

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

- (c) (i) the Committee concluded that the outbreak was due to plague bacillus *Y. Pestic* based on epidemiological, ecological and microbiological evidence.
- (ii) The Committee observed that while expertise is available for the study of microbes, diagnostic capabilities need to be upgraded at the peripheral level.
- (iii) It recommended establishment of a national surveillance and response system for the control and prevention of infectious diseases.

Family Planning Programme for Government Employees

613. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Government have taken any fresh steps to encourage the Government employees to undergo family planning operation;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) if not, the other such measures proposed to be taken by the Government to make the family planning programme successful?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) and (b). A set of incentives and disincentives for Government employees to encourage adoption of the small family norm already exists. This includes a special increment for undergoing sterilise after 3 or fewer children, rebate on the interest on house building advance, and special casual leave for undergoing sterilisation. Maternity leave for female Government employees is restricted to two living children.

(c) A result oriented Action Plan has been formulated in consultation with States and Union Territories, and is being implemented.

Houses for Weaker Sections in UP

614. DR. JAKSHIJI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of houses constructed for economically weaker section/low income group during 1994-95 and 1995-96 in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the name of agencies to whom the implementation of these schemes have been entrusted under the 20 Point Programme; and

(c) the assistance provided by the Central Government during the above period for this purpose as a grant or in the form of loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI R.K. DHAWAN) : (a) and (b). The total number of houses constructed for EWS (Economically Weaker Sections) and LIG (Low Income Group) in urban areas, under Point No. 14(d) and 14(e) respectively of the 20-Point Programme during 1994-95 and 1995-96 (upto August, 95) in Uttar Pradesh are as follows :

	1994-95	1995-96 (upto August, 1995)
ESW	4553 units	353 units
LIG	1595 units	244 units

These schemes are implemented by the State Government through its agencies as Housing is a State subject.

(c) The State Government undertakes these programme under their overall plan allocation and no earmarked Central assistance is provided for this purpose. Besides, HUDCO also extends loan facility to States for the construction of EWS and LIG houses.

12.02 hrs.

RE : PRICE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, I am raising this subject matter of the price situation in our country. I will characterize this as ... (Interruptions)... The Prime Minister is leaving as I am raising the important issue of the price situation in the country. We are insisting on our Adjournment Motion.

MR. SPEAKER : I have not allowed your Adjournment Motion. I am allowing you to make a statement. I will allow other Members also to say if they want.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I am just indicating the situation. We were so insistent because the situation was and the situation is cruel and intolerable. The situation is not

only cruel and intolerable, but also ugly and deceiving from the side of the Treasury Benches. Why do I say that it is intolerable? Let me mention that it is not only during the regime of this Government — I will give you a striking figure; the whole thing has been intensive during the present regime - but this was continuing for quite some time. I will give you one index based on 1960 and 1961, which was 100, the cost of living of the agricultural labourer today is 1450. That means in the course of all these years, the cost of living of an agricultural labourer has risen more than fourteen times and it is going to be fifteen times before the next Lok Sabha sits. That is what makes it intolerable.

Another feature of this terrible price situation is ...*(Interruptions)*... Should I continue?

MR. SPEAKER : I am trying to bring order over there.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Order among the Ministers ! After creating disorder in the market, they are creating disorder here also !

As a result, this is the measure of the cruelty of the situation. Why do I say this is deceiving and ugly? Because they promised before the election time last time that they will push back the prices. They do not have the courtesy to come before the House to apologize for making a statement during the elections and not trying to implement that. We know, internationally we demand apologies for so many things. But for decimating the entire population of a large country, they have no offer of apologies for making false promises in order to win a particular election.

Now, let me also give you a few more facts on the basis of statistics. They claim that the inflation is one digit, that the inflation rate is limited to less than ten per cent. The fact remains that when they calculate it in terms of Wholesale Price Indices, it is below ten per cent. But it is one of the interesting parts of the story, pertinent parts of the story that the Consumer Price Index for the industrial labourers rises faster than the Wholesale Price Index and the Consumer Price Index of the agricultural labourers, the most unorganized and most decimated part of our society rises still faster. In fact, in the course of the last five years, the cost of living index for the agricultural labourers is going to touch three digits. In the course of last five years, in the year 1991 the Price Index was 803 for the agricultural labourers and as of 14th October, 1995 it is 1450 and at this rate, the financial year will close with the Consumer Price Index at 1600, a growth of nearly hundred per cent. That is a three digit mark. Now, this is happening. Why is this happening?

Before I come into that, I will indicate from a publication by our Library, how the rate of inflation based on CPI for

industrial workers has grown in the course of the last four months, May, June, July and August. When they talk of 'one digit' they talk of Wholesale Price Index, not even about the inflation rate and the Consumer Price Index, which have grown up in the course of the last four months. For May, it was 10.29 per cent; for June, it was 10.47 per cent; for July, it was 11.39 per cent and for August, it was 10.92 per cent, nearly eleven per cent. None of them is below two digits. If this is the situation for the industrial workers, who are organized and who are fighting against the price rise, we can imagine what is happening in the countryside, with the agricultural labourers.

There has recently been rise in prices of pulses, rice and all other things. For pulses, it is more than hundred per cent compared to last year. Now, the arguments that they gave in yesterday's question which cannot be reached during the Question Hour was that there is a gap in the demand and supply and that is why this is happening. Unfortunately, this is far from the truth. The point to note is that the supply, the claim of foodgrains is a record one. They say that per capita availability in this year has also grown up. They are revising the figure of output of foodgrains from 189 million tonnes to 191 million tonnes. Yet, the prices of foodgrains are rising. They have said even today that we are exporting some quantity of rice. We have a stock level which they consider injurious.

And yet the prices of foodgrains are rising. Let us take sugar. We know that this year we have a bumper harvest of sugar. We know that they are exporting sugar in order to earn foreign exchange. And we know that the prices of sugar have risen over and above the way it rose due to mishandling and corruption in the sugar scandal last year. Sir, this is the situation on the ground. I will not take much time. I will not mention the prices of individual items. But in the reply they have said that over the last three months, price of wheat has grown by 4.10 per cent despite the record production. Despite the record production which makes per capita availability grow, the growth rate in prices during the last three months is 4.10 per cent according to their official statement. The vegetable prices have grown fantastically high. Let me give you the figure. The price of rice has grown by 1.80 per cent; the price of sugar has grown by 1.20 per cent in the last three months; price of oil seeds has grown by 4.10 per cent and the price of *dal* has grown by 10.10 per cent in the course of last three months. Where does it lead to? In terms of semi-published mid-term appraisal of the Planning Commission, more and more people are going below the poverty line and more and more people are going without two square meals a day. This is what is happening. But we take pride in saying that there is no famine. But the entire population, nearly 40 per cent of the population are getting decimated and our tactic, our approach, that is the Government's approach is as usual; do not generate employment in the industries, reduce employment there and provide sops through *Rozgar Yojana*. You generate

illness among the population through starvation and then promise them before the elections that you are providing health care. This is the kind of approach. You generate these things and then come out with gimmicks just to face the elections as they came out last time with the promise to push back the prices of essential commodities. Sir, I will come to why has this happened and could this have been prevented.

SHRI UMRAO SINGH (Jalandhar) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order at this point of time.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : There is no such issue which affects every single citizen of this country including the ruling party, if I may point out. Even the price of deflection is also rising thereby creating problems for you. Let me draw your attention to the fact that despite cut in excise duty and import duty we could not lower the prices. It is primarily because of the revision in the administrative prices, a pure and simple Governmental act. I will just give you the figures. The price of common rice which was Rs. 377 per quintal in 1991 is now Rs. 537. The price of fine rice which was Rs. 437 in 1991 is now Rs. 617. This is true for wheat which was Rs. 280 in 1991, in 1994 the issue price is Rs. 402 and it is admitted by Indian analysts including our Planning Commission that one of the major causes for this rise in prices, for this intolerable situation in the market is the role that the administrative prices plays.

One more thing I want to mention. In all the developed countries, the rate of inflation is controlled below two or three per cent mark; and yet, because of certain factors, the import cost is increasing. There is an import induced inflation within the country, despite reduction in customs duty and despite the fact that we are importing from the countries where they have a very low inflationary rates. Therefore, it seems that all the reasons that are connected with this intolerable situation lie with the economic policy of the Government which refuses to subsidise prices in favour of the people, which tries to cut down subsidies on foodgrains and tries to cut down subsidies on other essential commodities and generate an economy which is dependant on the import in the name of earning foreign exchange.

There are other reasons also. The fact is that the inflation rate is increasing. The fact is that we had a huge reserves which cuts both. Because of the extended foreign reserves, it is putting pressure on expansion of money. On the other hand, if there is a fall in foreign exchange reserves, that also puts pressure on the economy.

MR. SPEAKER : Very well done, Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I am concluding, Sir.

