

and to the injured persons. A judicial enquiry should be conducted and the guilty should be punished ....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not so. you will have the opportunity to speak. Some solution should be found. Let him speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharasa) : Accident takes place, and people die. What solution will be found....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now let us understand that this is a House. I have allowed you to speak in a proper manner. I am asking the Minister to do certain things and you are getting up all the time from your seat and just interrupting. Please do not do that. It does not help you.

Mr. Minister, you will give information as to what has happened and if you can, you may also respond to some of the points which have been made by the Members.

12.17 hrs.

### STATEMENT BY MINISTER

#### The Accident Involving 6019 Madras - Kanya Kumari Express and Empty Goods Train.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER, SHARIEF) : It is with great anguish that I apprise the House of an unfortunate collision between train No.6019 Madras - Kanya Kumari Express and an empty goods train at about 22.15 hrs. on 14.5.95 between Lokur - Danishpet stations on Jolarpettai - Salem Jn. section of Southern Railway. The trains between Lokur - Danishpet are worked on twin single line system. While the 6019 Madras - Kanya Kumari Express was on run on 'A' line between these stations, unfortunately, the empty goods train entered the same line from Danishpet station and both the trains collided in the block section. As a result of this accident, 8 coaches of Express train, 6 wagons of goods train and engines of both the trains derailed and capsized. In this accident, 50 persons, including 5 member of the crew died and 65 received injury.

On receipt of information about the accident, medical relief trains from Erode and Jolarpettai with them team of railway doctors rushed to the site of accident to render medical assistance. Local doctors also rendered medical help to the injured persons. The injured were later admitted in Government Hospital, Salem where they are progressing.

Chairman, Railway Board, Member (Electrical), Railway Board, General Manager, Southern Railway, Divisional Manager, Palghat and other senior officers reached the site to supervise the rescue and relief operations.

I myself visited the site of accident and met the injured in the Government Hospital at Salem. I have also issued instructions to Railway officers to render all possible help to the next of Kin of those dead and to injured persons. It was really a sad and unfortunate accident. The Commissioner of Railway Safety will hold statutory enquiry into the cause of accident.

Ex-gratia payment has been made to the next of kin of those who died and to the injured persons. This is in addition to the amount payable as compensation under provisions of the Railway Act.

All Railway workers and I express our deep condolences to the bereaved families and also express sincere sympathies to the injured.

Sir, before I conclude, I would ask, just as you wanted me to answer to a few points which the Members have raised, I do not mind as to what the hon. Member Shri George Fernandes is asking about. If there is a need for discussion, you can fix up whenever you want, and we can take it up.

All the time I would like to say what the *prima facie* is. When I reached there, what I could hear and see from the situation there, is that the passenger train was running on time, according to its schedule. The goods train was supposed to go on another line, although he got the clearance to go. Unfortunately, the signal man perhaps had not changed that line alignment and as such, he went on the other side and he went to the same line where the passenger train was coming and collided. This is what I was told and as a result, five members involved in the crew, the driver and the assistant drivers of both the trains, have lost their lives. Even the guard - always the crew member - has lost his life. This is what has happened.

Perhaps more weightage can come only when the Safety Commissioner conducts the Inquiry because these are all technical matters on which they may be able to throw more light.

Sir, I trust the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Rabi Ray, you please.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : One minute, Rabi Ray Ji.

Probably, the Members are agitated and they want to know, what is the compensation that would be given.

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF : Sir, the compensation paid is of Rs. 2 lakh. This House itself has passed the act and the Claim Commissioner pays the compensation to the family members who have proved that they are the right people to have the compensation.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera) : Mr. Speaker Sir, when the hon. Prime Minister will give reply?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will let you know. I think, we may have it at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon of today.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada) : Mr. Speaker Sir, it is good that the hon. Agriculture Minister Shri Balram Jakhar is present here. I would like to raise an important issue. Recently, 2-3 days back, the hon. Minister has returned from the tour of Andhra Pradesh, which is affected by severe floods. I had urged upon him to pay a visit to Orissa. I am raising this issue as both the people and the newspapers report that floods have caused havoc there. Continuous rainfall is going on there in almost all the 21 districts and on account of it crops worth crores of rupees have been ruined. It is learnt from the newspapers that 40 persons have died but the fact is that more people have died. I am raising this question since the Chief Minister is busy in the bye election there. He is unable to look after.

