcutta and the suburban towns and even villages are plastered with multi-coloured posters containing the names of.....

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): So what?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No interruption please. This is Half-an-Hour discussion.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: These posters, of course, most of them, I believe, carry the Prime Minister's picture, telling the people "Look here, what the Central Government has done for you. Never it had happened in the past. (Interruptions) May I have some little courtesy being shown to us?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No interruptions please.

MR. SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Interruption and disturbance, they are two different things. I do not mind interruption. But disturbance I do mind. (Interruptions).

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour): It is very unfortunate we do not understand what she says. If we understand what she says then it will not be a disturbance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is replied to by the hon. Minister and not by the other hon. Member.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: As I said, I do not grudge any encomium or any praise and thanks due to the Central Government, after all, they are supposed to be be-all and end-all of our endeavours and intentions, our policies and programmes and what not. But it appears from the answer to the question and the blitzkrieg of publicity that was started both in the media—because

the Prime Minister's interview to the Press was repeated more than once on the T.V., more than once within a span of 7 days. Our young Minister of State for Commerce in his other role being very active, I find that he has not forgotten the valls of the cities and towns of Calcutta to remind the people of the great munificence of our young Prime Minister. But what was the reply? The reply given describes it as "list of projects included in the package deal". A very interesting phrase has been coined package deal". Deal with whom? Certain facts are necessary in this connection to recapitulate.

It is known in this country that the State Governments have the obligations to the people to provide health, education, electricity, irrigation and everything. Most of the daily necessities of life have to be provided by the State Govern-Sir, you are very well aware of it. But the way our set up has been made and the way they function it has been seen that since independence, every State Government has to open liaison office in Delhi because the liaison work has to be done. IAS officers are posted in Delhi. The State Chief Ministers have to make periodical visits to this Mecca; Ministers have to come; they have to do tadbeer work for the purpose of clearance of various projects. We, Members of Parliament, make our humble efforts. Some Members are more powerful. We are humble. Others are more powerful. They have been doing it. this country, the State Government cannot decide to generate one kilo-watt of power without the Central Government's permission. No irrigation project can be started in this country without the Central Government's permission. No industry can be started either in the Public Sector or in the Private Sector or in the Joint Sector without Central Government clearance. Even with regard to educational matters, health matters, one has to have a clearance from Delhi. There is one interesting thing which you are aware—i.e. even in respect of projects for which not even one pie of Central assistance is to be given, even for those projects Central Government clearance is necessary.

When Rs. 684 crores was mentioned without any break up, without any projects

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

being mentioned in detail, what is the financial grant the Central Go ernment will make? What happened? What had to be done? The Chief Minister sent a letter on the 25th of September, after a week after the Prime Minister's visit, requesting for a break-up of this figure and the time-frame within which it has to be completed. For these projects, many of them are pendingatleast one project has been pending since 1966, from the days of Mr. Prafulla Chandra Sen when he was the Chief Minister. About Chittaranjan Cancer Centre. I will come to that later. In Feb. 85, the State Government prepared a sort of a note and sent it to Delhi saying that so many projects are pending, please do something—either say yes or no. What are you going to do? You cannot keep these things pending, apart from our request for Central investment in the State. That is separate—like electronic project in the State, establishing a ship-building yard in the State which are out and out Central Government projects. We had asked for a Petro-chemical project in the Central Sector. But they refused to do it. Apart from this, the note was prepared in Feb. 85 saying these are the projects which are pending clearance or sanction or your decision. Nothing happened. No decision was taken. In June 1986, the Chief Minister came to Delhi, met the Prime Minister, discussed with him again, as to what has to be done. Say one thing or the other.

In July 1986 the Prime Minister said: "You prepare a sort of comprehensive note of whatever is pending here and send me with your comments and detailed correspondence, etc., and I shall consider". In July 1986 that was sent, Then the Prime Minister was good enough. with his encourage, to visit the State on the 18th September. The list which was contained 61 projects, including very important power projects, important irrigation projects, health, jute problems, nationalisation of jute, etc., and so many other projects. Because my time is short, I am not reading What happened in that meeting which was spread over six or seven hours? Out of the 61 projects...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R.

DAS MUNSI): I would only submit one thing to Mr. Chatterjee, if he yields for a minute. Will you please explain this, what was the total proposal for the Seventh Plan outlay of the State Government and what was the total project cost which the Chief Minister had sent in the note? (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: This is not only totally irrelevant, but this is almost bordering on disturbance, more a disturbance than an intervention.

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: I am sorry. I thought you were ready with figures.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I have great affection for him.

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: I am sorry. You are not prepared.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Whether I am prepared or not, that is for the other people to decide. I am not here at the moment to explain until he becomes entitled to ask for my explanation. I have my affection for him, I have respect for him, I have regard for him. Let him do something in Commerce.

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: Those figures would have given the true picture.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No discussion please.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Why don't you give ideas to Shri Sukh Ram?

