

[English]

SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA (Keonjhar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very sorry to draw the attention of this august House about an incident in the recent elections in my State. There was some religious propaganda which was taking place in my parliamentary constituency. I am very sorry to inform this august House about this sort of religious propaganda which is going on in India. Sir, India is a democratic country where we shall have to fight with each other, that is, there must be only two parties in India to fight with each other. For example, in the British empire there are two parties only. That is called democracy. In India there are several parties. They are distributing money and exploiting the *Adivasi* people who are there in my parliamentary constituency. They are exploiting these *Adivasi* people and are capturing the booths and they are also threatening our *Adivasi* people and capturing the booths and getting the votes.

In my parliamentary constituency, Keonjhar, I have only five M.L.As. In one of the seats, the headquarters town of my parliamentary constituency, Keonjhar, my son, Shri Lingraj Munda was to win the seat by 6,000 votes. But these religious parties, whom I cannot name in this House, have done religious propaganda and he lost the seat by 4,000 votes. I would like to draw the attention of this House to the point that this sort of religious propaganda should not be propagated. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, some companies claim to make LPG easily available to the common people. They also claim to have been granted permission by the Central Government and issued licences. But according to my information, they possess no infrastructure, no bottling plants and no transport facilities. These companies are earning lakhs of rupees only by appointing distributors or by granting dealerships.

LPG has been made available to none by these. I would like to know the names of the companies which have been issued licences or authorised for promising to make LPG available to the people and accumulating wealth that way. Like the Gagan company and the chit fund companies of many other banks, the Peerless, Laxmi Chand Bagga etc. gulped down public's crores of rupees. Does not there exist such a possibility? Hence, in order to allay such apprehensions the Government should give the names of such companies and also affirm whether these are authorised companies?

SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazaribagh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government to Hazaribagh district. One year ago the electronic machine got burnt in Hazaribagh which has not been replaced so far. There is no communication facility available there. In this connection, I also met Shri Sukh Ram and wrote dozens of letters to him but all in vain. I also met and wrote letters to the Chief General Manager of Patna. The deplorable part of it is that even he did not take any action in this regard. My telephone at Hazaribagh is out of order for the past one year and, thus, I am not able to talk to

anybody. The office-bearers there burnt the machines worth 7 crores of rupees because their channel of income was blocked. These officials are earning Rs. 20-25 thousand due to machine being out of order. Such machine was also burnt at Dhanbad. An inquiry should be conducted into this matter and an electronic machine re-installed at Hazaribagh as soon as possible.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Bombay-South Central): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Directorate of Handicrafts under the Central Textile Ministry has issued orders for shifting the office of Regional Design and Technical Development Centre for Handicrafts situated in Bombay to Bhopal. Jawahar Lal ji through his letter had informed hon. Venkat Swamyji that 99 percent export of handicraft items is done from Bombay. Therefore, this office should be situated in Bombay itself. The workers are working there for the past 38 years. They have not got their wages of last three months. Venkat Swamyji is present here. I request him not to shift this office to Bhopal. The 250 odd people who were being imparted training there can also be paid their wages. Wages may be paid to them and a decision in this connection taken forthright.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there has been a sudden death of LPG in Rajasthan including Kota. The Gas Authority of India had set up an LPG refilling plant in Sawai Madhopur but some days back the supply of LPG in Rajasthan was disrupted due to work to rule and the strike. LPG has not been available there for more than three months.

On the one hand LPG is not available and on the other the Central Government has not supplied full quota of kerosene oil for the last 6 months. Thus, neither LPG nor kerosene is available to the people there. Kerosene is sold at the rate of Rs. 12-15 per litre in the markets of Rajasthan. My submission is that the Central Government should immediately issue orders of installing a rebottling plant in Sawai-Madhopur and ensure the proper supply of LPG cylinders in Rajasthan at war footing because the common consumer is in great trouble there. Today morning, I received a phone call from the District Magistrate of Kota and he said that people are really facing hardships there. I hope that the hon. Minister will definitely take steps in this direction...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Jaipur is also facing the problem of non-availability of LPG as well as kerosene. I urge that both the items be made available in Jaipur...*(Interruptions)* The condition in Jaipur is worse than Kota...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JANARDAN MISRA (Sitapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the 40 per cent increase in the prices of paper. In 1991, hon. Narasimha Rao ji and the hon. Finance Minister enforced the new industrial policy due to which the prices of paper increased by Rs. 17.50 per kg in that very year. In January 1994, there was another increase of Rs. 20-30 per kg and in early 1995, the prices of paper increased to Rs. 35-40 per kg. On this, 7.50 per cent sales tax is levied and the freight charges have also increased. As a result of this India's book trade will not

