

The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had assured that the hon. Minister of Home Affairs would make a statement on it. But it seems that the issue of the honour of a woman is not so important that the Ministry of Home Affairs should pay any attention to it. It seems that our clamors fall flat on their deaf ears. This all is happening when Mrs Jayanti Patnaik, the Chairman of the Women commission, appointed by the Government of India is taking interest in it and she herself has met the hon. Minister of Home Affairs also and she has apprised him of the entire case. But the Central Government is doing nothing. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs is not making a statement on it. From this, you can easily guess the fate of other cases. This puts a big question mark on the utility of the Women Commission. This Commission does not have any legal powers. Then what is its relevance?

In the capital the profession of call-girls is thriving under the very nose of the Ministry of Home Affairs. A number of agents in connivance with the police are blackmailing the innocent girls to entice them into this profession. The police who is supposed to play the role of a saviour have themselves turned devoured. Neither the big officials in the police administration are concerned about it nor the Ministry of Home Affairs.

I would like to request the entire House to support me on this issue, and the issue of the honour of Women is not so small that no attention be paid to it. I would like to request the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to come to the House and respect our sentiments which have been injured and make a statement on it.

12.08 hrs.

RE. ALLEGED INTERFERENCE WITH
THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS BY
TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roser):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a serious issue which is related

to the freedom of the Press. The manner in which atrocities are being committed on journalists in Tamil Nadu.....

[English]

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN
(Gobichettipalayam): Sir, he is referring to the proceedings of the State Assembly. It cannot be discussed here and I object to it. We cannot interfere with the rights of the State Assembly. I may be allowed to speak. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I am not referring to the proceedings of the State Assembly. I am referring to the case of arrest of Shri M.R. Ganeshan who is the printer of a Tamil weekly. He was subjected to torture by the police as a result of which he passed away yesterday. He was arrested on April 10. There is a threat to the freedom of the Press. A journalist is arrested and tortured so cruelly that he dies in the police custody. I think there cannot be more shameful than this for the country. On the one hand, the Government talks about the freedom of the Press and includes the freedom of Press in our Fundamental Rights, on the other hand, makes a direct attack on the freedom of the Press. Therefore, I would like to request you that you should make a statement in this House as to for what reasons Shri M.R. Ganeshan, 55, a printer of a weekly was arrested and tortured who passed away yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not the only example of this kind, there is no rule of law in Tamil Nadu. If presspersons do not work according to the wishes of the Government there, they are subjected to all kinds of torture. Laws are violated and freedom of Press is made a target of attack. It is, therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, not a political issue, but is a national issue. If such attempts are allowed to be made to suppress the voice of the Press, I do not think that democracy will survive any longer here. Therefore, it is a direct attack on democracy and I would like to urge upon the Government of India to

make a statement on it and it should be discussed in the House.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, sir, I have to put forth one or two issues before you. The first thing is that the problem which Shri Paswna has raised is not there only in Tamil Nadu. This issue was raised last week also and then I pointed out that no province or no individual should be referred to by name. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Supreme Court has given a judgement and it was not related to only one but several persons. Not only the verdict of the Supreme Court is being violated but Supreme Court is also being challenged. They say that they will arrest the person, though Supreme Court has issued injunction against making his arrest.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to S. No. 77 of Seventh Schedule under Article 240 at page 282 of the constitution. I am submitting that it is the responsibility of the House and it is also the responsibility of Union Government.

[English]

"Constitution organization, jurisdiction of power of the Supreme Court, including contempt of such court."

[Translation]

Today, when a contempt of Supreme court is being committed in this country, who will find its remedy?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Court itself.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: If the Court

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If a contempt has been committed against the court, the Court is

empowered to take action.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that under Constitution it is the responsibility of the Central Government to enact law in this regard.

[English]

"Constitution, organisation, jurisdiction plus contempt of the Supreme Court"

[Translation]

If it is the responsibility of the Central Government then we have the right of disuse in the House if our this right is violated. Therefore, a discussion should be allowed on it in the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: But you are referring to which incident? We cannot consider or disuse without marking a reference to any incident. Which is that incident? Where does it occur?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: The incident to which I have referred has already taken place. Supreme Court has also given its verdict. The Court has said that the journalists would not be arrested but that judgment is now being violated. In violation of the judgement of the Supreme Court, orders have been given to arrest the sub-inspector and produce him before them, Mr. Speaker, Sir special attention will have to be taken while discussing the issue raised by Sir, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