Central Electronics Project was rejected; the centre of excellence in electronics was rejected; expansion of Haldia Oil Refinery was rejected; so many things were there which were totally rejected; 13 out of 61. 39 items have been deferred, including schemes for thermal projects, irrigation projects; all these have been deferred; no decision has been taken. We have prepared a list of those 39 items. If you give me time, 1 can read out, and you will be shocked that such important projects can still be deferred on the ground that all those Ministers, including the Prime Minister,

meeting together, could not even come to decisions in that seven-hour meeting, in the duration of seven hours. Ship-repairing, etc., etc.—all were deferred. 13 rejected. 39 have been deferred. Then only nine remained. Nine of them were approved at that meeting. One of themit will be very interesting to know-has been kept pending for the last two years only for the purpose of obtaining MRTP clearance, not for any money, not for other sanctions. A generating station run by the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, which is known as the Southern Generating Station, has wanted to become old and they replace the machine—turbo boiler or some such thing. They wanted to import some from England under some arrangement with probably a British concern. That rejected on the ground that BHEL should supply, on the ground that it should be purchased from BHEL. That was accepted, because otherwise it would never have been sanctioned. After that, on the ground that the CESC is governed by MRTP, only for MRTP clearance a power project had to be kept pending. Altogether the project had taken four years in Delhi. For MRTP clearance, it was lying here from April 1985. After nearly 16 months this simple MRTP clearance was announced. Not a single pie was to be spent by the Central Government on this project; no grant was asked for; no financial assistance was asked for from the Central Government. CESC State Government and the financial institution will jointly bear the expenses. How much is the project cost? Rs. 210 crores is not for the Central Government, But Rs. 210 crores mentioned in the list which Mr. Sukh Ram has been kind enough to give us. crores contains the project of Rs. 210 crores for which not a paisa of Central assistance to be given. 684 minus Rs. automatically comes to 474. When Prime Minister said Rs. 684 crores nothing was mentioned, details were not given in the meeting or in the Press Conference. Chief Minister requested the Prime Minister, the Prime Minister said that his different ministries would write to him. In between, a question was put by us in the House and an answer was given on 5th.

Just prior to that, on 31st October—almost a month and a half later—it appeared, a letter was sent by the Secretary

to the Prime Minister, Smt. Sarala Grewal to the Chief Secretary of the Government of West Bengal giving the so called particulars and they mentioned a figure which now comes up to Rs. 1007 crores. When we put the question of Rs. 684 crores on the 5th November, this was the reply that has been given mentioning these 14 projects. Out of these 14 projects, one of them is Rs. 210 crores, South Generating Station of CESC.

According to our information and I say, the Government of India also does not claim that they will have to spend a pie out of this. No assistance is involved in this. Therefore, Rs. 210 crores cannot be part of Rs. 684 crores, but even then it is mentioned. (Interruptions) I am obliged to Mr. Das Munshi...(Interruptions)...sometimes he becomes fair.

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: I am confident that the parentage of the baby is very justified and there is some ethical ground.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: But it has produced a deformed baby, though you may not have any doubt about the parentage.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, let us not delay the proceedings. You put the question; after that the Minister will reply.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am not so much on the purpose of crossing swords. I want to say really please give some money, don't politicise in the way that you have done it. Multi coloured posters...

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: You should know how to utilise the money in Bengal and then ask for money.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: May I know how the Chief Minister of West Bengal has started distributing... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the procedure for Half-an-Hour discussion. No other member should speak except those who have given their names.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: At least let the Minister not disturb or

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

interrupt. Rs. 684 crores, of course, is the figure which he has mentioned. Probably the addition was not done on computer; otherwise it would have been Rs. 684.31 crores. This is because it is just to tally with the figure mentioned by the Prime Minister. You omitted even Rs. 31 lakhs which should have been mentioned here. Even your computer is afraid of the Prime Minister and would not give the addition of Rs. 31 lakhs.

There are three major items. One I have mentioned, viz, Rs. 210 crores. The other major item is Rs. 250 crores. Rs. 150 crores is jute modernisation fund in IFCl. Rs. 100 crores is jute special fund for rehabilitating, re-opening and re-structuring. There is another. Here in the bracket 'OT' is written. I do not know what it means. I am told it means 'out of turn'.

Sir, our demand was for nationalisation of the jute industry. There have strikes in West Bengal where even INTUC unions have participated. The present interim working President of their Party has also participated. There has been a joint demand. Our demand was for nationalisation and monopoly procurement of jute. of these has been conceded. Both have been rejected. Now the jute barons who have closed and declared look-out in the various jute mills have mis-appropriated crores of rupees of the workers' money. Rs. 52 crores have been mis-appropriated on account of provident fund, gratuity, etc. by these mill-owners. Now, these funds have been created for what object? To whom the money would be given ? Nothing has been disclosed. Obviously modernisation fund this means Finance Industrial Corporation will make Rs. 150 crores available in the name of modernisation and the big businessmen in the jute industry will get this money. What is the type of modernisation? How many mills will be helped to modernise with this amount of Rs. 150 crores? Nothing has been mentioned. It is very interesting.