Since we have such a situation, strategically, the fundamental thing that is to be followed is the reversal of the economic policy which includes increase in subsidising the essential commodities. This is number one. As we have demanded again and again in West Bengal, they have to distribute some 14 commodities in the public distribution system at the controlled prices. If this does not happen, then the cruelty that has inflicted on the people of the country will rebound in a manner which will topple the Government for the entire future and they would never come back go power in the country.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sharad Yadav please. He has given a notice. I am not allowing that notice, but I am allowing him to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Nirmal Dada has just referred to the price rise, which has made the lives of the people miserable in a big way. He is an economist, but I being a political worker and having close contact with the people, very well know that prices of each and every commodity, be it oil or any other item which effects the price rise have increased three fold during the last five years. The prices of oil have never increased three fold in any country. Similarly, if we were to review the economic policy adopted by the Government we find that the price of mineral water is Rs. 12 per bottle, whereas, milk is available at Rs. 10 per litre. Similarly, prices of all commodities, be it vegetables, ghee or grain etc., have increased two or three folds. Poor people are in turmoil. There was a time when due to price rise a resurgent movement was launched which resulted in clamping down of emergency in the country and the Government had to bow out of office. Our economist Nirmal Dada has placed the data of the current price rise. I am not having those data at present. I will only say that price rise has put the people in difficulty, the life of the people has become miserable, be it the railway fares or all other items of common use, or the agricultural inputs like manure, fertilizer, pesticides etc. in which the prices have gone so high that the lives of the 70 per cent of the population inhabiting the village whether they are farmers or labourers, the agricultural operations for them become totally unviable. On the one hand the farmer is in difficulty and on the other hand the common consumer is suffering and this Government has been unable to check the price rise in the country.

What is the position of our rupee? The exchange rate of rupee against dollar in black market is Rs. 40 and despite the control exercised by the Reserve Bank your Government is

unable to maintain it at Rs. 34 and that too is unpredictable. No one knows when it may rise further.

This Government always claims that foreign reserve have increased. I say that the increase in foreign reserve is not because of your efforts, you received it by virtue of collaboration and the main part of it is part of the collaboration, and the situation in the country is such that due to price rise the life of the common man has become miserable. The rate of every commodity, and every consumable item has increased. I would like to say that the rates of wood and wood products have increased by 169 per cent, fertilizers by 100 per cent and textiles by 45 per cent... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera) : This data is of the year 1994. There has been more increase thereafter.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : There has been much increase, thereafter as is said by Nirmal Dada. The prices of food articles have increased by 49 per cent, fuel by 49 per cent and overall increase in the prices of all commodities is 44 per cent. Such a situation which is prevailing at present never occurred during the last 45 years. During the tenurs of this Government price rise has reached its zenith. The common man is facing great hardships on this account.

You should have brought an Adjournment Motion against the Government. You should have given us an opportunity to censure the Government which is being missed through ordinary debates. There should be fresh discussion on this issue. With these words I condemn the new economic policy and other decisions of the Government due to which the poor man, the common man, people of middle income group and the salaried class, are facing great difficulties. So, I not only criticise this Government but this Government has now no right to continue in office. Thus, elections should be conducted at the earliest and an opportunity should be provided to the people to give their fresh mandate.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Jaswant Singh, are you on this point?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Yes, Sir. I will cover this point as well. I will cover both the points with your permission because I have given a notice. It is an economic question.

MR. SPEAKER : No, if you are on this point, you can continue. If you are on some other point, then you speak later.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I will cover both in one itself

because it is a part of the economic question. It will be more appropriate.

I entirely share what my friends and colleagues — Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee and Shri Sharad Yadav — have said. The question of price rise is a very serious one. It deeply involves the entire country. It concerns every citizen. There are other aspects of the total economic situation which are equally worrisome to which certain references have been made.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : You have said that it will be discussed fully.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, yesterday, it was decided that we will pass the Ordinances and Bills and then we will take up three important topics, namely economic situation, foreign policy and security scenario, for discussion.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : And Jammu and Kashmir subsequently.

MR. SPEAKER : We may take up Jammu and Kashmir any time which is convenient to you.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : If you are going to have a fuller discussion on the economic situation, I wish to add only the voice of the party to the concern about price rise.

MR. SPEAKER : Good.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : And if I have your permission, then I will raise my other points.

MR. SPEAKER : No, on inflation, if you want to speak, you can speak.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I think, you are going to have a broader discussion on the economic situation.

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you on the other point which you have mentioned later on.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : All right.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur) : Thank you, Sir. What is distressing and what is very alarming is not just the effect of price rise. But what is alarming is that not only is the Government not trying to check price rise but they are carrying on with a policy which is curtailing the buying power of the ordinary people.

And thus, it is accentuating the effect of price rise. Thus, even though it is true that inflation has been there for a long time, today the situation is radically different because of this. In spite of all the trumpeting of the Government regarding development and growth, we are finding that, so far as ordinary people are concerned, price rise is like a cancerous growth eating away into their vitals which they have to endure because there is no cure. That is what the Government has induced in them. The Government has induced in them the sense of despair and disillusionment. I will not repeat all that my senior colleagues have already said but I would just point out that so far as the increase in the number of people living under the poverty line is concerned, we find that in 1989-90, the statistics has been 34.3 per cent and by December, 1992 it rose to 40.69 per cent. This is what is alarming now. And this is also more concretely brought out in the fact that malnutrition and morbidity is increasing not only among adults but also among children. The latest UNESCO report tells us that 63 per cent of the children in this country are suffering from malnutrition. The only reason for this is that the policy that is being continued is severely restricting the buying power of the people and we find starvation, diarrhoea deaths and also deaths from other diseases like malaria because the resistance of the people against these diseases has gone down and because the nutritional standard has fallen down. That is what is happening.

The other point that I would like to make is this. We find that the granaries are overflowing but at the same time, there has been a drastic decline in the off-take. People are unable to buy and surprisingly enough, we find that the Government, instead of reducing the prices in the public distribution system, has sold 1.8 lakh tonnes of wheat to Modern Food Industries Limited at a price lower than the Central issue price and this is an exporting concern. So, food is being exported while our people are starving.

I would just make one more point. So far as drugs are concerned, again we find that because of the new Drug Policy of the Government, prices of antibiotics like chloromycetin and ampicillin, anti-TB drugs like rifampicin and anti-malaria drugs like nivaouin have gone up so much that if poor people turn ill today, there is no alternative but to die.

I just want to conclude by saying that there are certain ways in which the Government can take measures to reverse the situation. We have three definite demands. Firstly, we would demand that the enhanced prices in the PDS should be reduced by 50 per cent. The Government says that it will require subsidies worth Rs. 1600 crore. Why not, Sir?

We find the public sector units being disinvested at a loss; we find a scam which causes the country a loss of

Rs. 5000 crore; and even after this, the Government says that it cannot provide for additional subsidies.

MR. SPEAKER : We have said that we are going to discuss the economic situation in the country. Now, you should be brief.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA : I will just mention two other demands that we have. Our first demand is that there should be a 50 per cent reduction in the PDS prices. Our second demand is that since the Government stocks are overflowing and the Government does not know what to do with it, let them launch a massive 'food for work' programme so that some succor could come to the people. Our third demand is, let the fourteen essential commodities be brought under price control.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH (Satna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, since you have indicated of having a detailed discussion on this issue, I will be very very brief. I would only like to say that what is happening on the price front is something indicative of a total abrogation of responsibility and concern by those in whom the trust of the nation had been placed for at least serving the minimum cause of the people. I would not be surprised if one day the Prime Minister in his innocence turns around and says, 'If the people cannot get bread, let them eat cake'.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN (Chirayinkil) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, keeping in view the constraint of time, I would not like to go into the details of this issue of price rise. It is a very acute problem. The people in the countryside are suffering like anything on account of this. The responsibility for the price rise rests entirely with the Government of India itself.

The main election plank and claim of this Government in 1991 was that they would bring down the prices to the level of 1990. But what has been done is, they have increased the prices. The price of rice in the Public Distribution System in June, 1991 was Rs. 2.89, in 1994 it is selling at Rs. 6.90 through the PDS. Likewise - for other items also - for wheat, the prices have increased from Rs. 2.34 per kg. then, to Rs. 4 now. The other items have also experienced a sharp increase over these years. The increase in prices is due to the wrong policies of the Government. The prices of pulses, in fact, has doubled in the last one year. Even the commodities which cost Rs. 12 in 1991, now costs Rs. 36. The prices of many commodities have gone up two to three times over a period of four years. The Government is not at all mindful about containing the prices... (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Now, please stop calling out like this.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Sir, there should be a full scale discussion on this issue. We have concrete

proposals to suggest. The prices of every item have gone up, be it food articles, or clothing material or medicines or LPG or anything.

Sir, lastly, I would like to make a mention about what is happening in the revamped Public Distribution System from where the persons from the poorest section of the society get their food articles. The prices of the food articles even in these outlets have been increased. It is simply cruel. The price of rice in the RPDS have been hiked from Rs. 2.89 per kg to Rs. 5.32; the price of wheat has been hiked from Rs. 3.32 to Rs. 4. The poor people cannot buy the essential food articles because of an increase in the administered prices.

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, you have made your point.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Sir, there are starvation deaths even in many tribal areas covered by the Revamped PDS.

MR. SPEAKER : There are other Members who want to raise other issues. I have already allowed many Members to speak.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : The Revamped PDS is not reaching tribal, interior and rural areas. We have received complaints from Bihar, Gujarat and many other areas. This System has not reached the poor people. There is no work. Food for work is not available. What is going to happen in the country? There is going to be a calamity and the Government is unmindful of this. We want a full-scale discussion in this subject. A Half-an-hour Discussion is not going to bring forth the issue before the Government. They have to do something, otherwise there will be a calamity in the country. That is my point.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, is the Government interested in saying something on this point?