flourish, the students can not get education, there will be a decline in the rate of literacy, education will be inaccessible, the reservoirs of knowledge will be emptied and there will be a decline in art and culture. Therefore, I urge upon the Government that in order to check the increase in the prices of paper, salvage the book trade from these crisis, the excise duty should be lessened so that the prices of paper register a fall.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, picking up the same thread, I would like to submit that be it the news-print or any other industry, be it the question of book-publishing or raising the level of literacy in the country, making note-books available to the students or the publication of text-books in the state, the whole publication industry is in a crisis. There has been a 45 per cent increase in the prices of paper during the last four months. It is an unprecedented crisis and the whole country is facing it. The publisher, the book-binder, the writer are all facing this problem. The crisis of newsprint is extremely grave and newsprint organisations have repeatedly submitted memoranda but no action is forthcoming. I urge upon the Government to increase the production of both newsprint and ordinary paper and give relief to the affected parties. Alongwith this, the distribution of paper should be decontrolled and arrangements made for independent import of paper so that its prices can be reduced.

DR. P.R. GANGWAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a boom in the incidents of decoity, theft, rape and terrorism in Uttar Pradesh since the Mulayam Singh Government assumed the power in the state. He has no control over administration. In this connection, I would like to say that on 28th of the last month one Inspector and two constables of Police station Dheoria, village Barkhedakata in my constituency Pilibhit raped two Dalit women—Ramkumari aged 22 and Munni Devi, 20. They tore off their clothes and broke their household goods and utensils. After this incident, when the victims complained to me, I sent them to the S.P., Pilibhit and also made a phone call to him. But no action has been taken so far. Now, the S.P. of the same police Station has been appointed as an inquiry officer. I wonder how can the S.P. of the same police station in the jurisdiction of which this incident took place conduct a fair inquiry and submit an impartial report? No punishment has been awarded to the culprits so far. (Interruptions) I would like to urge upon you to punish the guilty policemen after conducting an inquiry there and give relief to the victims...(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while supporting what Dr. P.R. Gangwar said I would like to say that the Police have inflicted heavy atrocities on Dalits in Agra. 21 people were injured in police crackdown. Besides, the same number of people were injured and one killed when they were beaten by I.S.I. supported elements. The police is oppressing and harassing the Dalits in Agra.

[Translation]

The Government is denying the cases of assault

perpetrated by the I.S.I. agents and it is hatching conspiracy to divide the details and cause conflict among themselves.

Sir, my submission is that the atrocities perpetrated against dalits by the Mulayam Singh Government should be checked. The police also is giving protection to the ISI supporters. I, therefore, would like to submit to the Government to protect the downtrodden and other people from persecution of the Mulayam Singh Government.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Balrampur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Uttar Pradesh and particularly towards a district in Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The farmers, the poor landless workers of Eastern U.P. and Gonda district from which I hail have been suffering from the pangs of fire. No assistance is given by the State Government there. A large number of villages in my Constituency Balrampur were burnt in January last. The poor farmers had to take shelter under the trees during winter. There is a rule, under which the Government has to provide an amount of Rs. 750 as provisional assistance immediately to each victim. This amount of assistance is not being paid for the last 3 years and now the calendar year of 1995 is going on but no assistance has been provided so far by the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The farmers are living under trees.

Sir, my submission is that it is possible that farmers may save something from floods but nothing can be saved from fire. Dr. Manmohan Singh is here. The General Insurance Scheme was being discussed just now. The Government has introduced the Cottage insurance and the barn insurance schemes to provide assistance to those farmers whose cottages and barns have burnt in fire, but such assistance is not being provided at all. I demand that the Ministry of Finance should pay attention to it. Secondly, through you, I would like to demand the Government of Uttar Pradesh to provide provisional assistance to those farmers and they should not be meted out inhuman treatment. Provisional assistance should be given to the farmers of the Gonda district, particularly Balrampur area. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGARHI (Deogarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in Orissa which accounts for one third of the total coal reserve of the country, of late, a subsidiary coal company, the Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd., was established which is now three years old. But it is expanding very rapidly. The situation is such that there will be another company in course of time after about five years. But although one Company has already been working there now and has been established, there is only one Director (Technical) besides the CMD in that company. The posts of Director (Personnel) and Director (Finance) are yet to be sanctioned and work is being affected because of these posts lying vacant. Smooth functioning and the plant expansion are not possible unless these Directors posts are filled up.

Talcher is a vast coalfield which again account for two-