Sir, in the letter of the Prime Minister's Secretary it is said: "The details of jute modernisation fund of Rs. 150 crores have been finalised." It is not done with the

State Government. Money is not given to the State Government. State Government has not been consulted with regard to the modernisation fund or the composition or the para-meters of the modernisation fund. It is said IFCI will be the nodal agency. The scheme will be operative from 1st November, 1986. Secretary has conveyed only this to the State Government. Only a monitoring committee has been formed in which the State Government has been asked to give a representative. It has nothing to do with this fund. State Government does not come in the picture at all. Each jute mill will approach IFCI and they will decide as to what sort of investment to be made in the name of modernisation. Sir, even this Rs. 150 crores have been included in the Central assistance comprising Rs. 684 crores which has nothing to do with the State Government or any State Government project.

Sir, similar is the position with regard to special jute development fund of Rs. 100 crores. No scheme has been prepared. Nothing has been conveyed to the State Government. Nothing has been stated in the Prime Minister's Secretary's letter to the State Government which says a separate special development fund worth Rs. 100 crores has been set-aside for jute. Details of this scheme are being worked out.

So, Sir, this Rs. 250 crores has nothing to do with the State Government. No assistance and no money is being given to the State Government for any State Government or Central Government project. Therefore, this Rs. 250 crores and Rs. 210 crores mentioned by me earlier come to Rs. 460 crores. Even these Rs. 460 crores are included in the Rs. 684 crores.

Another big item is Rs. 80 crores. This Rs. 80 crores concern the second Hooghly bridge. Everybody will admit—forgetting politics—that BBJ which is a Central Government undertaking—for this I am not blaming alone the Central Government—that company's management is not properly done. There are various deficiencies and shortfalls there.

18,00 hrs.

The project started during the regime of our good friend here, Mr. Sen. But it

could not be completed and it is pending since 1972. Rs. 80 crores have been provided with a matching grant or matching contribution or matching expenditure by the State Government, of Rs. 20 crores. Rs. 80 crores is simply a loan with an interest of over 8 per cent for this project. And loan amount is shown as central assistance. Please add 250, 210 and 80 crores of loan, which comes to Rs. 540 crores. So, out of Rs. 684 crores, Rs. 540 crores is of this nature.

Now, what is another important item or heavy amount? Out of Rs. 684 crores. Rs. 93 crores is for regularisation of 614 squatting colonies. This Rs. 93 crores is to be spent over the years. We have been demanding for a long time for confirment of free-hold rights...

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: It is not true. We are grateful to the Prime Minister; because of the Prime Minister alone we got it...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: He does not know anything about the refugees ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. You may please wind up now. You have already taken half an hour. Please conclude.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Rs. 93 crores are to be spent over the years, for which uptill now details are not known as to when the money will be spent, during which period it will be paid and so on. Even then, we thank them because they have ultimately agreed to spend Rs. 93 crores for the purpose of regularisation of squatters' colonies.

SHRIPR. DAS MUNSI: We have received at least one thanks!

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Now the total is Rs. 633 crores. 684 minus 633 comes to 51 crores of rupees. These are not grants or assistance. Out of this Rs. 51 crores, one major item is the New International Terminal Calcutta Airport, which the Prime Minister decided and

announced. For this item Rs. 23 crores is allocated. But no scheme is framed, no design is there and nobody knows in which Five Year Plan it is going to be included. All these things have not been mentioned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please conclude. I have given you half an hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It is very difficult to speak in this atmosphere. Kindly allow me... (Interruptions)

May I read the other items which the Prime Minister, on his own announced? Super Bazar type stores—Rs. 1.04 crores; Niwas-Rs. Railway Yatri amalgamation of Chitta Ranjan Cancer Hospital with the Research Centre (which is pending since 1968, i.e. for almost 20 years) -Rs. 4 crores; the Centre is run by the Central Government. Another item is Yatri Niwas at Ganga Sagar and Mayapuri. There is also a grant for completing the Salt Lake Stadium for which I think Rs. 10 crores has been given and we are happy that the Prime Minister has given this to us. Then there is Centre for Netaji Subhash National Institute of Sports which is a central government undertaking. Then there is Marine Acquarium, again a Central undertaking, if at all they do it. Another Central Government project is the Digha-Tamluk line for which Rs. 2 crores have been sanctioned. But even today, the Railway Minister has said that the only possible sanction is one crore rupees.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: One crore for this year. I also listened..... (Interruptions).

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: He does not want any Central project to be set up in Bengal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think at least the Minister should not disturb.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa): He is a new Minister. He may be permitted.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am reading from the letter of Smt. Grewal.

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

"The Digha-Tamluk Railway line has been approved. A sum of Rs. 5 crores which is the immediate requirement was included in the package announced by the Prime Minister."

The reply that I have got to the question put on the 6th November was, Tamluk was included in the Railway Budget in 1983-84.

