

Thailand, England come here and get rid of their skin-diseases.

Sir, it is a matter of great sorrow that under the instructions of the Ministry of Defence or somebody else this pond also has been covered up. There was a holy site of Hindus where thousands of people visited through this path. There is a holy shrine of Muslims, the tomb of Kharbooja Shaheed Nasaruddin Shaheed Shaheb where thousands of Muslim brethren pay visit. They pass this way and offer their prayers.

Sir, Fulwaria, Imaliadhad, Badauli, Deendayalpur, Barthara, Kotwa and other villages are located on this route. Probably in 1900 this was declared a military area. The Britishes also attached importance to this route and Religious activities were never obstructed. In British time the Hindus, Muslims and all others used to pass through this route freely. During the First World war in 1914, the Second World War in 1945 and Indo-Pak war in 1965 the most dangerous weapons were kept here. Nobody had any objection. The military men and officers never closed this route. (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, what I mean to say is that extremely fatal arms were used to be kept here and today the military people say that there will be a breach of confidence so they will not allow four-wheelers to pass through here. They say that they will allow rickshaws, tempos, bicycles but not cars. They will not allow cars because it will endanger their secrecy.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, A Brigadier who is posted there at present keeps this path closed whenever he is present there. Sir, I would like to inform you that when late Shri Rajnarayan was the Minister of Health he was prevented from going by this path. Not only that, just four days back, hon. Defence Minister ordered to pen this path immediately. In spite of his orders the local Brigadier is not opening the path. The local people are being badly treated by him.

Sir, nearly twenty lakh people of Banaras are very much worried due to it. Through you, I would like to urge the hon. Minister of Defence to issue orders again and stern action should be taken against the Brigadier if he is not obeying the orders of the Ministry of Defence.

MR. SPEAKER: Today, I would like to give a chance to many hon. Members. Now, let us see how it is possible.

12.28 hrs.

RE: MISUSE OF PUBLIC FUNDS BY CERTAIN BANKS

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the recent turmoil in country's share market has been mentioned in the House. It has also been mentioned as to how a notorious shar-broker of Bombay has played a Successful trick with the country's entire Banking system. But, Mr. Speaker, Sir the incident of the 5th May is a novel thing in the history of banking. All of us know that the National Housing Bank is a subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India and the Life Insurance Corporation in which a Japanese agency is also associated. Its subscribed capital is Rs. 200 crore, but its authorised capital is Rs. 1000 crore. An unusual incident took place on 5th May 1992. The National Housing Bank had to deposit Rs. 30 crore in the Mutual Fund of the Canara Bank. But the National Housing Bank could not deposit the amount in the Bank. It turned into a defaulter. Such a situation has never been there previously. The money could not be deposited because the National Housing Bank settled a bargain of Rs. 340 crore with that very stock-broker and that amount was blocked there. The Bank had no additional money. An amount of Rs. 30 crore could not be deposited. Mr.

Speaker, Sir, what comments are being passed on it?

[English]

"According to sources of National Housing Bank, it has caused deep embarrassment in the Reserve Bank of India since this is probably the first time that the subsidiary bank of the Central Bank has defaulted."

[Translation]

The subsidiary bank of the Central Bank could not deposit Rs. 30 crore because there is bungling in the Bank. The Bank is linked with that broker. It is a serious case. That day the hon. Minister of Finance said that investigation will be made into it, but the investigation will last three months. It is impossible to say what will happen in the share market and the banking system in three months. There should be immediate investigation. The outcome of this investigation should come forward within 24 or 48 hours and the most stringent action should be taken in this case.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, liberalisation does not mean to give concessions to the brokers (*Interruptions*)... If it is going on, it is wrong. Perhaps you will take advantage of it and oppose liberalisation. I am not opposing.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): It is liberalisation for the brokers.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: It cannot be liberalisation for brokers. There is liberalisation in America, but if somebody commits such crime in the banking system, he is penalised. Fine upto crores of rupees is imposed on him. The hon. Minister of Finance has sought three months, time. I am in favour of an early investigation. The results should follow immediately and such black sheep should not be given any opportunity to rob those people.

SHRIGEOGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice to you on this issue. Besides, supporting the points raised by Atalji, I also take exception to this fact that while Finance Bill was being discussed here the day before yesterday, I had put up all these issues before the House. I also urged the hon. Minister of Finance to give some concrete facts and information which he had about culprits, and Bank officials. I repeatedly said that he had information. Every day we are getting information from the sources outside the House. We get information that he has the knowledge and we are saying it inside and outside the House. Even then, if no action is taken in this regard, I feel very sorry to say that we are doing great injustice against those people who are still befooling themselves by investing money in shares which you call the stock market boom.

Today is the 8th of May. I would like to quote a sentence from the article about share-boom published in the "Fortune" just for the information of the House. It says that the name of the so-called institution is

[English]

Morgan Stanley Investment.

"Another 'bust' candidate is India."

[Translation]

This has been written about stock market.

[English]

"...where the stock market has doubled since the beginning of the year.

We are now only in the fifth month of the year.

"...when the Government instituted major economic reforms.

[Translation]

It means that if it is not the responsibility

of the Government, at least it is a liability on it.

[English]

Says Morgan Stanley Investment Strategist, Barton Biggs:

"It is getting towards bubble proportions, with the 20 biggest stocks selling at 50 times earnings. People are buying stocks because of their names rather than their valuations..."

For example, Tata Iron & Steel, which the investors have driven upto 80 times the earnings since Government decontrolled steel prices. Morgan Stanley's India expert, Vinod Sethi warns:

"Import duties on foreign steel are also coming down and international prices are low, plus the company makes poor quality steel."

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the position. In spite of all these scandals, Shri Atal ji supports the liberalisation policy adopted by the Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given you a notice this morning. I was late by two minutes due to traffic jam. My notice has reached your office at two minutes past ten. I have understood the point. So, I gave this notice. The State Bank of India scandal is not limited to Rs. 620 crore only. The Bank had paid sum of Rs. 620 crore to a broker. It paid Rs. 200 crore to another broker called Pandeya, a mention of whose name I made yesterday. I am making this submission with great distress. This scam involves Rs. 2000 crore or Rs. 3000 crore. The Government is conducting an enquiry by people who are themselves involved in it. Not only the Ministry of Finance, but also the Reserve Bank of India and even the entire banking system is opposing the enquiry to be conducted by the

CBI. They want to conduct the enquiry under their own supervision. Mr Speaker, Sir, this is your responsibility. I mean the House is responsible to take a decision in this regard... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am very thankful to you. You are making me omnipotent.

[Translation]

SHRI GEROGE FERNANDES: Sir, when the matter is raised here the Government does not give any reply to it. The hon. finance Minister had himself been present all through the debates. When I have given concrete information to the House he did not utter a single word except that

[English]

"We will take effective action."

[Translation]

Today I am making this allegation because neither the officials of the Finance Ministry, nor the Government is prepared to hold the enquiry by the CBI. The case of individual Ministers is different. I know there are Ministers who individually, are in favour of an enquiry by the CBI but the Government is not in its favour. The Reserve Bank of India and the Banking sector are also not prepared for it. The National Housing Bank had made a promise to construct houses for the rural poor but the Government entrusted this work to Shri Pherwani whose records are well known to the world. He immediately invested that money in 'satta bazar.' Now that money is lost. Banker's receipt worth Rs. thirty crore have not been honoured. It is a fact well-known not only in Bombay but also all over the country.

[English]

bankers, receipts are not even worth the piece of paper on which they are written because they are all bogus receipts. I ask the

Finance Minister. Is it or is it not a fact that your bankers' receipts are not worth the piece of paper on which they are issued?

[*Translation*]

The hon. Finance Minister is present here. I would like to seek a reply from him.

[*English*]

Is he not aware of it? Still he is not talking any steps.

[*Translation*]

The Government is still allowing that big bull to indulge in this dirty game. He is doing it every day. I was very distressed. That is why I said that it is the responsibility of the House. Poor man's money is being drained out from banks and misappropriated. Only two days are left for the session to end. A meeting of the officers of the banking sector and the Chairmen has been convened for the 16th. You may please ask the hon. Finance Minister that if possible the should make a statement in the House in this regard today. If it is not possible today, then it should come on Monday. Now I seek your permission to raise the Bofors issue.

