

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS RASWAN : I would like to say that he was not a Janata Dal candidate but a Congress candidate. Congress has been in the habit of doing this.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at several earlier occasions, this House has expressed concern on the atrocities perpetrated on women or on the increasing criminalisation of politics and the public life. I do not think that there is any party politics involved in the incident. Rita ji has made a mention of her today. Paswan ji and Sharad ji have rightly said that it is a serious matter. In this connection, the Central Government should collect pertinent information from the Government of Bihar and tell the House what action has been taken thereon. There has been an occasion earlier when the House has expressed its concern on such an incident, be it a technically and strictly speaking case of a state, yet the Government has assured the House that it will collect the information and transmit it to the House. I have a similar request to make, two women Ministers are sitting here who are probably busy in some other conversation... (Interruptions)... they are yet to pay attention to it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : They are fully engrossed in their conversation.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : They are probably exchanging some recipe.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There is something related to ladies. He wants you to hear.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : I said that very few Ministers are present here but the two women Ministers present... (Interruptions) I am sorry, that prominent part attracted my attention, I did not pay attention to Kamal Nath ji.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Kamal Nath ji is a gentleman.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : Particularly when I should have paid attention. He is sporting the dress of our colour. The Government should collect full information in this regard and convey to the House the action taken on it because it is a heinous crime to threaten a woman candidate and attempt a murderous attack on her after

she emerges victorious. I condemn this act severely... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is really unfortunate that something of this kind happens and we have to take note of it. But unfortunately, we shall also have to realise that there are for a while these matters can be properly raised and the remedies to such issues, problems, difficulties can be obtained. I am afraid that many times the matters which should be looked into by the Judiciary have been coming to the Legislature and so, the Legislature is finding itself at a loss to take some effective remedial actions. It would be better for the hon. Members to raise these issues where they should be raised. Since Advanji has said something about it and some other ladies have also spoken about it, in this case I would expect the Government to collect the information and give it to us. I am afraid that no effective remedy is found. The matter was raised by Mrs. Geeta Mukherjee more than once saying that we should discuss this matter on the floor of the House. I think we should discuss this matter on the floor of the House; maybe in two or three days' time we may take up this matter as a short duration discussion. But I would expect the Members to be present in the House and given their considered, valued views on this point.

It should not go by default - the matter comes up for discussion and there are no Members to discuss that. It should not be like that.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : May I take this opportunity to bring to the notice of the House as well as the Government a very serious matter which unfortunately the Central Government and the State Governments have not taken note of.

Sir, every month, thousands of people are being killed in the motor accidents in the country. And these motor accidents occur mainly because of the negligent and rash driving and the Central Government and the State Governments are taking a very lukewarm and lethargic attitude to prevent these accidents.

Sir, it is estimated that more than 60,000 men, women and children are being killed every year due to these motor accidents in the country and also more than three lakhs of persons are getting injured every year due to these motor accidents, some of them grievously. In terms of economic loss to the country, it is estimated that the country is losing more than Rs. 22,500 crore per annum only because of this rash and negligent driving in the country.

Sir, the mishap could be prevented to a larger extent if the rules are followed by the driver. The fatality rate is 20 per cent higher than that of the developed countries. The careless driving, having unsafe vehicles

coupled with bad roads, mixed traffic and half-hearted enforcement of the rules by the authorities are the main reasons for these accidents.

12.13 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the chair)

Sir, in my State also, every day, everybody will hear the news of motor accidents; there will be no day in Kerala where not less than a dozen people are either killed or injured in these motor accidents. This is the state of affairs in many of our States, but unfortunately the State Governments or the Central Government take no steps to prevent this mishap. This is a great loss to the country. Many of the families are orphaned in this country and offenders involved in the offences on the road must be punished without fear or favour.

The issue of driving licence in this country is much easier than purchasing a platform ticket for a visit to the railway platform. So, there should be strict adherence so far as rules and regulations are concerned, and the motor vehicle rules are to be amended. It is the duty of the Central Government to call the concerned Ministers of the State Governments or the representatives and discuss the matter to formulate a policy that will control the rash and negligent driving and thus to prevent these accidents.