87 kms. Length

Rs. 75 crores Present day cost

Expenditure upto 31st March—Rs. 30 lakhs

Budget allocation for 1986-87—Rs. 1 crore

The Prime Minister's Secretariat says that the immediate requirement is Rs. 5 crores. Today, the Railway Minister said that it is...

(Interruptions)

You control this House, Sir. There is a limit to it. The letter of the Prime Minister's Secretariat says that Rs. 5 crores is the immediate requirement. What about this balance Rs. 4 crores and when this project will be completed?

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA: If this continues, we will go out. What is happening in Parliament? Sir, either you keep order in the House or we will go out.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you finished yout speech, Mr. Chatterjee?

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Sir. if he cannot answer the questions, let the discussion be postponed until tomorrow

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would request that the Member should not interrupt him. Let Mr. Chatterjee finish his speech. The Minister will reply and all those whose names are there will only put questions and again the Minister will reply. Nobody else should talk.

(Interruptions)

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adılabad): Sir, the House has not agreed for the extension of the time. First you take the sense of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Generally, wċ complete Half-an-Hour discussion...

SHRI AMAL DATTA: It can be held over till tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech. You have already taken more than half-an-hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, the note was with regard to the discussion on the clearance of the projects which they say that the State Government had referred and mentioned namely 61 projects.

I would like to know what is meant by a package deal with the Stats Government?

Secondly, what is the amount I—want a categorical answer-of Central Assistance given to the State Government for State Government's schemes or projects within this Rs. 684 crores?

Nextly, can any amount of loan be treated as Central Assistance under any norm of financial behaviour or arrangement? Why has this amount of Rs. 210 crores been included in this Rs. 684 crores, for which Central Government is not paying a single paisa as assistance or grant? (Interruptions) I do not want any help. I believe that at the fag end of my life, I can look after myself. What is the grant or assistance with regard to Central projects, out of

684 crores? What is the these Rs. Central assistance or grant to be spent for Central Government projects, out of these 684 crores? I would like to know how many of the projects which have been mentioned in that note to the Prime Minister have been cleared, how many are pending, and how many out of the 61 schemes had Prime Minister sanctioned. Very important: whatever has been sanctioned according to them out of that amount of Rs. 684 crores, what will be the time-frame, the period which will be required for the purpose of even taking up these projects, far less completion of them? I want categorical answers to these points.

Before I sit down, I must make a comment, that after these notices have been given for this half-an-hour discussion on this amount of Rs. 684 crores. on the question that was answered, suddenly these letters are being sent to Members of Parliament, saying: "What is this Rs. 684 crores? We are giving Rs. 1007 crores." Newspaper publicity is immediately given. It is very important. Copies of letters we had never received in the past. Out of this addition of so-called Rs. crores, Rs. 300 crores are supposedly for a Currency Press to be erected at a place not yet selected.

This is the nature of these projects. Therefore, I would say: If you really mean any good for West Bengal, instead of these gimmicks, there should be a clear admission on your part. You cannot function from Delhi; you have to go to the capitals of State Governments to make your Ministers or Secretaries work. Let us know how much is the Central assistance, and when it is going to be given.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the Minister. Nobody should disturb him.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SUKH RAM): In my reply to the Unstarred Question, I have given the factual position of the case. There are 14 projects, about which there was a package deal between the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of West Bengal. (Interruptions) I am explaining all these things. If you please have patience, I will explain all the projects.

The total amount involved is Rs. 684 The crores. first project Jute viz. Modernization Fund involves an expenditure of Rs. 150 crores. (Interruptions) This amount has to be provided by IFCI. Once Prime Minister has committed this is earmarked. As you are aware, there is a great pressure on IFCI to arrange funds for different projects. Here in the case of modernization of jute mills in West Bengal, as far as I know, there has been a demand from West Bengal Government, and the people there that there should be modernization of these jute mills. Now this scheme is in operation...

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour): Not for modernization, but for nationalization.

SHRI SUKH RAM: This scheme is in operation with effect from 1st 'November 1986. And it is likely that this scheme may be completed within two years; but it will be reviewed after two years; if something else has to be done, then it will be definitely taken care of.

The second project is Jute Special Fund for rehabilitating, reopening and restructuring the jute industry. This is a project which is under discussion and the amount of Rs. 100 crores has to be provided by the Textile Ministry; and the scheme has to be prepared in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Jute Commissioner and financial institutions.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore): Is the State Government involved in the discussion?

SHRI SUKH RAM: I feel sorry that you don't have the patience to listen to the next sentence. I simply want to bring to the notice of my hon. friends that there was a discussion on 3rd November, 1986 with the West Bengal officers and this scheme is under preparation; and when it is finalised, definitely the West Bengal Government and all concerned will be taken into confidence. It is for the benefit of the people of West Bengal. So, when this scheme is finalised, then we can tell you the final picture what are the various implications and components of the scheme. So, it is

[Shri Sukh Ram]

not possible at this stage to say anything further.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Rs. 100 crores will be given anyway.