MR. SPEAKER: How many matters will you raise?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: This is not a different issue. I am raising the issue today which was under discussion yesterday...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today Shri Chandrajeet or somebody else said just now that it is your responsibility. I would like to know from you as to who should be asked what is happenings in the country. When these policies were being framed we had warned that these will have disastrous consequences. I had pointed out that policies are being implemented at the instance of external forces and the Government of India does not follow the policies which are conducive to the

circumstances of the country. Evil effects have started emerging within three months. Let Shri Atalji support the liberalisation policy. But the dangers apprehended at that time have now reached a point where bungling of thousand of crores of rupees is taking place. The Government says to investigate the matter in three months. Why should the enquiry take three months? To understand this, one need not be an economist. Bank accounts are made upto date everyday and one can have information about these accounts daily. It is even said that this bungling has been going on for last six months or one year. If the rise and fall in share prices in Stock Market has taken place during the last three months, it means that the bungling took place in three months. They require three months to investigate the matter, I am not doubting the intentions of the Government, but I am at a loss to understand if Shri Atalji means it to be liberalisation. Hon. Finance Minister and hon. Prime Minister, I am not against corrupt people as Shri George Fernandes is. I am against selling the country. In corruption, the country may, at best, suffer a loss of rupees fifty, or hundred crores. But here the country is being sold. I am making this allegation deliberately with full responsibility. It seems that a conspiracy has been hatched to sell this country and that conspiracy is being exposed today. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRIPAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, he has used the words that "the Government is entering into a conspiracy". That is highly objectionable.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I am again saying that the Government is conspiring to sell away the interests of this country.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, this irresponsible statement is coming from a responsible Leader.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bansal, I will give you a chance to refute it, if you want.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I am just saying that a very irresponsible statement is coming from the responsible Leader.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Where are those documents? Where are those books? Why are they not sealed? (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I speak in Hindi only. Those who do not understand Hindi will have to understand it, otherwise they cannot understand anything about the country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if it is not a fact, why is the Government silent? I would apologise if my statement proves to be wrong or hurts anyone. They do not at all feel concerned when scams worth crores of rupees is taking place. The hon. Finance Minister should say why three months are required to investigate the matter. You have been in the Government for quite sometime. Should the Government take three month's time to verify such a matter? In my opinion men of Economic Intelligence or the CBI can give a report on this in twenty four hours. I would like to know as to why the Government is maintaining silence over this question? Is not there any conspiracy behind all this?

[*English*]

If there is no conspiracy behind the whole affair, then why the Government is not coming out with the facts and arrest these persons who are responsible for these things?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Where are the books and records? This is very important. Serious charges are being made on the floor of the House and there is no response from the Government except some sort of an assurance of an inquiry which will take three months. What is happening to the books and the records? What about the persons? Has any case been

lodged uptill now? These are very very serious matters. If those books and documents remain in the custody of these people, Sir, what will be the sanctity of the inquiry also? Crores and crores of rupees are involved. Outsiders are involved in the name of liberalisation which is going on. Therefore, these are serious matters and we expect that immediate response should come from the Government on these matters. We cannot just wait indefinitely.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, on this point, I have given a notice.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Sir, again and again the C&AG has reported that their bank accounts are not reconciled for two to three years.

MR. SPEAKER: Nirmalji, I will call you.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, on that the C&AG has made severe strictures. That Vajpayeeji knows. Therefore, we demanded that the bank accounts be made transparent and secrecy clauses be eliminated. They are always responding negatively. Let them answer all these questions.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: We have been told that a large number of ex-officials of several banks and the financial institutions are on the Board of Directors of these industries and organisations run by the big bulls. They have been operating in the State Bank of India, the NHB etc.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: They are not giving any money for the purpose of rural housing.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Sir, we on this side of the House are equally concerned. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: We will know how they are responding.

SHRI A. CHALES: We are equally concerned about what has happened. But

one unfortunate thing is, that on every issue the Opposition is trying to give a message that we are selling out the country. That is rather unfortunate.

AN. NON. MEMBER: You prove it through your actions.

SHRI A. CHARLES: This House is not meant for the Opposition alone. Every day, they are trying to hijack the House. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let me regulate. Shri Charles, you are a very good parliamentarian. They have made very valid points. You validly reply to them. Do not charge them like this.

SHRI A. CHARLES: I understand. I am one of the Members who participated in the discussion on the SEBI Bill. It is on record, that we suggested, we recommended that the shareholders should be protected. That is our interest. I something wrong has happened, it should be found out who exactly is responsible and whether some officers are involved. The word 'conspiracy' is unfortunate. Anyway, we have to see what happened and want an impartial inquiry to be conducted. If anybody has done something wrong purposefully or with negligence, or some mistake is committed, it is a wrong thing. We condemn the whole matter. We also want an impartial inquiry to be conducted and what exactly has happened, everything, has to be brought out. But I must say that the whole destabilisation has started one morning when we engaged the Fairfax. Our friend, Shri Chatterjee then criticised it. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): He is telling something. Please listen to him.

SHRI A. CHARLES: I am totally supporting all actions to find out the truth and to book the culprits and to start suitable action. The interests of the shareholders should be protected. We cannot imagine how one bank has given so many crores of rupees. We have to understand the truth and what exactly has happened. The official should be punished and we are for that.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): How much time does the Government take to find out the truth?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, one of the members of the Government is trying to reply.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): A number of issues have been raised. (*Interruptions*) Why do you listen? God has given us two ears to listen. We never listen. That is the problem. (*Interruptions*) A number of issues have been raised. I am grateful to Shri Vajpayee for pointing out that God has given us two ears and one mouth.

I have great respect for Shri Chandra Shekhar. In fact, he holds me in affection and I have great respect for him. But I think that the basic differences in ideology and approach cannot be taken to the extent of charging people with insincerity and conspiracy. Let us acknowledge one thing. There are differences between the Congress Party and the Congress Party's approach to economic issues and the Left Parties. There are differences between us and I think some aspects of what Shri Chandra Shekhar believes. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): You can give your comments later on.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have said, on an earlier occasion, when briefly replied to the Commerce Ministry's demands, I said that, despite these differences I believe that

there is also as consensus on some aspects of policy and I think that there is a consensus among the major political parties including, what I humorously referred to as responsible sections of the Janata Dal, on some aspects of the policy. But the point is, there is no point in carrying these differences to an extent when you say that the Government is selling out this country. I recall what Shri Vajpayee had said a couple of weeks ago. He said that this country is too big, the people of this country are too proud, and too strong for anyone to sell out this country to anyone.

I do not think that anybody can sell this country. (*Interruptions*) I most sincerely and humbly request Shri Chandra Shekhar not to carry these ideological and policy differences to a point where he will charge that the Government is selling out the country.

Sir, no this specific issue, I recall what the Finance Minister had said in this House. I have just tried to understand exactly what he said. I am told, what he said was that the RBI being the Central Bank must first inquire into this matter. And the RBI has been asked to inquire into this matter. The RBI is doing so. We expect he facts to be found out by the RBI ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Is it a regular feature? .. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I cannot give you the details.

If the RBI finds facts which lead to further inferences and further action to be taken, appropriate agencies will be asked to look into this matter.

On the question of what is happening in the stock market, Sir, we are all aware of what is happening in the stock market. In fact in Bombay, I think, about three or four weeks ago, I said that this is very irrational behavior. This is one of the reasons why, we think, that the stock market, require our to be regulated. This is one of the reasons why, I think, SEBI is being strengthened. I think, a Bill has been passed. But to say that this

liberalisation has a cause and effect betrays a poor understanding of economics and a poorer understanding of the situation in which we are finding ourselves. I think, what we have done is correct. Since last July, our policies have retrieved this country from the brink of an economic catastrophe. Sixteen months of non-Congress Government left this country on the verge do default. We have retrieved this country from the brink of an economic catastrophe and there is growth today ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Liberalisation does not help. We have fed up with your economics .. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You may be fed up with the country. The country was fed up with what you did. The country was fed up with what your ideology did throughout the world. ..(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, he is giving a lecture on their economy. Here specific issue has been raised and he is giving a lecture ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The ideology which Shri Somnath Chatterjee wants to espouse has been rejected in every part of the world. An there is no reason why we should accept this.

I have great respect for Chandra Shekharji. I think, many aspects of Chandra Shekharji's policies are correct. ..(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Is this an answer to the issue that has been raised here?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: In fact I still remember Chandra Shekharji's eloquent reply to the Motion of Confidence, which he moved, where he laid down some elements, which every body should accept. Sir, there are differences? But to take these differences to a point to say that the country is being sold out by liberalisation, we reject that charge. Sir, you will see that this kind of

opposition comes from a very narrow segment of this House. And that narrow segment of this House has a difference with us. We acknowledge that difference. But we do not charge them with conspiracy and equally they should not charge us with conspiracy.

**SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is nothing personal in it. I have been telling from the very beginning - I would agree with my friend, Shri Chidambaram, for whom I have great respect - that we see diametrically in the opposite direction. He thinks that he has been able to revive the country from the economic chaos. I think, he has landed the country in a position where every week, three times we are getting the threat from a country which considers that they are determining the destiny of the country. This has never happened in the history of India nor in the history of any nation in the world. This is why, selling away the interest does not mean that you are selling the furniture of Parliament House. The country is being threatened, not by Mr. George Bush, not by Mr. Baker, but by an Under Secretary and you are not able to answer. I shall request, Mr. Speaker, Sir, my GURU, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, that he should also understand where is that great country, for which he has the great pride that this country cannot be sold away by anybody. Countries are no sold away in furniture; in assets, in factories, but the country's self-respect is sold away and that has been ably achieved by my friend's party and the Government, not by you personally or by any one of you during the last three or four months. This is the point. I can understand the differences on economic policy. I can understand your liberalisation taking the country to a point from where we cannot return. But, this question involves misappropriation of funds by the Government bank of thousand crores of rupees. (*Interruptions*) Why these officers should be protected? I know the rules that RBI should look into it; that somebody will go from here then only CBI will come. It means by that time everything will be hushed up I shall request, my friend, Mr. Chidambaram that they should take up this matter

urgently. They should not go into all these technicalities. Technicalities do not make a nation nor mar a nation. You are shattering the will power of this country and you are shattering the hope in this Government. People have apprehensions all around. If you do not answer these questions squarely in Parliament, you do not come clean about these officers who are guilty. If you say that they are not part of the Government, then I say that the Government is not selling away the country, but these officers are selling away the country. In my understanding of Parliamentary Democracy, if the officers are selling away the Country and the Ministers are keeping quiet, I am well within my right that the Government is selling away the country. This is why I have said and I did not mean anything personal. I have great affection and regard for you. But, again I say that you people are guilty of dereliction of duty, if you are not doing this.

**SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM:** Sir, I agree entirely with the last part of the observation of the hon. Member, Shri Chandra Shekhar. (*Interruptions*). Please listen. I assure this House on behalf of the Government that no officer will be protected. The Government will take action against any officer howsoever high he may be. (*Interruptions*).

**SHRI TARIYAT BARAN TOPDAR** (Barrackpore): Mr. Speaker ... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM:** He has no business to shout like that. He does not understand the the responsibility of a Member of Parliament. He is not only rude to me but he is rude to the whole House. We are not dogs and cats here. He has no business to shout like that. He must be told how to behave (*Interruptions*). I have great respect for Shri Chandra Shekharji. We endorse that last part. There will be acted upon. If any officer is found guilty, action will be taken and you will find that Government taken action against them. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

**SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:** The

question is whether you will order an investigation or not.. (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say one thing after hearing Shri Chidambaram. The whole House is of the opinion that R.B.I. is interested in a cover up. Through you I would like to remind the congressmen of a historical event in this House which may perhaps help them in understanding the gravity of the present situation... (*Interruptions*)

When Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru was the first Prime Minister of India the Mundhra Scandal was exposed by Late Shri Firoze Gandhi who belong to congress and was a Member of this House. But this scandal exposed by Shri George Fernandes is far grave than that. Though the scandal which was exposed by late Shri Firoze Gandhi did not involve crores of rupees, but even then the Prime Minister had agreed with Shri Firoze Gandhi and constituted a Commission headed by most illustrious judge justice Chagla, who was later a Member of this House and also a Minister. You might be aware that because of the findings of the Chagla Commission, a leader of stature like Shri Krishnamachari had to resign from the Cabinet. Shri Chidambaram and other Minister are present here, I would therefore like to submit that there should be a judicial enquiry into this matter by a commission which should be assisted by C.B.I. It is only then you will come to know the sincerity of what is being said by Shri Chidambaram otherwise it has no sincerity. I would like to conclude with this last sentence. Our country has become a colony without occupation. Earlier it was under the occupation of East India company, and now it is under the dominance of International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. This is the only difference.

[*English*]

There is no occupation but we have been reduced to a colony by the acts of commission and omission of this Ruling Party.

13.00 hrs

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:** Sir, those who are responsible for this misappropriation of money have been entrusted with the task of inquiry. Then what will be the fate of the inquiry?... (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER:** Shri Kodikkunil Suresh

**SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH (Adoor):** Sir, in Kerala at Traivandrum, one of the public undertaking companies, that is, Hindustan Latex, which comes under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has totally regretted promotions and other facilities to SC/ST employees. The employees belonging to SC/ST categories had started relay *satyagraha* in front of the Hindustan Latex one months before.

There are five hundreds SC/ST employees working in that company. The management of the company has not invited the agitated employees and discussed their serious and important issues so far. I request the Government, through you, that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare should intervene and give proper directions to the management of the company to settle their problems at the earliest.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Shri Vandayar. (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI SRINKANTA JENA (Cuttack):** Let me make a submission, Sir.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Let others also speak... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI K. THULASIAH VANDAYAR (Thanjavur):** Sir, in Tanjore, there is a Railway Colony Middle School functioning for the last thirty five years. This school caters to the need of 309 boys and 189 girls. There are nearly fifteen to twenty teachers. The Railway authorities, without rhyme or reason, have abruptly asked them to vacate the

school before 30th April, 1992. In the interest of the Tanjore Railway Employees this school should be allowed to continue without prejudice. The Railway Minister should take immediate action for the survival of the school without any delay.

SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI (Amalapuram): Sir, on 27th April, 1992, in Parakasam District of Andhra Pradesh in Chimakurthi village, three *Dalit* women were allegedly raped and murdered and their bodies were found in the premises of Pallava Grante Company's water pond. The deceased are: (i) B. Ramalamma, aged thirty; (ii) Ravura Anjamma, aged twenty-three; and (iii) Padhulayesamma, Aged fourteen.

The Andhra Pradesh Police have so far not arrested the accused involved in this crime and also not given any proper financial assistance to the victimised families. This is not only one incident happened against the *Dalits* in the State of Andhra Pradesh, oftenly these atrocities are being committed on SC/ST people due to the failure of law and order machinery.

Through you, Sir, I urge upon the hon. Prime Minister and hon. Home minister, Government of India, to direct the Government of Andhra Pradesh to appoint judicial enquiry and also entrust the case to the CBI/CID and trial this offence in the Special Court. I also request the hon. Prime Minister to grant financial assistance of Rs. five lakhs to each deceased family from the Prime Minister's Fund.

[*Translation*]

SHRI D.J. TANDEL (Daman & Diu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate that when the fishermen of Gujarat, Daman & Diu go into the sea to catch fish, they are arrested by the Pakistani police and are sent to jail as the sea border line between India and Pakistan has not been decided so far. Similarly, we also arrest the Pakistani fishermen. This all has been going on for the last eight to ten years. I had raised this issue in the Ninth Lok Sabha also. I have also raised it day before

yesterday and reported several times to the Ministry that due to the lack of a sea border line these incidents happen repeatedly. But the Government is taking no steps in this regard. Even though our fishermen have not committed any crime they are forced to languish in jails for two years. As a result our fishing business has become sick. The agro-based industries have also become sick. I would like to inform the House that on 24th January the Pakistani coast guards caught the Indian fishermen. Our national flag was hoisting on that boat. They brought it down and took it on their boat. They played a cassette and forced our fishermen and seamen (Khalasi) to dance. The fishermen of Gujarat and Daman-Diu and other organisations reported this matter and made numerous representations in this regard but no step has been taken by the Government so far.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I demand from the Government that the sea borderline should be decided immediately or an arrangement should be made which can stop both the Pakistani and Indian Fishermen from violating the border. I demand an immediate action from the hon. Minister in this regard.

Secondly, I have received many Letters from my constituency wherein it has been stated that fishermen of Daman and Gujarat were registered at Umargaon in Balsad district of Gujarat for last many years. But a new order has been issued recently that the registration would be done at Verawal in Saurashtra which is 1000 Kms. away. How is it possible for these fishermen to reach there? These bureaucrats issue orders while sitting in air-conditioned rooms. They have little knowledge of the area or the practical difficulties. The hon. Minister of Surface Transport is present here, and he should therefore take steps to improve the situation by revoking this order and maintaining status quo.

SHRI VISHWANTAH SHASTRI (Gazipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a grave crisis of petrol and diesel has hit Eastern Uttar

Pradesh. This crisis can be guessed by the fact that while daily average consumption of diesel in this region is more than 60 to 70 thousand kiloliters, the daily supply is only 12 thousand kilolitres at present. The supply of electricity in this region is being done only for name sake since last one and a half month. In many district headquarters of this region electricity is not supplied for several hours at a stretch. Sometimes Gazipur city which falls in my constituency faces black out for 8 to 10 hours. On the one hand the power supply, is erratic whereas on the other hand there is crisis of petrol and diesel which has made the farmers desperate. The crops have not been threshed as most of the threshers have closed down because of diesel crisis. Similarly, most of the pump sets have become useless. Thus agriculture has been affected. Diesel operated passenger vehicles have also been affected.

I, therefore, demand that immediate steps be taken to tackle the diesel and petrol crisis in Eastern U.P, particularly in Gazipur district and ensure the sufficient supply of diesel in that region so that the farming activity is not hampered in any way.

[English]

SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY (Adilabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, more than 1,000 villages in my constituency in Adilabad district are affected by severe drought. People are not getting even drinking water, not to talk of water for irrigation. Certain borewells and open wells are already identified and the list is submitted to the Government of India and pending for the last one year. But, so far, not a single paisa has been sanctioned for the borewells. The cattle and domestic animals are already dying of starvation. Our Zilla Praja Parishads and the Mandal Praja Parishads have already passed unanimous resolutions urging the State Government and the Central Government to come out with massive assistance and programmes for drought relief activities in our area. There is no work for labour for the last one year due to drought situation. Some labourers are migrating to neighbouring State- Maharash-

tra - to earn their livelihood and to save themselves from starvation and death. Our district is inhabited mostly by tribals and Scheduled Castes and backward people and they are all suffering because of the neglect of the Government.