Sir, a review committee was set up but the hon. Chief Minister could not go there. Lakhs of people there have become homeless. Floods have caused havoc. It would not serve the purpose by merely, saying that the State Government has funds and it should utilise the funds. That fund will be utilised. I am saying so because the Government was aware of it that after Andhra Pradesh it was likely to be in Orissa as the low pressure had been there, the same condition is going on there and it will continue. More districts will be hit by it. I would like to urge upon the hon. Agriculture Minister that lakhs of people have become homeless there and lakhs of hectares of land have been ruined 40-50 people have died and a few others are likely to die. I would like to urge upon the Central government and specially the hon. Agriculture Minister that he should himself go there and inform the House about it. The State Government is totally in active there. I would like to submit that Shri Balram Jakhar should go there and inform the House about his visit to Orissa.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you. Please take your seat.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : Please allow me also.

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you also. But don't repeat the points which have already been made.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mr. Speaker Sir, though Orissa does have an annual average rainfall of about 58 to 60 inches, surprisingly this year, much before the onslaught of monsoon, there

has already been heavy rainfall to the tune of about fifteen to twenty inches. There have been heavy rains in varying degrees all over the State. For the last more than eight days, say since ninth of this month, it is raining just cats and dogs. We have been receiving reports that this torrential rain is continuing in different parts of Orissa including Bhubaneswar, Berhampur, Cuttack and so on. We understand that these rains are due to depression — not once but thrice — in the Bay of Bengal over the last one week. Normal life is disrupted and paralysed in different parts of Orissa. Road communications are cut off, bridges have collapsed, and portions of different major roads, what to speak of village panchayat roads, are washed away and they are under water. The loss is indeed colossal in terms of house collapses and damage to the standing crops. The Daluwa crop which is the summer crop is totally lost due to the rains. Even vegetables are not available in Bhubaneswar and in different towns and villages because the crops are totally lost. Standing crop in lakhs of acres in Hirakud Command area, in Cuttack and in other delta areas where a second crop is possible due to irrigation facilities, is totally lost.

According to a preliminary estimate, the loss is more than Rs. 500 crore and this is just a rough estimate. But I would also like to mention that the Government is on the move and the Ministers are visiting the affected areas and relief work has already started.

SHRI RABI RAY : The Ministers have no time to visit the people.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Hon. Member Shri Rabi Ray should be truthful and be should be faithful to the facts. Mr. Speaker Sir, this is a human problem. This is a grave natural calamity and there should not be any element of politics in it...\*

MR. SPEAKER : That is not going on record.

SHRI RABI RAY : The meeting of the Review Committee was cancelled because the Chief Minister could not come.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : The entire Cabinet is engaged in the by-election of the Chief Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : If what you say is incorrect, then you will be in deep trouble.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, the Ministers and the MLAs are on the move and they are visiting the affected areas. According to the news reports and according to the reports received from other MPs who were also present there, the Southern districts of Ganjam, Koraput, etc. are the worst affected areas. Rs. 20 lakh have already been released for emergency relief work. The Cabinet is also assessing the situation. Reports have been sent to Government of India. In view of all these aspects, let no politicising element be brought

\* Not Recorded.

into such a matter. I would say that the funds are meagre. But naturally, we must realise that this is an untimely summer rain caused due to depression. When the rains started, at the first instance everyone thought that it would come to an end soon and that it would not continue for long.