SHRI SUKH RAM: I have already told you about it, but if you want me to announce that within a couple of days, this has to be done, then it is not possible for me to do it. After all, a scheme has to be prepared.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: You commit that Rs. 100 crores will be given anyway.

SHRI SUKH RAM: If you continue to interrupt me on every matter, then it is very difficult for me to explain all these things.

There is the second Hoogly Bridge. the members are already aware about it. this project was started much earlier and a lot of time has been taken. First the loan assistance was sanctioned at Rs. 57.13 crores; then it was revised to Rs. 150 crores Out of these Rs. 150 crores, Rs. 111.37 crores have already been released to the West Bengal Government, but the West Bengal Government has not been in a position to spend this amount. balance of the amount against the sanctioned amount of Rs. 150 crores will be released as and when they utilize the previous fund aiready released to you. The Prime Minister was kind enough to sanction an additional amount of Rs. 80 crores in addition to the sanctioned loan amount of Rs. 150 crores which you has not been utilized, as I have already told you; and this amount is subject to the condition that Rs. 20 crores to be provided by the West Bengal Government. So, there is no problem and we rather wish that the West Bengal Government should complete this bridge—as soon as possible. have told us that by the end of 1990 this bridge will be completed.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: The contractors are your own public undertakings' people.

SHRI SUKH RAM: It is in the State Sector and that is a Non-Plan loan. (Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA: It is a Government of India undertaking. (Interruptions)

SHRIPR. DAS MUNSI: I am sorry to intervene. The Minister should not be disturbed. I would like to help the hon. Minister and the House.

Mr. Amal Datta represents West Bengal. The Hooghly Bridge is being executed, not by the Government of India, but by the Hooghly River Bridge Commissioner under the authority of the West Bengal Government. He should know that. Without having the information, do not mislead the House.

SHRI SUKH RAM: This is what I was telling him, that it is the responsibility of the State Government. (Interruptions) The execution has to be done by the State Government. (Interruptions) As far as the bridge is concerned, the ball is in the court of the West Bengal Government. The Centre has done its best. It has given money; after all from Rs. 57 crores we have now come to Rs. 230 crores as non-Plan assistance for this Bridge.

And then Super Bazar, this is a This entire centrally sponsored scheme. money is to be given by the Centre i.e. the State Government is not going to contribute even a single penny out of this Rs. 1.04 crores. A sum of Rs. 56 lakhs has already been released. Now, certain further clarifications have been sought from the West Bengal Government. As and when those clarifications are received Government of India the balance amount will be released.

Then, regularisation of 614 squatter colonies, this was a demand of the then congress Government and Congress Party (Interruptions) and for this the Prime Minister has sanctioned Rs. 93 crores for settling or regularisation of these squatters colonies but according to the West Bengal Government's demand, the colonies have to be identified as they existed on 21th March, 1971. So, now it is for the West Bengal Government to supply this information regarding how many colonies have been identified as on that particular date. When they supply this information then only,

thereafter the scheme will be prepared and the question of execution comes, thereafter. So here also the ball is in the West Bengal Government's court. (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What questions I asked and what answers I am getting! Mr. Chairman, I will leave it to you to decide.

SHRIPR. DAS MUNSI: For supplying information how much time do you need?

SHRI SUKH RAM: We had already written and the Secretary to the Prime Minister has already written to the Chief Secretary of West Bengal Government to supply all this information so that various steps can be taken by the different Ministries. (Interruptions)

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): How much time will you take to give the information? (Interruptions)

SHRI SUKH RAM: Now it is for them, for the State Government and if they do not supply the requisite information the project is further delayed and the West Bengal Government has to be held responsible for the delay.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Take the ball and give the money.

SHRI SUKH RAM: As far as the Yatri...(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA: He has not answered. The Minister is carrying on in his own way.

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: You concede the goal and we will take the ball.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: You please explain the procedure. If he does not answer those questions, what questions shall we ask? There is no point in asking questions. This is very strange. (Interruptions) He is going along in his own way. Some specific questions have been formulated. The Minister has not even taken note of them.

SHRI SUKH RAM: You have raised objections in regard to this project and

Mr. Chatterjee has raised this issue, as to how much money the Central Government has contributed.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: The question is how particular amounts have been included and if included have they been correctly included. That you answer.

SHRI SUKH RAM: My hon. friend should appreciate this, fact, that delay has already occurred. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him complete.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: I have a fundamental question. He is replying about Rs. 684 crores, Now, we have heared about Rs. 1007 crores. (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We have asked for clarification on what he has replied already...(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA: You are answering what has been answered already. What is the point of wasting Parliament's time? You are talking of the letter to the Chief Secretary of West Bengal. We have got much more than what you are stating here...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUKH RAM: You wanted to know the contribution by the State Government and the Central Government.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He has not even noted the questions put by me...(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA: What is the point of wasting our time? (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHIELA DIKSHIT): I beg to say that let us have a discussion and not interruptions the way we are having right now...(Interruptions) Kindly fix some timelimit for this; otherwise, there will be no timelimit for this discussion.

