

Barak Valley of Assam. Every year hundreds of graduates and post-graduates coming out of universities accentuate the problem to an unprecedented situation. Continuance of this situation, I feel is definitely unwholesome for the society. So, I urge upon the Government to set up one Industrial Training Institute in Karim Ganj district to impart technical education to those youths diverting them to some vocational trainings for their self-sufficiency.

Will the hon. Minister be pleased to provide the unemployed youths with adequate unemployment role till their absorption to some assignments?

SHRI MORESWAR SAVE (Aurangabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister for Information and Broadcasting to the Government's plan to close down 100 Watts Low Power TV Transmitting Station of Sambhajinagar, that is Aurangabad on commissioning of 10 KW Mhaismal High Power TV Transmitting Station.

If the Sambhajinagar, that is Aurangabad Channel is allowed to continue, the people in that area would benefit by way of access to both Hindi programmes from Delhi on Channel 10 and Marathi programmes from Bombay on Channel 6 from 5.30 P.M. to 8.40 P.M. Since Sambhajinagar, that is Aurangabad is a growing industrial and tourist centre, it is a cosmopolitan city and the choice of programmes is well divided between both Hindi and Marathi and hence if the Aurangabad Channel is not closed down, the people of that region would benefit immensely through access to both the Channels.

Especially, since the infrastructure and wherewithals already exist; I urge that the Aurangabad Transmitting Station be allowed to continue its operation irrespective of commissioning of Mhaismal TV Transmitting Station. An urgent and immediate action in this respect is essential to issue necessary instructions.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman-Nicobar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today, *The Hindustan Times* has published a very alarming news item regarding the hike in price of Newsprint.

"The Government has enhanced the price of the imported standard newsprint by Rs. 4,670 (30 per cent) per metric tonne (PMT) and Rs. 10,410 (45 per cent) PMT on glazed newsprint. This increase in the price is over and above an increase of Rs. 3,000 PMT and Rs. 4,565 PMT, respectively, from July 1."

Sir, this will very badly affect the small newspapers. They are facing a threat of closure and this will affect a large number of workmen. That is why I request the Government that they should consider this matter. This is a very important issue. I think all sections of this House will be agreeable on this.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS:
Yes.

12.23 hrs.

RE. ACTIVITIES OF BANK OF COMMERCE AND CREDIT INTERNATIONAL IN INDIA

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to an important matter. I think the entire House is one with me on this issue. During the last 10-15 days regularly, we have been reading the news in national newspapers and other newspapers of the world about the fraud and scandals in which the Bank of Commerce and Credit International has indulged. Sir I would like to quote from today's Newspaper wherein it has appeared that—

[English]

"The United States Federal Reserve has imposed a 200 Million

[Sh. Rabi Ray]

Pounds penalty on the Bank of Commerce and Credit International, perhaps the largest in the history”.

[Translation]

That is a criminal organisation. I want to submit that about 8-10 days back one of our High Commissioners Shri L. M. Singhvi gave a statement to the Press that the BCCI is a criminal bank. The Government had promised to examine the matter particularly in regard to aid given to the militants, who are infiltrating from Pakistan into Kashmir and creating trouble there. But so far neither Finance Minister nor the Prime Minister has said anything in this regard. It has its branch in Bombay. So they too might have committed fraud. That is what I believe. There has been scandal on a very large scale, about which the House is not aware yet. Shri Murlī Deoraji is also present here, he is a resident of Bombay. I would like to call the attention of the Government through you that this Bank has committed fraud in 70 countries of the world. (Interruptions) They have committed fraud and provided help to militants, and we are surprised to see that the Government of India is silent.

[English]

This Government is involved in the conspiracy of silence.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, by now Government should have informed the House regarding both these issues. Government should have given a *suo motu* statement about this matter and told us as to what is happening. You can just imagine as to what kind of fraud might have been committed in Bombay (branch of the) when Shri Singhvi has made a statement that Pakistan has in the

internal affairs of India by sending militants in Kashmir with the help of the funds received by it from this Bank. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has not furnished any information about these two issues to the people of India.