But that has proved wrong. Since the rain is continuing, the Government of Orissa has asked the Government of India to send a Central team and also to send the Central assistance in required measure. With the meagre funds at the disposal of the State Government and loss being colossal, it is not within the means of the State Government to meet the situation.

The Minister of Agriculture had gone to Andhra Pradesh. In view of the serious situation, I request Shri Balram Jakhar to go to Orissa and assess the situation for himself. Through you, I would like to make a fervent appeal to the hon. Minister to send a Central team there to make an assessment and to rush all sorts of relief necessary to meet the situation effectively. The cultivators had made a huge investment on their crops which they lost due to this rain. So, the payment of insurance, as permissible under the Crop Insurance Scheme, should also be expended.

With these words I again appeal to the hon. Minister to immediately proceed to Orissa and also rush the relief necessary for the purpose.

MR. SPEAKER : Somnathji, I will call you a little later.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur) : It is reported in the newspapers that since 7th May, it is raining heavily in Orissa. It is a summer rain. There is no precedent of it. The whole of coastal Orissa is under water. As has been stated earlier, the Rabi crop has been damaged and a number of people have died. This poses two problems.

The State of Orissa records an annual rainfall of 62 inches and now it has already recorded about 40 inches rainfall. So, there is apprehension that there may not be rainfall in the State in future. If there is no rainfall, there may not be any crop in Orissa.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : You hear me first. You are a cultivator and so am I. The whole of the embankments have been washed away. Monsoon will be coming before it could be repaired. And, if flood comes, there is no way in which the Ministry of Water Resources could make good the losses. So, the situation will be still worst. I think the coming year poses a very big problem in the field of agriculture. It is the duty of the Government of India, especially the Agriculture Ministry and the Ministry of Water Resources to plan out a strategy to meet the situation that is emerging out of this incident. This is my first submission.

MR. SPEAKER : You think that it is the duty of the Union Government.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : I give more importance to it because I could see that there will be no crop in the next year. It has already recorded 14 inches of rainfall. All the river embankments could not be repaired. If flood comes the whole of Orissa will be washed away. That is the problem which I could foresee. That is why I say that the Government should not sit here thinking that nothing has happened. The Minister of Agriculture should go to Orissa and work out a strategy to meet the situation. There are two sides.

MR. SPEAKER : Now you have put both the sides before us.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : Sir, there are two sides of it. Nobody expected that it will rain in the month of May. It is not enough to put the blame on somebody. We have to realise that the situation being unprecedented, needs adequate relief measures for the people of Orissa. The Government should make sure that whatever relief measures I required, reach Orissa.

MR. SPEAKER : All of you, please put the case very briefly. Now that entire case has come before the House.

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK (Phulbani) : Sir, the havoc of floods in Orissa is very untimely, unprecedented, most unfortunate and unexpected. Further details are coming to the Union Government in regard to the total loss caused to the lives, property and to the crops. I wish that the Government of India and the hon. Minister of Agriculture would react to this not only by personally visiting the affected areas but also by sending a delegation. The necessary food and medicines etc., should also be arranged.

As for the allegation of some hon. Member of the Opposition that the Chief Minister of the State and other Minister have not visited the affected areas, it is very much wrong, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : That is all right. Mr. Patra, you can say that you endorse the statement.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA (Balasore) : Sir, I owe gratification to you for your allowing us to put forth the situation now prevailing in Orissa due to cyclonic rains followed by heavy flood. One thing is there that this situation arose when nobody was prepared, when no farmer has harvested his rabi crop, and when the pre-flood operation measures were not fully taken up by the Government of Orissa. Forty-five people have died according to the present-day's statement. Sir, more than one crore of farmers are totally affected. Their economic condition is totally upset. Their houses have collapsed and the equipment is totally damaged. The condition of the people there is very serious. Sir, a period of ten days has elapsed and the State Government is trying its level best to give relief to the flood-affected. It is not a fact that, as our friends.\*

\* Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : No, it is not going on record.

SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK (Bhubaneswar) : Sir, recently I visited some of the affected areas to see the unprecedented situation. In my constituency, people are affected, and nearly 100 villages have become inaccessible in some 40 Gram Panchayats. Apart from it, in this unprecedented situation already 35 people have died. All the coastal districts along with some other districts are affected and crops worth crores of rupees have been damaged. Despite this, I do not say that no relief operations have been carried out. But they were inadequate. Nobody was prepared for such a flood in the summer rains. People are starving in the affected areas. The agricultural labourers, day labourers are without wages.

The situation in Ganjam district is worse. It is because of the apathetic attitude of the Central Government. In 1992, after the floods, the Central Government did not come to the rescue of the State Government as a result of which the embankments and bridges were opened and caused devastation. I request the hon. Minister of Agriculture that not only he should visit the affected areas but he should take a team along with him. The Minister should come out with a Statement in the House immediately so that some thing can be done to provide relief to the victims. At the same time\*

MR. SPEAKER : There are many others who want to speak. Mr. Pradhani's Statement only will go on record Mr. Pradhani, be brief please.

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I endorse the statement....

MR. SPEAKER : You can very well sit down and this will be a perfect Statement also.

SHRI K. PRADHANI : But I would only add that this is an unprecedented rain. Within a period of seven days, you imagine 30-40 inches of rain....

MR. SPEAKER : That has already come on record. Very good. Mr. Pradhani also says the same thing.

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berhampur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I endorse the Views of my colleagues from Orissa regarding the devastation caused to human beings, property and animals in the unprecedented and torrential rains which have been lashing the Eastern Coastlines of the country. The districts of Gajapathi and Ganjam, which come under by Parliamentary constituency, have been very badly affected and the vital communications disrupted with the Malabharja bridge damaged and the national highways breached (at few places). The flood water have also cut off the vital links between the towns and villages. One lakh hectares of Rabi crops have been destroyed.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, we all join him in this and we requested that the Government should immediate take steps.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada) : It is not only in Orissa but also in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berhampur) : I, therefore, demand and urge upon both the Central Government and the Orissa Government to rush all necessary rescue and relief measures like, provision of food, providing adequate compensation, and provision of permanent shelters, to the flood affected people of Gajapathi and Ganjam districts and also other parts of Orissa State.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, cyclone, flood and drought are a continuous phenomenon so far as Orissa is concerned.

MR. SPEAKER : A best Parliamentarian will say many things in a few words and the method would be "I endorse everything said here".

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, the only thing is that we have been the permanent victims of the nature and the Central neglect and we should not be neglected by you, in this House.

Sir, by sitting in Delhi, nobody can really imagine what had really happened in Orissa. For the last ten days, there have been 30 to 40 inches of continuous rains. We used to have floods in the months of July and August but not like this in the month of May. Even yesterday, the Minister of Revenue could not reach Berhampur. It was because the roads were totally cut off. You cannot go by roads and also by any other links. You can have only an aerial view. That is the situation.

According to the preliminary reports from the State Government, rabi crops worth more than Rs. 500 crore have been completely destroyed. Apart from this, more than forty lives have been lost. From Balasore to Contai, and again from Balasore up to Ganjam district and some parts of Andhra Pradesh, have been totally marooned under flood waters. More than a lakh of people have been affected by floods.

Therefore, I would request the honourable Minister of Agriculture to have an aerial view immediately there, see for himself what had happened there, and instruct the State Government to take adequate measures. He should also see to it that adequate relief is given to the affected people immediately. This is my demand also.

I would request all sections of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and also Leaders of all the political parties to join me in demanding from the Government that adequate relief measures are given to the State of Orissa and the flood affected people of Orissa.

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO (Sundargarh) : Sir, I endorse the points made by my colleagues and I request the Government to sanction adequate funds for the State of Orissa.

MR. SPEAKER : If you endorse it, it is more than enough. You have done very well.