I request the hon. Minister of Agriculture, through you, to immediately release Rs. 10 crores for the drought relief programmes like Food for Work programmes etc. to save the starving masses from further sufferings. I also request the Government of India to release Rs. 5 crores immediately for the purpose of sinking bore wells and other wells for drinking water to our people who are mostly tribals and Scheduled caste and backward classes.

I urge upon the Government of India to swing into action immediately and to provide funds for the drought relief works.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to raise a subject of India's most famous wetland, which is internationally famous and which has been made into that of national importance. I refer to Chilka lake. It is the largest lagoon in South Asia and it is the umpire ecosystem and the breeding ground for migratory and resident birds. Apart from that, one lakh of fishermen-folk families numbering half-a-million draw their sustenance from this Chilka lake water-body. Sir, there is a move by the State Government to widen the entrance of the sea water into Chilka lake to ensure that boats can come into a place near Magarmukh.

Sir, deepening and widening of this channel will not only affect the carrying capacity and productivity of this lagoon because some project for prawn cultivation is going to come up in that area. This will affect half-a-million fishermen who are drawing their sustenance and their avocation from that. Apart from that, those dealing with the business of aqua-culture will be affected. Already there are agitations by the fishermenfolk and before an impact analysis on ecology and environment is done by an expert

body, this internationally and nationally important wasteland should not be allowed to be destroyed by the State Government and since Environment is a Concurrent subject, through you, Sir, I would like to move the Government of India to put a stop to this project before an impact analysis on the ecology and environment and the rehabilitation programme is taken up. The question of rehabilitation of these fishermenfolk will give rise to social tension which is happening at the moment. It has also been discussed in the Orissa State Legislative Assembly, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thaue): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a serial on the life of Ambedkar is telecast from 12th April at the prime time on every Sunday at 9 p.m. Till now two episodes have been telecast and there are eight episodes in all. After seeing two episodes, I feel that there is a possibility of conflict all over the country if this serial continues. The facts have been distorted. Any person, who makes a serial on the basis of History in which there is distortion of time and place about Ambedkar is not good more so when we know certain facts about Ambedkar. Keeping in view the dress Shri Ambedkar has been portrayed as wearing half pants and shirt when he was young. School going children of those days have been shown wearing half-pant and shirts. I would like to tell you something about the screen-play of this serial. Talking to her brother the sister says, "I will just now tell this news to brother Satpal." When Satpal is her brother, she will say "brother" only. How a boy speaks to his uncle - "uncle, I am Ramji Satpal". It means the writer felt that Ramji Satpal is only a name. On this, uncle says, "You are Ramji Satpal."

The incident which took place in Bombay, when he was studying there was depicted to have taken place at Satara. Ambedkar's father was a teacher in Lashkar. It is true. He was very sedate person but he is presented in such a way that not only ordi-

nary persons but internationally reputed person like Day Pawar said he was a dacoit.

MR. SPEAKER: Who has said so?

SHRI RAM KAPSE: He said that in the serial he looks like a dacoit, and the person who contributed this article in "Lok Saptah" says that he resembles General Zia. He was a teacher in Lashkar. It is a new thing. His photograph is also available, still he is being presented in such a manner.

MR. SPEAKER: Has it been shown and said on T.V.?

SHRI RAM KAPSE: Yes Sir, a serial on his life is being telecast. Shri Daya Pawar has reviewed the serial.

MR. SPEAKER: Daya Pawar should not say all these things, if her depiction is false.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: The most improper thing is that Vasant Moon, who edited the articles of Shri Ambedkar, about whom it is said that he is the advisor of this T.V. serial. In its reply he immediately said that he has no connection with this serial and its televising should be stopped as soon as possible. Savita Ambedkar was his wife. She also gave an ultimatum that if its telecast is not stopped within two days, the result would be a conflict.

Not only this, the people of North India are shown participating in music, pop music and konkani music. Similar is the position of writing, direction, music and photography. Acting in the serial leaves no impression. Therefore, it is a great insult and humiliation to Shri Ambedkar. This serial has 8 episodes. Out of which two episodes relate to the childhood and perhaps we will not find the real philosophy of Ambedkar, which we want to watch on the TV.

MR. SPEAKER: It should not be distorted. He resembles a dacoit etc.

[English]

SHRI RAM KAPSE: It is the Statement of Daya Pawar.

Whatever word I have said, I stand by it.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not necessary to refer to it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KAPSE: I feel that this serial is not telecast in the manner it ought to have been and I am speaking here because I did not like it. I oppose that and request the hon. Minister to reconsider about this serial. He will come to know that discontentment will increase among the people and if this serial continues it may give rise to conflict. Therefore, suspend it for some days. I would like that the hon. Minister should make a statement in this regard.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever has been said about the serial on the life of Baba Sahib Ambedkar is right but I am not in favour of suspending this serial. When we formed a centenary committee, we certainly wished that a serial should be made on the life of Baba Saheb Ambedkar. Assigning the job to a professional in the field that serial should be made on the same lines as that on the life of Mahatma Gandhi. Since Baba Saheb Ambedkar was the father of our Constitution, therefore, an excellent film of international level should be made on him. Though we had thought of it but it could not mature. We agree that the Government made some selection and it is showing those episode to us. If once its telecast is stopped abruptly it will not be telecast again. I support it if it is retelecast after making some changes here and there and making it more appealing.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: Shri Shyam Benegal is also ready to make a serial on the life of Baba Saheb.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: If the telecast is suspended once it will be stopped

permanently and it would be difficult to resume, because the intentions are not good. Still I would like to say that we have also seen that serial and certain such things are there e.g. the way his father is presented and the death scene of his father are some of the scenes depicted with a high emotional impact. There is no such thing that the face of Baba Saheb does not appear real to us. Now the question is of the form in which it should be portrayed...

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): How can we help if sonul one says that Ram Vilasji resembles a dacoit.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: How can we help, at least if Atalji says so, that cannot be replied. Therefore, I would like to say that the Government should look into the objectionable portions. Whatever is accepted and admitted by all should certainly be shown. All of us in the House wish that the Government ought to spend a sufficient amount of money on it. It is a matter of deep regret that the Government knew that the centenary year of Baba Saheb Ambedkar is at hand and we have been demanding in this house since 1980 that an excellent film should be made on the life of Baba Saheb. But no good film could be made even after 10-12 years. Now, when the film is made and there are other lacunae, these may be rectified and the film may be telecast. But the telecast of the film should not be stopped. If the telecast of the serial is stopped, it may create some other problems. That is what I mean to say.

[English]

SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN (Amroha): Mr Speaker, Sir, I congratulate Indian archer Shri Limba Ram for equalling the world record for the 30 metres event being held at Beijing in the China International Archery Tournament, 1992. It is commendable to note that Shri Limba Ram scored 357 points out of the possible 360 points in the tournament, thereby equalling the world mark set by Matsushita Takashi of Japan in 1987. It is a matter of great pride that Limba Ram is leading in the over-all individual qualifying

rounds by scoring 1,296 points out of possibly 1,440. His achievement has brought Indian archery on the world map. We hail the achievement of this young man for bringing laurels and glory to the nation.

I am sure the House will Join me in congratulating him.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. We will join you. I am asking the dynamic Sports Minister to congratulate him.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): I am grateful to Shri Chetan P. S. Chauhan. I think the House should pass a resolution to congratulate Shri Limba Ram.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. We would congratulate him.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Everybody should congratulate him.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV (Bhagalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to raise a very important question of public interest. In my State Bihar, Sasaram-Buxur road leads to Ballia and Gorakhpur. There is a one way traffic on this road. Hundreds of trucks pass through it and it is a very busy road. As there is one way traffic on it the road is very narrow, generally accidents take place on it. Some times these accidents are even fatal. I request the hon. Surface Transport Minister through you that this 300 kilometres long road should be declared as National highway.

[*English*]

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL (Jabalpur): I am in barnued that a most serious explosion has taken place in the

Filling Section of the Ordinance Factory of Khawaria in Jabalpur.

MR. SPEAKER: Why do not you talk to the hon. Minister first? Why do you depend on that? Are you sure about it? If you are, I will allow you. Otherwise, you talk to the hon. Minister.

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: At least one person has been killed so far and several others have been grievously injured.

This is not the first time that this kind of an incident has taken place in the factory at Jabalpur which is run by the Central Government. The police investigations reportedly revealed negligence in maintaining safety measures. Of late, there has been increase in negligence on the part of officers who are entrusted with supervision of ammunition and explosive Department. In fact, several instances of lack of proper supervision and control have been reported in the local press.

Many cases of pilferage of very sensitive material with the connivance of superior staff have also come o light.

I, therefore, urge upon the Defence Ministry to appoint a high-level Enquiry Committee to go into such negligence and pilferage and take appropriate action against the careless officers and to give compensation to the family of the deceased workmen and to give proper medical treatment to all those workmen who were injured in the explosion and to take adequate safety measures in future.

