

I, therefore, request the Central Government that all the accused be arrested promptly and tried expeditiously.

(v) Need to release adequate funds for early construction of road across river Jolokiu Suti, Assam

SHRI BALIN KULI (Lakhimpur): There is a small river Jolokia Suti flowing from Arunachal through Assam crossing the National Highway 52 in Jonal sub-division under Dhemaji district of Assam. During monsoon season this river is flooded causing many problems including disruption of traffic. The National Highway 52 was under Border Roads Organisation earlier, but it is now under the Ministry of Surface Transport. Due to lack of funds, the construction of road across the river and concrete bridge on this river has come to a standstill.

As this road serves two States, namely, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, it deserves immediate attention of the Government. I, therefore, request the Hon. Minister of Surface Transport to provide funds to ensure early completion of the construction of the road.

12.34 hrs.

[English]

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF CUSTOMS TARIFF (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE; AND CUSTOMS TARIFF (AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up Item Nos. 11 and 12 of today's Order Paper together. The time allotted to this subject is one hour. Shri Jitendra Nath Das to move the Statutory Resolution.

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House disapproves of the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 1994 (No. 14 of 1994) promulgated by the President on December 31, 1994."

In this regard I would like to state something. This Ordinance has come as a result of the Uruguay Round Conference and negotiations. You know the people of our country are very much agitated about this. They have been agitating from the very beginning on this issue. Therefore, we would like to disapprove of the issuance of this Ordinance.

Though this Bill carries some restrictions, it is nothing but a sugar coated bitter tablet.

Sir, the restrictions on imports have been removed and custom duties have been reduced with a view to making the Indian industry efficient and to ensure its smooth interaction with the world economy. But what is the present position of India? India is lagging behind in the field of industry. Our imports are coming down at present. Perhaps, India's imports form 0.5 per cent of the world imports at present, whereas in the 50s it was about 2.5 per cent. This figure is undoubtedly alarming.

In the field of industry, we are still backward. The Indian industry needs protection to become self-sufficient. I

am sorry to state here that our Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh had stated in the Thirty-fourth Meeting of the Customs and Central Excise Advisory Council that protection to the Indian industry would have to be reduced. This reduction in protection emerges perhaps in the context of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. At the same time, the Finance Minister is assuring us that the small scale industries would not be hurt. According to Dr. Manmohan Singh, the people of our country will have to prepare themselves to fight against the multinationals which are coming to our country because we have opened the doors of India for them to come in. This fight is between inequals. I have no doubt that this fight will lead to the liquidation of our country.

The consumer goods manufacturers in our country cannot survive without any protection. They would not survive if they have to operate on the same terms and conditions as are applicable to the multinationals. The present Budget is giving a death signal to the small scale industries and to the consumer goods manufacturers in our country.

India cannot accept the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations as perfect. All international agreements reflect the interests of multinationals and the interests of the developed countries of the world. The Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations are motivated by the needs of the multinationals in order to find new markets in the world. They have selected India as the best market. A new international institution, the World Trade Organisation has been established recently as a result of the decision taken in the Uruguay round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. The World Trade Organisation has become a symbol of fear in the minds of our people. These fears are expressed more clearly in the emerging domination of multinationals.

Ultimately, I think, our country will be ruled by the multinationals. The time has come for that. Now, the fate of our people is wholly dependent on the whims and fancies of the multinationals.

Under the circumstances, I demand not only to disapprove this Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, but also to withdraw the acceptance to join the World Trade Organisation and also to withdraw the agreement in the Uruguay Round of negotiations at an early date.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Bill is a very simple Bill. Shri Jitendra Nath Das referred to our country coming under pressure as a result of the Uruguay Round of negotiations. This Bill seeks to protect our industry against unfair competition from any other members of the World Trade Organisation. I would say that this is not a controversial Bill; it seeks to protect the Indian industries against unfair competition, against other countries trying to dump their goods in our country.