

closed. This is going to affect Onam. That is why we are telling that closed wagons should be given to Kerala immediately. Otherwise there will be so much trouble and lakhs of workers will be affected. (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI K. V. THANGKBALU** (Dharmapuri) : Sir, the Television viewers in some pockets of Dharmapuri do not receive adequate signal and they complain about poor reception of LPT, Dharmapuri. The Dharmapuri district people do not get the Madras Doordarshan service at all. I request, through your goodself, the I. & B. Minister to consider the enhancement of the power of the existing transmitter to a high power transmitter (i.e., HPT) to increase the coverage area. In case it is not feasible, it is requested that an alternative accommodation may be seen, i.e., Vattalmalai near Dharmapuri which is at a higher altitude. It is needless to say that this proposal, if approved by the I. & B. Ministry will go a long way in satisfying a large chunk of TV viewers in Dharmapuri.

The Dharmapuri district consists of lot of mountains. Due to that the TV coverage is not satisfactory. We request the hon. Minister to give an HPT. That is the only alternative for the proper coverage in the district. Thank you.

**SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY** (Krishnagar) : Sir, I would like to raise a matter of urgent national importance.

It is learnt that an order has recently been issued from the Department of Power, Government of India, for transfer of a portion of assets and manpower from the National Thermal Power Corporation to a newly formed National Power Transmission Corporation (NTPC). Flouting the existing labour laws and even without giving any opportunity of exercising option, the workmen of the NTPC, both executives and non-executive, engaged in transmission line activities at present have been asked to join the NTPC

This unilateral and arbitrary decision has caused resentment among all sections of the officers and workers of the NTPC which may tell upon the efficient functioning of the organisation. Above all, the job of grid management which is presently done by the zonal Electricity Boards on advisory basis through coordination between various State Electricity Boards and Central sector utilities is now going to be entrusted to the NTPC and such an important decision, so far as I know, has been taken without any prior consultation with the State Government. This attempt of establishing total control of the Central Government over the power management of all the regions of the country will inevitably jeopardise the interests of the States. This is nothing but a direct interference in the affairs of the States and a sinister design to shift power from the Concurrent List to the Union List. This is a very serious matter. I would, therefore, request the Central Government to refrain from this unjust and undesirable move. I would also request the Government to make a statement forthwith on this matter, which is of national importance.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN** (Sasaram) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the houses being constructed by D.D.A. ....

**MR. SPEAKER** : It has already been discussed. Will you not allow others to speak? You are repeating it.

**SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN** : Sir, this is not the only point.

**MR. SPEAKER** : Others have said about it. .... (*Interruptions*) ....

**SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN** : Sir, gross irregularities are increasing in the matter of allotment of flats and handing over the possession thereof by D.D.A. Flats are not allotted to needy persons but. ....

**MR. SPEAKER** : It has already been raised, Paswanji. .... (*Interruptions*) ....

**SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is why I am submitting that flats are not allotted to, needy persons in Delhi. Therefore through you, I request the Central Government to cancel the allotment of the flats and allot them to needy persons in case the allottees of these flats fail to shift within two months.. *(Interruptions)*.....

**SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Sahasra) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir..

**MR. SPEAKER :** You please raise a question as has not been raised earlier.

**SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV :** I will raise the issue that has not been raised during Zero Hour so far. Sir, I am sorry to say that our places of worship, Gurudwaras in Pakistan are being demolished and a mosque or a slaughter house is being raised in place of these shrines. Through you, I demand that the Government should look into the matter at the earliest and initiate action against demolition of Gurudwaras for the purpose of converting them into mosques. This is my submission..... *(Interruptions)*.....

**SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like Shri Chidambaram Saheb to listen to me. Through you, I would like to submit that the Government of India has hit hard the Fourth Estate. Questions were raised in the House regarding prices of news-print in the last week also. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you might have read in newspapers, rather in detail, that there has been an increase of 60 per cent in the prices of news-print recently. During the last 8-10 days it appeared as though the House, the country and the entire press were passing through a tumultuous situation. All of a sudden the prices of newsprint were raised by 60 per cent. The point is that the S.T.C. handles the work of newsprint and it is under Chidambaram Saheb. That is why I. & B. Ministry of the Government of India and the Ministry under Chidambaram Saheb took up the matter with the

Prime Minister during the last 8-10 years. The meeting of the Committee on Price Fixation held yesterday had declared—'It is a crisis situation'. Sir, it appears that the S.T.C. is expressing its inability to supply newsprint to those newspapers who have deposited money before July, 30. The question is that we are not getting newsprint and who knows, we may, perhaps, get a newspaper for Rs. 10 in future..... *(Interruptions)*..... That is why I am submitting that, as you know, and as everybody knows, we would not be able to read newspapers when the newsprint is not available. And the electronic media is unable to communicate news to the countrymen.... *(Interruptions)*.... The Fourth Estate is very important for the nation. In such a situation, why the Government has hit hard the print media. I am afraid that the S.T.C., which is a public undertaking is adopting a role of a hoarder. Through you, I would like to know from our learned friend, Shri Chidambaram Saheb as to how long the Government would keep mum on this issue? The newsprint industry has announced that they were going on a strike and they would not wait for the decision of the Price Fixation Committee. Therefore, through you, I would like to bring this serious matter to the attention of the Government, of the countrymen and particularly to your attention. Please issue instructions to the Government to take decision in regard to it by Monday and also ensure that newsprint industry does not go on strike.

*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rohasra) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important issue and the newspapers are facing closure due to it.

*[English]*

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :** What is the response?

**SHRI E. AHMED (Manjeri) :** I just want to bring to your notice one sentence. I endorse the views of