[*Translation*]

PROF. PREMDHUMAL (Hamirpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Air Traffic Control Officers of National Airports Authority have resorted to work to rule from 1st May while the hon. Minister has told in the House that it is not causing any loss, but the facts are contrary to it. The pilots who pilot the earoplanes are required to fill the journey log-book and the engine log-book. They are showing this work to rule by traffic control officers as the cause

of delay of their flights. The higher authorities have also admitted that one minute delay in flight leads to the wastage of fuel of 5 thousand rupees. In this way, the Government is suffering a loss of 4 crore rupees just on fuel.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to submit through you to the Government that talks should be held with these officers. These officers had given due notice. They had given their charter of demands and had informed that they would resort to work to rule from 1st May. Even then the Government is not paying any heed to them and the loss of fuel is being suffered and the air-traffic is also being delayed. Therefore, my submission, through you is that they should be invited for talks.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I have given notice on this.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad): Sir, you will recall that the hon. Minister of agriculture had given an assurance to this House that he will send a Central team to Maharashtra to review the drought situation and to see whether Central assistance is to be given or not. It is more than ten days. It is not on one occasion but the hon. Minister gave the assurance on two occasions in the House. The team has not gone to Maharashtra yet. Maharashtra Government is waiting for some communication from the Centre. However, there is no communication. It is my understanding that the team has not even been formulated. I also understand that the hon. Minister of Finance is not willing to associate himself with the Central team. Unless the Ministry of Finance associates, the whole exercise will be infructuous. I also understand that the two teams which have gone to Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat also did not have anybody from the Ministry of Finance. The Nine Finance Commission very clearly says that in case of severest of severe calamities, adequate Central assistance will come in the form of 25 per cent advance from the next year's allocation. So, I would request that a state-

ment should come stating why the team has not gone to Maharashtra. This is a very specific assurance which has been given twice. I request the hon. Minister to let us know about it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, about the air Traffic Controllers' agitation, I have given a notice. Please allow me to mention about it.

Sir, all the flights are being delayed since 1st May. The Air Traffic Controllers are on agitation. They have resorted to work-to-rule. They have been appealing to the National Airports Authority for improvement in their promotional prospects and for other remuneration and perks commensurate with their job responsibility and accountability. The job of Air Traffic Controllers has been recognised by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) as also by the world experts as unique with heavy responsibility and it requires instant decision-making capability. The ILO has opined that keeping in view the responsibility, the Air Traffic Controllers more closely resemble with that of the Pilots and hence it recommended the remuneration and perks should be comparable with that of the remuneration and perks of the professional pilots. Further, the Air Traffic Controllers Guild has been appealing to the management to concede their demands, but the management is silent on that. The management is not talking to Guild, to the association.

I, therefore, appeal to the Government that the Civil Aviation Minister should send instruction to the management so that the management could talk to the Air Controllers to end the agitation, which was resorted to by the Air Traffic Controllers. Because of that agitation, all the flights are being delayed. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Sir, I would like to say something on the drought situation prevailing in Maharashtra. The people of Maharashtra are waiting for the Central team just like to chatak' bird waiting for the rain. In order to protest against the

apathy of the Central Government, the people of Maharashtra are observing a band today. I have just confirmed at 12.30 p.m. There is a total band in Maharashtra. The people are worried and agitated. That is why I demand that the Central team must go immediately. It is not only the Central team but the Prime Minister must also go and visit the places. As demanded by the State Government, Rs.500 crores should be given.

Sir, you are aware the by-elections in Maharashtra have been specifically postponed because of the drought conditions. It is such a serious matter and still the Government is not sending the team. So, I demand that a team must be sent and the Prime Minister must also visit Maharashtra immediately. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDV(Vijaywada): Sir, through you, I draw the attention of the Government to the sad plight of the sugar-cane growers in Andhra Pradesh. The cane-growers are not paid their cane-dues for the cane supplied. Many of the private sugar factories as well as the cooperative sugar factories are not paying the amount and as a result of which, the Cane-growers, who have to pay for the harvest-charges, transport-charges, are facing problems. Also, this is the time when the bankers are pressing them for the recovery of their loans. Moreover, the Revenue Department is pressurising these people and even coming to take physical possession of the goods in respect of the arrears relating to the Irrigation Cess and the revenue arrears. In that way, the farmers are suffering. So, I draw the attention of the Government to take immediate steps to see that the cane prices are paid by the factories. Also, the additional cane prices payable by the factories to the growers depend on a factor called "L". Until the Central Government communicates that factor "L" which is in the Bhargava formula for additional prices payable by the factories, the State Government will not take action.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude. Today, we want to allow many members.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, I am concluding. For the last four years-1988-89, 1989-90, 1990-91, 1991-92- the additional cane prices are not being paid to the cane growers. And I urge upon the Government to look into this aspect and take immediate steps to see that the prices are paid to the cane growers.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH(Ferozepur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention towards the labourers of Punjab who are victims of the system of contract. The labourers, whether they are in F.C.I. Labour Union, Punjab Labour Union, or in Food and Supplies Union, are given wages by the contractors. The labourers who work from dawn to dusk, are not given full wages by these contractors. They give them wages according to their wish. When the labourers are not given full wages it means their sweat is not compensated for. The system of contract of paying wages to labourers which is in vogue in Punjab should be put to an end immediately. As in the other States of the country, the system of contract of paying wages to the labourers has been abolished and the labourers get wages directly. Likewise the system of contract in Panjab should also be abolished and the labourers should get wages direct. Besides it, the three F.C.I. depots, which are located in Amritsar, Ajnala and Navansher have been made Pucca and the rest of 125 kutch depots of Punjab should also be made pucca.

SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI(Sitamarhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I come from Bihar. The regional news are not telecast by television in our State but these news are not telecast in the whole State. There is a low power T.V. tower due to which this telecast does not reach all the districts. therefore, more powerful transmitter should be set up there. Besides, the demand of broadcasting a news bulletin in Bangle-language has been lying pending since long. Bangla speaking people are living in 10-12 districts of Bihar. Their demand should be fulfilled and a news bulletin should be broadcast in Baugla language.

[English]

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORIY (Howrah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue that I want to raise is about the Bills passed by the State Legislatures, awaiting with the Centre for its approval and assent.

We all know that any successful functioning of this polity of ours depends on mutual understanding and cooperation and on the assurance of the Centre that the Bills that are sent to them will be passed or assent will be given to them within a specified period of time. Any delay in such matters causes disbelief.

We would all surely agree that we should avoid that position.

Many States have sent certain Bills which are pending with the Central Government. I do not know the details of Bills of other States. But, Sir, so far as West Bengal is concerned, some seven important Bills are pending. The Trade Union (West Bengal) Amendment Bill, 1983, it has been received by the Centre on 22.11.1983. The Calcutta University (Amendment) Bill, 1984, Rabin-dra Cultural Institute (Taking over of Management) (Amendment) Bill, Howrah Municipal Corporation Bill, (Second Amendment) Bill, The Asansol Municipal Corporation Bill, Chandernagore Municipal Corporation Bill and Siliguri Municipal Corporation Bill are awaiting approval from the Government.

Therefore, I shall request you to direct the Minister to take necessary steps in this regard so that these Bills get the assent without any delay.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Citorgauh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier in the day, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri George Fernandes and Shri Chandra Shekhar raised an issue, involving several thousand crores of rupees as a scam from the banking system of the country, including the National Housing Bank. The Government with some alacrity-Shri Chidambaram and indeed the Finance Min-

ister had responded and had been attempting to satisfy both Shri Chandra Shekhar and Shri Atalji. The public utterances in Parliament was satisfied or not, I do not know. Perhaps, they have managed to satisfy Shri Atalji and Shri Chandra Shekhar.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): You are assuming that.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am assuming that. In a similar fashion, we have raised the issue of Bofors, for the whole day yesterday. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you allow other Members to make their points please, at least in the last two, three days? I will allow you also to raise that matter at the end. Please take your seat now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI (Kasaragod): Sir, the General Secretary of All India Passport Employees Association is on an indefinite hunger strike since 22.4.1992. The demands of the association appear to be just.

Even though the Passport applications rose from 13 lakhs to 35 lakhs from 1980 to 1992, the number of employees remain static at 1449. The chances of promotion is also almost nil. The service condition is also not satisfactory.

I call upon the Minister of External Affairs to interfere and settle the issue amicably and avert catastrophe. (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I am constrained to with your permission raise a matter with regard to an officer of a Central Public Sector Undertaking who has been victimised only because I have raised an issue concerning that undertaking. It has been suspected by the Ministry that that officer was responsible for passing on the information.

Sir, for six years, Mr. A. K. Moitra was

the Chairman and Managing Director of the National Jute Manufacturers Corporation. I am happy that the Minister is here.