\* Not Recorded.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will make the same points regarding Orissa with some amendments.

Sir, now, in the coastal area of Orissa, the average rainfall is 80 inches instead of 60 inches, 15th June is the date when the depression from Bay of Bengal hits the Orissa coast. But, this time, we have had rainfall of more than 40 inches in the month of May itself. In the Western part of Orissa, the average rainfall in the month of June is 60 inches and in the coastal area, the average rainfall in the month of June is 80 inches. There, now, the position is more than 30 inches. So, not only the coastal area had been marooned but also the Western and Southern parts of Orissa viz., Sambalpur, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Phulbani, Sundergarh, Ganjam and Gajapati districts, Berhampur, and Koraput, Their condition is very bad. Wherever rabi crops were there, they have been destroyed. Even the paddy crops which had been germinated, have now been destroyed. So, my request would be that before the honourable Minister goes there, the Chief Minister should visit there.

Sir, there are five agro-climatic zones in our country.

Many times on the floor of the House we have discussed about the setting up of National Disaster Commission. Whenever there is a discussion about drought or cyclone situation in Orissa, we demand setting up of National Disaster Commission.

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK (Bolangir) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would request through you that the maximum Central assistance should be provided to the State of Orissa. Due to the continuous flood for ten days.

MR. SPEAKER : Just say that you endorse what the other hon. Members have said.

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : More than 35 lives and properties worth crores of rupees have been lost in the State of Orissa. So, I request the hon. Minister through you that Central assistance should be provided to the flood-affected people of the State.

MR. SPEAKER : That has already been said. It is not necessary to repeat it. Just say that you endorse what the other hon. Members have said. I am giving you a chance to say that you have done something for them.

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : One time we are facing the flood and at the other time we are facing drought. This is the situation in the State of Orissa. My point is that the Government should take concrete steps for the State of Orissa.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA NAYAK (Kalahandi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been raining heavily in Orissa for the last few days. At Kalahandi, where normally there is no rain, it has been raining for the last ten days.

Roads have been damaged and poor people's Home have callapsed. Andhra Pradesh too is witnessing torrential rain. Hon'ble Agriculture Minister had also gone there. I, through you, submit that the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister must go to Kalahandi and provide necessary assistance on behalf of the Central Government.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Hon. Speaker, Sir, the condition of the people of the State is very pitiable. No Government machinery has yet reached the State. I have visited my constituency which is the most affected area.

MR. SPEAKER : Please make the Statement very carefully. Otherwise you will subject yourself to action.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Sir, I stand by my version. The entire Cabinet is engaged in the Chief Minister's bye-election. (Interruptions)

I stand by my version, Sir. I have visited the entire constituency.

MR. SPEAKER : I have warned you. You are still making the statement. You take the responsibility.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Sir, I am committed to my words. We are demanding in the House to raise the Natural Calamities Relief Fund and the State Governments had also requested time and again the Government of India to raise the Natural Calamities Relief Fund. So, I demand that the Natural Calamities Relief Fund of the State should be increased immediately. The Government of India's team should visit the State. It is well and good that the hon. Minister has visited the State of Andhra Pradesh. But what has happened to the State of Orissa? Is it not part of the responsibilities of the Government of India? So, I request that the Agricultural Minister should immediately visit the State and personally see the situation prevailing in the State.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the hon'ble Agricultural Minister speak anything in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER : He will speak later. First I am giving opportunity to Hon'ble Members to speak.

ONE HON. MEMBER : There is heavy rainfall in Andhra Pradesh too.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : I have returned therefrom yesterday only. You were also with me.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the concern expressed by hon. Member is very genuine. There has been sudden rainfall has caused heavy damage. I has gone to Andhra Pradesh and on that very day, I had thought of going to Orissa but could not move ahead because of heavy

rain was lashing at that time. The sky was overcast with clouds. So, I had to come back. For me, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh are alike. The loss suffered by the people is the loss of the nation. I will myself go to Orissa and also send a team. We will do our best. The authority that you have vested in me will be used in your interest. I provide everything at my disposal and every care will be taken of their problem.

