

[Shri L. N. Mishra]

"On my part, I would like to categorically state that at no time did I have any pecuniary or other interest in any of the contracts of the Kosi Project or any other Government work. Further, I categorically deny any suggestion that I have interfered with the transfers and postings of officers relating to the Kosi Project or brought my influence to bear on the award of any contract relating to the Project.

For the information of this hon. House, I would, however, like to mention a personal matter—I have four brothers and during the lifetime of my father, who died in May 1951—some 22 years ago, we effected separation among ourselves. Ever since then, we have separate establishments and are completely independent of each other. We have no joint financial interest in any shape or form."

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: No point of order, Shri E. R. Krishnan.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Yesterday you reserved your ruling.

MR. SPEAKER: No question of reserving it. It is already disposed of.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: You reserved the ruling for delivering it today: whether this House is competent to discuss a matter, something which has been published by a State Legislature's Financial Committee. May, I in that connection, say—

MR. SPEAKER: No please.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: It is already 2 O'clock.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: You have to give that ruling. You reserved your ruling yesterday. You are avoiding it.

MR. SPEAKER: I am yet to consider it. I have no papers before me. It came at the end of the day yesterday. I had not the time. I will take some time. Now, Mr. Krishnan.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Thank you, Sir.

14.10 hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377  
DISTRIBUTION OF YARN TO HANDLOOM  
WEAVERS

\*SHRI E. R. KRISHNAN (Salem): Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377, I wish to draw the attention of the concerned Minister of the Central Government to two import issues involving several lakhs of handloom weavers. In Tamil Nadu, there are 1.5 lakhs of handlooms requiring art silk yarn and 17,000 powerlooms requiring staple fibre. Per month 5 lakh Kgs. of art silk yarn and 24 lakh Kgs. of staple fibre are the minimum requirement. All these looms are facing the threat of closure. The main reason is that after the Central Government accepted the voluntary agreement with the art silk millowners and other individual millowners, the millowners have not bothered to implement this voluntary agreement. According to this voluntary agreement, they have to distribute all their production through the Central Committee, which they are not doing. The handloom weavers requiring art silk yarn and staple fibre are entering the portals of starvation zone. They are not able to buy art silk yarn at Rs. 31 per Kg. in black market, while the controlled price is Rs. 13.75 per Kg.

Secondly, Sir, 5.5 lakhs of handlooms on which are dependent 20 lakhs of weavers and their families are in complete disarray. The millowners have taken stay from the

Court so that they need not implement the Textile Controller's Control Scheme of cotton yarn. The Central Government must initiate necessary legal steps to get the stay vacated.

Bearing in mind the present tragic plight of the several lakhs of handloom weavers and also their future needs, the Central Government should take over the production and distribution of art silk yarn, staple fibre and cotton yarn. The State Governments should be empowered to distribute them to the handloom weavers.

The millowners are dissatisfied with the controlled rate of cotton yarn and there is the possibility of shutting down the production. I suggest that the price of cotton should be controlled. The production and distribution of art silk yarn, staple fibre and cotton yarn should be brought under the control of the Central Government and if that is not feasible the State Governments must be empowered to do this work. Then only the handloom weavers will be able to get their just requirement at fair price. I hope that the hon. Minister of Commerce will do the needful in the matter.

श्री मधु लिये (बाका) : मैं इनका समर्थन करता हूँ मंत्रियों को ध्यान देना चाहिए (ध्वजबान) में जानता हूँ यह ब्राँच के बारे में बोले हैं, इतना क्या हम नहीं समझते।

RE: ALLEGED INFRINGEMENT OF  
M.P.'s RIGHT OF FREE MOVEMENT

SHRI DINESH JOARDER (Malda): Sir, on the day of the Malda bundh on 18th August, one of the Cabinet Ministers of the West Bengal Government, Shri Abul Barkat Ataul Ghani Khan led some miscreants and infringed my right of free movement.

MR. SPEAKER: This is your State matter. Why do you raise it here?

SHRI DINESH JOARDER: Because I was debarred from functioning as a Member of Parliament. He termed me, "Mr. Parliament" and his gangsters ran after me. A police barricade was put round me and he did not allow me to move freely. There was no order under section 144 but still I was not allowed to move freely on the streets. This is clearly an infringement of my rights as a member of Parliament, and specially this House should take note of this sort of democracy which is being practised by the Chief Minister of West Bengal. The Chief Minister of West Bengal was present there at Malda at that time. (Interruptions).

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampore): If a Member of Parliament is treated like this by a Minister of the State, what is the protection for him?

MR. SPEAKER: There must be some method of coming before the House. Shri Mukherjee wanted to say something.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta-North-East): What I can do? The Minister is not here. I tried a Calling Attention, I tried a Short Notice question but all in vain. I cannot shout in the zero hour. You have now permitted me to make a statement which I can as well just throw away in the waste paper basket because nobody is here to take notice of this matter. It may be adjourned to some other time. I do not want to mention it when no Minister is here. You please be good enough to put it up for some other date, tomorrow or the day after. I do not wish to say anything now.