His case was approved by the Public Sector Enterprises Selection Board. The vigilance angle was also looked into and there was a clearance from the vigilance Commission. After six years, he was given an extension in June 1980, for another three years because of his outstanding service. The trouble began after there was an attempt by the Government of India, Ministry of Textiles, to sell the Major undertaking, the National Jute Mills, to a private industrialist. We got the information and I raised it in the House. Ultimately, the Minister had said, "No. there is no such proposal". Sir, Mr. Wadhwa of Chapdhani Industries seems to be too powerful. What happened is this. The Chairman and Managing Director was directed by the Ministry to pass on the information particulars, records, documents of this Company to the proposed purchaser, a private industrialist. After an objection was raised here, what happened is that, the Chairman and Managing Director was directed to pass on the information to the Ministry so that the Ministry could pass it on to them. The Chairman refused to do that. Then, the trouble started. He was being victimised; he was insulted; Deputy Secretary and ordinary officers were giving him orders; money was not being released for this Company; he was not being given interviews here. He has come here expecting to meet the officers. Ultimately what happened? He got fed up; he tendered his resignation on 31st January 1992, to be effective from 30th of April 1992. On 29th of April 1992—a day before that—he was issued a Charge-sheet. The Charge-sheet was confidential.

Sir, I will take only one minute more. The issue is very important. How is the Government functioning?

On the 29th of April 1992, a confidential Charge-sheet was given and he accepted it. On the very same day, that was pasted on the Notice Board of a multi-storied building, where he is occupying one of the upper flats.

A confidential charge-sheet is being pasted on a notice board so that everybody could see in that house. It is just to humiliate him before the people who are occupying that multi-storied building.

The main witness is the Jute Commissioner. In the charge-sheet, it is mentioned that he is the principal witness. What is the charge? The charge is that you have not retrenched employees. Secondly, you have given ESI benefits to the employees. According to the Government, he was not authorised.

MR. SPEAKER: Generally, we do not discuss these matters.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We have been requesting the hon. Minister that he is being victimised. This is the way. That Jute Commissioner has now been given this additional charge. He has gone to the Press. The charge-sheet is issued on the 29th. On 30th, his resignation is accepted. On 30th, this Jute Commissioner holds press conference in Calcutta and makes out the particulars of the charge-sheet. The objective is to humiliate the officer. This matter was raised in the House. After it was raised in the House. After it was raised in the House, the trouble started for him. I would like to know: Is this the way the Government behaves? Can't we raise any matter? Will the officers and employees be threatened like this?

We requested the Minister that the Joint Secretary is against him. He wants his blood-fund of flesh. He said: "I am very sympathetic." This is the way the sympathy is being shown! How do we expect that the public sector industry would be run properly in this country when he is a person against whom no charge about personal integrity is made? The charge is: Why have you not dismissed workers? Why have you given ESI benefits they were not entitled to get?

Is this the way the Government will function? Why I am concerned is that it is not about 'A', 'B' or 'C'. The question is about the method of functioning. In matters like this,

they could not deny. They had to retrace their steps in selling a major undertaking to a private industrialist.

MR. SPEAKER: We are not allowing such matters.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRISOMNATH CHATTERJEE: When the Minister is here, he should respond and see. His resignation has been accepted but his dues are not being paid.

Have you ever heard about a press conference being held about the charge-sheet, that a confidential Charge-sheet is pasted on a notice board of a multi-storied building? Has it ever happened? He is being threatened that he has to vacate the House. His telephone line is being sought to be disconnected just because he has not now-towed to them, just because. *(Interruptions)* he has not agreed to the transfer...*(Interruptions)*

You are aware that there was a jute strike for a number of days. He averted that strike in NJMC. That is why the big high-ups in the Ministry got annoyed because they wanted to show that NJMC was running at a loss so that they could sell off to the private industrialist. This is happening.

I strongly protest against this. I request the Minister. He is here. He should at least say that he would be sympathetic. I hope he was not misleading us. If he really intended to be sympathetic, he should take immediate action. Let him avert it. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): Sir, you said, you don't allow this type of matter to be raised here. I think, it has a bearing on our functioning also. We raise matters connected with Public sector organisations. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You don't raise matters relating to individuals-appointments, etc.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Now we will be afraid to raise matters....*(Interruptions)* Time and again we raise matters. Somebody will be victimised again. *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (BAR-RACKPORE): Sir, I can prove, if the hon. Minister desires. *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: There is a newspaper report: NJMC CMD charge-sheeted. Is this the way the Government of India is functioning? How does he go to the Press?

*[Translation]*

THE STATE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the officer, about whom they are talking was charge sheeted on the recommendations of the Central Vigilance Commission. As far as his resignation is concerned, he has resigned and we have accepted his resignation and the enquiry is being conducted in regard to the charge-sheet given to him. We will take steps according to the reports of the enquiry. We are not prejudiced against anyone. I will collect information about his alleged victimisation after the matter was raised in the House as the hon. Members are saying and I will also ascertain the information in regard to convening of the press conference.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: The officers of that organisation have convened a press conference.

*[English]*

....*(Interruptions)*... I had raised it in the Consultative Committee meeting. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What is your reaction to the Press conference? I

have got that newspaper. This is not the way to deal with this matter. What happens if a charge-sheet is pasted on the notice board of a multi-storied building? I would like to know whether this has ever happened in this country. Who authorised whom to do it? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This matter was raised earlier on the floor of this House. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: This will discourage the officers and the employees. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. speaker, Sir, the D.R.D.A. employees, are on agitation throughout India in support of their genuine demands. D.R.D.A. is an organisation set up by the Central Government in which more than one lakh employees are working. This organisation has been running the programmes sponsored by the Centre at the district level for the last many years. The Central programmes like IRDPWD, A.G.R.A., TRY SOME, Rural Development, Cleanliness Programme and the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana etc. are being run by these employees. These employees have been struggling hard for the last 10 years in support of their demand to improve their service conditions. They have also given seven point memorandum to the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Rural Development Minister demanding pay scales and other facilities equal to the State Government employees, better promotion avenues, regularisation of daily wage workers, reversion of deputationists to their parent departments, provision of full facilities for the dependents of the deceased employees etc. The additional secretary, Rural Development, Government of India had held talks with the representatives of these employees two years ago and found that their demands were justified.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submissions that you should take personal interest in finding

the solution to this problem since the employees are neither considered the Central Government employees nor are they enjoy the facilities available to the State Government employees. In this way the future of nearly one lakh people is very bleak. My submission is that their demands should be accepted immediately and a policy should be formed in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I have risen earlier to make a request. The Government has responded to an issue of very substantial public importance raised by Atalji, Chandra Shekharji and Shri George Feraudes about the scam in invaliding thousands of crores of rupees. In a similar fashion, would the Government respond to what they are doing about Bofors, even with half of that alertness? (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (MADHUBANE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today, the office bearers, leaders and activists of All India Kisan Sabha are on a dharna at the Boat Club to lodge their protest against Government's policy on farmers and seek improvements in it. It is a very important demand. The cuts made in the Budget in respect of rural development has put the on-going projects in doldrums. It is evident from reports received from various States, the procurement of foodgrains being made by the Government through the Food Corporation of India is a further more critical issue. The farmers complain that wheat is being sold at higher rates in the market than the price they are being paid. In this connection strike was held twice in Punjab. The militants have a hand in the strike. I am not making a demand to raise the price. But the trouble starts when we sell the foodgrains to traders at double the rate of what we pay to farmers. The farmers who are on a dharna demand that there should be a difference of maximum 15% to 20 (a limit should be fixed) between the price paid to farmers and the price the consumers pay. The producers as well as the

consumers are being looted. Mr. Speaker, Sir, a large part of the country is facing drought. Various projects aimed at supplying water, containing flood and generating electricity are at stake.

It is about Bihar, Maharashtra and Punjab. If S.Y.L. project is implemented in Punjab, the water dispute between Punjab and Haryana could be resolved. Both the States are not in good terms over this issue.

The Kosi barrage Dam will bring radical change in Bihar. It is the biggest project in the world. It is to be completed by the Government of India. The Teesta project is located in North of Bengal. After the execution of this project, electricity will be available in the area at cheaper rates. It will help resolve power crisis. The Government of India has to take initiative to accelerate the pace of work. The State governments are not capable enough to complete these projects. Land ceiling and land consolidation should be implemented for the purpose of land reforms. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH:  
.....(Interruptions).

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs will count and say whether it is for the tenth or eleventh time we are discussing the Bofors issue in the house. I would like to know particularly about the Solanki episode in Bofors case. The House had to be adjourned thrice yesterday in connection with the Solanki episode. The proceedings were stalled. There were discussions on it three to four times. We have not taken up anything extreme with the Government during that discussion. We have only asked the Government as to what it was doing India has become a subject of popular ridicule over the Solanki episode. It has created a sort of ill-feeling, and the proceedings of the house have been stalled. The business of the House should be resumed. It is not that our worries have been lessened. We expect that the Government should rise to occasion and say something. I appreciate the promptness shown by Atalji, Chandra

Sekhri and George Fernandes ji in raising the security scam issue involving Rs. 2000 to Rs.3000 crore. The hon. Finance Minister came immediately and tried to explain the position. He should have shown half that promptness in Bofors case. There is nothing to hide in the Solanki episode. I want to know as to why the Government does not say anything in this regard.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I initiated the discussion yesterday itself, not much progress was noticed in the matter. I want to touch one of the points of the case. When the discussion was held in the House on 23rd, the hon. Prime Minister while making a statement did not make any mention of this point. He said that they would be giving a written reply on the issue. I have an objection to the information that has been received by me. I want to place it before the Government and the House. The hon. Prime Minister has given us in writing in a letter which is in my possession now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There should be a regular discussion on it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Why should there be a discussion. The hon. Prime Minister has misled the House over this letter. The Editor of the Indian Express has written in its front page..... (Interruptions) These people are not allowing me to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Please be brief.