Shri Ajit Singh is sitting here. Shri Buta Singh is also sitting by my side. I was just discussing with him, we will send, whatever is required. There is no death of foodgrains...*(Interruptions)*

We will give you as much as you want. There is nothing to worry about. There will not be even one minute delay on my part.

*[English]*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : You declare it as a national calamity, only then you can act. You cannot act like this on the basis of whatever you say here.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : I am constrained to go by your emotional disposition because there are some limitations and I have to observe the provisions of law.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : You please go there and see the reality. You will yourself get convinced.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : I do know it. I have seen and realized a lot. I had been to Andhra Pradesh yesterday only and being a farmer, I know that everything got reduced to ashes before my own eyes. It was like a dish served to me but snatched away suddenly. What could be more damaging than this to farmers. We are born to die. There are many facets of death. I do know this, but I will give whatever is at my command. However, I would try to give maximum assistance.

*[English]*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am constrained to bring to the notice of this hon. House and to the country at large about the serious confession which has been made by no less a person than the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPEAKER : Do you want to pursue that, Somnathji?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : At least, let us know this.

MR. SPEAKER : I have no option, but.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Yesterday we spent a lot of time of this House because the entire country is agitated about the.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the hon. Member has really clarified the position in the paper also. If you insist, I

have no option. But should it be continued having known his views and having known his position and all those things?

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : We have not read his reply.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Will a case be framed against me on the basis of my utterances outside the House? Being a member of this House I am also a citizen of this country.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We know about the factual position.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I am not at all ready to give a reply. I had said it outside the House. Now, I have clarified the position because some newspapers had published the facts in distorted manner. The Hon'ble Members have seen my clarifications. They consider themselves senior members. Even then they want to raise this issue, nobody can force me to speak here. The manner of their speaking in this House ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please, Somnath Jee.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I object to it. I have been a Member of Parliament for the last forty year yet they are seeking clarification.

*[English]*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if it is the way it has been put now... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, will you allow this?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Why can it not be allowed?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You do not challenge my authority. You just keep quiet. You cannot ask what I am expected to do.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : He can raise this issue but he cannot force me to speak on this ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down. Do not stand up without any reason.

*[English]*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I should have thought that the hon. Leader of the Opposition would welcome this opportunity. Instead of that he is saying that I am trying to create a situation which is not correct. I am prepared to accept your suggestion. If you do not want me to raise it I will not. But I am not doing anything which is anti-national, anti-tradition of this House. I



thought it was a serious matter which has been done. I wanted to raise it in the House because the country is entitled to know. But I am prepared to accede to your observation and in deference to your wishes, I will not raise this issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You sit down first. You are not helping the cause.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I will not be cowed down. I am only responding to your kind observation...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : You need not to say anything. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : I think, we know the views of hon. Members and it is very gracious of you to have not raked it up and I thank you very much very profusely.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : No Vajpayeeji, he did not say anything here. He did not even say anything to you to speak.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, action can be taken against me under law if I have said anything against law. He is an eminent lawyer of Supreme Court. He can go to Court.

*[English]*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I have not asked for anything...*(Interruptions)* I have not asked for any action in my notice.

MR. SPEAKER : Not at all.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Why is he saying that I am asking for action? *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : Sometimes, I can also become angry. But please do not drag this issue on.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garwal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Sunderlal Bahuguna is an eminent environmentalist. For the last seven days, he is on hunger strike against construction of Tehri dam. He has raised some points regarding Tehri Dam. I would like to raise one or two points. Earlier also, he had resorted to hunger, strike. Those points have been taken up in this House time and again. Last time he has broken his hunger strike on a request made through this House. First he was sent to

Saharanpur from Tehri. Then he was taken to Lucknow where he is on hunger strike for the last seven days. It is a matter of serious concern since his health is deteriorating.