Secondly if we go into the facts regarding this death, we will find that the person was arrested on 10th of April. He was kept in police custody till 20th April and the same day he was released on bail. He goes to the office of the newspaper named 'Nakiran! There he narrates the treatment meted out to him by the police while under arrest. He

says that police tortured him badly. This case of Geneshan was not a case of contempt of occure. He was a printing press owner. This was his only fault that he was owner of the press. No contempt proceedings were pending against him. It is Tamil Nadu or any other State of India, such treatment is meted out to such persons. They are arrested and tortured by Government. Amnesty International also says this in its report. But Government is asserting that there were no cases of torture or custodial deaths in India while in broad day light such incident of murder of printing press owners takes place. Where should we raise the matter, if not in this House. We talk of improving Centre-State Relations. Whenever, anything more than this is stated our colleagues become annoyed. I am not talking of the rights of any State or its violation. I am trying to find out a solution to the problem which has come up in a southern States.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have read a news item in the Indain Express today that Tamil Nadu Government has decided to stop giving advertisements to this newspapers. Why has it been done? Firstly, there were verbal orders that advertisements would not be published. Those who had given advertisement were withdrawing them. The newspaper said that Government should issue these orders black and white and so the State Government issued the orders in writing. If Government would try to pressurise the newspapers then it is not the case of murder of an individual alone. We had restrained ourselves from refering to the name of 'Sunil' but the sma people have forced us to refer to his name also. Then the brave and courageous youth ran from pillar to post. First he went to Delhi then to Madras, armed with the decision of the Supreme Court. Police was trying to arrest him. There is a newspaper 'Morosill', the Editor of this newspaper is the Member of parliament but even he is being attached. Whenever a reference to this incident will be made...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Fernandes Sahèb, if it would have bene permissible you would have definitely been allowed to raise. But our

constitution says that the matter raised in a legislature can only be discussed in that House. Opposition benchers can raise the matter. You should discuss the matter raised in this House only.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: That is why I am talking of constitution only. Day before yesterday, I did not talk of constitution. I did so now, because I know this matter would have to be discussed. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not concoted version.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: You can read concurent list page 291 item 39.

[English]

Newspapers, books and printing presses.

[Translation]

This House has got full right to hold discussion. When there is a breach of freedom of newspapers or section ninteen of Indian Constitution, then item 39 of seventh Scheduel article 245 imparts the House the right to discuss the matter in the centre and take action against the people responsible for breach of rights of newspapers. *(Interruptions)*

The incident of murder of Ganeshan should be discussed in this House today.....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: These are the legislative powers given to different legislatures. Please understand this. You have raised a very good point. But, these are the legislative powers given to the Union Legislature and the State Legislature. In the Concurrent List it is said that if you want to make a law, you can make it here, or you can make it in the State Legislature, regarding newspapers, books and printing presses. But if you want

it to be implemented.....

(Interruptions)

SHRIGEORGE FERNANDES: I am not asking for implementation. I am only on limited question. The limited question is the jurisdiction of this House.

MR. SPEAKER: If this had happened outside the State Legislature that is one position. If this has happened through the State Legislature, are you entitled to discuss what has happened there?

SHRI GEORGE FERNADES: I am not discussing what has happened in the State Legislature.

MR.SPEAKER: There are also elected Members belonging to different parties. They can get up and raise the issue there.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIAY (Bankura): The Constitution has been violated.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNADES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, therefore, I can confine to only one thing. Since everytime I raise this matter, it is said that it is state subject. So I am confining myself to it only.

MR. SPEAKER: We have no objection to it but if all of us join hands and change it and start discussing what is discussed in that Legislature and that Legislative starts discussion. What is discussed here, what will happen then? Suppose, what we discuss here today is discussed in Tamil Nadu Legislature tomorrow; then will it be correct?

SHRI GEORGE FERNADES: That is why I did not mention the name of any Legislature. I have mentioned the name of a newspaper.

MR. SPEAKER: What difference does it make if you don't mention any name but what is important is what you are inferring or referring to.

SHRI GEORGE FERNADES: Mr. Speaker, sir, finally I want to bring to your notice that I would like that the concerned Central Minister should make a statement in this House on the attempts of stopping advertisements to the newspaper in order to gag its mouth. At the same time, I wish that the Central Government should institute an inquiry into this matter immediately taking up the matter with the State Government and apprise this House of their present action and role in gagging the Press....(Interruptions)

MR.SPEAKER: As far as the release of advertisements to the newspapers is concerned, it comes under the Article 14 of the Constitution and one can go to the High Court or the Supreme Court and say that "Equality Beofe Law" applies here and that comes under writ jurisdiction. (Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNADES: I agree (Interruptions) But ultimately it becomes the responsibility of we people, i.e. this House itself to safeguard the rights of the people.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not the first case.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lodha, I will give you time later on, please be seated for the time being.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I want to give chance to Shri Narayanan.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: I want to suggest a way out. Article 143 prescribes a procedure where the President can make a reference if the Law Ministry says that a certain judgment is not applicable. If a certain judgment is applicable then Tamil Nadu can be advised to take their hands off and that judgment should be honoured.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have called his name, please allow him to speak first.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Since you have made a point, I would like to say that I am not raising any point of Order here. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not authorised to interpret the Constitution.

[Translation]

Please take your seat.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sir, you had given a statement here.

MR. SPEAKER: It could not be discussed here.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I am saying so just to remind you.

MR. SPEAKER: I am telling you again and again that you should not remind me. In spite of that you are doing the same thing.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: In this connection, a question was raised in this House when the Membership of three Members of Bihar Legislative Assembly was terminated. At that time you were in the Chair and you said that it has a wrong action. I admit it, but I want to remind you that at that time you had told that you would talk to the Speaker of the State Legislature. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What you are saying has nothing to do with it as to what did happen and when did it happen?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: There was a discussion on it earlier, please try to recall. You had said that you would talk to the Speaker of the State Legislature.