I think the Government had no notice and we cannot expect the Government to reply immediately. But, since some Members have said that there is inflation and they want to know what is being done by the Government in this regard, will it be possible to make a point later on.

(interruption)

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : In the Leaders' meeting we have decided to have a full-scale discussion on the economic policy and the economic situation in the country. We will positively state our viewpoint and reaction to whatever points the hon. Members have made today. But today, I do not think, off the

cuff we can react to the various observations that have been made by some Members of the Opposition. But as soon as we have the opportunity of discussing the economic policy, we shall come up with our reaction...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : I would expect the Government to pinpoint this issue only i.e. "whether there is inflation, what is being done to control inflation, and what will be done to control inflation". On that short point I would request somebody from the Government side to make a statement.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : When will the Government make that statement?

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if this debate brings out a deeper issue, I have to say nothing more.

MR. SPEAKER : There was a question to initiate a full scale debate on economic issues.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : If you initiate a full scale debate on economic issues, then the issue relating to price rise will be side-tracked.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That is why I asked them to make a statement on this point.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : The spiral in price rise cannot be pin-pointed. Everybody is vexed due to price rise. I was going through the replies given by the Government in Parliament today. The Government is making an attempt to dilute the problem related to price rise. I was just observing whether the prices of vegetables have increased or not, that was the question which was asked. The hon'ble Minister has stated that this is the seasonal variation.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : This is their patent reply.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : It is not based on facts I was mentioning about other point. If you discuss the entire economic policy, then it be very good. Perhaps, yesterday, there were discussions in your chamber also. But therein

situation of price rise was not discussed with sufficient emphasis as warranted. All though you have allowed a discussion on this issue today. But, there should have been someone to give the reply. Mr. Finance Minister is not present here.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I had made a specific request when it was suggested that we can raise the price-rise as a specific issue. I had made a request that some Minister should be there to respond to this, otherwise this becomes futile. It is as if we have not insisted on a response from the Government. I did make that request and I got the impression that something will be done.

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane) : Can we have a full-length discussion on price-rise itself? A discussion will help, a mere statement may not be enough.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, during discussions, we had indicated that whereas these matters can be raised during Zero Hour, the Government response would not come during Zero Hour. Now, since you have directed that a specific statement from the Government side should be made on these very points that we have indicated, we shall certainly make it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : When will you make a statement?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : Maybe tomorrow. We will fix it up with the hon. Speaker...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basudeb Acharia, sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Anything we try to do in a systematic manner, you try to disturb. This is not correct.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We have done two things. You please hear.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We have done two things because we wanted to concentrate on price rise, I allowed a discussion on price rise and very good statements have been made.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Will you stop now at least when I am standing.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this Basudeb Achariaji? The Minister is within his rights to say that 'we will comprehensively reply to the debate when it is a full scale debate on economic policy.' But in my judgement I have thought that this point was pointedly replied to and that is why I requested the Government and the Government is coming forward. I expect the Government to make the statement, maybe tomorrow or day after tomorrow and come back.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We want to say something.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you all sit down and work in a systematic manner, something can come out, but if you want to have all your points ventilated at one and the same time, I am at a loss to help you. Let the debate be over and at the end of the debate, the Railway Minister will be sitting in the House and he will reply to what I had asked him to reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I want to raise a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order in the Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : My point of order is on a very important issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow Saifuddinji and Jaswant Singhji.

I have said, you Members please understand that when we are discussing, I will not ask the Minister to make a statement. After the discussions are over, he will make a statement and I have asked him to stay in the House. Let him stay in the House. But, if he can make a statement within one minute by saying 'yes' or 'no' or can be done, I have no

objection. But, this is a very wrong method. You want to get things done at your will without considering.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Any time you get up, any time you ask, any time you say that...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER ; Yes, Mr. Minister. Do not know what they want to know?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : What do you want?

MR. SPEAKER : No. No time for joking please. Directly come out with the reply.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down. You are standing there, you always stand up.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SURESH KALMADI : I do not know what is the problem. Samastipur-Darbanga line is going on and it is budgeted and we have committed to complete the project in this financial year. In January I will be going there for the completion.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Right, You have replied Mr. Minister:

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Bhogendra Jhaji, first of all you, please sit down. He said that it will complete in this financial year. In January he will be going there for the completion. What else you want?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is not going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Railway Minister has given assurance twice in this regard. There has been a call for 'Band' at that place today. The call for 'Band' was given earlier also. In the last session a scheme to convert 5000 kms. of narrow gauge into broad gauge was undertaken. Out of which only 37 kms rail line was to be converted in Bihar. This work was scheduled to be completed in November. Then the period of completion of this work was extended for a month. Now it is being said that this work will be completed by December. Due to frequent changes in the time schedule, people are apprehensive that some people, who are not interested in completion of this work are engaged in delaying this project. Thus, whether this narrow gauge will be converted into broad gauge by December or not is the only cause for agitation. There will be no problem if the work is completed by December.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the allegation levelled by hon. Member that someone wants to stop the work is not correct. I have told after making a review that the project will be completed by the end of January.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera) : Before you, the Chairman, Railway Board told us that that money was diverted. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KALMADI : No. Nobody has told anything. I am telling you just now, both to you and to Shri Sharad Yadav, that by the end of January, the line will be completed.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : That is true. But that money was diverted. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Jha, as a senior Member, you will understand that anybody saying anything outside the House has no significance when the Minister himself gets up here and makes a specific statement. Now, I do not want any controversy and discussion on that point. You please sit down now.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : Then I will go on a hunger strike.

MR. SPEAKER : If you want to go on a hunger strike, that is your look out.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Mr. Kalmadi, you want to provoke the people. He had told me on phone that on 15th January, there will be a flag off.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not going on record.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER : I am not going to yield to you at this point of time. He has very specifically stated that that money is not being diverted. That money is being spent. Even after that if you insist on standing up and for the sake of saying something you say something, then I am not going to yield.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : That is not a fact.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this thing is going on since yesterday and before that also. This assurance which is now being given here by the Minister on the floor of the House would carry more conviction if he would also kindly explain why previous assurance given by the previous Minister, and by the Chairman, Railway Board had been adhered to. Now, the hon. Members are feeling that this present assurance may also not be adhered to in view of what happened in the past. The Minister is shaking his head. But the point is that he has not explained why the previous assurances given here were not adhered to...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) . Sir, these things cannot be discussed in the Zero Hour. The discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants for Railways would be coming up and that would be the appropriate time when such clarifications can be asked for.

MR. SPEAKER : I agree with you that there is a discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants. It is not only that but he has very specifically, clearly and in unambiguous terms, not once but many times, has said that it will be done and yet if you have a pleasure of saying or disbelieving in his statement, then I cannot deny you that pleasure.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : They have decided that this line should not be allowed to be completed because they feel that we are zero in Lok Sabha from that area. They are penalising the people of that area, that is why they have decided that after the Lok Sabha elections, the line will not take place. That is their political conspiracy...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Are you going to allow other Members to speak or not?

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Sir, from tomorrow onwards I am going on a hunger strike against this.

MR. SPEAKER : You may go on hunger strike, if you want to, I have no objection. But you will not go on hunger strike in the premises of the Parliament, I am warning you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G. MADE GOWDA (Mandya) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the whole world knows that Karnataka State is a peace loving State. Peace and tranquility was prevailing all over the State. But, unfortunately, the whole situation has changed during the last one year since Mr. Derogowda took over as the Chief Minister of Karnataka. I would like to bring to the notice of the Centre the injustice done to the people of Karnataka by the present State Government. * The people are deprived of a decent and peaceful life. I deeply regret to state that the entire State of Karnataka has become a 'Police Raj'. To illustrate this point, I would like to cite some instances which have occurred very recently in the State.

Sir, the statue of the most respected and the father of our Constitution, Dr. Ambedkar, become the victim of atrocities committed by the present Karnataka Government. The disrespect to our late lamented leader has been resented to at all places in the State. Agitations, dharnas and burning the public, private and Government properties is a common scene throughout the State..... *** The loss of the public property due to these agitations will be to the tune of several crores of rupees.... *** Atrocities are being committed by the police on common people. The Chief Minister appears to be a silent spectator to all these happenings in the State. Through you, Sir, I urge upon the Chief Minister of Karnataka to take the moral responsibility and resign.

People are frightened to move freely on the roads.....***

Lathi charge was ordered against the workers of Raitha Sangha recently in my Constituency. I had been to that place to pacify the people and to control the situation. I was doing my duty as a representative of that Constituency. Instead of appreciating my sincerity to duty, the Chief Minister has ordered the Police authorities to book a case against me under Section 307 for attempting to commit murder. ***

An IAS Officer was one of the victims of the administration of Karnataka Government...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded

**English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

*** Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI G. MADE GOWDA : Sir, I know why these people are shouting. *(Interruptions)....**

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Sir, what is going on here?

MR. SPEAKER : I will go through the record and correct it.

MR. G. MADE GOWDA : * *(Interruptions)*. Sir, let him resign.

PROF. K. VENKATAGIRI GOWDA (Bangalore South) : Yes, Sir, he should resign.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes, Yes. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. MADE GOWDA : Looting, day light robbery are taking place all over the State....* The Centre should come to the rescue of the people and save them from the clutches of the present Chief Minister. Sir, I have also worked in the Opposition Party. I know the responsibilities of Opposition Parties. I need not learn from these people, who are shouting here. I know why they are agitated....*

Sir, the only solution to the present burning issues of Karnataka is....* Sir, I hope that the Centre would take immediate steps in this regard.

