

[Sh. Somnath Chatterjee]

Kumaramangalam do. I think he will take a nice sleep. This is a very very serious matter. I earnestly beseech you. We know the credibility of this Government is zero but kindly see what is the credibility of this House. At least we have some credibility and we do not wish to lose it by associating with them. So, in future there will be no cooperation with them if the Government treat us like this.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA(South Delhi): Some days back, Shri Kumaramangalam had said something. What about that...
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: A lot of business is there. I cannot allow you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHITTA BASU(Barasat): sir, on the basis of the assurance given by the hon. Minister, we advised them to withdraw their strike. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: what is the response of the Government on this?

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum dum): Did he or did he not say that the matter will be decided at the highest level? Let us go through the proceedings of that day. (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the feelings that have been voiced by the senior Members from the Opposition as well as my dear colleagues from the other side,

including Shri Madan Lal Khurana, have been taken note of. I am sure I will communicate it equally strongly to the Minister of Health and bring it to his notice that the Members feel very perturbed as they feel that according to them an assurance was given.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): He said that sympathetic consideration will be given with an open mind.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: He has not gone back upon his assurance of giving the matter a sympathetic consideration with an open mind.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We will now have to decide whether he has a mind or not. Or, he has an empty mind.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: His mind is not empty. He still has an open mind.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Is the hon. Minister going back upon the statement made on the floor of the House?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: No, sir.

18.10 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (1) *Inclusion of the History of post independent India in academic curriculum*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): A few years from now, the nation will be celebrating the golden jubilee of its independence. These years have been full of trials and tribulations, tumult and sometimes turmoil, but in this crucible of time, the

earnest endeavours of the people from all walks of life have been able to fashion the destiny of a modern nation, of which all of us are proud. this passage of time has been an exciting and sometimes tragic experience for this old and ancient land but young nation. the challenges that confronted us on the marrow of our freedom, the manner in which we were able to mobilise and marshal our limited resources to face and overcome these challenges and then, inspite of many failures, were able to march steadfastly to build brick by brick the edifice of a society committed to freedom, democracy, social justice and equality for all its citizens irrespective of caste, creed, religious faith or sex would remain one of the most momentous sages of human history. We of this generation who lived through some of these times have to an extent shared and have been enriched by this experience. The new generation that will come of age at the turn of this century will, however, have no such personal experience.

It is essential, therefore, to prepare an objective and impartial historical narrative and convert it into a syllabus for our curriculum in the school and college level by the end of this century. Being acquainted with the history of the first five decades of our Independence will equip the new generation to carry forward the task of nation building with greater perception and concern.

With this objective in view, we are constituting a National Advisory Committee which will help prepare this contemporary history of post independent India and transform it into an appropriate curriculum. The Committee will consist of-

Dr. S. Gopal	Chairman
Prof.Sabyasachi Bhattacharya	Member
Prof.Ravinder Kumar	Member
Dr. Bipan Chandra	Member
Dr.(Mrs.) Dharma Kumar	Member

Prof.Ram Guha Member

Prof.Sumit Sarkar Member

Prof.Neeladri Bhattacharjee Member

The nominees of UGC, ICHR and NCERT will be permanent invitees to this Committee. The Committee will evolve its own procedures and submit its recommendations to the Government. The Committee will have its term till the 15th August, 1997, the day we complete 50 years of our independence.

(ii) Verification and Evaluation of Customs Duty to a Multi-national Company By the Government

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): Some Hon'ble Members of the House alleged that there was a move by the Government to hand over the customs appraisal work to a Swiss multi-national Company at the behest of World Bank and IMF. I categorically deny that there is any such move.

As Hon'ble Members are aware, under-invoicing and over-invoicing take place in our imports and exports. This entails loss of revenue and foreign exchange. Invoice manipulations occur in the country of export. It, therefore, often becomes difficult for our Customs authorities sitting in India to detect and establish this.

There are professional services which specialise in detecting these malpractices at the country of export itself. They do so by pre-shipment inspection of goods at the country of export before they are despatched. SGS, Lloyd's Register, etc., provide such specialised services.

SGS offered their services recently. They also held exploratory discussions with the Finance Ministry officials. To study the system in operation on the spot, a team of two