MR. SPEAKER: You may speak whatever you like and I don't remember what I had said at that time. I don't even remember what was its reference. I don't even remember

whether I had said so or not. You are continuously commenting on the comments of the Speaker, and that too after a couple of months. Which has no context at the moment. Please be seated.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Members on the other side gave wrong picture to create an impression that Tamil Nadu Government is intolerant to any criticism by the Press.

My first submission is that they are not expected to bring the proceedings of the State Legislature into the Parliament. The proceedings of the State Legislature cannot be discussed here. First of all, we cannot interfere with the rights and privileges of the State Legislature. The Tamil Nadu Government and our Chief Minister have every respect to the Press. On the floor of the Assembly our Chief Minister has stated that Press is being treated as part and parcel of the Assembly. So, they are not taking action against the entire Press. They are not attacking the entire Press. They are taking action only against those members of the Press who have erred.....*(Interruptions)* The Constitution gave certain rights and privileges to the Assemblies.

MR. SPEAKER: As far as rights and privileges of the Tamil Nadu Legislature are concerned, my impression is that all the Members have conceded that point. They are not pressing that point. Having made a reference, when they were said that this cannot be discussed here, my impression is that they have conceded that point. The only point that they are insisting on is whether the advertisements are not given. This is to a legislative action. This is an Executive action.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GUMAN LAL LODHA: The Law Ministry can make a reference through the President to the Supreme Court under Article 143. Otherwise they cannot disobey.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRIP.G. NARAYANAN: In Tamil Nadu, a few newspapers, not all, are indulging in character assassination of some of the important personalities. They are making malicious and scandalous charges every day which are baseless and unfounded. Sir, they have distorted the proceedings of the State Assembly. It involved privileges and rights of the Assembly. So, the Speaker has to implement the Resolution of the State Assembly. Within his rights, he has acted (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not make any reference to that. They are also not pressing that point.

SHRIP.G. NARAYANAN: Within their rights, they have acted and they have not committed any excess. And our Members cannot raise here anything about the proceedings of the State Assembly. They have not committed any excess..... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, no Legislature has got the power to violate the order of the Supreme Court. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: The Constitution has conferred certain rights to the Assemblies also... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. We are entering into a very complicated area. Let us be careful in saying who has rights and privileges and who has no rights and privileges. Just to contradict a statement made by one of our colleagues if you are saying something, that will also be not proper. This is a very delicate area. Please do not comment on it without considering all the pros and cons.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRIP.G. NARAYANAN: They referred to one editor, Mr. Ganeshan. He has not died

in the custody. But the Tamil Nadu Government or the police is not responsible for his death. They have given a wrong picture. It is not correct. They are misleading the House. They are not giving the correct facts. They cannot interfere with the rights and privileges of the State Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: He is not pressing that point.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADEE (Vijayawada): Sir, I have given a notice before 10 O'Clock. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, of course, it is very sad. It is immensely saddening, if any custodial deaths are to take place anywhere in the country, and it does call into account the conduct of the police. But the conduct of the police is a matter of common concern throughout the country. I am entirely mindful of the caution that you have voiced. But, I would submit that the incidents that are being cited now are, in fact, reflective of the malice that is much deeper and its ramifications, I submit, are very much more serious. During the last six months or so, we have witnessed a certain rash of extremely disturbing phenomena and I call the phenomena the clash of the organs of the republic. It appears that in the last six months or so, we are having some kind of an orgy wherein all the organs of the republic are in a collusion course with each other. This is not a matter that we ought to take lightly. Therefore, on two counts I feel that the Parliament's role - functions, responsibilities, duties - does come into play. One, of course, as my senior colleague, Shri Lal K. Advani has often pointed out that whenever the question of press comes in, the Parliament comes in. That is my submission. The other is that when the organs of the republic come in, Sir, - I am not going to cite the instances of any one particular State of the Union or the Legislature or one State of the Union or another - that during the last six months, we have a conflict between the Legislature and the Executive, which has become a routine. We have seen repeated examples of Legislature vs. Judiciary. Then, we have