Thank you, Sir, and with these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (Sheohar) : Sir, this cannot be allowed.

MR. SPEAKER : I will go through it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, you please go through the translation. It is highly objectionable.

MR. SPEAKER : I will go through the records and I will correct it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. You first take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH GHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Every word should be deleted.

(Interruptions)

12.59 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao Vadde and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

(Interruptions)

Shri Made Gowda and some other hon. Members also come and stood on the floor near the Table.

(Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Made Gowda and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

(Interruptions)

Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao Vadde and some other hon. Members also went back to their seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Why have you allowed him to speak? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada) : Throughout India they are saying like that. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I request you to look into the record and find out that certain very objectionable remarks have been made. Whatever is unparliamentary I request you to delete those remarks because there is no reason for calling a Chief Minister....* Whatever may be the provocation, there should be some limit even in criticising certain people who are not here to defend themselves.

As far as the case is concerned, I think, nobody knows better than the Home Minister himself who is sitting here. The Chief Minister may be accused of anything, but nobody can say that he did not send a particular officer. I shall not go into the details because it was a very unseemly controversy and that should not be repeated in this House. I shall request you,

Sir, to please ask both the sides to keep their tempers cool and you please find out whatever is objectionable and delete the same from the proceedings. That is all I want to say.

MR. SPEAKER : I have already done the same thing. I requested both the sides to keep their tempers cool and use the proper language. At the same time, I have said that whatever cannot go on record will not go on record. I had already said that and if the hon. Members had known about this, it would not have been necessary for them to feel agitated.

SHRI G. MADE GOWDA : Mr. Speaker, Sir.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Now, please sit down. What you are saying is not going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS (Mysore) : Sir, for these things, Shri Paswanji's Government should be dismissed or he should resign on moral grounds.

[Translation]

SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazaribagh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, will you ever call back benchers?

MR. SPEAKER : You please come forward. I will call your name. You must learn how to speak before coming to Parliament. You may now sit down.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Sir, I refer to the extreme uncertainty and volatility in the index of the Bombay Stock Exchange, arising from a combination of factors, including the matter of duplicate shares, thus seriously affecting the capital markets of the country and, in consequence, also influencing the country's economy. I wish to emphasise, seek clarification and urge the Government's action on the following very brief five points.

13.06 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

Firstly, I would like to know what enquiry/investigation the Government has ordered into this whole matter and what are the Government's findings. The House has a right to know it and we would like to share that.

Unauthorised or duplicate shares is not a problem of numbers alone, it is the implicit illegality, and the consequences of that illegality, above all, on the confidence in our capital markets which is a problem. Therefore, I would like to know from the Government whether the problem is confined only to one company or is the disease more widespread.

The third point relates to small investors. In the process, they are the ones that are ruined first and affected more directly. Has the Government obtained from the Bombay Stock Exchange any idea about how many small investors have been affected?

The fourth point relates to the functioning of a public financial institution — the Unit Trust of India. Reports have appeared that the Unit Trust of India is involved in the duplicate share dealings to the extent of almost 8,70,000 shares of a particular company. This is extremely worrisome. There are two departments of the Government involved — the Ministry of Finance and the Company Law Department. Have the Minister of Finance and the Company Law Department asked the Unit Trust of India for any explanation or clarification?

If the Unit Trust is involved, my worry is that other public financial institutions and/or banks might also be involved in this matter of duplicate shares. Therefore, my last point is, has the Government asked all these institutions to scrutinise their portfolios and transactions to establish that they are also not a party to such questionable activities?

The hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, who often also acts as the *de facto* Deputy Prime Minister, is here. Would he be so good as to react to this worry of ours and give us some assurance about the Government's response?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, it is very sly remark that the hon. Deputy Leader of the BJP has made. I only represent the Government here and speak on behalf of it whenever the Chair directs or whenever it is necessary.

The points that the hon. Member has made, will be brought to the notice of the concerned Minister and, I am sure, they will be taken into account while the Government comes up with their reply here.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao...

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR (Faridkot) : Sir, we are not getting chance for the last three days though we have given due notices in time...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I shall call the names one by one. What is the subject on which you want to speak, Mr. Rao?

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : It is about the damage due to heavy rainfall in Andhra Pradesh and other States. I have already given a notice for that, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you kindly excuse me? I shall call the names one by one. Let us not deviate from the rules.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : I have given the notice, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Your name is there but I shall call the names in the same order, as mentioned in the list. Do you agree to that?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is a very good friend of mine. Though he disagrees, he cooperates well.

Shri Prabhu Dayal Kataria to speak now. Shri Kataria, you must be very brief so that others can also participate.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Firozabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of the Government towards construction of a bridge at Firozabad district, which is my constituency. The then Prime Minister late Shri Rajiv Gandhi laid the foundation stone for construction of the Chambal bridge in 1988. I have raised the matter regarding construction of the said bridge four times in Lok Sabha. I don't know why the Government is not considering the matter even after raising the issue in Lok Sabha? Personally I met the Prime Minister Government has repeatedly been saying that all the declarations made by late Rajiv Gandhi will be executed. Wahame Vinayat Hussain bridge, which connects Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh is very essential. The construction of this bridge will have a bearing on the traffic. When the river Chambal assumes the gigantic shape, there have been several incidents of boats capsizing and loss of life and property. I would like to urge upon the Government that the bridge, foundation stone of which was laid by late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, should be constructed at the earliest so that people there are benefitted.

[English]

*SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palakkad) : Coconut is the most important crop in Kerala and more than one-third of

the population entirely depend upon this crop for their livelihood. Coconut farmers of Kerala are, however, in distress on account of fall in price of Coconut.

Government of India announces the support price for all important agricultural produce well in advance of the crop season. But this has not been the experience with Copra/Coconut. Announcement of support price for copra was delayed during the 1994 and 1995 seasons. In order to avoid such delays for 1996 season, the Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal for announcing the support price for 1996 season latest by December, 1995. The support price recommended by the State Government is between Rs. 3700 and Rs. 3900 per quintal. These two demands are very genuine and I urge upon the Union Government to accept them.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The prices of all commodities have gone up except that of copra and coconut. They have gone to the ground level.

I now call Shri Dhananjaya Kumar to speak.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : Sir, I draw the attention of the Government to the hunger strike being resorted to by the employees of the Peerless Finance and General Investment Company for the last 28 days now. Since 27th October they are on indefinite hunger strike. There are about forty five lakh employess working in the field under the Peerless Company. The Peerless Company has collected deposits worth Rs. 5000 crore out of which more than 70 per cent is invested in the Central Government securities and the rest of more than 20 per cent is also kept as deposits in the nationalised banks. There are a large number of people who made investments in the Peerless Company. There are more than five crore depositors who are being benefited by the scheme introduced by the Peerless General Insurance Company. Due to a recent notification issued by the R.B.I., there has been some misunderstanding between the so-called employees who are named as 'field assistants' working with the Peerless Company and the management. There has been a drastic reduction in the commission which they used to get earlier. For the last six months they have been agitating over this. We understand that there has been an agreement between the management and the field assistants under which they have been getting 25 per cent commission so far and the term of the agreement would be completed only in the month of March, 1996.

They are demanding that till the subsistence of the earlier agreement, the old rate of commission that was being paid must be continued to be paid. I would request the

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

Government of India to come to the rescue of these forty five lakh Field Assistants.

Sir, today we are facing the biggest problem of unemployment in this country and forty five lakh families are being fed by this indirect employment through Peerless General Insurance Company. The safety of the money which is deposited by the five crore depositors is also in doubt now. So, I would request the Government of India to intervene immediately and issue necessary clarifications or ask the RBI to withdraw the notification and allow the company to function normally as it was functioning earlier.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise a very important and urgent matter.

Sir, in the last one-and-a-half months very heavy rainfall which occurred has caused enormous damage to the State of Andhra Pradesh and close on the heels, a cyclonic storm has hit Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Vishakapatnam districts, aggravating the situation further. The hon. Chief Minister has made very extensive tours immediately after the occurrence of the cyclonic storm, and relief and rehabilitation measures are going on. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has released the entire balance amount from the Calamity Relief Fund and the works are going on. But only temporary measures are taking place. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Government of India to make available a Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 582 crore. The Central Team has visited the affected areas. The hon. Minister of Agriculture visited Andhra Pradesh and has toured several districts. Though the report has been submitted by the Central Team, the funds are yet to be released. This is causing irreparable loss to the State. All the roads in the State are damaged and thousands of tanks and irrigation canal systems have got breached. So, I would urge upon the Central Government to release the Central Assistance, that has been sought by the State of Andhra Pradesh, as early as possible so that these rehabilitation and repair works take place to the public utilities which can again put these things on the right condition and normalcy could be restored.

I also urge upon the Chair to permit a detailed discussion on the damages due to floods and cyclonic storms in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal and other States which have been simultaneously affected. Fortunately, the recent cyclone had gone towards Bangladesh. Otherwise, we would have been the worst sufferers.

[Translation]

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD (Salempur) : Sir, at present the buses of Delhi Transport Corporation are plying on roads,

but the workers of the Corporation have not been paid their salaries for the last three months. Similarly, they have not been paid their T.A. Bills for the last three years and non-payment of these dues have put the workers in trouble.

