

12.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, today we have a Call Attention Motion. This is something which you want to discuss very urgently. So, very briefly I will allow one or two persons to raise the issues and later on we will go to the Call Attention Motion.

Now, Mr. Shahabuddinji.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I would like to remind the House of the 40th Anniversary of the historic second Asian Conference held at Bandung, Indonesia on 24th April, 1955. This was the second Asian conference, the first one having been held in 1946 - on the eve of our Independence - sponsored by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru in which Mahatama Gandhi had participated. Like its predecessor, this Conference contributed to the identification and promotion of the Asian personality. We have still not reached that goal. But I feel that by recalling the landmark conference in Bandung in 1955, we shall be promoting the cause of Asian unity, the cause of Asian solidarity and the cause of Asian identity. I believe that Asia has a great role to play being the cradle of civilisation, religions and the cultures in the promotion of world peace and in the creation of a new world order.

Sir, Bandung Conference was equally important for enunciating ten principles of peaceful co-existence which have formed the bedrock of international relations for the last 40 years and which have been accepted universally by all the members of the United Nations and perhaps by all the international organisations. Sir, I will not take the time of the House to read out these ten principles of peaceful co-existence. But they have been accepted and implemented by our country and I think, the new international order that we are hoping to build in the world will be based on these ten principles.

Finally, this Conference had brought a number of Asian countries face-to-face for the first time after they had achieved independence. I believe the time has come for the Asian countries again to meet, to recall these two great events in the past and to build on the solid foundation of those two conference if this quest of Asian identity and personality has to be furthered.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai) : Sir, the Central Government has agreed to the fact that West Bengal has made a remarkable progress in agriculture and allied fields. West Bengal has topped the States in respect of rice production. At present, West Bengal has produced 50 lakh tonnes of potato. In 1974-75, the quantity produced was to the tune of 27 lakh tonnes. In 1959, the 'wart' disease was found in potato produced in the Bijonbari area, a small part of Darjeeling. Owing to this disease, the potato body was distorted. The causes of the disease are not now present anywhere in that area. It had long been extirpated. Due to this disease, the Central Government imposed a ban on export of potato to the foreign countries as well as on

the supply of potato to other States of our own country. Although the causes of the disease have been rooted out, the ban order is still in vogue. If the ban is removed, West Bengal will be in a position to earn foreign exchange worth Rs. 500 crore per year.

Sir, I would therefore urge upon the Government to investigate all the causes of the disease. I am sure that the Government will find that the causes of the disease have been extirpated. I would also urge upon the Government to lift the ban so that the farmers of West Bengal are enabled to grow more potato and subsequently export them to foreign countries.

Further, in this year, in the district of Midnapore, potatoes have grown to such an extent that the farmers do not find any place in the cold storage. So, if they are allowed to export potatoes, then especially the farmers of West Bengal will be much benefited. I seek your protection so that the Government can be persuaded to lift the ban immediately.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, I expect a statement on the issue raised by Shri Sudhir Giri.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should also be given an opportunity to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you one.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (Sheohar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of pleasure that the atmosphere of the House has turned lighter because nobody can imagine what will happen to the world if Shiva is annoyed with Vasudeva.

MR. SPEAKER : You may do what you please if you are pleased with Vasudeva.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : I was not saying so, I was saying that the world will face a catastrophe when Shiva will be annoyed with Vasudeva.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a matter which may cause annoyance.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the power generation and supply was grossly disrupted in Delhi yesterday. Coincidentally there was a power cut in the House when we were discussing some other issue in the noon and the BJP Members were staging a walkout what will be the predicament of the slum dwellers and rural folk when this House has to face such problems the elite class of Delhi has to face it? I would like to ask what is the problem, why it is happening? There is an apprehension among the people that it is as an outcome of the connivance between the Government of Delhi and the Union Government that such power cuts are effected without rhyme and reason so as to pave way for the privatisation