

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): You are talking about Meghalaya. What about Manipur? What about Goa?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Kindly help us in doing this at least. (*Interruptions*) If there is any good sense left, we are trying to appeal that the ruling party should indicate to the whole country that such a step should not be taken.

Comments from the Chair are also relevant. I suggest that as a matter of principle, what is it that the Chair of the highest Legislature in the country think to be correct, think to be proper and think to be inconsistent with the parliamentary fabric of our country?

MR. SPEAKER: Do you realise you are asking me to do something which I cannot do?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Why? My submission is you can make a general declaration. You cannot guide, you cannot instruct the people in Meghalaya. But you can indicate before the whole country that this is what the norm should be.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You can inspire them.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: As the leading body, let us lead. If we do not do it, today it is one part of the country, tomorrow we do not know what kind of pressures the ruling party will unleash in this legislature also. This is what I want to say.

MR. SPEAKER: You are giving me authority over other Legislatures!

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG (Shillong): For many days, this question of Meghalaya had come up here. It appears that a group of Ministers from the Government of Meghalaya

are here in Delhi for the last ten days meeting the Leaders of the Opposition parties, and giving wrong information on the political situation in Meghalaya. In Meghalaya, we have a Leader of the Congress Legislature Party Mr. John Deng Pohrmen. The Speaker, in his judicial capacity has given a judgment on the Tenth Schedule which should not be brought here in this august House. You have this power and he too has this power under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution of India that it should not be brought here. In Meghalaya, the Congress party is trying to take the Government which is only democratic. In 1990, the Congress Government was toppled by the Janata Dal Government. (*Interruptions*) The Governor in Meghalaya was changed overnight to achieve this end. I brought this to the notice in the House at that time but nobody listened at that time. Today the Central Government has nothing to do with Meghalaya.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur): Sir, it is with deep regret that I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the Diesel Locomotive Works in Varanasi. The hon. Railway Minister is present here. When a discussion was last held on this subject, I had said that it has become a den of corruption. Be it recruitment or be it auction of scrap, corruption by senior officials is rampant in every sphere of activity.

Sir, day before yesterday, on 23rd August, senior officials of the Enforcement Directorate raided the Diesel Locomotive Works. The offices of the Manager and other officials and their residences were surrounded. Sir, after a continuous search for 24 hours currency of countries like America, England, Belgium, Australia and Holland totalling 20,000 dollars were seized. When the officials of the Enforcement Directorate asked as to how foreign currency was lying there, they had no answer. 300 such files were seized which showed that there had

been misappropriation of lakhs of rupees in foreign currency. Documents of lockers of some banks in Delhi were found and these lockers were used to keep illegal money.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sonkar, do you have first-hand information or are you quoting news reports?

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Sir, I have first-hand information as well as the 'Dainik Jagran' newspaper of U.P. which has published a report on this matter and a photograph showing a man being escorted by officials of the Enforcement Directorate.

MR. SPEAKER: Alright, when you say you have first-hand information, you may continue.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, right now I am speaking in the Lok Sabha and senior officials of the Diesel Locomotive Works are now in the custody of Enforcement Directorate. As the matter concerns senior officials, the hon. Railway Minister should make a statement. There is a global tender firm. This firm gives contracts and supplies the materials and with these contracts to supply various items—Lakhs of dollars in foreign currency is misappropriated with such tenders.

Sir, may I know when the hon. Railway Minister will make a statement in this matter? The Government must explain the facts regarding corruption and bungling on such a large scale in this prestigious institution.

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Mr. Speaker, Sir.....(Interruptions)...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not going on record.

... (Interruptions)*.....

*Not recorded.

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[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Sir, this is a very serious matter. Action should be taken immediately. This is a very big scandal that has happened in the eastern districts.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Sir, as it is a very serious matter the hon. Railway Minister must make a statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sonkar, I am not asking the hon. Minister to make a statement. He shall certainly make a statement if he wants to do so. Now please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)...

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman-Nicobar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is reported that a section of Steel manufacturers of this country is putting pressure on the Government for the decontrol of Steel. I would like to state that in case Steel is decontrolled, the Small-Scale Industries will be badly affected; the construction industry will be badly affected and there will be an overall increase of prices. That is why I bring this matter to the notice of the Government. The Minister of Steel is present here. I would request him to specifically state that there will be no de-control of Steel in this country. A very serious situation will be created. Already, the prices have increased in respect of almost all items. This will very adversely affect the Small-Scale Industries and the employment opportunities also. I would, therefore, request the Minister of Steel, who is present here, to kindly react on this subject.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I wanted to raise it. But Shri Manoranjan Bhakta has raised it and I am happy about it. Sir, it