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES: Is there no other issue for discussion?

DR. R. MALLU (NAGAR Kurnool): Sir, he is taking a lot of time. The Prime Minister has given a reply. How many times will he repeat the same thing?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RABI RAY: I want to say that when Shri George Fernandes speaks, three M.Ps stand and interrupt his speech. It is not proper. You have allowed him to speak. You should prevent them from making interruptions. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I expect senior Members to go according to rules and not to raise matters only in zero hour.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not prolong the discussion. (*Interruptions*)

DR. R. MALLU: Mr. Fernandes was given the maximum time (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.M. SAYEED(Lakshadweep): Sir, he is a senior Member, he should understand this that there are other Members who also want to raise their points.

MR. SPEAKER: Within a short time, it will be over. Please take your seat.

Please be brief.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNADES: I want to make a point before you That is, what happens if the matter is not fully explained. I received this letter the day before yesterday. I gave it to the press at 2.30 p.m. Several newspapers have published the entire text of the letter. Today, an English daily published from maximum centres in the country, without mentioning the name of its editor, has written that the hon. Prime Minister was not shown the letter on the 25th. He was apprised of the matter on the 27th. (*Interruptions*) You should understand my point of view. How the hon. Prime Minister is presenting himself before the country today? The truth must come out in regard to the question being raised by me. The entire

Bofors case is a separate issue while the Solanki episode is different. I as well as the entire country want to know the facts of the Solanki episode. The Government is not prepared to reply the question raised by me to bring out the facts. Therefore, I suggest that the Government should take initiative to set up a Joint Parliamentary Committee. I have already told the Government this thing . If they don't want to bring out the facts, they should set up a Joint Parliamentary Committee. We will place the information before the Committee. We request you to help us in the matter. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, your leniency has been exploited by the hon. Members. Sir, let there be a discussion under any rule for four or five hours. We are also hon. Members of this House. we also have the right to raise our points.

SHRI A. CHARLES: We also have the privilege of raising the issues. This is very unfortunate that some of the Members are misusing the floor of the House everyday.

SHRISRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Sir...

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA(Cutack): Sir, yesterday, we were given to understand by the Chair that an all-Party Meeting is going on in your Chamber to sort out this problem. When we raised this matter in the House, then, there was an explosion from the treasury benches that this issue should not be raised. Then, we insisted that, let the Prime Minister come to this House and answer the queries which were raised by the opposition. The latter which was sent to Shri George Fernandes...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Why don't you come under some rule? You are all senior Members. Everytime, you are coming and raising matters in the Zero Hour only.

**SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:** When the Deputy Speaker was in the Chair, he told the House that, in the Speaker's Chamber, meeting of all Party Leaders is going on. We want to know now what exactly had happened in that Meeting.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI LAL K. ADVANI**(Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, Mr. Vajpayee said it and it was also said by several others. I understand that it is our responsibility to brief the House about the discussions we held in your Chamber on any serious matter. Either you should inform the House or have it done in some other way. If you kindly permit me, I will brief the House about the discussions we held with you today and yesterday. We did not discuss anything illegal. The discussions were held twice. The hon. Prime Minister has himself said in the House. After those two discussions the House has been convinced that the Government is conducting inquiry into the Bofors case and the Solanki episode is also linked with that Bofors case. Many questions arise you of it. We don't have an answer to them. It is not known to us till now as to who gave this letter to him. Who was that unidentified and unknown lawyer? We are not aware of it till today. Who told Mr. Bonant that it was given at the instance of the hon. Prime Minister. We have come to know from the discussions held in your Chamber that the Government still has no knowledge of it. We made a request that if the Government is not able to collect the information, it should be entrusted to the House which will do it through a Joint Parliamentary Committee. Going a step forward, I have suggested, and many other have shared my view that in order to remove the bottleneck the hon. Prime Minister should assure the House that he will gather information as to who was the person who passed the message to Mr. Bonant and who was that unidentified and unknown lawyer and who introduced the lawyer to Shri Solanki. Because I know that the hon. Prime Minister as well as the Government want to pursue the Bofors case. But there is some lobby which wants to stall the proceedings. It is the

same lobby which handed over that note through Mr. Lolanki. The Government should show as much eagerness as we are to expose the lobby and identify the lawyer. The inquiry to expose that lobby should be conducted either by a Parliamentary Committee or by the Government.

14.00 hrs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, these are the two suggestions I would like to make. The Government should give assurance to the House. It seems to me that the Government is giving thought to the points on which we held discussions in your chamber.

[*English*]

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA** (Midnapre): Since Shri Advani, with your permission, has sought to give a summary or the essence of what was discussed in your Chamber, and I also had the privilege of being present in that meeting, I would just like to supplement what he has said. I agree with him when he says that the proposals which were made on behalf of the Opposition leaders were eminently reasonable.

The main grievance of the spokesmen of the Government is that this matter is being raised to often on the floor of the House and that it is leading to a great waste of time a lot of argument, counter argument, charges, counter charges, altercations and nothing is coming out. We are also of that view—that is what we stated in the meeting in your Chamber—that what we wanted was to get at the truth relating to all these circumstances—mysterious circumstances I should say—concerning the Solanki episode. But what is happening in the House now for several days is not throwing any light on these matters. Therefore, we had suggested—and the country also, I believe and the public outside also feels—that this argumentation is not leading anywhere and we are accusing the Government of not being serious about pursuing the inquiry into these matters regarding Shri Solanki. I am not referring to the earlier main Bofors investigation which is

being carried on by the CBI. We do not want to interfere in that. Let it go on. But now, after this Solanki episode, we felt that if you do not want the matter to be raised continually here in the House and if proper replies are not given, to the questions which had been raised, to which we believe the Prime Minister has given only partial replies in his letters to Shri George Fernandes and Shri Jaswant Singh, if those replies were to be obtained and the identity of those persons concerned is to be established, then, let the whole matter be referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee. Then the matter will not be raised here every day. You can proceed with your normal business. We are quite ready for that and the Parliamentary Affairs Ministers need not every day be so agitated and jumping about saying, that we have raised it nine times, ten times, more will not be allowed, and so on. We do not want to raise it. But there must be some method by which we can get at the bottom of what has happened, in the matter which has cost one Cabinet Minister his job and which led to an unsavoury implication of the Prime Minister's name in this whole affair and although more than a month has passed, nobody knows, who that unknown person was who handed over that note to Shri Solanki.

So, we suggested that this Joint Parliamentary Committee may be set up. Let its terms of reference be decided by consultation and agreement and let it be time-bound so that it does not go on for every. Let it be time-bound and let all parties be associated with that Joint Parliamentary Committee. We think that this is a reasonable proposal and to go on saying 'No' is not correct. But, Sir, what is this? We must have some remedy.

MR. SPEAKER: My difficulty is at three O'Clock the Private Members Business has to start.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I know.

MR. SPEAKER: If we are rising for lunch for one hour, it should be started at two O'Clock. I have some difficulties. That is why

I am trying to do something.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Shall we continue our submissions on Monday? Do you want us to continue our submission on Monday?

MR. SPEAKER: If senior Members want to do it, who can stop them?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: The Session cannot be adjourned without something coming out of this, on this issue.

SHRI A. CHARLES: I am only on a question of procedure.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: How can the matter be left hanging? What I am saying is this. Now there are two ways open. Either the Government should agree and Co-operate with others in agreeing to the formation of this Joint Parliamentary Committee or if they are dead against that, the only other remedy is-it is a sort of compromise proposal on our side-that the Prime Minister should come here and made a statement assuring the House about these two matters particularly regarding that note which was handed over to Shri Solanki. We do not know about that note except what has appeared in one daily paper. That note has not been recovered by the Government. We do not know what exactly are its contents. He should tell us that this matter is being seriously pursued and it will be investigated. Second is the identity of that person, of the so-called nameless lawyer, who handed over the note to Shri Solanki. Clues have also been given regarding that. But nothing is being followed up. It is not such a matter that it cannot be found out. All these various agencies are investigating and finding out many things and they cannot find out the identity of that person. We believe that a JPC can do it. We have some clues in our possession. we are sure that unless some body is vitally interested in concealing the truth, it is possible to find out. If it is found out, then further clues will be available as to what was behind that man; who were the people who put him upto it; who were the people interested in hiding the truth. Is it not

in the Country 's interest" Is it not in the Government's interest? Do they prefer to go around under a cloud of suspicion indefinitely? It is better that one proposal is objectively and dispassionately considered and the Government agrees to our proposal so that the daily scenes in the House can be avoided. We do not want that to go on. The alternative is the formation of a JPC. Why do they not agree to this?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I support this formation of a JPC. We also said this in the meeting. I wish to emphasise two things here..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I did not say anything in the meeting. I just heard you.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I said that it was said in the meeting. Sir, whoever gave that note was interested in suppressing the inquiry or swtllaig the inquiry and cover up the whole matter. And that person obviously was instrumental in making over the note through an unnamed lawyer to Shri Solnki. Sir, this is nothing to do with Bofors. The whole attempt is being made as if we are trying to raise again and again the Bofors question. This is nothing to do with Bofors. Sir, the External Affairs Minister of this country had to resign. Is it a very simple matter? It is an ordinary routine matter? Now the story that is being said is that the Extern. Affairs Minister was given a document by somebody, whom he does not know and who made over that document. This is nothing but an Alice in Wonderland story. It is impossible for anybody to believe. Therefore, we are saying that these two facts should be made known and should be ascertained; as to who was the person who took the trouble of informing Mr. Bonaut that the Prime Minister has sanctioned the giving and handing over of the note. Sir, the country's interest and country's good name are involved here. Why is the Government taking up this attitude, I do not know.

