

I urge upon the Government to expedite setting up of a High Power TV Transmitter at Chandrapur and installation of a Lower Power TV Transmitter in the tribal district of Gadchiroli in Maharashtra.

- (iii) **Need to compensate farmers whose land has come under the scheme of Barbed wire fencing on the Border areas of Ganganagar District of Rajasthan**

[*Translation*]

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar): Barbed wire fencing along the Pakistan Border have been raised on agricultural land of farmers in tehsils Shri Ganganagar, Karanpur, Rai Singh and Anupgarh in Ganganagar district of Rajasthan. This agricultural land is at a distance of 500 feet from the line of control.

The farmers have to cover a very long distance to reach their lands. They cannot carry on agricultural work on the lands behind the barbed wire fencing.

In such an event the farmers should have been adequately compensated. But the Government did not pay any attention to this.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to speedily pay compensation to those thousands of farmers who have to part with and who have contributed their valuable lands for the defence purposes of the country.

- iv) **Need to Hand Over New Building Complex at Howrae Railway Station to South Eastern Railways on Permanent Basis.**

[*English*]

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA

(Balasore): Howrah is one of the biggest railway stations in the country. But so far in comparison to other railway stations, it could not be developed so much. The South-Eastern Railways are functioning here in the new complex building which is under the possession of the Eastern Railways. There is dual administration for which both employees and passengers are facing a lot of trouble. The employees have to take water for drinking purposes from latrines. In booking counters, they have to sit without ceiling fans. Though they are handling cash worth Rs.25 lakhs to Rs.30 lakhs daily, there is no security arrangement. When power cut is there, no generator is provided. All this is because of dual administration of the Eastern Railways and the South-Eastern Railways.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to hand over the new building complex at Howrah Railway Station to the South-Eastern Railways on a permanent basis.

12. 50 hrs.

COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR-
GENERAL'S
(DUTIES, POWERS AND CONDITIONS
OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT BILL

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): Sir,
I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Comptroller and Auditor-General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the last amendment to the Act in 1987 raised the pension of the C&AG to the level of the pension of a Judge of the Supreme Court. This benefit is, however, not admissible to two ex-C&AGs who retired before the amendment came into effect in December, 1987. In the case of Judges of the Supreme Court/High Court, the same pension is admissible regardless of the date of retirement. On that analogy, it is proposed to amend the C&AG's Act to allow this benefit to two former C&AGs.

Under Section 3 of the Comptroller and Auditor General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Services) Act, 1971, the C&AG's pay and salary is equal to the Judge of the Supreme Court. However, if a person who immediately before assuming office as the C&AG was in receipt of a pension (other than disability or wound pension) in respect of any previous service under the Government, an amount of pension equivalent to gratuity would be reduced from his salary. It is proposed to amend the C&AG's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971 so that the element of pension equivalent to gratuity is not required to be deducted from the salary of the C&AG on or after 27th March, 1990. This would be in conformity with the orders on the subject which are applicable to other reemployed pensioners including the Chief Election Commissioner.

Considering the constitutional importance of the office of the C&AG and the need to maintain its dignity, I am sure that the provisions of the Bill will receive support from all sections of the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Comptroller and Auditor-General's

(Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971, be taken into consideration.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Sir, I rise to support the Comptroller and Auditor-General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 1994.

It is a Bill further to amend the Comptroller and Auditor-General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act 1971. The background in which this amendment is brought forward here has been explained by the hon. Minister. There can be no controversy about the purpose and the objective of this Bill because C&AG is an important constitutional functionary. It is an important organ of our democracy. This Office is equivalent to that of the Office of the Supreme Court Judge. When certain benefits are enjoyed by the Supreme Court Judges, however, by some omission or commission they do not flow to the C&AG, then corrective steps will have to be taken to bring them at par. This is an attempt in that direction.

In respect of certain incumbents, who occupy dignified offices after retirement, my view is that there should be a limit on the total salary, emolument, that they get. I do not know the position. But there has to be a parity and there should be a parity. Even in high offices, as you are aware, Sir, we should not just go by making comparisons and keep benefits to this class of people or that class of people and say that since some has got that, others also should get that. Before doing that, there should be a consideration from all angles. Sir, as you know, ours is a poor country and about forty per cent of our population is living below the poverty line. We should also keep that in mind while going on increasing and

[Sh. Sriballav Panigrahi]

equating all these pecuniary benefits, etc. There should be a ceiling on the amount, which should not be exceeded by any office, however dignified that office may be. One should get nothing beyond that. Some gratuity, etc. has to be adjusted because it is the question of extension or like that. This is one of the aspects which has to be taken into consideration.

At the same time, about the C&AG, his role, his duties, functions, etc. have been clearly enumerated in the Act of 1971. Beyond the provisions of that Act also, there are certain conventions in so far as the C&AG's association with Legislature is concerned. He is not directly a Member but he is associated with Parliamentary Committees. And particularly in Public Accounts Committee, he has a great role in ensuring accountability of the Executive to Legislature. The C&AG and his senior officers do render assistance very effectively, in a meaningful manner, to the Public Accounts Committee and even to the Committee on Public Undertaking to some extent.

Sir, as you know, democracy cannot successfully function without an increasing element of honesty, integrity in different offices. It is disturbing to know that allegations of corruption against people occupying high offices are multiplying. For that purpose also, there is a demand for setting up institutions like Lok Pal, Lok Ayukta to deal with these allegations. If the monster of corruption goes on expanding its activities, its ugly head, and we do not take action to arrest, to check the growth of corruption, then that will ultimately sound a beginning of disaster and will also be detrimental to the functioning of our

democracy, of which we are proud. As you know, Sir, we are the largest democracy in the world. All efforts have to be made to make our largest democracy the best democracy.

We cannot call our democracy the best democracy, the way we are having elections, corrupt practices, muscle power and all those things.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Sriballav Panigrahi, you can continue your speech after lunch.

13. 00 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE: ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE TILL 14.30 HOURS FOR WANT OF QUORUM.

At 1400 hours quorum bell was rung. No quorum was made. At 1403 hours quorum bell was rung again and no quorum was made. At 1406 hours once again quorum bell was rung and no quorum was made. Thereafter, the Secretary-General made the following announcement.

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: There is no quorum. The House cannot meet. We cannot start the House till there is a quorum. The Deputy-Speaker has directed that the House will meet at 2.30 p.m.

14. 35 hrs

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirty-five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *In the Chair*]