seen the Government vs. the Governors; the Elected vs. the President. And now we are witnessing - it is not happening in just one part of the country but it is happening in number of parts of country - wherein the State Legislatures or - with your permission - Chairmen of those State Legislatures are now coming into a point of conflict with various judicial pronouncements in various parts of the country. There is what I call this phenomena, this total lack of restraint, a restraint on power wherever repository of that power may be, what we are witnessing is a total lack of restraint on power and that restraint which ought to be integral to authority because these are such fundamental important questions that this Assembly can no longer ignore them. Therefore, I would like to make three or four recommendations to you and I say with great caution - I am mindful of what I am doing - I believe that the time has come wherein you as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha must now take an initiative and I will put - as proposals to you - three or four initiatives that, I think, ought to be taken. Firstly, I submit, in all humility these suggestions to you that you should convene a meeting of the leaders of this very Assembly to discuss these aspects with them. Secondly, I think, you ought to discuss with the leaders this larger question of the relationship between the Legislatures and the Judiciary also simultaneously, what we are witnessing as the Union and the State relations, not as the Constitution has laid down because the Constitution can be flouted by observing the letter of the law but flouting the spirit of the laws and I do not want to cite instances. Thirdly, I think, privileges of Legislatures - this was the submission made earlier. The time has come when we can no longer avoid a codification of the privileges of the legislatures. If we leave as vague and undefined and uncodified, then I submit that possibly such difficulties will continue to happen. If you were to convene such a conference of leaders, perhaps after that of the Speakers', and also other Speakers' Conference and discuss this matter there, that will be better. I think this matter now is so important that without encroaching on anyone's rights or duties, unless we address ourselves to this problem, we will see more and more of this. That is my submission.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, I draw your kind attention to this very important matter, and the serious danger to the freedom of the Press. Through you, Sir, I urge upon the Union Government to make a statement regarding the factual position. Mr. Ganesan has not actually died in the police custody but he was subjected to torture, and while narrating it, he collapsed and when he was taken to the hospital, he died. That is the fact. There are orders of arrest of editors and correspondents of dailies *Murasoli* and *murasu* in Tamil Nadu.

Through you, I would also like to draw the attention of the Government to a very unprecedented situation where four important organisations of Press and journalists have decided to boycott the proceedings of the Tamil Nadu Assembly today in protest against the Tamil Nadu Government's attitude towards the freedom of the Press, and the Tamil Nadu Government to muzzling of the Press.

Through you, Sir, I only warn the Government that they should not forget the experience of Emergency when the Press was muzzled and the Government that was in power could not understand the real sentiments and feelings of the people and ultimately they were the sufferers, they were the losers. Even today, the Tamil Nadu Government is denying the freedom of the Press. It is the bedrock on which the edifice of parliamentary democracy is to rest.

I join Shri Jaswant Singhji to urge upon you to take all necessary steps because you are the custodian of this highest law-making body in this country, which is the custodian for preserving and protecting the Parliamentary Democracy. Without freedom of Press, there is no Parliamentary Democracy. I hope you will also agree in this respect. So, I urge upon the Government to come out with a factual statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Acharia Ji. I think Acharia Ji is the culmination of the submissions in the House. After that Mr. Kumaramangalam should complete it and then those on other points will be called.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA(Bankura): I do not want to go into the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court or that of the Legislature. I want to raise a question of assault on the Press. Freedom of press.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, you speak very good Hindi. May I request you to continue speaking in Hindi only?

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We have discussed this question on several occasions in this House. The incident of death of Ganesan in Tamil Nadu is not an ordinary incident. We want that the Home Minister or the Parliamentary Affairs Minister who is from Tamil Nadu itself to.....immediately.....(Interruptions)..... there is never any assault on Press in West Bengal.

[English]

There is complete freedom of Press in West Bengal. Your *Ananda Bazar* can say anything, criticise anything.

[Translation]

In West Bengal advertisements are released to one and all. The issue of violation of article 14 and right of equality is not just a matter pertaining of the State Legislature, but is quite serious an issue to be looked into by the Parliament and all of us. Attack on Press in Tamil Nadu is not confined only to the Press.

[English]

Now all the political actives are being banned. The Tamil Nadu Legislature has passed an Act to ban any demonstration by the political parties. That is also a serious question.

[Translation]

In Tamil Nadu attack is not confined just to Press but the political rights are also being curbed and infringed upon in the State. It is a serious issue and if Shri Kumaramangalam takes over the responsibility of Minister of Home Affairs.....

[English]

Home Minister has the responsibility.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, supposing the Home Minister has to make a statement he has to call for the information. From whom he should call it?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: From the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: From the Legislature?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: No. From the Government (Interruptions)

[Translation]

We want a statement on it today itself, as soon as possible.....

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, please sit down.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Not only this, we also favour a discussion on it immediately in the House. The type of incidents that are taking place now-a-days, the way Press is being attacked, We want on it a.....

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, please sit down. Listen, people have told me that if the chance to speak in the House is not given to them, then what for should they remain here. If an issue has already been properly raised in the House then what purpose will be served by raising it again and again. Don't you see the number of hands being raised in the House for seeking an opportunity to speak on other issues. Therefore, please do not repeat the point over and over again.

Shri Jena if you want to speak on some other issue then go ahead.....(*Interruptions*)

MR.SPEAKER: No, there is no need to speak on it.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttak): I will restrict myself to.....(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Look if you keep on behaving like this, then I am going to accept the suggestion of Shri Jaswant Singh. I intend to call the leaders of all the parties in my chamber to discuss how to conduct the proceedings during the Zero Hour. Once an opportunity is given to you then 4 other hon. Members are prepared to put forth their views on the issue raised. But you are not prepared to listen. What is this? This dilutes the seriousness of the issue raised in the House. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, you called me. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please, do not force yourself on me.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: How do I give time to others?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, before the hon. Minister responds to it, I want to make one point. I am not going to mix up.....

MR. SPEAKER: Are you going to make any new point?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Yes. It is a new point.