Apart from Bofors, about which we have made our submissions earlier, this is a Solnki episode. This is a different chapter alto-

gether. The Minister had to lose his job, he had to resign. Sir, please go through the letter of the hon. Prime Minister. I am sure that many eminent draftsmen were utilised for this purpose in producing whatever product you may have produced. Many hours must have been spent on this. Not a single word about any attempt to find out the identity of that lawyer, the identity of the person who introduced that lawyer to Mr. Solnki, has been mentioned in that letter. It cannot be that an unknown person giving a document in Davas or wherever it was. An Indian lawyer goes to Switzerland and makes over a document to the External Affairs Minister and he very obligingly makes it over to his counterpart in Switzerland. This is very difficult to swallow. We can accept that situation. Therefore, we want the facts to come out. Now, they are not obliging. Therefore, in stead of leaving it to us to obtain clues from outside, they want that we should give them clues. With all their agencies, with all their might, Government of India, which its RAW, with its CBI, with its IB, foreign agencies etc. etc., they cannot find out the clues.. They have to wait and depend on us to give them clues. This is nothing but a deliberate attempt to suppress to truth. Therefore, we strongly support this demand for a JPC. Let all parties try to find out the truth in the matter.

[Translation]

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH (Fatehpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the demand of JPC that has just now been sought by Shri Indrajit Gupta, Shri Somanath, Shri Advani and Shri George Fernandes, it will help the Government as well. Keeping in view the manner in which questions are being raised in the country, it would be better for the Government to concede soon with the demand of J.P.C. rather than allowing the clouds of doubt to hover. It will rather create an atmosphere of faith that the Government does not intend to hide anything. If the Government fails to obtain something within 6 weeks, it should refer the matter to the House for their approach so that at least the Members and the House will have the con-

solution that maximum possible is being done. The point is why do we raise the matter here again and again what should be brought before the House and what should not be brought is the question. We are being given to accept that a letter was given to a Minister of India by an Indian National or a lawyer or an advocate and the Government of India is so far unable to know the name of that person. That person is not a foreign national where our law does not apply, there he (the hon. Minister) had talk not with another person: he is the citizen of this very country who held talks with our hon. Minister. It is a wonder that Government of which the hon. Minister has been a part, itself states that it has not been able to know the name of that person even after six weeks. Then without knowing his name how did you come to know that the said person is an advocate, a lawyer.

It is quite surprising. That is why this question is raised here again and again. Who has introduced him? It is quite right that these people might be the same persons who are associated with that person and they are now much interested in suppressing the facts and preventing them from coming to light.

Sir, for the first time we made an effort once, other than allegations and taking it as a case, to bring the Bofors money from the A.E. Services to this country and also the concrete documents duly sealed by the court. This is for the first time that a man has been traced, those documents have been traced, this is for the first time that a man came into contact of a Minister of the Government; if we want to show our sincerity to go to the root of this matter, we must catch that person and take action against him.

So far as question of time of the House is concerned, Sir, if J.P.C. is constituted, it will not only save the time of this House, rather it will also remove the doubts that are reared against the Government. It will serve both the purposes. So the demand of J.P.C. should soon be accepted by the Govern-

ment. As they have said that the Hon. Prime Minister comes somebody gives an assurance that we would try to know about that person and about the document, then we take it that what has been Published is true, now I cannot say about the noting, handwriting etc. through which something can be known. We should try to know about that, but I do not want to indulge in any kind of speculations. I do not want to encourage that. But the J.P.C. will help in saving the time of the house and the Government will also get clearance. If you assure that you need time, then it is okay, let you fix a time period. They should bring out the name within that period. If they are unable to do so, they should give an assurance that the J.P.C. will be doing so because we see that we have arrived at a reality of the assurance in 3 to 4 years. We have at least reached upto A.E. Services and Jordan till yesterday. Now, it is upto you how for you push the matter from Jordan. Let us go ahead.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:  
(Dum Dum): Sir, only two aspects I want to raise... (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: This is becoming a regular debate. It is not necessary. Please take your seat...

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: I will not repeat, Sir. When the Government tries to convince us, at the same time, please admit that there are forces operating against Government's intention, and yet the Government does not try to crack them down. This is the reason which leads us to say... (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Now you please take your seat. All the time you are imposing yourself on the House. You should speak

with the permission of the Chair. All the Members have made the points very clearly.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What to do Mr. Mohan Singh ji? you agree but he does not agree to sit down.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: I will not repeat, Sir. My point is that can you imagine a situation when a government discovers that a force is working against the government policy, it keeps quiet?...(*Interruptions*).

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, with great respect to hon. Leaders and Members of this House, Those who have raised this question yesterday and today also, I would like to submit that as far as the Bofors case is concerned, only one word I will speak of that.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you say all these things only in Zero Hour? Why don't you take resort to the rules?

[*Translation*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Because you have raised this issue, on that question also I give the answer, Sir. It is repeatedly said that why raise it so many times. In fact, the record is whenever we have raised it, we have moved forward towards unravelling the mystery of Bofors. Initially it was stated that nothing has happened. Then it was admitted that yes, we were right. Then companies were mentioned. Finally, because we have raised it, the External Affairs Minister had to go. This is the justification why we raise it again and again. There is no doubt about the fact that if instead of the Government enquiring into it, a joint Parliamentary Committee is constituted...(*Interruptions*).

It is a great problem.

[*English*]

This is too much.

[*Translation*]

Do not force me to speak what you can digest

[*English*]

I will say that we have not stopped any investigation, nor are we interested in stopping or tampering with the process of investigation.

MR. SPEAKER: You should know that at three O'clock the Private Members' Business and to start. Those people who have given their notices will be deprived of the opportunity of discussing. The notices were discussed in the Committee, the time is fixed, and you, standing up in the Zero Hour, are not allowing them to take up that matter.

Yesterday, pointed questions were raised by hon. Members and the same pointed questions were raised by the hon. leaders in the meeting with the hon. Speaker. So, I would like to come to those two pointed questions.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: We have allowed them so long. Had the issue not been important, this would not have been raised.

As far as the Government is concerned, the Government has no hesitation in getting the copy of the note handed over by the former External Affairs Minister of India to the Swiss Foreign Minister. I think that should meet the point raised by hon. Members

MR. SPEAKER: Now you please take your seat...

yesterday and also today. As for the identity of the person is concerned, it is not only the hon. Members on the other side are keen but the Members of this side are also keen and the Government is equally keen to know the name and identity of the person involved. *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: If it is not possible to know the name, let you know the physical features of that man. Whether he was a tall man like you or a short Dationed person like Shri Kumarmangalam, whether he was dark complexioned and fat. It becomes clear by physical features.

*[English]*

SHRI A. CHARLES: Sir, I want to know when the former Prime Minister ordered Fairfax enquiry, did he know who were the officers and who were used to find out the economic offences. That was not even recorded on the file. There was no order on the file. It was only an oral order. Let us look into that matter also. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: As I have already stated, we are equally keen to know the name and identify of the person, the 'so-called lawyer-I will not say lawyer, because I do not know whether he was a lawyer' we have only read in the papers that he was a lawyer; I will only say the so-called lawyer. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Shri Solanki's statement says he was a lawyer. *(interruptions)*

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, unless we get any clue, it is very difficult to proceed further in the matter. But

still...*(Interruptions)* Please let me complete. *(Interruptions)*

SHRIGEOGE FERNANDES (Muzafarpur): Why can you not prosecute Shri Solanki? You file a chargesheet against him today and you will get the truth tomorrow. Your prosecute him. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Georgeji, will you please let me complete? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Why do you not prosecute Shri Solanki? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Therefore, whenever we will get any information or any clue, we will certainly proceed with this. As our hon. Member, our esteemed friend, Shri Indrajit Gupta said that he has some clue, I will welcome if he passes on that clue to us so that we can proceed with it. On our part whenever we will get any information or any clue, I will certainly say that, we will proceed with it.

I think, with this my hon. leaders and friends on the other side should be satisfied. I see that there is no reason for J.P.C. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: We are not satisfied with the reply of the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. We will raise this issue again on Monday. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: We do not agree. We will give a notice in this respect and will be raising it again on Monday. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let us now take up Papers to be laid on the Table of the House.