

place for setting up the electronics complex under the Ministry of Defence. The Chief Minister in his letter dated August 3, 1981 to the Prime Minister stated that if the Defence Ministry's argument was accepted, no industrialisation worth the name would be possible not only in West Bengal but also in other States of the Eastern Region as in these days of sophisticated arms and ammunition, no place in India would be beyond the reach of the neighbouring countries in case of war with them.

I demand that one electronic unit of Bharat Electronics Ltd., be immediately set up in West Bengal.

(vi) NEED FOR ALLOWING RE-IMBURSEMENT OF FULL MEDICAL EXPENSES OF CLASS III AND CLASS IV EMPLOYEES OF ASOKA HOTEL AS IS BEING DONE IN THE CASE OF ITDC EMPLOYEES.

श्री रशोद मसूद (सहारनपुर) : मैं सरकार का ध्यान इस बे-इंसाफी की तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूँ जो अशोका होटल के तीसरे और चौथे दर्जे के मुलाजमीन के साथ हो रही है। अशोका होटल, आई० टी० डी० सी० के लिए रुपया पैदा करने वाला सबसे बड़ा जरिया है, मगर अशोका होटल के मुलाजमीन को बीमारी और दवाइयों का सिर्फ 25 रुपया एक और एक्सरे का 12 रुपया एक वक्त में मिलता है, जबकि आई० टी० डी० सी० के मुलाजमीन को अपने इलाज का मुकम्मल खर्च मिलता है। सन् 1972 में अशोका-होटल के मुलाजमीन और मनेजमेंट में एक समझौते के तहत यह 25 रुपया और एक्सरे के 12 रुपये तय हुए थे, मगर इस बात को 10 साल गुजर गये और इस दरमियान में मंहगाई तीन और चार गुना बढ़ गई। और 25 रु० 1982 के हिसाब से 5 और 6 रुपये की कीमत के बराबर रह गए हैं। अशोका होटल के इन मुलाजमीन के साथ यह ज्यादाती है। मेरी हुकूमत के साथ दरखास्त है कि वह अशोका होटल के इन

मुलाजमीन को भी आई० टी० डी० सी० के मुलाजमीन की तरह इलाज का मुकम्मल खर्च दे ताकि यह बेइंसाफी खत्म हो।

[श्री रशोद मसूद (सहारनपुर) :

में सरकार का देहान अस बे अनصافی की طرف दलाना चाहता हूँ जो अशोका होटल के तीसरे और चौथे दर्जे के मुलाजमीन के साथ हो रही है। अशोका होटल, आई० टी० डी० सी० के लिए रुपया पैदा करने वाला सबसे बड़ा जरिया है, मगर अशोका होटल के मुलाजमीन को बीमारी और दवाइयों का सिर्फ 25 रुपया एक और एक्सरे का 12 रुपया एक वक्त में मिलता है, जबकि आई० टी० डी० सी० के मुलाजमीन को अपने इलाज का मुकम्मल खर्च मिलता है। सन् 1972 में अशोका-होटल के मुलाजमीन और मनेजमेंट में एक समझौते के तहत यह 25 रुपया और एक्सरे के 12 रुपये तय हुए थे, मगर इस बात को 10 साल गुजर गये और इस दरमियान में मंहगाई तीन और चार गुना बढ़ गई। और 25 रु० 1982 के हिसाब से 5 और 6 रुपये की कीमत के बराबर रह गए हैं। अशोका होटल के इन मुलाजमीन के साथ यह ज्यादाती है। मेरी हुकूमत के साथ दरखास्त है कि वह अशोका होटल के इन

खत्म हो सकें -]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUB-BAIAH): Sir, may I make a request? I am not questioning the ruling or decision given by the Chair. The Speaker has allowed a matter under rule 377 to be read out by Shri Niren Ghosh. This is in connection with the correspondence that has taken place between the Chief Minister of a State and the Prime Minister. Without questioning the decision of the Speaker, I would only bring to your kind notice whether this could form a subject matter under rule 377.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, it has been released with the clearance of the Speaker. The statement was approved by the Speaker. But as the hon. Minister has brought it to the notice of the Chair, we will look into it.

(vii) NEED FOR BANNING HORSE-RACING ALL OVER THE COUNTRY

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara): Sir, I rise to mention under Rule 377 a subject of vital public importance—the ban of wagering on horse races. It is a matter of national concern that stakes in horse-racing are going up every year and the legalised gambling on horse races is fast turning out to be the country's biggest cash counter for changing black money. It is well known that there are matka, satta and other illegal betting games prevalent in practically each metropolitan city of the country. The police carry out occasional raids on these establishments and consequently there is a check on these activities. The criminal law of the land puts a ban on these games because these are essentially games of chance and not of skill. But I contend that horse racing, as it is practised today, is also a game of chance rather than skill and as such the same ban as on matka, satta, etc. should apply to it.

As it is widely known, most of the classic races in this country involving high stakes are participated by thoroughbred horses, that is, the percentage of the horses can be traced to only a small cluster of listed horse families. Therefore, in terms of their speed and stamina, the hor-

ses are more or less of the same calibre and the odds on them are, more or less, even. Now, the individual weights of jockeys and the age variation of the animals also balanced off through a very elaborate system of handicaps operating in all race tracks of the country. So, there is hardly anything that is left to be decided by any special skill in breeding or maintenance of the horses or in running them.

Sir, it is my earnest contention that horse racing is pure gambling and thousands of middle class families are being ruined by it every year. For the rich, this legalised betting provides a safe cover to launder black money into white. Last year, the cash counters at the tracks recorded transactions of nearly Rs. 18 crores. We can safely calculate that inside and outside the tracks, the total amount involved in betting is as high as Rs. 25 crores every year. It is, therefore, my plea that horse racing should immediately be stopped throughout the country and a proper legislation should be made to stop any clandestine racing.

It is a fact that the races are a revenue earner for the State Government and the turf clubs employ a sizeable number of people at the tracks and the stables. In fact these arguments have been used from time to time by the powerful horse lobby of the country which comprises of men of glamour and means, including the film crowd and the brown sahibs of the land. There have often been arguments that horse racing is an old and entertaining sport. But there are other equestrian sports too, such as polo. May I ask how many people go to see a polo match? Very few. Why?

Because a polo match is a game of skill and not one of chances, because the cash register does not jingle with a polo match, because there is no possibility to trade off the winning ticket for twice the amount in black money, because there is no network of bookmakers fixing final results in a polo match.

As regards compensation for the employment and revenue lost by banning