MR. SPEAKER: O.K. let me know.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: I am not going

to raise what the Tamil Nadu Legislature or the hon. Speaker of that assembly have done. I am only raising the issue about Shri Ganesan's death and the advertisements which were not given.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it a new point, not made earlier?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: My only point is whether or not the Legislature or the Speaker have directed the police to take Shri Ganesan into custody and to torture him in the custody. My only point is whether or not Shri Ganesan collapsed and later died because of this torture. These are my points. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, I would like to raise a question mainly to get some clarification from the Chair with respect to the orders passed by.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You do not have to ask a question. Shri Ahamed, you are a pretty senior Member. You do not have to ask a question to the Chair. I am not bound to reply the questions which are arising in your mind. Please, for God's sake, let us proceed with the proceedings in a proper manner. You get up and ask a question on everything that comes to your mind. That is not good.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, this is not a question to the Chair as such. This is something that the Chair will be able to explain the position so as to regularise the proceedings of the House in discussing this subject. That is all. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: O.K. Please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARMANGLAM): Sir, on the question of certain facts which I think the hon. Members came to know from the newspapers on the

question of the Editor. Mr. Ganesan as well as on that of *The Indian Express* paper stopping advertisements etc. we will obtain the information from the State Government and come back to the House on that.

Sir, on the larger issue, I think rightly Shri Jaswant Singhji has brought to your notice that it is not a sporadic incident, even if I do not know whether the facts are correct or not which are available with them, but on the issue of court and the Legislature, this is not the first time this has happened in the recent past. Sir, you were kind enough to call a meeting of the Leaders of parties at one time on this issue, also presiding officers, and rightfully you have come forward with a collective consensus thought there and a decision that the Ruling of the Supreme Court will be maintained etc. Sir, here actually with regard to the role of the Legislature, the Court, the Executive and the Fourth Estate, ultimately these institutions can work only if there is self-restraint, if they are all able to impose some sort of self-restraint on each other. There are allegations that sometimes the Fourth Estate steps beyond, sometimes we step beyond, sometimes the Court steps beyond. So, we cannot really completely crystallise and say, this is the border, this is the *Lakshmana Rekha* beyond which one shall or shall not cross. There would be many grey areas and it has to be ultimately a self-imposed, self-restraint which would work. There was a suggestion of Mr. Jaswant Singh. We will be happy to join him on that and that has nothing to do on the code of conduct — code of conduct not only of the Legislature; then we would also have to have a code of conduct of the Fourth Estate and is it really within our scope to even think of the code of conduct for the court. However, I do believe, Sir, that this is not a matter which we should really take up in this Parliament because we would be really, maybe crossing and stamping the toes of other Legislatures which may not be appropriate.

With regard to Entry 77 and Entry 39, they are entries for the purpose of enacting laws. Nobody says that Parliament does not have the jurisdiction to discuss the Constitution and its implications. Obviously it

does have, but the point is, within the scheme of things, with the State Legislatures, with the Central Legislature, with the court and with the free press, what is the role and what is the scope and whether it is appropriate to discuss it in this matter or it is better to find another method of sorting the problem, I think, Sir, you should take a decision at the appropriate time on it and from our side we want to make it clear that we would ascertain the facts and get back to the House and inform the House. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): About Mr. Ganesan's death when is the Government coming out with a Statement?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARA-MANGALAM: After ascertaining the facts.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Today we want it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Speaker, sir, statement should be made today itself. No leniency should be given and the statement must be made by today evening (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARA-MANGALAM: It is not possible, we have to ask for the facts.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the issue of making of the statement is concerned, we would like to request you to fix a time limit for it because the Government time and again promises to make the statement but never fulfills the promise (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI B.N. REDDY (Miryalguda): Mr. Speaker, sir, the Andhra Pradesh State is facing very acute power crisis. Now it is able to produce not more than 3000 MW wherever

It requires 4000 MW. Even its daily consumption is not more than 55 million units whereas it was 80-85 million units earlier.

Already from 40 per cent to 60 per cent power cut is applied on high tension units.

One of the major units, the Srisallam hydro-electric power is closed already and Sagar hydro electric power unit is in the risk of being closed. Now the entire State is reeling in five hours daily power cut. The State is unable to provide electricity for more than 3 lakh pending agriculture cases for power connection.

12.50 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I should declare that the state people are experiencing this alarming power crisis not due to their own fault but due to neglect and faulty planning by the State Government.

Some years back, situation clearly demanded that our planning should be based on natural gas-based power planning in view of shortage of coal and water level. But, in this direction, our State Government planning did not progress. For Example, I will mention the following projects. They are, Kakinada, Amalapuram, Jegurupadu (Phase-I), Vijjeswaram State II, Jegurupadu (Phase-II) and Rajahmundry (Vemagiri).

Although project reports were formulated and sent to Central Electricity Authority in respect of these gas-based power projects proposed in the Godavari Basin in December, 1991, the Centre has not cleared them so far.