Sir, it is nightmarish for a person to travel on the Indian roads. So, I wish that the Government of India and the Minister in-Charge of it will take some effective steps immediately in this regard.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a serious matter. The topographic situation of Rajasthan is very odd and it has had less rainfall for the past many years. As the Summer approaches, the drinking water crisis is deepening there. The State Government is fully exploiting its limited resources in installing new handpumps, repairing the existing hand pumps that are out of order and making water available to the people wherever it is possible. Through you, I would like to urge upon the Central Government to provide special assistance to the State Government during the ensuing scorching Summer in Rajasthan so as to make it able to cope up with the situation of dry hand pumps, ponds etc. where people have to fetch water from places miles away, where there is the drinking water crisis for their cattle.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the limited resources available with the Government impede the process of defusing the situation of drinking water crisis. Therefore, while supporting what

he said, I demand that the Central Government should provide special assistance to the State Government

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will follow the rules.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of your goodness and that of this House to a very important issue. Prior to raising the main issue, I would like to say something on a matter for which I had sought the permission of the hon. Speaker and that is that while as the Budget Session of Parliament is on, our hon. Finance Minister Manmohan Singh ji announces a policy statement there in America.

[English]

"The Finance Minister, Mr. Manmohan Singh said here that action would be taken shortly to deregulate the insurance industry and legislation would be made to that effect."

[Translation]

Because our Budget Session is on. Ours is a sovereign Parliament and the hon. Finance Minister should be aware that when the Budget Session of the Parliament is on, he should not make a statement on deregulating our insurance industry there in the U.S. capital. This is an affront to the Parliament. The democratic values we follow in Lok Sabha that when the Parliament is in Session.

[English]

"He has no business to go out of the country and declare an announced policy decision that Government of India is going to deregulate insurance industry."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have spoken on 'Reported policy statement regarding deregulating the insurance industry announced by the Finance Minister outside the Parliament'. So far as the other point is concerned, there is a blank against your name. You have spoken on one subject.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : On this important point about privatisation of the insurance industry, I have to say that it is an impossible situation that the Finance Minister is landing us in because Malhotra Committee report was once discussed in the Consultative Committee. This was never discussed in Parliament.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is true that Shri Rabi Rayji has raised the matter properly. But it cannot be a general subject. If many people want to participate, it

becomes very difficult. There are many other subjects also. There are also other persons to speak.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : In that case, this demand will go by default.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Those who have given the notice have a right to speak.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I can raise this matter tomorrow but since the matter is raised now, allow me to speak for a minute.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This amounts to deviation from the regular procedure. There are also others to speak on this matter.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Just five weeks ago, one subject was raised and so many speakers joined in the discussion. That subject was about the atrocities on women.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That was permitted under extraordinary circumstances.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE . Therefore, please permit me to say that even in the Budget Speech he has hinted that without discussing it in the Parliament, he is going to set up a regulatory mechanism which is part of the Malhotra Committee recommendations, which is part of the deregulation scheme. Now, as the hon. Member has very correctly drawn the attention of the House, he is promising the World Bank and the international financiers that we are going to deregularise it, that too without the sanction of the Parliament. This is happening again and again. Without any sanction, without any discussion in Parliament, such statements are being made and such actions are being taken. Therefore, I join him in demanding that the Finance Minister should be called in to explain his position and apologise before the House for the affront that is involved in this issue.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack) : Sir, I am on a point of order. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Srikanta Jena, it will become a general discussion. I will tell you one thing. Please excuse me

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA This is not a general discussion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER My request is that there are other Members to speak

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA . This concerns Parliament. We have to discuss it....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RABI RAY : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it cannot be postponed. It is a very urgent issue. I am not raising anything else...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : So far as Zero Hour is concerned, there is no point of order....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RABI RAY : How can he go all over Europe and America and make such a statement?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, this is a question of propriety....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Rabi Ray Ji, if you feel he is violating the Constitutional provisions, there is a specific provision. You should take recourse to that specific provision and haul up the Minister.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : We can do that. But now we can discuss it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, when the House is in Session, no Minister can make any statement outside the House. The House should be taken into confidence first. If at all the Finance Minister and the Union Government take a position about privatisation of insurance sector, why has the Finance Minister not taken the House into confidence? This is a question of propriety.

You should give a ruling in this matter. You should ask the Finance Minister to come to the House and apologise before the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is a specific provision. Under the specific provision, you can haul up the Minister. You can call the Minister.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : This is concerning everybody, the entire House. How could the Finance Minister go to Washington when the House was in Session? If at all he went there, why did he not take the House into confidence about this first and he make such a statement? This is really very serious. You should ask the Finance Minister to come before the House and he should tender an apology to the House.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, such issues are being raised here for a long time and the permission sought by me is for an issue which is also related to it. Four days back the American trade representative Shri Micky Canter has presented the annual report on America's trade relations with other countries. It has been categorically stated in the report that India has not passed the Patent law so far. Referring to Indian Parliament it has also been said that the Parliament of India has denied to accept the patent law. Therefore, they will have to impose special 301 on India.