Sir, in addition to it, I would like to invite your attention to the fact that a matador of DTC has been engaged to bring the MPs from their residence. In this matador armed security guards are posted. When I asked these security guards whether their guns are loaded, they responded in negative. Therefore, it looks very strange that on one hand, security guards are being deployed for the security of the MPs and on the other they are not being provided with bullets due to paucity of funds. Now, you can just imagine, how these armed security guards with unloaded rifles shall be able to protect us in case of any eventuality on mishap.

Sir, I demand that immediate payment of their salaries and TA Bills and other allowances which are outstanding for 3 months and three to four years respectively should be made to the employees of DTC.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thousands were watching the one day cricket match being played in Nagpur Stadium on that day.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This subject has already been raised.

[Translation]

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : But 9 persons died and hundreds were injured after a part of the Stadium collapsed. Will the Government conduct an enquiry into this incident? Had the Cricket Association checked the stadium, or were more tickets beyond the capacity of stadium sold, or was the design of the Stadium itself faulty so that it collapsed? (Interruptions) Orders for enquiry have been issued, but what about those nine persons who died. This is how the Cricket Association is playing with peoples' lives. Capacity of stadia is not being checked. What concrete steps are being taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents. I would like to ask the Minister-in-charge of Human Resources Development who is closely associated with cricket, as to what the Ministry is doing in this regard.

PROF. PREMDHUMAL (Hamirpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to invite your and the attention of the entire House to the problem with which all the Members of this House

are associated. All the MPs are facing a number of difficulties as regards the Local Area Development Fund. The Government, had itself agreed to pay the said Fund and it had provided Rs. one crore last year as an annual instalment. This year, only Rs. 50 lacs have been allotted. The balance of Rs. 50 lacs has not yet been allotted. Time is running out and only 2-3 months are left. Let the balance amount be immediately released. The Government has put a condition for releasing the balance amount only after receipt of completion certificate. If you release money at the year-end, how long do you expect the completion certificate. This is a hurdle on the side of the Central Government. However, MPs are facing greater difficulties in the States ruled by other parties, because the local administration does not co-operate with them. Most of the District Magistrates do not act as per our recommendations. If we recommend an expenditure of Rs. 50 thousand, they raise it to Rs. 75 thousand. Last time, Rs. 5 lacs were allotted. After that Rs. one crore have been sanctioned. The funds bears interest money too and as per the guidelines of the scheme, that money too shall be included. However, this is not being done. Thus, I feel that until and unless the Central Government take stringent action against such officials who put hurdles and deliberately try to fail the scheme, they shall continue to do so.

Yesterday, unfortunately the speech of Salman Khursheed Saheb regarding Uttar Pradesh is an indication of the Government's intentions. He said that his Government sanctioned Area Development Fund Scheme, however, only 5 Congress MPs represented Uttar Pradesh. *Does the Government like to see that this scheme may not take off properly or hurdles may be put, in those States where their party is not in power?* Such an uncouth statement was given by a Minister of the Government. At that time, the Minister of Home Affairs was sitting here. Such a statement sends some specific signals to those officers... *(Interruptions)*... You may please sit down. I am talking about the Minister and you are not a Minister... *(Interruptions)*..

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Dr. Patra, if there are any difficulties, let the hon. Member ventilate them on the floor of the House and if there are any loopholes, you can try to plug them.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : I mean to say that there had been discussions in the other House regarding constitution of a Committee of MPs which may monitor all this and help remove the hurdles. Will the Government form such a committee of MPs so that suitable steps to implement this very healthy scheme to benefit the masses in a proper way could be taken.

[English]

SHRI M.R. KADAMBURJANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli): Sir, what is the Government's response on this?

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : Sir, the Government must respond.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : sir, I am on the same point... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY (Ranchi) : The Government must take notice of this negligence.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There are three to four Members who have given their names and who want to speak about non-implementation of MPs Local Area Development Scheme. Let them say what they have to say. They have got the right to speak. Afterwards, let us hear what the Government has to say on this.

(Interruptions)

I will call the names one by one. When I called the name of Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao, it was a deviation from the rules. So, I requested him to take his seat. Then, I started calling the names as per the list. You should also bear this in mind...

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I shall give you time at the end.

DR. P.R. GANGWAR (Pilibhit) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to speak out something on what our honourable Dhurnalji had just said.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Kalkaji, I will call those Members who have given their names and who want to speak on this MPs Local Area Development Scheme. It is in proper order and if I call them one by one, then I need not exercise any discretion.

[Translation]

DR. P.R. GANGWAR : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I wish to speak out something regarding what our hon'ble Dhumalji had just said.

There is problem with my area too. In the first year Rs. 5 lacs were sanctioned. Later on, Rs. one crore were allotted. This year Rs. 50 lacs in total have been allotted. Let the Government immediately release the balance amount under the Area Scheme to the concerned D.M.... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMTAHAL CHOUDHARY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Dhumalji has raised an issue and I would like to say something regarding my constituency.

My constituency is Ranchi which consists of an assembly constituency falling in District West Singhbhum. Ranchi administration had been provided some amount 6-7 months to one year ago for a couple of schemes but the DDC of that district has not spent even a single paisa and has not even attempted to propose the estimates. I met the DDC twice in person and for this, I have to traverse 200 to 250 kms from Ranchi. I wrote a number of letters to him and talked to him on telephone, but he simply kept on assuring that he would start the job very soon. Had that money been spent by now, more than half of the projects would have been completed, but I am sorry to say that nothing affects him and he does not bother that such type of his behaviour may lead to a case of contempt of the Parliament.

I would like that suitable action should be taken against that particular official and other guilty officials and let the money from the Members' fund be utilised properly which is not being done at present. This is being neglected; therefore formation of a Committee for this purpose is essential. I urge that a high level committee of the House should be formed which may take action against the Chaibasa official and other guilty officials. In case this is not done, no scheme shall be successful.

I thank you and conclude with these words.

DR. S.P. YADAV (Sambal) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the greatest difficulty that we are facing under the Local Area Development Scheme is that the employees of the departments which have been authorised to execute the work, be it the PWD, RES or Cane department, are openly demanding Rs. 2 lakh as commission on a sum of Rs. 10 lakh. I know for sure that such situation prevails in my districts of Badayun and Moradabad. We had sanctioned money under this Local Area Development fund for the construction of a bridge, but the PWD department initially, did not agree to construct the bridge which was approved to be constructed under this Scheme.

The RES department did not agree as well we contacted the cane department thereafter and they prepared a budget of Rs. 15 lakhs for it. But then people from RES raised this amount to Rs. 17 lakhs. They demand Rs. 2 lakh as commission. In another case, we allotted Rs. 10 lakh for the construction of a College building and they again demanded Rs. 2 lakh as commission, without which they are not agreeing to execute the work. They talk about it openly and ask for Commission. My request is that the Government should constitute such a committee which will ensure that not a single paisa goes as commission; because when they prepare estimates they already add 27 per cent extra to it. I feel ashamed that while with great persuasion we get money from the Government, the employees try to loot it. We parliamentarians will earn a bad name from it and the people would complain to us that the roads have become bad and bridge have been damaged. Therefore it is my submission that the Government should enquire into this matter that what sort of work is going on at various levels in the Government... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will call the names one by one.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI (Serampore) : Sir, our names are also there... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is true. Kindly hear me. The rule is that we should come before 10 o'clock, give the notice and it will be printed. It is before me. I think it is an agreed fact. I will call the names one by one. You should have patience.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Jagmeet Singh Brar, you are in a hurry to go.

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR (Faridkot) : No, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There are others who sit here and there.

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR : Sir, I appreciate the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Those who have given their names well in time, their names are all here. One need not have anything in mind.

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR : We are proud of your gesture. We appreciate it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Thank you. Kindly bear with a little delay.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Parliament has decided to give Rs. one crore per annum under MPs Local Area Development Scheme. The budget too has been passed accordingly. It is a good scheme and it has been welcomed by the entire House. But our Finance Minister wants to throw cold water on this scheme. He has said that half amount of this assistance would be sent to constituencies only after the accounts of initial Rs. 50 lakh is received. In my Constituency, I have not even received the initial amount. The Finance Minister is saying that unless a report regarding the first 50 lakh is received no further money will be given. It means that nine to twelve months period is taken to execute any project therefore the plan we had for two years for this scheme is going to be kept in abeyance.

Another serious thing is that the District Magistrates, Collector are not making estimates of the scheme beyond Rs. 50 lakh. They say that until the money is received they won't prepare any scheme. The work of preparing scheme too has stopped due to this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you know it, and the entire House know it too, that elections to the Lok Sabha may be held in the coming February or March. Then when will these estimate be prepared, and work executed. Once the elections are announced people will be engaged in it and then the elections code of conduct too would come in force. The whole work would remain unfinished due to this. The work which was to be done for the benefits of public would not be done. My request is that the Finance Minister should come to the House tomorrow if not today and announce in the House that when he is going to release 50 lakh rupees. I would also like to warn that the Government should make an announcement regarding the release of Rs. 50 lakh, failing which no work will be allowed after Question Hour tomorrow. I am giving a forewarning.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The feeling of the hon. Members is true. I am also experiencing it. The preparation of the plan and estimate is terribly delayed and the estimate is boosted. Secondly there is inordinate delay in implementing it. Thirdly the quality of work is deteriorating. The top officers do not care to look to all these things. This is my impression.

SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV (Azamgarh) : what is the remedy?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The remedy is, I shall just

speak to the hon. Speaker and come forward with what he says.

SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV : They should be held up for the breach of privilege because this is the decision of the House. The House has given this money and the House has also made the rules. In those rules are being violated, an impression will go round that MPs are taking that money, that they have got so much money and all those things. Every Member of Parliament has tried to make the best use of that money for the development of his constituency. As you have seen, there is total unanimity about the responsibility of the local administration. Not only the local administration is responsible, even the Central Government is responsible because instructions have gone that unless and until you send the completion report the second instalment will not go. Mr. Naik said that even the first instalment has not reached his constituency. Therefore, I will request you that somebody from the Lok Sabha Secretariat also should coordinate here and immediate steps should be taken, so that this money is sent and the local administration should be accordingly instructed. It was brought to the notice of the House that certain State Governments are also hampering the process in between. Therefore, the decision was that the money will go directly to the District Magistrate and that is going. Now the question is about the problem of speedy implementation. So, you should see to it that the entire Rs. 1 crore money of this year is released. That is my request.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : Before the end of this session.

SHRI RAM NAIK : No. tomorrow itself.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Janarthanan, the money will have to be released in the month of December. During January and February there will be terrible work for the officers. Before that time, the money shall have to be released, so that it can be implemented immediately.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Whatever difficulties the hon. Members are experiencing, they are just ventilating them. I am also one who is facing the problem.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Moreover, some State Governments are keeping the money in their treasury. We can see that there is always a treasury ban in some States. Because of the treasury ban, the money is not being released to the Collectors and they cannot take up the work. So, the money should go directly to the District Collector and the Collector should keep the money in his account, so

that we can get the interest accrued on it which can also be utilised for the same purpose.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE-RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the morning itself the Prime Minister has directed the Finance Minister to see to it that at the earliest the amount is released.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : Earliest by what time?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : How can you expect that tomorrow morning itself it would be released?

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : You should mention some date.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : There is nothing like that. So far as the utilisation of this fund is concerned, everybody is concerned about it. It is meant for the utilisation of the Members of Parliament in their discretion, giving their priorities to the District Collectors or Magistrates, whatever the case may be, so that they can take up the constructive activity. So, there is nothing to be agitated about on this issue. I am sure, the Government will take the decision at the earliest possible time.

[Translation]

SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazaribagh) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to share with you and the House a profound matter of grief. On 26th of September, 67 labourers were killed as water suddenly gushed into the Coal mine of BCCL Coal fields. Neither the water has dried out nor a single dead body of the 67 labourers killed has been taken out. You might remember that earlier 64 labourers had died due to gas in one of the colliery of BCCL. No single month passes in which dozens of people are not killed due to such accidents. As far as Security and Safety are concerned, nothing has been done by Coal India in this regard. Labourers are engaged in work like animals. They are forcibly sent for underground mining and as a result such accidents happen.

Sir, I want to tell you that this incident happened on the 26th. I reached at the accident site on the 28th. You will be surprised to know that the person who was earlier appointed there as watchman was removed by the Project Officer on the plea that he takes money, while sitting idle. What I am saying is that had he been present there, he could have alerted the labourers that water is gushing in and the labourers who have died untimely could have escaped from the mine and been

alive. I also want to tell you that the dam constructed 15 to 20 years back have become too weak...

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has agreed to make a statement tomorrow regarding this fact.

[Translation]

SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : All right, the Minister may give his statement tomorrow. But I want to tell you that such incidents have taken place in the past and shall happen in the future too. What measures has he taken to stop this, who are the guilty officers, what action has been initiated against these Officers, what sort of relief has been provided, what safety measures have been taken, what action is being taken against the Officers who embezzled money of Coal India—all these points should figure in the statement.

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House towards a very important question. This is a question of national importance. It is very good that our Minister of State for Health Shri Ghatowar and the Home Minister are present in the House.

You know that due to the guillotine on demands in the House discussion does not take place on many important ministries like the Health Ministry. I want to raise a very important issue.

[English]

Are the killer diseases believed to have been contained in the country during mid-60s back with a vengeance?

[Translation]

Experts are of the view that Malaria, Kalazaar and Encephalitis are killer diseases. It was announced during the sixties that these disease would be wiped out from the country. I am quoting a scientist in this regard :

[English]

"We are still in the dark as to how plague was transmitted and unless we know this for certain, we cannot be sure that the disease will not recur again."

[Translation]

You know what has happened in Surat. In Bihar issue regarding Kalazaar is being raised in every area. We want that

the Government of India should think about the killer diseases which I have mentioned. Merely asking the Health Ministry in this regard will not do. the entire cabinet should think about it. This issue vanished in the sixties but it is again returning with vengeance. I am telling you that Malaria, Plague, Encephalities are bacteria born diseases. These diseases are widespread in Eastern India. Honourable Minister, Shri Ghatowar, is present in the House. You will find that all such killer diseases are repeatedly emerging in Assam, Bengal, Rajasthan. I, therefore, want to say it today that generally poor people of the country get affected from these diseases. These diseases are spreading in the entire country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I shall request to you that Mr. Ghatowarji who is sitting here should give some response on it and the Home Minister is also present here. This is not a question of any particular ministry but it is a question of national importance, therefore, attention should be given to it.

In this context a meeting of the scientists should be called to chalkout the strategy to prevent the diseases which are spreading in the country I would say that the Government should take the whole house and the people of the country into confidence in this matter.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The next subject is: 'All India students strike on the 29th November to protest against privatisation and commercialisation of higher education'. There are five Members to participate in this. I will call one by one. Kindly cut short your speeches. Now, I call Shri-Sudarshan Raychaudhury.

(Interruptions)

SHRI UMRAO SINGH (Jalandhar): I am on a different subject. Let those five Members speak later on... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will call one by one.

(Interruptions)

SHRI UMRAO SINGH: I just wanted to make a submission that these five Members can be asked to speak jointly. But I have a different subject... (Interruptions)

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI: Sir, five all India students organisations including Students Federation of India and All India Students Federation and twenty-nine national, regional students organisations, forty-seven university students' union and more than 480 college students' union

have formed a Joint Action Committee and are organising a nationwide students strike today, that is the 29th November, 1995. They have nine points in their charter of demands. They are demanding immediate spending of at least six per cent of the GNP for education and ten per cent of the annual Central Budget for education. As we know, even in this year's Budget, only 1.5 per cent has been earmarked for education. This is a partly amount. At the same time, they are demanding that the Central Government should not abdicate its responsibility in this area. It is really alarming to see that the Government is taking a course of so-called privatisation in the field of education in the name of self-financing and cross commercialisation is going on. At the same time, the striking students have been demanding inclusion as a fundamental right, the right to employment and the right to education in Part IV of the Constitution. They are also demanding that the Indo-US Military Agreement, the defence agreement which goes against the very special principles of our national security and sovereignty should be scrapped. On all these nine points, they are organising this strike. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to immediately meet the demands of the students.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dr. Ram Chandra Dome. Kindly make your speech short because all the Members are to be covered.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum): Sir, the issue has already been raised and I am supporting it. Throughout the nation, students of our country are observing a strike in the educational institutions today. They are protesting against the privatisation and commercialisation of education in general, and particularly professional education. These days, in the backdrop of the new economic policy and the new education policy, massive and criminal commercialisation of education is being implemented by the Central Government.

Sir, on the other hand the private institutions are mushrooming. These educational institutions are being run by private traders and education is now being treated as a commodity, a trading commodity. So, the basic right to education and job is being criminally curtailed. That is why the students of this country under the leadership of Students Federation of India and other Students Organisations are observing nationwide strikes to protest this criminal curtailment of right to education and job. So, I also voice my protest against this policy that is being implemented by the Central Government and the Government should stop this rampant privatisation and commercialisation of education and ensure the fundamental right to elementary education to the children of our country. The Government should come out with a comprehensive statement and immediately stop commercialisation and privatisation of education.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa) : I thank you for allowing this subject to be taken up. Earlier my colleagues have expressed their opinions on this subject. I join them to support the demands raised by the students all over the country. I believe that there are 12 million students now observing strike today. It is an unfortunate situation that those who should be studying are now striking and are on the streets due to the wrong policies of the Government. Their demands are very genuine. It concerns the academic life and the education as a whole and also concerned with national interest. I believe that the kind of discrimination that the students are suffering due to the new policies of the Government which emphasizes privatisation and availability of good education on payment should be done away with. The Government education is in total doldrums. Every facility should be provided to our student community whom we consider to be the future of our country so that they are grown up in a proper and healthy atmosphere. Every facility like sports facility and equality education should be given to them and the right to education and employment should be made a fundamental right and there are other concerns which should be taken note of by the Government and a statement should be made, if not today, then tomorrow surely.

SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA (Keonjhar) : Sir, the people of my Parliamentary constituency are suffering due to irregular telephone connections. The subscriber is also suffering very much. Who is responsible for this? Now-a-days so many things are coming. There are so many calamities and other dangerous things. Why the telephones are not coming? Sir, in this Department, there is a Chief General Manager, Shri Gilani, he has been working there so long. He is neglecting the people. Shri Sukh Ram is also not doing anything regarding this.