While the State Government is late in proposing these projects, the Centre is delaying further in clearing the same. This is like playing with the fire which affects the entire State development. So, my only request to the Centre is to arrange the power assistance to Andhra Pradesh State from neighbouring states like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. They should clear all gas-based power projects pending

with Centre in shortest time besides giving additional assistance to complete the same. They should also pull up the State with regard to their negligent and faulty attitude towards such of the most important development programmes. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under the new agricultural policy of the Central Government, the Ministry of Agriculture is setting up 'Krishi Vigyan Kendras' in the States under the aegis of the Indian Council for Agricultural Research.....(*Interruptions*) However, Madhya Pradesh has been overlooked altogether in this regard. These agricultural science centres are important for dissemination of information about new techniques of cultivation among the farmers, for boosting the agricultural production, and also for creating an interest among the youth in agriculture. Sir, through you, I would like to request the hon. Minister for agriculture and the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs to see that Madhya Pradesh is not neglected in the matter of setting up of these centers and ICAR be directed to set up immediately these centres in Madhya Pradesh wherever they are proposed to be set up. Jawaharlal Nehru Agricultural University has repeatedly requested setting up of 'Krishi Vigyan Kendras' in Madhya Pradesh., especially in Mandsaur and Ratlam districts where agriculture is the main occupation and secondly 'Krishi Vigyan Kendras' are approved to be set up at Jawara and Kandsaur. Orders should be issue for setting up these two centres at the approved places. (*Interruptions*) I would like to request the hon. Minister to make a statement on it.

[*English*]

SHRI RUP CHAND MURMU (Jhargram): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that by the Uttar Pradesh Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Ordinance, 1992, a total of 2,970 students, 212 of them girls, have been put in jail on charges of copying in examinations and that all of them are between 15 and 18 years of

age? Is it true that until their cases come up they may have to stay in jail for any time upto two years? (Interruptions) How is it that the age of the children is not being taken into consideration when they are being produced in court in handcuffs against Juvenile Justice rules? Even in cases where the charges are true, the Ordinance can only serve to harden and criminalise the children. The Central Government must intervene and see that the draconian law is revoked and effective steps taken to ensure fairness in examinations.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, hon. Member Mr. Rup Chand Murmu has raised an issue. I wish this was not an issue of Party differences. After all, it relates to a law in U.P. which seeks to prevent this mass copying that goes on in the examination.

Mass coping is a disgrace and shame. If there is any shortcoming in the law or any lacuna in the law, you draw the attention to it. But I am surprised anyone should object to the law in itself. That law is a very healthy law and by and large in U.P. it has been broadly welcomed.

Therefore, I would say in these matters at least, let us keep aside party differences and see to it that the examinations are held properly and this kind of racketeering that goes on in mass copying is put to an end.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTRJEE (Dum Dum): As Advaniji has pointed out, let there be stringent measure.

SHRI BALIN KULI (Lakhimpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to draw the attention of the House and the Central Government to a natural calamity occurred in the third week of April throughout Assam. The natural calamity has come in the form of cyclonic storm which lashed all over Assam particularly Nagaon district. This has affected nearly 10 lakh people of 500 villages. The cyclonic storm has caused death of 25 people in Nagaon and 10 people in Guwahati city. Further 50,000 houses and 200 educational institutions have been damaged. Hundreds of thatched houses have been ravaged and

thereby thousands of people have become shelterless. Hundred and thousands of people had receive dsevere head and body injuries and have to be hospitalised.

Tin roofs of hundreds of schools and college buildings religious homes, private and Government buildings were uprooted and grounded. Electric, post and telegraph poles were also twisted and uprooted.

Properties and standing crops worth several crores of rupees have been destroyed. So, Sir, through you, I strongly urge upon the Central Government to extend an helping hand in cash and kind to the State Government for tackling the situation there. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: My dear, Sir, here is the list. The names have been listed. I also call according to the list. If you go on reading for five or six minutes, virtually you are denying opportunity to the subsequent Members.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, there is a disturbing news that the rebel groups in Afghanistan are bombshelling on the Indian Embassy. The report is there that the building of the Embassy has been damaged and the staff of Indian Embassy in Kabul are in serious trouble. We do not know anything about their safety and security. It is a matter of great concern for all of us. We have good relations with Afghanistan - we stood by the Afghan people and they stood by us. But I do not know what would be the attitude of these extremists, fundamentalists rebel groups against India. Did they attack our Embassy building? Is anybody injured. Although we are friendly with the Afghanisatn people and the Afganistan Government we do not know what is the attitude of the new rebel group. We do not know why they are taking this attitude and attacking the Indian Embassy. We want to know from the Government whether they have any information about safety and security of our personnel there.

13.00 hrs.

We want to know that immediately. The Government should inform the House above the situation in the Embassy so that the people and the family members of these staff can be relieved and Government should take all steps to ensure the safety and security of our nationals.