All the Cabinet Ministers are present here. Through you I would like to ask as to how the money was given to the militants and as to how Pakistan could send terrorists into India with the help of the money received by it from this Bank. Secondly, I would like to know the number of Indians against whom fraud has been committed by the Bombay branch of B.C.C.I. Action against this Bank has become necessary. The Federal Reserve Bank has imposed a fine of dollars on it and they call it the “greatest criminal organisation in the world”. Government should clarify the situation in this regard. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): On this I also support what Mr. Rabi Ray has said. It has become a very serious matter concerning the unity and integrity of our country. These banks have been financing the terrorist organisations. The most alarming thing is that the Bombay branch was okayed. How was that okayed? What did they do all these years? Who is responsible for all that? We want information regarding all these things and the customers. Is the Government coming to this House today to make a statement? We must have a thorough discussion on this.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What did the Reserve Bank of India do? The Reserve Bank of India has a role to play.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: First of all, let them come out

with a statement. Then we will have a discussion on this. If necessary, we will also form a committee of the House to look into the matter of their operation in our country.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): The Government should come out with a statement.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): A newspaper in Bombay has also published some more information about this branch. This branch is headed by a Pakistani national. The money which is coming into this branch is very dubious money. Some of the Arab countries and the American banks have collaborated with that. The paper specifically says that this branch has given money to certain Indian politicians including MPs and some of the high bureaucrats without mentioning their names. An allegation is made that it has financed and its main operation was only to create internal trouble in India as well as in many other developing countries. As the branch is operating in Bombay, it is necessary that the Government must come out with a statement giving the complete picture. What was the purpose of operating this branch in India? This question was raised in U.K. Parliament. There the Minister had to make a statement on the Floor of the Parliament. After that the Bank of England had taken certain steps. As the branch is operating in our country, the Government must come out with a statement.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the last forty years, this point has been raised time and again that there has been foreign interference in our internal politics and some foreign countries have been trying to defile the politics in India with money power. Now the issue of this particular bank has come to light and news of specific instances, which have already appeared in the newspapers, are very disturbing and raising voice against that is

not enough. This matter should be enquired into thoroughly. First of all it is the responsibility of the Government to furnish all the available information with it, to the House so that we could go deep into this matter and do away with distortions.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): This is a very simple point. It is not such a bank that we do not know the people who have accounts in this Bank. Instead of getting the information from them the Government of India should come out with a list of the depositors in that Bank and those who have drawn funds from there. This secrecy has to be broken at least against this Bank. That is all that should be done in this connection and then the investigation can continue.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolour): The reports that are coming out are most disquieting and there is an attempt to pollute our entire Parliamentary system of Government in this country. If Members of Parliament can be purchased and can be influenced by paying some money there, by this laundering of resources about which we do not know anything, and if bureaucracy is to be polluted in this manner, it affects the very functioning of our Parliamentary Democracy. Therefore, it is essential that the House takes up the matter and the House should concern itself and a House Committee is the best solution to find it out. The Committee can go into this matter and ascertain how it is being done and whether any such payments have been made. That is very important. I want the Government to make a statement on this. This proposal should be accepted by them.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue which has been raised in the

[Sh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee]
House is of a serious nature. First of all, all the facts about this issue should be brought before the House. I do not think that we can take any decision here on the basis of the reports published in the newspapers. You should direct the Government to collect all the information about this bank and place before the House. If that information is found to be objectionable, the House may take any decision. Later on a Committee of this House may also be formed. I think that first of all Government must come out with a statement.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): This matter was raised three days back in this very House, that this Bank is supplying money or giving money to bureaucrats and politicians. On that day we demanded that the Government should come out with a statement. But up till now the Government has not clarified the matter and has not stated anything. Why is the Government silent? Why is the Government not coming out with a statement? So, we demand that first, the Government should come out with a statement and also lay on the Table of the House all the papers relating to this BCCI.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBASH CHANDRA NAYAK (Kalahandi): Mr. Speaker, our region has been facing drought continuously since 1965 to the present day. There has been rain there only a few days back which abated the fury of drought. Honourable Member, Shri Sarat Chandra Pattanavak, Union Minister. Shri K. C. Lenka and I myself had visited the drought affected area. Thereafter there has been heavy downpour and it has affected our Indravati Project also. Many people have lost their lives there. Only yesterday I got a telephonic message that nearly 40 people have lost their lives there so far. Just now I was reading the newspapers. The Indian Express

dated 21st of the last month has reported that 15 people have lost their lives there. The Revenue Minister of Orissa, Shri Nayak has said that 12 dead bodies have been recovered so far. The people who were at work there have said that about 30 people have died there. I have received a phone-call from Kalahandi that more than 300 people have died. Thousands of houses have collapsed, road and other communication systems have been completely disrupted. Reports in National Herald say that 40 people have died. Reports in Hindustan Times say that the number of the dead is 20. I would like to know from the Government, through you, the actual number of casualties and the number of people who are still stranded in floods. I would also like to know the steps being taken by the Government to start relief programmes urgently. The relief works should be started without delay. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We have raised this matter but the Government has not responded on this. The Government should respond on this first... (Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: We have been condemned by the press. The press is saying why the Parliament is silent... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Not like this.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Many Members were speaking. I thought that when every one has spoken on it, only then I should say something. That is why I was keeping quiet.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): I also want to speak on this.

MR. SPEAKER: Not everybody... (Interruptions)

Zero Hour is becoming more important than the regular proceedings. So many Members have been allowed on this.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: In the light of the concern expressed by the hon. Members in the House I will draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister and ask him to see what he can do in the matter...*(Interruptions)* I will draw the attention of the Finance Minister. As you see, I cannot make a statement on this. He will do what he wants to do. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think that the Members have expressed their views and the Government also think that it is a serious matter. I would ask the Finance Minister to make a statement.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
Today.

[English]

DR. VENKATESHWARLU UM-MAREDDY (Tenali): It has become a regular feature that several villages on East Coast right from Tada to Ichhapuram particularly in Diviseema and Naidamololu areas in Krishna District and Rapalle, Vemur, Tenali, Duggirala and Mangalgiri areas in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh are chronically cyclone and flood prone areas. During 1977, 1986 and 1990 floods, cyclones and tidal waves, thousands of persons have died losing cattle and poultry population and fish farms, suffered hundreds of crores worth of crops and orchards rendering millions of poor inhabitants homeless and losing the total equipment by the handloom weavers and fishermen folk with every calamity. Neither the insurance institutions nor the Government agencies could adequately compensate the losses suffered by millions of people on such occasions, thereby

several families have been deprived of their livelihood. There should be a comprehensive scheme to rescue the unfortunate victims who suffer at the fury of the nature persistently because of their locational disadvantage. Any amount of temporary and meagre assistance provided by the Government and voluntary organisations do not help them in any way for restoring their losses and livelihood. I urge upon the Government to think about certain long term and permanent measures such as large scale pucca housing programme, effective crop, cattle, poultry, handloom and hut insurance scheme and also creation of a permanent natural calamities disaster stabilisation fund so that the State Government could immediately draw up and swing into rescue operations in a big way without waiting for the visit of the Central teams. Further, these areas can be declared as natural calamity zone and provided assistance or special grants to strengthen the flood banks. This aspect deserves special attention of the Government.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH (Tumkur): While agreeing with the views expressed by Shri Venkateshwarlu I would also like to draw the attention of the Government that my constituency in Karnataka is terribly affected by floods. I learn and heard that the Prime Minister has said about Bihar and Maharashtra having been affected, and some amount has been allotted to meet the demands of the affected people. But my demand is that the Government should come forward to send a Central team to Karnataka to assess the damage caused. Actually, property and crops worth Rs. ten crores to Rs. fifteen crores have been damaged. There is loss of animals and more than eleven persons have died...*(Interruptions)* Terrible devastation has taken place. Therefore, my humble request is that the Central Government should send a Central team to assess the exact damage caused to the property and the people. I expected the Government to come forward to send a team by this time