

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we shall get back to Zero Hour.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House and the Government towards an important issue relating to my area. Three rivers in my region—Kosi, Kamla and Bagmati—originate from the Himalayas. They bring soil along with them. They change their course also. I have seen river Kamla changing its course three times and river Kosi two times. Both the rivers are again going to change their course. The entire North Bihar was affected with drought, but now it is affected with flood. The hon. Prime Minister has also visited the affected areas. Actually, the problem is not of flood. Due to change in the course of these rivers, hundreds of villages will be destroyed, lakhs of acres of land will be submerged and road and rail transport will be damaged. Those who have witnessed this scene can guess the destruction. I would like to tell the Government of India and the Government of Bihar and also the engineers of the country, who are not aware of the nature of these rivers that river Kamla is going to change its course at three places. Of course, the banks are not weak but the soil erosion taking place by the river from inside may cause havoc. River Kosi is also going to change its course.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bhogendra Jha, the time is over.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: If it rains for two-three days in the Himalayas, there will be two new Kosi and Kamla rivers and large scale destruction will take place. I think that wrong diagnosis will lead to wrong treatment. The contractors engaged from outside have their own interests. They use sub-standard material in the construction work because they have their own interest. If the new construction falls down after some time, the contractors will get new contracts for the construction, and will earn more and more money as profit and this amount of profit is distributed among politicians, officials and contractors. The lives of the local people are in danger. We provide

relief to them after the calamity takes place. So it would be better if this work is also entrusted to them....[Interruptions]\*\*....

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever Shri Jha is speaking now will not go on record.

Shri Hardhan Roy to speak now. Shri Roy, you shall oblige to cut short your speech and allow other Members to participate, Please do not try to monopolise the time of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI HARADHAN ROY (Asansol): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards an important issue. There are nearabout 30 thousand workers in ISCO, which is a national industry and it has property worth Rs. 16 thousand crores. It is regretted that the Government is selling that factory to Mukund Iron at a very cheap price. The Government has decided to sell it. Mukund Iron Industry is owned by a Member of Rajya Sabha. On the 4th of August, the workers of ISCO decided to go on strike from 7th of September against the decision of the Government to privatise the industry. The entire iron industry will go on strike against this policy of the Government. The situation is very tense there. The workers are also opposing this move. All the trade unions are opposing it. I would like to submit that nationalisation of ISCO was done as per rules and Acts and an agreement was made by the Government in 1989 to modernise the plant. I demand that the Government should implement the provision of that agreement. This plant cannot be privatised. The entire country is agitated against this policy and may go on strike against it.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOWDHARY (Ranchi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards my constituency, Ranchi. Ranchi is the second capital of Bihar, but the Doordarshan Kendra is functioning from a very small place, which looks like a garage. Neither there are sitting arrangements, nor any place to house the machines properly. All the instruments get drenched in water resulting in the damage of machines and now the situation is such that telecast may stop at any time. Similarly, the Ranchi Akashwani Kendra is running by outdated machines. Most of the machines remain out of order. So, I would request the Government of India to take immediate steps to improve the situation of Doordarshan and Radio station at Ranchi.

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\*\*Not recorded.