[Translation]

SHRI KESRI LAL (Ghatampur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a patriot of India, Shri Roop Lal Sharia has been languishing in a Pakistani Jail for 17-18 years on the charges of espionage. He has been condemned to death there. What is the Ministry of External Affairs doing in this regard? The son in law and daughter of Shri Roop Lal Sharia have met all the Hon. Prime Ministers right from Shri Maraji Desai, to the present Prime Minister. They have also given a memorandum to the President of India in this regard. Their photographs with the Hon. Prime Ministers have also been published but till date the Ministry of External Affairs has not taken up the matter and nor has given any information to the members of his family in this regard. Even financial assistance has not been given to his only offspring, his daughter. I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister to apprise the august House of the help rendered to the family and also the steps being taken to seek the release of Shri Sharia who has been languishing in a Pakistani prison for 17-18 years?

SHRI BHUWAN CHAND KHANDURI (Garhwal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the severe drinking water problem in my area. Drinking water problem in the bill areas of Uttar Pradesh, especially in the districts of Pauri and Chamoli, is getting worse day by day. In 3-4 villages of these districts the drinking water problems still continues to persist. People have to cover a distance of 3-4 kms. in the hills to fetch drinking water. Members of every family in the hills there, whether they be children or aged ones spend their entire day in fetching drinking water for themselves and for their cattle. The problem of drinking water in the

districts of Pauri and Chamoli in my constituency is due to the decline in the water level. Though the Ganges and Yamuna flow, round the year, through the area but for the villages situated on heights in hills these are of no significance. That's why handpumps have to be installed in the area for drinking water at exorbitant cost. With the drying up of natural water sources in the area in the summer, the drinking water problem becomes more acute in these districts. People spend the entire day in fetching drinking water. For failure of rains this year, in the coming months the problems is likely to assume serious proportions and drought is feared in the area.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government of India to release necessary funds to the State Government and also make separate allocation for the schemes under construction with a view to immediately solve the drinking water problems in these hill districts of the state. Survey-work of the villages facing the drinking water problem should be conducted soon and annual targets may be fixed for quick implementation of the schemes. My submission is that this work should be taken up on war-footing.

SHRI REBI RAY (Kendrapada): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House and the country to a very important issue.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you know that for the last 10-15 days we have been raising questions related to space technology. As a result of our constant efforts, the Prime Minister made a statement here and that too was highly unsatisfactory. Space Secretary of India Shri Rao has returned from Russia. We are afraid that USA is trying to pressurise Russia for not lending their space technology to India. Our country requires cryogenic engines in particular. The Prime Minister in his statement made in the House, has stated that there is no pressure; as if everything is going on well. Now Shri Rao has reached Delhi. The press release circulated by P.T.I. on behalf of the External Affairs Ministry shows that everything is going on smoothly, but there is one sentence which is very dangerous. It states -

with freedom of Press

[English]

"even if some adjustment become necessary because of the change in the international situation.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government says again and again that India has become self reliant in regard to space technology, India has moved ahead in this direction and that India has worked a lot in this regard. The eminent Indian scientists have worked hard and Soviet Union has made a commitment to provide space technology for peaceful purposes. But in regard to the agreement to be signed with Russia, the leaders like Mr. Baker of USA were pressurizing Mr. Yeltsin not to provide space technology to India. On his return from the foreign tour Shri Rao told the press people in that regard that the Indian Government will not divulge any information while the spokesman of Foreign Ministry says that everything is all right. However, in view of the present international situation, it appears that some adjustment has been made. At present the Ministers of the Cabinet are sitting here. Through you, I would like to submit to the hon. Prime Minister that since the session is going on, he should make a statement in the House only and not outside the House. He should take the House into confidence in regard to the talks he held with Space Agency Glocosmos, so that the House is not misled and the country may get the correct information. I suspect something wrong in it and therefore, I would like to submit that you should also direct the Government to State the facts in this regard. Shri Fotedar and Shir Kurien are also sitting here. They should come and tell us what agreement has been signed. (Interruptions)

SHRI GEROGUE FERNADES: I also support the view that the statement should be given in the House (Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): I also submit that the Prime Minister should come here and make a statement.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): We also want that the Prime Minister should make a statement on this. What was the agreement that was arrived at with the Russians? It is a very important matter. The hon. Prime Minister should enlighten us. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY- SPEAKER: You cannot do like this.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Basu Acharia, kindly hear me. There must be some norm to conduct the proceedings of the House. Fortunately, those who have got the privilege of occupying the front-benches are very gracious to look too their own brothers who are sitting behind them. They are also expecting our senior-brothers to help them. Therefore, at least, some norms must be there. We have evolved a system. There is a list. We call the Members according to the list. Therefore, if every one tries to speak for two minutes, many Members will have the chance. Let us not disappoint them. Now, I call Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee to speak .

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Shri A. Charles, he has called me to speak. Will you allow me? (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is no question. Nothin doing . Now, Shri Nirmal Kant Chatterjee will speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If your name is there in the list and if you certainly cooperate, we can complete within twenty minutes. If one were to speak for five/six minutes, I think the other Members would be denied of the opportunity. We are at the fag end of the Session. There should not be any unrest. Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee, please continue.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:
Sir, I gave notice to draw the attention of the house to the very bad situation in the economy of the country. But before I mention that, let me extend my support to what Shri Rabi Ray said particularly because while this issue was raised, from the Treasury Bench, mention was made that Dr. U. Rao was there in Moscow.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Just a minute. You kindly hear me. Just when you go in the lobby, if you keep your ears wide open, you can hear the comments that come.