Therefore, I myself have brought it to the notice of the august House and this should be considered very seriously. My area is a tribal and industrial belt. My Parliamentary Constituency, that is, Keonjhar is a tribal Constituency and it is a newly growing industrial area. I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity. I request that this should be given immediate attention.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Thank you very much. I feel that hereafter if everyone speaks for one or two minutes, we can finish it early.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If there is a little deviation from the list, I will be in hot water. Shri Nawal Kishore Rai.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I belong to Bihar, which stands second in terms of population in the country but as far as the development is concerned it is the most backward State. The Central Government has been continuously ignoring this State. I want to bring this fact to your notice that there are more than a crore Urdu speaking people in Bihar but there is no Central Urdu University in Bihar. There has been a continuous demand from Bihar for establishing a Central Urdu University there. We have drawn the Government's attention towards this issue time and again. But so far it has not yield any result. I would like to submit that a Central Urdu University may be established in the State by Central Government. One crore Urdu speaking people are agitating in favour of this demand and they propose to stage a demonstration before the Parliament in the second week of December in huge numbers. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No. I cannot deviate from the list. If that is the case, then, everyone will have to be given a chance.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not compel me to deviate from the names of the list.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the fact that Bihar has the largest Urdu speaking population. Therefore, I request you to establish a Central Urdu University in Bihar.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why are you repeating it? I now call the name of Shri Chhedi Paswan.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my humble request with the Government for Urdu education is that Aligarh, Jamia. *(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is not going on record.

The hon. Members have given their names. The names are on the list. The list is before me. One should have little patience. Sometimes you get a chance early, sometimes in the middle and sometimes lately also. Patience is absolutely essential.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : We are all keeping patience. Kindly allow us also to speak... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, I will allow. Shri Ramesh Chennithala.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am also extending my support in favour of the demand for establishing a Urdu University in Bihar. Our demand is that a Central Urdu University should be established in Bihar. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Whatever you have said is true. But why did you not give the notice already? Who prevented you from giving the notice? It is because that Shri Rai has given a notice and has spoken, you want to take the shelter under that umbrella.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not break the discipline in the House. After all, there are also others who want proceedings of the House whether it is carried on properly or otherwise. There are so many senior Members.

Mr. Chennithala, you have to cut is short because at least by ten minutes past two, we have to adjourn for lunch. And if the turn for those who are waiting does not come, they will feel unhappy.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people of Kerala are facing lot of problems because of cutting short of bogies of the trains in that State. For example, Kerala Express, Island Express, Gandhidham Express, Bilaspur Express and fast-running trains running through Kerala. The bogies of these trains have been cut short. Because of this, the people are facing a lot of difficulties.

The people who are working in other States are also facing a lot of difficulties because of cutting short of the bogies. Even from the Eenadu Express and the Executive Express, which are running in the State, the bogies have been cut short by the Railways. I do not know why they have taken such a step. The commuters and the people who are working in the offices are facing a lot of problems.

We represented about this matter to the Southern Railway. But they have not taken any step in this regard. It is a special season for us. The Sabarimala pilgrimage is going on. The festival is going on. Because of the festival season, lakhs and lakhs of people from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Madras and even from other parts of the country are coming for the Sabarimala pilgrimage. At this particular season, the bogies have been cut short. Even from the fast running trains, the bogies have been cut short by the Southern Railway.

Actually, we want more trains from others parts of the State to Sabarimalai so that pilgrims could come and have darshan in Sabarimalai.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If you were the last speaker, I could have given you more time. There are also other persons.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Through you, I am requesting the Hon. Minister of Railways.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, no; it is a question of time.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : I am concluding. I request the hon. Minister of Railways to help the people of my State.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would take just two minutes. I would like to draw your attention towards a specific issue. Today, I am sorry to state that the integrity of Sikh Community throughout the world has become doubtful. For instances a very serious incident took place in Punjab. Where Jaswant Singh Khalsa, a human rights activist, was picked up by the Punjab Police on 6th December and the commandos eliminated him after 15 days. It is being discussed in the international media throughout the world. There were no charges against him but he was eliminated by the Punjab police for the only reason that he, as human rights activist, had cremated 25 thousand bodies I repeat the number once again 25 thousand unidentified bodies. He exposed the fact about the Municipal records of 25 thousand

dead bodies in the district of Amritsar to the Supreme Court. That is why Jaswant Singh Khalsa was picked up and murdered. When this was brought to the notice of the Supreme Court then the court ordered a C.B.I. inquiry in this matter but the Government of India, the Home Minister of India, the Prime Minister and the Congress Government are trying to protect the police which is suppressing this matter. It is very shameful. Only due to the matter in which the minorities are being treated the issue of separatism come to the minds of the people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would take just one more second. This November is the same as the black November of 1984. Even after eleven years nobody has been punished in this case... * Today people throughout the world are talking about it in this manner. (Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) : Sir, I feel that it should not form part of the record.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I delete the names.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR : And no bigger wrong can be committed than this. At last, I would say that I am speaking in the interest of the country. My words may be bitter but even after a lapse of 11 years our Union Home Minister has suppressed the three files which I have mentioned. He is neither ordering any enquiry nor issuing any orders in this matter. He is not arresting the persons whom C.B.I. is asking to arrest. Nothing can be more shameful than this incident.

Lastly, I would conclude after quoting a few lines of Faiz Ahmed Faiz :

Nisar Main Teri Galiyon Mein e-Vatan,
Jahan Chali Rasmein Koi Sar Na Utha ke Chale,
Jahan Jali Hai Kisi Ko Sar Uthane
Ki Izajat Nahi Di Jaa Rahi Hai,
Aur e-Baten Karne Ko Tarapti Hai Juban Meri.

You are sitting here, I have got the opportunity. Mr. Speaker, Sir... (Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It does not go on record.

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR : I belong to a very thin minority community of this country and I am being subjected to this harassment. I feel what I have spoken is correct and I stick to each word and I have said.

[Translation]

I warn the Union Government that if the persons responsible for 1984 riots are not punished and this kind of treatment continued with the human rights activists, this country cannot remain united.

[English]

SHRI SHANKARRAO D. KALE (Kopergaon) : Sir, in the State of Maharashtra, particularly in Ahmednagar District, my parliamentary constituency, crushing of sugarcane has already started almost two months back. Under the Essential Commodities Act of the Government of India, sugar factories are bound to clear the dues of cane suppliers latest within a fortnight.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Kale, instead of reading, please put it in a nut shell.

SHRI SHANKARRAO D. KALE : But neither district cooperative banks nor the Maharashtra State Cooperative Banks have made available funds for the purpose of making payments. Due to non-cooperative attitude by the Government of Maharashtra towards Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank, the situation has gone from bad to worse. Since the last five to six decades, the role of Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank is very appreciative in the development of cooperative movements in the State but now, the Government of Maharashtra has issued show cause notice to the cooperative bank as to why the existing Board of Directors should not be superceded. This has adversely affected the functioning of the Bank and sanctioning the fund to needy sugar factories to make the payment regularly to its cane growers. This unwise steps of the Government of Maharashtra has created a havoc in the minds of cooperative institutions especially among cooperative sugar factories.

I, therefore, urge upon you, Sir, to kindly intervene in the matter through Government of India and to ask the Government to take necessary steps so that the required fund could be released to cooperative sugar factories to enable them to make the payments to their cane growers.

* Expunged as ordered by chair.

** Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL (Munger): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, on 27th November, a boat carrying 130 persons which sailed to Khagaria, Sahibpur Kamal from Munger ghat at around 9 o'clock capsized at Kamalghat.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Drowning of people is a State subject. How do you expect action from the Central Government? You have to raise this matter in the State Assembly.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL: This is not a state matter. It is a very important matter. There were 130 persons in the boat which capsized at Sahibpur Kamalghat. So far only 3 dead bodies could have been recovered and State Government of Bihar has failed to recover 77 dead bodies. It is because no improvement has been made in ferry service for the last twenty years. A boat having the capacity of 25-30 persons is boarded by even more than 100 persons. There is no system. Yesterday also I raised the issue of constructing a bridge on the river Ganga in Munger, the construction of which is pending for the last 45 years. That bridge should have been constructed. But for want of it some accident takes place every month. There are 20 bridges in the one thousand kilometres Gangetic terrain falling in Uttar Pradesh whereas in Bihar over 500 kilometre of terrain, have only 3 bridges and the fourth bridge is under construction. I want to say that when so many people are drowned every year in the Ganga then it merely does not remain state matter rather it becomes a national issue and which concerns the Central Government as well. I want to say that 77 dead bodies have not yet been recovered. I would like to demand from the Central Government that necessary instructions to the Government of Bihar should be issued to recover the dead bodies of the drowned persons and improving the ferry service. Further as promised by the Central Government construction of a bridge on the Ganga river in Munger should be started soon.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the telephone department of Jaipur has increased the bimonthly telephone rent from Rs. 265 to Rs. 360 whereas there has been no such increase anywhere else in Rajasthan or in any part of the country. Suddenly an increase of Rs. 100 has been effected. Neither the number of free calls, have been increased nor any other facility has been extended in lieu of increased bimonthly rent of telephones. I am having a copy of the notification issued by the Government of India in this

regard. It is laid down in notification that the increase in the rate of telephone rent is applicable only in the case of a city where more than one lakh telephone connections have been provided. At present only 75,000 telephones are functioning in Jaipur city. But contrary to this notification of the Government of India, telephone department of Jaipur has increased its rates. I consider it unfair and contrary to the notification. I would like to demand that this increase of rate should be withdrawn and the Central Government should convey the Jaipur Division of Rajasthan that the bimonthly rate of telephone rent in Jaipur city cannot be raised from Rs. 265 to Rs. 360 unless the total number of telephone connections touches one lakh. I have written a letter to the hon. Minister in this regard and I have also met him personally. If the increased rate in Jaipur city is not withdrawn, I shall approach the Supreme Court in consultation with Shri Guman Mal Lodha and if I get the permission of my Party I would certainly sit on hunger strike in the interest of the people of Jaipur. I hope that the hon. Minister would concede to my demand soon.