SHRI SUKH RAM: If you want to know the factual position of each case, I will give that...(Interruptions)

[Shri Sukh Ram]

There was one case regarding clearance to Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation. Now, they have raised this issue that the Central Government has not contribute the money and the case here has been delayed for a year or so. My friends should appreciate one fact that under MRTP rules companies are required to issue debentures to the extent of 50 per cent of the proposed borrowing from the financial institutions. There was a request from the Bengal West Government that debenture part should be waived. And that has been done by the Government of India. We should appreciate this thing. This is the issue which was pending before the Government of India and that has been cleared by the Government of India.

What has the Prime Minister done for West Bengal in this case is clearance of the project and earmarking of the funds by the financial institutions. In one project, i.e. Salt Lake Stadium, costing about Rs. 48 crores to Rs. 50 crores...(Interruptions)

* SHRI AMAL DATTA: I cannot sit down and tolerate this. (Interruptions)

SHRI SUKH RAM: The hon. friends are known for the intolerance. If you want to say whatever you like and others have to hear, we are not prepared to listen. You listen to one thing. This project has been pending or under execution for a number of years. There was a request from Bengal Government... West (Interruptions) and they were given Rs. 10 crores which was well above the limit of Rs. 20 lakhs given for such stadia in other States.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Who says it is pending? We have not been able to complete it. That is all. (Interruptions)

MR CHAIRMAN: Mr. Amal Datta, you do not want to hear the reply? (Interruptions)

SHRI SUKH RAM: The Prime Minister was kind enough to sanction a grant of Rs. 10 crores. And this is the first case in the whole of the country where Rs. 10 crores as grant has been given to any stadium. It is the maximum. Under the rules, it is only Rs. 20 lakhs and not more than Rs. 20 lakhs. You can cite

of the in any example part any country...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Delhi?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUKH RAM: This is a different matter. This is in the Central sector. In a State Rs. 10 crores have been given as a grant for this stadium. You should have been grateful to the Prime Minister for this...(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Even the maintenance cost of the stadium in Delhi is more than what it earns. We are yet to have stadia in differents part of the country. Everything is here... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I said that I am thankful for this Rs. 10 crores, not Rs. 684 crores. That is what I said...(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA: If he is not answering any of the questions, then he will be in difficulty.

SHRI SUKH RAM: If it does not suit him, I am sorry I cannot him.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Why don't you answer the questions?

SHRI SUKH RAM: They wanted a Tamluk-Digha railway line. This is a new project and as the whole House knows. there is a great demand on the Railway Ministry for extension of new lines. Out of a particular amount, only a small amount is available for the Ministry for extension of new lines. In this package deal Rs. fine crores have been sanctioned and Rs. one crore are being made available now. Since this is a committed amount, the Railway Ministry has earmarked this amount for this line for which they had requested to the Prime Minister...(Interruptions) So, all those facts and figures show that whatever the Minister committed. he issued instructions to his secretariat people that should have the schemes prepared and expedite them. οſ Instead appreciating the spirit behind it, I am sorry my friends have tried to throw blame on the Centre. If there is a publicity regarding what the Centre is doing...(Interruptions) for the people of West Bengal we cannot help.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: They are delaying the things, not expediting.

SHRI SUKH RAM: We have not delayed anything. If my friends have the patience to hear, out of these 14 schemes there are six schemes about which clarifications, informations are required to be sent by the West Bengal Government. They are being delayed because they have not furnished those information. So, if they put pressure on the West Bengal Government also, then I think the matter can be expedited...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I have put questions. Not a single answer has been given.

SHRI SUKH RAM: I have given answers to all the questions which - he has put. I may make it clear to my hon, friends on the Opposition side that...(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA: If he does not answer the questions properly, if he has his say, then we are going to walk out.

SHRI SUKH RAM: He will appreciate only if I say that the Central Government has done nothing. Otherwise he will not appreciate.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: He is not ableto answer any of the questions.

SHRI SUKH RAM: I have covered all the points and I may tell him one thing that the Prime Minister has been very considerate, very impartial and whenever there has been a request from any State including the Government, Opposition governments, the Prime Minister has conceded all their requests. Was it not true of relief which he had given for the West Bengal Government? Whatever they demanded, he gave that. Whatever relief was demanded by the Andhra Government, that relief was given to the Andhra Government. So, they should not forget all these things. If there is a publicity... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Does the money belong to the Prime Minister on the people? Let him clarify. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Whatever has been given is no small amount. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SUKH RAM: If you are aware of one thing—now there is a block assistance to the State Government.