There are problems galore but the main problem is about rehabilitation of displaced persons. Because there are apprehensions about corruption in rehabilitation. The people are agitated over it. Secondly, there are apprehensions about the structural design like height etc. of Tehri Dam. But the Government is maintaining silence over it and thus, nothing is clear so far. There is resentment over the vague policy of the Government. Further, construction work of dam is also held up As a result thereof, the country is incurring losses. People are agitated over suspension of construction work of Tehri Dam. I request the hon. Prime Minister to take initiative in this matter and take a decision after consultation with the people and experts. It is really unfortunate that now opinions of experts differ on it. Instead of seismologists, earthquake engineers are being consulted. It is my submission that the Government should take a final decision about the height and design of the dam after consulting right persons so that construction work could be taken up further.

The second point is that the health of Shri Sunderlal Bahuguna is deteriorating. He should be requested to end the hunger strike and called for discussion on the matter.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue was raised in this House 2 ½ years ago also, when he had ended his fast on an appeal made from this House. At that time you had made an important contribution in the matter. Today we are preplexed over the issue because Bahugunaji has made a statement that he was being tortured. First he was taken to Saharanpur where he was not allowed to meet any one. When his lawyer contacted him then he was taken to Lucknow. He has clearly stated that he believed in the principles of Gandhism and he would not succumb to any pressure to end his fast. On the one hand his life is at stake and on the other hand, he is being tortured. Several newspapers have published the news that he is being tortured. I do not know that in what manner he is being tortured but his lawyer who met him, has revealed that he is being harassed. This issue relates to his life and I wish that the Government should take initiative in it. Last time, during a discussion on this issue, it was said that hon. Prime Minister would take initiative. As hon. Major had mentioned about Tehri Dam a Review Committee was to be appointed. But so far nothing has been done and he was hoping for this measure to be implemented.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a few days back a question was asked about Tehri Dam. During the debate, I tried to seek some clarification about it. You had then said that question was not related to the issue. But before concluding, the hon. Minister had told that

construction work has started there. The Hon. Minister clarified the position but the problem could not be resolved so far.

13.00 hrs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday Question Hour was suspended. Otherwise the question on Tehri Dam would have come at serial No. 3 and we would have got some clarification on this issue. It is my submission that initiatives should be taken to fulfil the promise made by the Prime Minister and the assurance given by us because a precious life is at stake over this issue.

SHRI RABI RAY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as Shri George Fernandes has mentioned, I remember he had told that you knew Sunderlal Bahuguna personally. He is a Gandhian and famous person. He has launched 'Himalaya Bachao Andolan'. Shri George Fernandes is directly involved with this movement. Last time when he was on his way after persuading Shri Sunderlal Bahuguna to end his fast, he was attacked by some miscreants. It is really a matter of concern that persons working selflessly in the interest of the country are treated in this way.

Shri Bahuguna is determined to construct Tehri Dam contrary to the opinion of the scientists. Therefore, I would like to say that the life of Shri Bahuguna is precious for this country. The Government should take initiative especially regarding the complaints of torture etc.

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH (Buxar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : I have told that I will call you. How would you be able to speak if you keep on speaking in between.

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH : Sir, I never interrupt.

MR. SPEAKER : All right, I will give you time to speak. Now two persons cannot speak at the same time.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh are the most backward districts in the country and these lack industrial units. A small number of industrial units which are situated here are mainly handloom and carpet industries. The carpet industry in Mirzapur, Bhadohi and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh is facing a great crisis. I would like to draw the attention of this House towards it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, an international conspiracy is being hatched against our carpets which are very popular especially in Europe and America where carpets are made by machines. They have launched an organised campaign, against our carpet industry under the pretext that child labourers are engaged in this industry which is against the directive principles. The Social Welfare and Labour Minister of Germany visited Bhadohi,

Mirzapur and Varanasi along with our Labour Minister and officials. The officials explained the position and told about the measures being taken to remove child labour. They also told that education should be made compulsory and training should be imparted separately to child labourers working in the carpet industry. Further, their parents should be given some other jobs. A large number of children working in carpet industry have been removed gradually and efforts are on to remove the remaining children.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in spite of our efforts, the Germany Labour Minister on his return to Germany appealed the European countries that carpets made in these areas of India should not be purchased. As a result of it, the export of our carpets has fallen by 30 percent. Thus carpet industry has been facing a great crisis.