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Sir, I am raising an issue which concerns the future of sixteen million *dalit* Christians in this country. They are agitating; and their agitation is going on all over the country. They are staging *dharnas* everywhere, in front of every educational institutions. Today, from almost all over the country, the Fathers of various important Churches in the country have come to Delhi in support of their demands. The entire Christian community have also gone on a strike in support of their demand. It is not an issue restricted only to the *dalit* Christians. It is an issue of proper representation and share in the governance and administration of the country. The percentage of representation of the *dalit* Christians in the administration has been consistently decreasing. They are very poor people. They feel that they are being discriminated against.

Sir, if the neo-Buddhists, the Scheduled Caste Hindus who got converted to Sikhism are entitled for this reservation, then there is no reason why the *dalit* Christians should be discriminated against. The issue of reservation has been discussed in this House time and again. In the discussion that we had last time in this House, the Government gave an assurance saying that they would consider the amendment in the Indian Constitution to remove the restriction put by the Supreme Court that reservation should not go beyond 60 per cent. If that Constitutional amendment is brought forward and is accepted by this House, I think that the *dalit* Christians, who are agitating for a very right and just cause, could be accommodated. Even Mother Teresa — who did not come to support the reservation issue of the *dalit* Christians, as she

clarified later on — conveyed her sympathy for the poor people. So, she was attacked by the anti-reservationist forces all over the country who said that Mother Teresa should not have gone there.

Her feelings were only for those who were fighting for justice. Not taking much of the time of the House, I demand that the Government in this very session should bring an amendment to Indian Constitution. They should remove the restriction which is put by the Supreme Court on reservation. Representation in Government services should be given to those people who are weaker and who are unrepresented. The Government should make a declaration that *Dalit* Christians will get justice like other *Dalits* who have converted to Buddhism or Sikhism. As they are entitled to reservation, so the *Dalit* Christians should get it; there should be no discrimination. My demand is that the Government should very sympathetically consider and do it in this very session.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a matter of great importance. There are as many as four Rural Development Ministers in this Government but it is only our villages that have to bear the maximum onslaught of the Government. Ours is an agricultural country and farmers live in villages. Cattle are their main property. But in spite of instructions of Government in this regard a number of slaughter houses are running in the country. One such slaughter house is being run in Al-Kabir. One thousand and five hundred animals are slaughtered there in an hour. You will be shocked to learn that calves are also slaughtered there. After independence our live stock has been reduced to even less than 40 per cent. Our villagers are becoming poorer. The people of India are becoming poorer and slaughter of our live stock is increasing day by day. There is not one Al-Kabir in India rather there are a number of such Al-Kabir where one thousand and five hundred live stock is slaughtered in an hour. This is matter of great concern.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have launched a footmarch from Seva gram, the 'karmbhoomi' of Gandhiji to Al-kabir so that the Al-Kabir slaughter house is closed. This march will reach at Al-Kabir slaughter house on 6th December. I would like to apprise this house that strikes and agitations will continue unless and until Government get the Al-Kabir slaughter house closed down through some ordinance or law.

I would like to make one more point. Though there is a legal ban on Calf-Slaughter but in spite of that a poster saying "Yahan Bacharoon Ki Bi Hatya Ki Jati Hai" is on display at Al-Kabir slaughter house. Calf slaughter is undertaken there

because beef (calf) is liked much in foreign countries. My concerns is that the calf-slaughter is being undertaken through agents of foreign companies at their behest. Therefore, what is causing concern is that the Government is prepared to provide all that are preferred by foreign companies. I want to submit that the Government may surrender before the foreign companies but the nationalist Indian will never succumb to these foreign companies.

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to draw the attention of the House to the very welcome tripartite agreement between Yugoslavia, Croatia and Bosnia which has brought an end to one of the most grim tragedies of recent history.

Sir, only occasionally there is a silver lining on the horizon of international affairs. It is always clouded. But this is one Agreement which the entire humanity must welcome because the Bosnian tragedy was too deep for tears. Since the disintegration of Yugoslavia — as you know, Bosnia-Herzegovina emerged as an independent sovereign State — but it was subjected to foreign aggression. It became subject not only to a civil war in which nearly half-a-million lives were lost and nearly three million people were displaced, but it was subjected to what was called 'ethnic cleansing' which was carried out with Hitlerian thoroughness perhaps not known since the Nazi era.

Subsequently, the Security Council had set up an International Tribunal which described 'ethnic cleansing' as "these are truly scenes from hell written on the darkest pages of human history." Now, this dark era is over and we hope and believe that those who were responsible for this great tragedy and who have been held guilty by the International Tribunal of crimes of genocide and crimes against humanity shall be brought to book.

Sir, this Agreement envisages a new page in international action and we hope that it shall maintain, it shall have to maintain the integral unity and sovereignty of the State of Bosnia-Herzegovina and will not allow the secession of the Serb concentration areas from the country. It should not become a prologue for the breakup or partition of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Sir, some countries have offered their troops to keep the peace there. We hope that if called upon, the Government of India shall also offer its hand of cooperation to the International community. I would like, however, to say that this Agreement is not enough because already voices are being raised by those who have been disappointed in their game and therefore,

the international community must insist; firstly, that these criminals who have been booked by the International Tribunal must be tried under the international auspices; secondly, that the foreign troops which are sent there either under the NATO flag or under the U.N. flag should be there to stabilize peace and they should only be progressively withdrawn after peace is stabilized; thirdly, that the displaced persons must have every opportunity to go back to their homes on a voluntary basis and those who may not wish to do so should be rehabilitated at international community's expense in places of their choice where they feel secure; and finally, the affluent nations must come forward with generous donations for the relief and rehabilitation of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this, I hope again that the Government of India shall make a contribution. When the final Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina is being written. I hope all vestiges of foreign aggression shall be eliminated and all possibility of the disintegration of the independent sovereign non-aligned State shall be completely prevented and the security and integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina shall be maintained.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH (Prabhani): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government through you that in our State of Maharashtra, cotton is grown in abundance but the cotton growing farmers facing a lot of difficulties. I would like to point out through you that a decision was taken to set up cotton centres during the month of October but they have been set up only on the 15th of November and when the question of making payment arose then cheques instead of cash were issued to the farmers. When they deposited their cheques for payment the same were not encashed due to lack of money. Therefore, my submission is that the contingency Fund, which was assured by the Chief Minister in the presence of the Member of Parliaments has not been made available so far. The instructions in this regard should be issued immediately from the Centre so that farmers may be able to get their payments.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, another thing which I wish to bring to your notice is that the procurement price of cotton at the rate of Rs. 2100 per quintal has been fixed which is very low. My submission is that the procurement price should be fixed keeping in view the cost borne by the farmer. So it is essential to increase the procurement price and some amount in the form of bonus should be given on it. As you know that Maharashtra is a cotton growing State and cotton is the only, cash crop of farmers. 250 lakh bales of cotton have been accumulated with Maharashtra corporation there. Therefore, it is my suggestion that a permission should be given to export it. I conclude my speech by mentioning these two points.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Western part of Rajasthan is resource starved due to the Thar desert. Due to failure of rains and occurrence of famine, particularly 840 villages of Pali district are facing a severe crisis, and added to it is the havoc being played by Antelops. I have been continuously putting up my demand before this House for the last four years that a sanctuary for Antelops may built by the Forest Department because when farmers return to their houses after day long labour, Antelops eat away their crops.

It is, therefore, my submission that the Government of India should provide relief to the famine hit district of Pali from the Calamity Fund and the forest department should build a sanctuary and keep Antelops there so that the farmers may be relieved of their problems.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : With your permission I would like to raise a question of great importance. My parliamentary constituency is Jahanabad which is badly affected by terrorism. Terrorism is spreading there rapidly. There is a great need for telephones in the area. P.C.Os. were set up in the villages under the MARR P.C.O. scheme launched by late Rajiv Gandhi. But it is not functioning well due to the sub-standard machines. In a way the entire amount spent on it has been eaten away. Responding to a question raised by me sometime back the hon. Minister had admitted that sub-standard machines have been installed there and the supplier companies had been blacklisted by the Government and their payment have been stopped, but the same machines are still there. In the sub-divisional town of Arwal, a Telephone Exchange has been installed, it does not work. All the employees who are working there are facing difficulties. There is an urgent need to instal telephones particularly in the terrorism hit areas, so that timely communications are made.

I would like to point out that if all schemes become fruitless due to corruption then no development can be made.

14.27 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report and Statement Re: Review by the Government on the Working of the Centre for Electronics Design and Technology S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali) for 1994-95 etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF