

MR. SPEAKER: There is a motion before us on the drought and flood situation. I think both can be taken together.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us think and decide what sort of adjustments can be made.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Sir, please accept the calling Attention on floods in Maharashtra. The drought situation will also be discussed therein.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Paswan, I shall not be subject to any dictates on what is to be accepted and what is not to be accepted. I shall take my own decisions.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): Sir, the farmers of this country are facing problems. Fertilizer prices have sky-rocketed. On one hand some parts of the country are affected by floods and on the other the withdrawal of subsidy from fertilizers has dealt another blow to farmers. The farmers are suffering hardship because of floods and drought. And this step taken by the Government has added to their problems. Sir, by increasing the rates of fertilizers, the Government is harassing the farmers to such an extent....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You should sit when other Member is speaking.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you. Please take your seat when he is speaking.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: The farmers have to buy fertilizer and other items in the black market as whole-

salers are hoarding fertilizers, you kindly direct the government to supply the fertilizers to the farmers at reasonable rates so that the Indian masses are saved from starvation. The Indian farmer is on the verge of starvation. It is a double blow to farmers—one is the increase in price of every commodity and the other is the withdrawal of subsidy on fertilizers. Sir, please direct the Government to make a statement immediately and to roll back fertilizer prices to earlier levels so that the farmers can get some relief. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am helping you. Please take your seat. I think the hon. Member from Wardha is also interested. I have said that your name would also be included. When the statement comes, I will allow you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Kalahandi 7 hundred labourers are trapped in a tunnel. We want a statement from the Minister about it.

MR. SPEAKER: He is going to make a statement on that also.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: The hon. Agriculture Minister is present here. Please direct him to make a statement. The condition of farmers has worsened.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): Sir, by giving a grant of Rs. 100 crores to a private foundation the Government has wasted public money. Crores of rupees are being wasted like this. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :
We want to know the fate of the
workers who are trapped in the tun-
nel. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.
Nothing is being recorded now.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your
seat first. You are interested in see-
ing that what you say is recorded. I
am interested in seeing that that is
recorded.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit
down.

I am saying that I have examined
the important issues. I am going to
allow each one of you one after the
other. Supposing you are not inter-
ested in seeing what you say is record-
ed, you are welcome to stand up
and speak one and all at the same
time. I am going to allow one set
of persons to speak and after that
another set of persons would be allow-
ed. If all the time you all get up
and speak, it is you who suffer. I
do not suffer. That is why, please
help me to help you to see that your
statements are recorded. I am allow-
ing one set of persons after the other.

You have raised about Kalahandi
and other thing. It is very import-
ant also.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please hear me
first. If you interrupt me, you do
not get what I am trying to say. I

*Not recorded.

cannot raise my voice beyond a cer-
tain limit. If all of your voices are
taken together, my voice is a drop
of it.

I have asked the hon. Minister
also to make a statement. He did
contact me and I have asked him to
make a statement on Orissa situation
and also on Kalahandi. Advaniji
and some other Members have said
that they want to discuss. We will
see, how it can be discussed.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down
first. I am allowing the hon. Members
one after the other. Shri V. Sobha-
nadeswara Rao.

SHRI SOBHANA DRESWARA
RAO VADDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir,
you were very good enough to allow
me to bring to the notice of this
Government regarding blackmarketing
of fertilizers that is going on in
Andhra Pradesh.

The stocks were procured before
the introduction of the Budget. So,
they were expected to sell it at the
previous prices. In spite of bringing
to the notice of the Government
thrice through you, the situation has
become worse in Andhra Pradesh. In
several places, the traders in collu-
sion with the officials are not giving
stock to the farmers and they are de-
manding very exorbitant price. Be-
cause of this, the farmers are com-
pelled to go to godowns where fertili-
zers are hoarded. The police people
are lathi-charging and firing on the
farmers. At several places, law and
order situation has gone beyond con-
trol.

I request the hon. Prime Minister,
the hon. Minister for Agriculture and
the hon. Minister for Fertilizers to
give concrete assurance to the House
that the stocks which were procured
by the traders prior to introduction
of the Budget be delivered to the
farmers at the old prices. If the
traders do not comply with it, their

licences should be cancelled forthwith. I demand a statement from the Minister which is very very necessary.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA (Shajapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the present Government has raised the price of fertilizer used by farmers in cultivation by 40 per cent. The present Government which believes in the slogan "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan" has overburdened the farmers and struck a heavy blow to the Green Revolution. On the other hand, this Government is spending Rs. 100 crore on the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation....(*Interruptions*)

The farmer of our country grows food for us and thus literally makes fortunes of the country.....(*Interruptions*)...The farmer is overburdened with this price-rise....(*Interruptions*). There is a hike of Rs. 50 per bag in the price of Urea....(*Interruptions*) When a sum of rupees 100 crore has been allocated for the Rajiv Gandhi foundation, some thing should be done in connection with the price of Urea also. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK (Buldana): We would like to know from you how you are allowing this hon. Member to raise the issue on the floor of the House. Have you allowed him to raise the question regarding Rajiv Gandhi Foundation? (*Interruptions*) This should not be tolerated. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. VIJAYKUMAR RAJU (Narsapur): You ask the hon. Minister to make a statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Anbarasu Era to speak now.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Has the hon. Member given any notice? (*Interruptions*) I am on a point of order. On what subject have you allowed the hon. Member to speak?

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order. Everything is out of order. Please sit down all of you. I allow Mr. Anbarasu Era to make statement.

[*Translation*]

I am on my legs. Please be seated.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If you are not going to listen to me, tell me.....

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Khurana, please be seated, you are rising again and again.

[*English*]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): We have been demanding that the hon. Minister should make a statement. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please sit down. Are you interested in bringing this matter to the notice of the Government and making it a part of record or in just shouting about?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not called out your name. You cannot do like this.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If you are getting up like this, I am not going to say anything. You please take your seats. I am standing. Please allow me to reply. You are also disturbing me. Please sit down now. It seems that you want a statement from the Government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: We are discussing the Budget itself and under the Budget certain steps have been taken. That is why you are saying that the prices have gone up. What else are you discussing?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to say anything at all. It is not going to help you. Please sit down. If you are not allowing me to help you, I cannot help you. I have a limited power to speak.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, you should have a voice like Shri Khurana. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Paswan, I am helping you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Please ask for a statement, first. (Interruptions)

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had allowed me....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will sit down if you don't want to sit down. You go on speaking as long as you wish. If you want that your speech should be recorded, then listen to me first.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chatterjee, I will allow you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have stood up

with your permission and I have not concluded by speech yet. I mean to say that on the one hand, there is a 40 per cent hike in the prices of fertilisers and on the other hand, a sum of Rupees 100 crore has been allocated for the Rajiv Gandhi Fundation....(Interruptions)...

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I allow Shri Somnath Chatterjee to speak now. First, all of you, take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wasnik, you take your seat. I am saying what I have to say. Now please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I am helping you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: These people are not allowing me to speak, as if Rajivji's name....(Interruptions).. they have deprived farmers of enjoying a puff of Bidi. Farmers have received a heavy blow. the Budget has made tea costlier... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me complete. What is this?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now if it is irrelevant, it will not form part of the record. If it is relevant, it will be in the record. Now you are allowed to speak something to highlight and you are not allowed to speak something which will get a response of this nature. You please continue your speech.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that the farmer is the son of the Mother Earth, he grows food for us. He works in the field in winter, in summer and in rains for 18 hours continuously and grows food for all the countrymen. But today his condition is pitiable. Because of 40 per cent rise in the prices of fertilisers, he is overburdened. Due to this, the Green Revolution has suffered a severe blow, and at the same time the Government is perpetuating family rule by allocating a sum of Rs. 100 crore for the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation.....*(Interruptions)*.....

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): With your permission, I would like to say.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: You have just said—and very correctly so—that hon. Members are free to say what they think is relevant to the subject on which they are speaking and what is not relevant need not be said. And if it is said, it will not form part of the record.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): How can you say so?

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : I am quoting the Speaker.

[Translation]

Have some courage to listen. *(Interruptions)*.

[English]

I quoted the Speaker. *(Interruptions)* This is what you Sir, have said. I think what the hon. Speaker has said should be heeded and I think, it is the duty of all of us, to whichever side of the House we belong that light-hearted jibes which hurt the feelings of the Members, should not be made on the Floor of the House. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am giving a ruling. I did respect your feelings to make a statement on this point. I had said that this very topic could be discussed while discussing the General Budget. At the same time, you were insistent on making your statement and I allowed you. In the course of your speech, you have not referred to this thing once but four times. Even after there was an angry response, you had repeated it. It was not necessary for you. I allowed you once to make that statement; I allowed you to make a statement second time. You had made it a third time and a fourth time. It appears that your intention is just to see that a response of that kind comes out. I am not going to allow you to make a statement like this. You please stick to the subject and I will allow you to make a statement. Otherwise, I will not allow you.

[Translation]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was saying that 72 per cent population of India lives

in villages. India comprises mainly of villages. This 40 per cent increase will affect not only the villagers, but all the people of the country also..... (Interruptions).... Therefore, through you I would like to request the Minister of Agriculture who is present here and I had seen his T.V. interview four-five days back that he should realise the problems of the farmers as he himself is a farmer. They usually suffer from one or another problem like drought, hail-storm, frost, floods etc. Their condition is not good. So I request the hon. Minister to make his statement in this regard.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Shri Somnath Chatterjee to speak.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter. Whatever apprehension was there, it has come true. On principle we have been opposing that this subsidy on fertilizer should not be reduced and should not be removed. What we apprehended is taking place now. Now, the Government must respond to see that it is available to the farmers. Now, it is not only that the price has been increased, but also we are having the result of the market economy. The first dose is coming now. Mainly it has become scarce in the market. They are only relying on the operation of the market economy. Therefore, I would like to know as to what is the Government going to do with regard to the availability of fertilizers to the farmers. This is the time when it is utmost needed and at a proper price. It is not that the black-marketeers or hoarders can charge any price they like. Therefore, this is a matter on which I would request the Government to respond immediately and not to rely on the Budget reply of the hon. Finance Minister who is supposed to be in an euphoria. He thinks that he has brought a new India into existence. He is talking of Japan investment in India in a

separate township. But, what is going to the farmers, what is happening to the farmers in India, he is not at all worried. Therefore, we want an immediate statement from the Government.

SHRI ANBARASU ERA (Madras Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Today I have seen a news item in "The Hindu". At Page 9, it says that the representative of Karnataka Government appeared before....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Anbarasu, I will now allow Shri Paswan to speak. After that, I will allow you to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think this issue does not pertain to any particular party, as the leaders of every party have criticised the 40% cut in subsidy on fertilizers, causing distress and widespread resentment among the farmers. You have observed here the sentiments of the hon. Members of this House. The members belonging to the National Front-Left-Front and even to Congress(I) and who are the farmers very well realize the problems of the farmers and therefore, they are very much concerned about it. (Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: The small farmers. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: It is immaterial whether they are small or big. Shri Jakhar Saheb is the supporter of big farmers. It is not a concern of any single party and it must not be linked with the budget also, because the budget consists of several provisions. Shri Jakhar Saheb and the leader of the House, Shri Arjun Singh are sitting here. I would like to know from them as to why they do not react to the sentiments of the House. Why do they not state clearly as to

whether the Government does still stick to the provision of 40 percent subsidy cut. If they stick to this, then we also will have to think about our next step in this regard. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Sahasra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are farmers. I have myself ploughed the field with my own hands.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall see your hands.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: 40% increase in the prices of fertilizers will adversely affect the 70 percent population of the country. Today the prices of fertilizers have gone up by Rs. 60/- to 70/- per bag. The farmers are distressed either from floods or drought. Their crops are generally damaged time and again and even then they are burdened with all types of taxes. Therefore, through you I urge upon the hon. Minister to give a statement on it and do something in this regard. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Sir, you have told just now that these are in the budget, but I would like to say that we cannot wait for the budget, if we do so, the farmers will be ruined completely because of the Government's new instructions to the traders to sell their goods at old rates only. But it has not given any direction to the manufacturers and the whole-salers and as a result they have blocked all the fertilizers in their godowns. Thus, fertilizers are not being supplied in the markets and the farmers are not getting it. Floods and droughts have ruined them. So if we wait till the adoption of the budget, they will be completely ruined. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, our party has decided to move a cut motion officially in respect of withdrawal of subsidy on fertilizers. We will press for the division in the House on this issue. The hon. Minister of Agriculture gave

public statements time and again that there will be no shortage of fertilizers in the market and there will be no reduction in subsidy. Reports to this effect had also appeared in the Press. Even then the subsidy has been reduced. Despite his repeated assurances, why was this reduced in the budget. So, the hon. Minister should clarify the position in this regard You had said.....(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): You might have read in parts only. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I have read it fully. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Speaker, Sir, that day I have read in the news papers both the statements made by him and the Minister of Finance and both the statements were contradictory. He has said that they would increase and you have denied it. (*Interruptions*) Therefore, I would like to request you not to wait for the budget. I request you to ask them to make a statement stating the steps being taken in this regard so that the farmers may get fertilizers at cheaper rates. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman-Nicobar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter. Agricultural season is going on and particularly, the small and marginal farmers are facing tremendous crisis all over the country. There is crisis because the fertilisers are being hoarded and the hoarders are trying to take advantage of it. The hon. Agriculture Minister is present here. I would request him that for the plight for the small and marginal farmers, he should take some concrete steps and come out with a statement before this House so that the small and marginal farmers, to whom the Congress Party is dedicated and working, will be benefited. I am sure the hon. Minister will make a Statement.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): Sir, it is quite evident that this is the feeling that is being expressed here that cuts across party lines; it is a unanimous demand of all sections of this House that this drastic cut in the subsidy, which has hiked the price of fertilisers not by 40 per cent but it will be much more due to hoarding and blackmarketing, should be withdrawn immediately or should be reconsidered by the Government. But I want to strike a note of caution here because the Finance Minister, in his speech, has said that the *kisans* will be compensated by giving them an increase in procurement prices. If the fertilizer prices are put up by 40 per cent, and to compensate, procurement prices are put up by 40 per cent, then the poor consumer at the end, who goes to the fair price shops, will also have to pay 40 per cent more. This is not the way to compensate. Compensation can only be done by a straight reduction in the cut in the subsidy and hike in the prices. He should not try to play off the *kisans* against the consumers. This is not the way to compensate them. Therefore, subject to that caution, I fully support this demand which is being made by members from all sides and I hope the Government will give it a second look.

SHRI S. B. SIDNAL (Belgaum): Sir, of late, without fertilizers nobody can grow anything. If the cut in subsidies is as severe as 40 per cent, production will be hampered. Thereby we will be incurring losses. As stated by Shri Indrajit Gupta, if it will be compensated in the levy prices, only the rich farmers will be giving the levy. The small farmers will never give the levy. They cannot give the levy and the benefit will not come to them. Therefore, this is an honest feeling of the House that there should be a statement in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you may recall that when I raised this problem of farmers in the House four

days ago, you had directed the hon. Minister of Agriculture to make a statement in the matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Myself?

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Yes Sir, when I raised the drought issue, you said that the hon. Minister would make a statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, it was not on the question of fertilizers.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Sir, all these problems concern the farmers whether it is in regard to a rise in prices of fertilisers, or hardship being experienced by them on account of drought and floods. Two-third of total Members of this House have been elected from among farmers and villages. If the problems of farmers are not considered seriously in this House, what will be its repercussion. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had directed four days ago. Today, thirty crore people are hit by drought.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not correct. I have said that as soon as possible, they should come out with a statement.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Four days have since passed after your saying 'as soon as possible'. It is my demand that Minister should make a statement.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you are on fertilizers.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all these problems concern the life of farmers.

Yesterday also, I have said this: You were not there in the House at that time.

MR. SPEAKER: I have heard your speech.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Yesterday, I said that there has been an increase of Rs. 40 per bag in the prices of fertilizers.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You need not repeat it today.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: I am saying it again, because it is a serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER: There are others also to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Sir, this is such a serious matter and

[Translation]

Sir, I am requesting you that you may please ask the hon. Minister to make a statement. I do not say that when the budget will be presented after two days this point will be taken into consideration or not. We will decide our next course of action then. But in the meantime, please ensure that fertilizers are not sold in the blackmarket and farmers are not put to any hardship. This is the sowing season for the farmers. Today, they require fertilizers for paddy and other Kharif crops. As such, I would request you to direct the hon. Minister to make a statement regarding the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that the farmers are not forced to resort to purchasing fertilizers from black-market. (Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Indrajit Gupta has rightly said that it is not the question

of party-politics. It affects the entire farmer community and agricultural labourers. I found that subsidy has been reduced on some selected categories of fertilizers. There are certain categories of fertilizers which are used in Haryana and Punjab where density of irrigation is very high and these fertilizers are produced in the public sector. Because of this policy these public sector units in these States are going to be closed down and with that thousands of employees will be rendered jobless. In this connection some high power teams are coming here to meet the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Agriculture.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur): You are also a big farmer.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: I am not a big farmer. I am a small farmer. (Interruptions) I would like to submit that after the announcement, the traders, particularly the black-marketeers are looting the farmers of Western U.P., Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab, who use fertilizers in large quantities.....(Interruptions)

Therefore, I want and as has been demanded in the House also that the hon. Minister of Agriculture should make a statement in the House today and give some guidelines for the country so that the anti-social elements, traders and black-marketeers do not exploit the farmers.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You must also state that the subsidy should continue.

MR. SPEAKER: I have seen many hands rising from both the sides of the House. If they have anything to say, they may write to the Hon. Minister so that he knows their views.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. B. SINGH (Rajnandgaon): Sir, I have only one suggestion to make. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Minister.

SHRI S. B. SINGH: Before he makes the Statement, I would like to make one suggestion.

MR. SPEAKER: You write to him.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If I allow you, I will have to allow others also. I very much respect your feelings.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. B. SINGH: Sir, I have only one suggestion. They have implemented this 40 per cent hike immediately to keep both the sides happy. I think they should start with the rise of 5 per cent only till the procurement price is declared and thereafter whatever Government desire they can do after the harvest. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have one suggestion.

MR. SPEAKER: No, you are speaking every day.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BAL RAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will say something only when they listen to me.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing you. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Sir, I wish to make clear the views of my Party, the Kerala Congress, which I represent in this House.

MR. SPEAKER: Every day I am allowing you. I am not allowing you today.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have to regulate the House. You have to sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Sir, as a protest, I am walking out.

MR. SPEAKER: Every day I am allowing you. I am not allowing you today.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Sir, I have only to suggest the view of our Party. You have allowed so many persons to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Thomas, you should appreciate that every day you are speaking.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat first and then I will explain.

SHRI P. C. THOMAS: I am sorry, Sir, if you think so. I have not spoken a word in the 10th Lok Sabha. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I would have very much liked to give you the time but there are so many others who are standing. That is the problem.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt me. There should be somebody to regulate. If everybody is wanting that the House should work according to his convenience, it cannot work. You very well know that I have never refused you to talk but I find that there are many others who want to speak. If I allow you to talk, then the others also have to be given the chance. You should appreciate the difficulty. You can say that you endorse what they have said and that is all right. Please understand my difficulty.

SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Sir, I am very sorry that you have a feeling that I had spoken so many times. In fact I have not spoken in this House at all. I have not made my maiden speech.

My only request is that, on this aspect, I would like to give you a suggestion on behalf of my Party, the Kerala Congress which is a separate Party. So, I may be given a chance. (*Interruptions*) This is a point on which, out Party, the Kerala Congress had also discussed and had given its view. Forty per cent cut in the subsidy will be too harsh on the small farmers who are in great number in this country. Moreover, I have a point to make with regard to the other suggestion which has been made in the Budget by the Finance Minister and that is, the compensation will be given by way of giving support prices. How can support prices be given to agriculturists who produce rubber, spices and coconut?

MR. SPEAKER: That point has already been made.

SHRI P. C. THOMAS: No support prices are being given.

So, the Agriculture Minister, when he makes a statement, may give a special attention to this fact that small farmers may be specially considered and if at all there is a cut in the subsidy as far as they are concerned,

some kind of public distribution system may be made and they may be given the present subsidy or more subsidy. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is unanimity in the entire House on this issue. Everybody is sympathetic to the farmers. All the people have sympathy for the farmers. The question of lacking sympathy does not at all arise. Please forget the question of lacking sympathy. Please listen to my sincere submission. Do not put much arguments. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Please tell us the prevailing prices of fertilizers in the market... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: First of all, I shall reply to Shri Khurana Saheb. Whatever you have read, that is only half. I had said that subsidy should not be reduced. Listen to me first, please. (*Interruptions*)... Even if it is increased, it must be assured that the needs of the farmer are fulfilled. If the farmers suffer from wants the country cannot get food. It is a very simple thing. I know one thing that the needs of farmers must be fulfilled. If the farmers are not duly compensated, the country will suffer losses. (*Interruptions*) First of all, please listen to me. You have also been a Minister. I implement what the august House decides. I have one thing in my mind. Whatever way I do, I make all out efforts to see that the interests of the farmers are protected. Please leave aside the question of big or small. Certainly, I am tall in height. Please leave aside the ceiling fixed for this purpose. Farmer is a farmer. I know the plight of farmers in the country these days. I am sympathetic to them and shall continue to be so for all times to come. (*Interruptions*) The second thing is that the prices have gone up. (*Interruptions*) I have thought over it and it has happened for the first time in the history. If

the dealers sell all the quantity of fertilizer lying with them they will get the whole profit. With the increase in prices of fertilisers by 40 per cent, the farmers would suffer losses. That is why, on the same day I instructed the Agriculture department of all the states on telephone and through telegrams that they should undertake a proper checking of the sale of fertilisers at every point and ensure that fertilisers are stored properly and sold at Government approved rates, (Interruptions).....

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur): Is it possible?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I have done what I could do with regard to remaining issues viz. how to compensate the farmers and assure welfare of the country. We can hold a discussion in the matter and this Government would extend all possible help in this regard. Shri V. S. Rao had raised this question. I had stated in the Rajya Sabha yesterday that I had done whatever I could do at that time.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: What did you say about subsidy.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: A decision on subsidy will also be taken. I can't myself do anything alone in this regard. I know one thing that I have to ensure that the needs of farmers are fulfilled.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The hon. Minister has not given any assurance. So, in protest, we are walking out of the House.

12.56 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and some other hon. Members left the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANBARASU ERA: I have read a statement today in *The Hindu* that a representative from the Karnataka Government appeared before the Cauvery Waters Dispute Tribunal.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing the Cauvery water issue to be raised now.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Reply to the point that was raised by the hon. Member has not come from the hon. Minister, we, therefore, walk out from the House in protest.

12.57 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Lal K. Advani and some other hon. Members left the House.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA (Hasan): I want to speak only on fertilizers price hike. Let me be very plain on this issue. I have been watching for the last one month that you are ignoring the back benchers. This is what I have noticed. I am very sorry to say that I had stood up 101 times but I was not able to catch your eye.

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed you now.

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA: I do not want any lip sympathy from the Government. Shri Balram Jakhar is a farmer. He has allowed the farmers to suffer. Today, it is not a question of small farmers or big farmers or medium farmers or marginal farmers. The whole farming community consisting of about 65 per cent of the population is going to suffer. We are not going to cooperate with the Government in this regard.

*Not recorded.

It is not merely a question of issuing a statement. He should consult the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister and come out with a proposal not to withdraw fertilizer subsidy once and for all. Otherwise, whatever proposal has been made, it is not in the interest of the farming community. The traders are going to be benefited from it. Now, it is at the proposal stage. I earnestly appeal to the hon. Minister that today by evening he must come out with a categorical statement. Otherwise, we are not going to cooperate with the Government in this regard. We are going to cooperate with the Government in other respects.

13.00 hrs.

I do not want to make a speech for the sake of publicity alone. I am a farmer and a tiller's son and I will not allow this. I will sit in *Dharna*. I will not go out from this House. It is not for publicity's sake that I am doing it. (*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: What Shri Devegowda says now is not going on record.

13.01 hrs. *At this stage, Shri H. D. Devegowda came and sat on the floor near the Table*

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): In Kalahandi, a large number of workers who were working on the Indravati Dam site, were washed away by the flash floods. According to the State Government only seven dead bodies have been recovered so far but many more workers were trapped in the tunnel near the dam site. Therefore, I would like the hon. Minister to include this also when he makes a statement.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, I was the first to take your permission. Today, the *Indian Express* has reported a very alarming news for the newspaper industry.

MR. SPEAKER: There was a question on this point.

*Not recorded.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: The State Trading Corporation has decided to hike the price of standard newsprint by Rs. 5,000 per tonne and that of glazed newsprint by Rs. 10,000 per tonne. Newspaper organisations are being forced to pay for the delay in releasing payments to the foreign newsprint suppliers by the State Bank of India. It may be recalled that the SBI failed to honour this payment commitment to the foreign suppliers due to foreign exchange crisis.

For this why should the small and marginal newspapers be punished, for the failure of the State Bank of India? Therefore, I demand that this thing be seriously reviewed and the small and marginal newspapers must get a fair deal on this, in this respect.

MR. SPEAKER: There was a question on this matter this morning. Now, Papers Laid on the Table of the House.

13.03 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report of and Review on the Working of the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Pune, for 1989-90 etc.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): On behalf of Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Pune, for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Centre for Development of Advanced computing, Pune, for the year 1989-90.