Shri Mohammad Yusuf Beg, who is a former Member of Parliament, has been knocking on the doors of the Minister since yesterday. He is an eminent Labour leader. He also requested me to raise this issue in this House and draw the attention of the Government so that Government could adopt necessary measures to lift the embargo, I, therefore, request the Government of India, through you, to take some concrete steps to avoid its adverse effects on carpet industry and save the workers employed in it from becoming jobless. The Government should take effective measures against this international conspiracy to avoid national loss.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hope that the Government will take necessary effective steps in this regard.

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, around 50 thousand voters' names have been removed from the Voters lists in my parliamentary constituency. Their names were in the voters list in 1993 but the voters list published on 4th January 1995 does not have their names. I would like to tell that people, whose names have been deleted from the voters list belong to SC and backward classes. I demand that the Government of India should advise the Election Commission to also include those names which were in the voters list in 1993 so that they could cast their votes during the next elections. According to law, all people who are above 18 years have a right to vote and no official has got a right to strike out their names.

Sir, through you, I demand that the Government of India should make arrangements to let the affected people exercise this right.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my parliamentary constituency Indore, which is a big industrial centre of Madhya Pradesh, has been ignored by the Railway Ministry continuously. Trains going to this city are cancelled frequently. The Chhipra Express which runs three days a week is cancelled for two days. The number of coaches has also gone down. This time too a great injustice has been done to Indore. A Diesel Multiple Unit was sanctioned for running as an



inter-city train between Indore and Bhopal. Further it had advanced towards Indore but in between it was diverted towards South from Bhopal. A higher official of Railway has given me this information that the train meant for Indore has been diverted towards South. Now the proposed inter-city train will start from the 1st of July but I am not sure about it. It will be really a great injustice to Indore if the trains continue to be diverted to other parts of the country in this way.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to say that the Government should restore Inter city DMU train to its original route.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now Papers to be laid on the Table.

13.10 hrs.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

##### **Annual Report and Review on the Working of Bureau of Indian Standard, New Delhi for 1993-94 etc.**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bureau of Indian Standards, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts, under section 23 of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986.
  - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Bureau of Indian Standards, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, see No. LT 7575/95]

##### **Report of Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March, 1993 etc.**

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

- (1) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (Government of Jammu and Kashmir) for the year ended the 31st March, 1993, under article 151 (2) of the Constitution read with clause (c) (iv) of the Proclamation dated the 18th July, 1990 issued

by the President in relation to the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

[Placed in Library See. No. LT 7576/95]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under clause (c) (iv) of the Proclamation dated the 18th July, 1990 issued by the President in relation to the State of Jammu and Kashmir :

- (i) Finance Accounts of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir for the year 1992-93.

[Placed in Library See. No. LT 7577/95]

- (ii) Appropriation Accounts of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir for the year 1992-93.

[Placed in Library See. No. LT 7578/95]

##### **Annual Report, Annual Accounts and Review on the working of Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for 1993-94 and Statement for delay in laying these Papers.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 1993-94, under sub-section (4) of section 15 of the Coconut Development Board, Act, 1979.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 1993-94, together with Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of section 17 of the Coconut Development Board, Act, 1979.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 1993-94.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 7579/95]

##### **Notification under University Grants Commission Act, 1956 etc.**

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 28 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 :
  - (i) The University Grants Commission (Qualifications required of a person to be