You referred to one problem-that every project has to be cleared by the Central Government. This is not a fact because there has been block assistance to the State Government now. Of course, priorities and all these discussions take place at the Commission's level but the State Government are competent-whatever amount has been sanctioned to them, they are competent to sanction any project within their competence. No such project need be referred to the Central Government. If any project is pending with the Central Government, you may please make a mention of it. We assure you that we will not delay the project if all the information is supplied to us. (Interruptions)

SHRIP. R. DAS MUNSI: Just for information, if you permit me for half a minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI SUKH RAM: There has not to be any discrimination as far as developmental activity in any part of the State is concerned. There we have to be very dispassionate. But I will simply invite the

[Shri Sukh Ram]

attention of my hon. friends that if they impress upon the West Bengal Government to expedite the execution of various schemes, then the Centre will not lag behind. Rather, Centre has been assisting and Centre has no discriminating attitude.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: We want proper answer. You are not answering the questions put by Shri Somnath Chatterjee. (Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA: You please ask the hon. Minister to answer the questions. (Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: He has not answered any of the questions. (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Has he noted down any of the questions? (Interruptions). He has only come to praise the Prime Minister. (Interruptions). Can you repeat my questions?

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: What is the total amount given?

SHRI SUKH RAM: I am sorry I cannot repeat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: You have not answered the question? (Interruptions)

SHRI SUKH RAM: I have covered all the questions. What is your question? (Interruptions).

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: This is for obtaining clarification on the questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot have replies in your own way. He is replying in his own way. (Interruptions)

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Please call me. Hon Minister has finished. (Interruptions)

SHRI SUKH RAM: They wanted to know. (Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: The Minister is supplied information.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Hon. Minister may kindly let us know the total plan outlay of the Seventh Five Year Plan in respect of West Bengal and the amount demanded by West Bengal from the Prime Minister in the package deal and the amount sanctioned by him?

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Let the Prime Minister come and answer.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: You give the ruling as to whether the Minister can go on like this. Let him answer the questions.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. Members do not allow the Minister to reply, I will go to the next item.

(Inverruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: He has the responsibily to tell what is the amount.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): The Minister has already replied.

SHRI SUKH RAM: Out of Rs. 3500 crores they could spend only Rs. 2,443,27 crores in the Sixth Plan and as regards the Seventh Plan, the total Central assistance given to West Bengal comes to 33.77 per cent i.e. Rs. 1393.22 crores out of the plan outlay of Rs. 4125 crores as against 18.86 per cent for Gujarat and 18.46 per cent for Maharashtra. Plan allocationwise also West Bengal is given more.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, postpone it for tomorrow. The Prime Minister will come and give the reply,

SHRI SUKH RAM: I have placed all the fects before the House. Now you cannot put words in my mouth and you cannot expect me to say what you want.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, let this be postponed for tomorrow.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think Mr. Basudeb Acharia does not want to ask any question. So, Mr. Harish Rawat, you ask the question.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was listening to the views of the hon. Member from Bolpur with rapt attention. I am very sorry to point out that...

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If Members are not interested, I will go to the next item please. Are you interested please?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: I have not asked him any question. We want proper answer from the Minister.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Yes, yes, he has given the proper answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have wasted a lot of time. Now only questions.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUKH RAM: I have given the factual position of the case. I can't say whatever you want me to say.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: He has not answered any of the questions put by Comrade Somnath Chatterjee. None of the questions he has answered.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: You repeat the questions.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY; And he will not answer them,

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: He has given some amount.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You address the Chair.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: What he has just now, that also does not come to Rs. 684 crores. And he has also included the two projects—one is Calcutta Electric Supply and the Southern Generation, 1.e., Rs. 210 crores. How this figure has been included, I do not know.

SHRI SUKH RAM: I simply said that the debenture clause has been waived by the Central Government. That is what I said.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: We want to know...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put your question.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: I want to know whether this Rs. 210 crores has been included in the Central assistance or not. We want categorical reply from the Minister.

Next is regarding Second Hooghly Bridge. It is a loan from the Central Government for which interest will be paid. How has this amount of Rs. 80 crores been included in the Central assistance?

There is a demand for conferment of free title to the displaced persons. It was a longstanding demand. In the year 1981, this is to the credit of West Benl Goverangment...

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: This is the achievement of Congress Party.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: There is one R.R. Committee which had submitated to the Government a report demandin Rs. 750 crores, at that time. Now the amount to be given is only Rs. 93 crorese Have the West Bengal Government asked for only Rs. 93 crores in their proposal for the regularisation of squatters' colonies?

[Shri Basudev Acharia]

That figure too was at the rate of 1981 price level. So, how has this figure come? How was the estimate done, for the regularisation of these colonies? He has not answered that. What is the period by which this regularisation can be made?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I have a point of order. Under half-an-hour discussion, how many questions are to be asked. There should be only one question I suppose. Let it be cleared. Our hour is already over.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: They have said, Rs. 5 crores would be released for immediate work, for this year in Digha-Tamluk line. But today while replying to the debate on supplementary demands for grants relating to Railways, the Railway Minister, Shri Madhavrao Scindia categorically replied that for this particular railway line, only Rs. one crore has been sanctioned.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: That is only for this year.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, in the reply, in the letter sent by Smt. Serla Grewal, Secretary to the Prime Minister...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That was read already by Somnathji.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: In her letter, it was mentioned, a sum of Rs. 5 crores for immediate requirement. Today, the Railway Minister, says, one crore for this year. I want to know which Is correct Rs. 5 crores stated by the Secretary to the Prime Minister or Rs. one crore as stated by the Railway Minister today. (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI R.R. DAS MUNSI): You kindly purchase calculator today.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: It was stated by the Railway Minister today. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next please. Shri Harish Rawat.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: The Prime Minister announced 5 Kendriya Vidyalayas for which Rs. 6.25 lakhs is being issued. This is also included.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Harish Rawat.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: You must give a categorical answer to all these questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Harish Rawat to speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Chairman, Sir, just now I heard two hon. Members and during the delate nowhere I felt that the discussion was going on about the development of West Bengal or questions were being asked on this issue. It appeared to me that the debate was on the Centre-State relations and the hon. Members were expressing their views on this subject only...(Interruptions) I was surprised to hear the hon. Member from Bolpur that the Hon. Prime Minister had gone to West Bengal for a good objective...

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why cannot you put your question?

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: I am in a State of formulating my question.

Kindly allow me to do so.

[Translation]

The hon. Members of Parliament from West Bengal under the leadership of Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsi, M.P. had met the Prime Minister and when they appsised him of the deteriorating economy of West Bengal, the Hon. Prime Minister extended some help to the West Bengal Government...

AN HON. MEMBER: He sanctioned assistance not on the Chief Minister's demand, but on the demand of the hon. Members.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: The hon. Member from Bolpur did not express even a single word of gratitude or thanks for the Hon. Prime Minister for giving such a massive assistance, but levelled certain charges for political gains only. I was

surprised to see that the hon. Planning Minister was answering those charges also.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister what is the total Seventh Plan outlay for When the Hon. Prime West Bengal. Minister told the West Bengal Government about the Central help and asked about the fields for which they wanted help, then what was the amount for which they sent the proposal. What per cent of total plan outlay the Hon. Prime Minister sanctioned as Central special assistance for West Bengal, by way of debt or monetary assistance. This is the first thing which 1 want to know.

Secondly, after hearing the two Members from Marxist Party, I feel that they are not pleased to know that funds are being made available for the modernisation of jute mills in West Bengal which they themselves were demanding.

(Interruptions)

They are also not happy that the security press is being established in West Bengal for which Rs. 300 crores will be granted. As a result, about 2000 persons will get direct employment in that press and about 6000 persons will get indirect employment. They are also not happy that the Central Government is granting such a massive assistance for the Hooghly bridge which will solve the traffic problem of Calcutta to a great extent. They have nothing to do with all this. They are concerned about only one thing and that is why this help has been granted just before the elections. Although the people of West Bengal may be receiving some benefits, yet they have nothing to do with the public welfare.

(Interruptions)

They would not have objected, had the money been given directly to the West Bengal Government. I would, therefore, like to know from the hon. Planning Minister whether West Bengal Government had returned the amount given as plan expenditure under the Sixth Five Year Plan? Has his Ministry received such complaints that amount for plan expenditure in West Bengal is used for non-plan purposes and political purposes? If so, what steps have

been devised by his Ministry to check the misuse of the special assistance given as a package deal for economic development of West Bengal?

I, therefore, want the answers of these two questions from the hon. Minister. First, what are they going to do to check the misuse of this amount by the West Bengal Government...(Interruptions)

If we say something in their own interest, why do they take it ill?

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Are you my Headmaster?

(Interruptions),

People will decide and not you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA: People will decide at the time of casting their votes.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Sir, I am raising the voice of the people of West Bengal. West Bengal people are not their monopoly.

(Interruptions)

I am also a servant of the people of West Bengal.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think there has been sufficient discussion.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down...

(Interruptions)

SHRJ BASUDEB ACHARIA: You have to allow him to speak. And you have also allow us to speak...

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think there has been now sufficient discussion. No purpose

Papers Laid 492

[Mr. Chairman]

will be served by continuing this discussion further...

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Therefore, I will go to the next item now. This Half-an-Hour discussion is over now. Next item— Papers to be Laid.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Sir. what do you mean by 'over'? We have not put questions.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gadhvi-Papers to be laid.

18.57 hrs.

(Shri Somnath Chatteriee and some hon. Members then left the House)

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—Contd.

[English]

Notification under Central Excise Rules. 1944

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE . DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN

THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): On behalf of Shri Janardhana Poojary, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. 450/86-Central Excises (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th November, 1986 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exeption to goods commonly known as "pattis" or "pattas" of stainless Steel and falling under Chapter 72 of the Schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985 from so much duty of excise leviable thereon as is in excess of Rupees 365 per tonne subject to the conditions specified in the Table annexed to the said Notification, issued under the Rules, 1944. [Placed in Central Excise Library. See No. LT-3225/86.]

. MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stants adjourned to meet at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

18.58 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, November 18, 1986/Kartika 27, 1908 (Saka)

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