(Interruption)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:
This is just a passing reference. (Interruptions) Now I come to the subject of my notice. This weird situation refers to a peculiar kind of dumping in the economy. This dumping is in terms of the rate of interest of deposits in banks. Just over several months, we have been having a weird situation in terms of stock markets where the prices of stocks are rising even of those companies which were losing over the years. Here again, probably, for the first time in the history of world economy this has happened that the short-term deposit rates are higher than the long-term deposit rates; particularly the foreign banks functioning in India, after the RBI guidelines or instructions about the rates of interests, have decided that for 46 days, which is the limit, deposits will earn a 13 per cent rate of interest and beyond that it will be 12.75 per cent and still beyond that it will be 12.50 per cent. Why do I say it is dumping is because the Indian banks have already dumped what is normally done. They have fixed 12.50 per cent rate of interest for the shortest term, 12.75 per cent for the medium term and then 13 per cent for the long-term. That was the intention of the RBI. What has happened now is that because you are having 13 per cent rate of interests for deposits of 46 days, deposits will be garnered only by the foreign sector banks in the country and money will flow into that sector. The RBI guidelines will be by-passed if it is 13 per cent for 46 days. And it will be cumulated at the end of 46 days and they will, with the average

interest, deposit the same amount and the real return for the three years period would be more than 16 per cent. This is violation of the RBI's guidelines. What I want to draw the attention of the Treasury Bench is that this will mean that the speculative instinct will be fuelled by the foreign banks in the country. These are the short-term lending. Short-term lending are very much related to the stock markets. Secondly, the medium-term and the long-term loans would be very difficult for our public sector banks because their deposit rates would be lower than the short-term rate of interests in the public sector banks. Therefore, the banks capability.....(Interruptions) It is very important. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is true that it is very important. Kindly conclude it.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:
All this is the result of the liberalisation of the market economic policies ushered in by the present Government. And unless the Finance Minister comes out to make a statement on how to prevent this kind of a situation, it will have devastating impact on the economy. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am strictly following the list. You need not have the least doubt about it. Hereafter, we will try to make arrangements to keep one copy of the list outside so that it will be very useful to you to know whether your name is there in the list or not.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:
Sir, I am concluding. Sir, through you, I want that the Government make a statement on this weird situation in the economy.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour): Sir, serious misgivings have arisen regarding the functioning of the Defence Research sector. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Sahasra): Sir, I have also given my name, please allow me to speak.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Please allow me to speak first.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, let him speak.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Sir, Defence Research is very vital for this country's self-reliance. And the Government has spent so much money, now 50 laboratories are working there. And manority of the Government scientists in the Government sector are working in Defence Resrarch. And yet, the Government suffers today from an indecision as to whether to accept the resignation of the Head of this Defence Research, who has reportedly resigned.

It was reported that the Government had accepted his resignation and the Government had also allowed him to go abroad. Now there was a serious hue and cry in the press about the Government's decision to allow him to go abroad because earlier, Shrimati Gandhi had stopped the then Head of the Defence Research, Shri M.G.K. Menon, from going abroad. It is surmised that persons who are in the know of all the defence secrets of this country should not be allowed to go and have a job abroad.

The Government in withdrawing that has also rejected his resignaiton.

This is a serious situaiton therefor has arisen. And also there has been an allegation because of which the resignation was submitted. The allegations are also very serious in nature which shows that the entire Scientists community working in this sector has been demoralised by arbitrary decisions, arbitrary selections, partisan selections and promotion caused by this Head of the Defence Research.

Therefore, it was appropriate for the Government to accept his resignaiton but not appropriate to allow him to go aborad. That much is understood. I am told now that

the Government had rejected and his resignation thereby allowing him to continue because of which a stalemate has come and these allegations which are beign made, which are true, have to be now rectified by somebody being put in his position immediately.

Therefore, I would like the Minister of State for Defence, who is sitting here, to take notice of it. I want a response from the Defence Minister immediately which must come today, because a very serious situation has arisen. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am going according to the list.

SHIR SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV (Shahjahanpur): Sir, I know that you have got a list. But you are the Deputy Speaker here and you have got your own mind. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly excuse me. We have made an attempt to regularise the Sero Hour. And this is one small attempt. So, let us see and tomorrow, suppose, if the list is published outside, you will be in a positioin to know whether your subject is coming up or not. And you will not be kept in darkness. therefore, this is an attempt made on the advice of the senior Parliamentarians.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bareilly happens to be one of the main and important industrial cities of Uttar Pradesh. More than 12 thousand telephone connections are there but it is very disappointing that though the number of telephone connections is increasing yet revenue has been decreasing. About one fourth of the total telephones normally remain out of order. Even the telephones of two Lok Sabha Members from Bareilly remain out of order. I have also surrendered my telephone due to its always being out of order. Even after that there has been no imporvement in the condition of telephones I had asked an unstarred question and the reply to it was that no telephone was

otu of order. Through you, I would like to submit that the hon. Minister of communications should take the matter seriously otherwise all the telephone consumers including both the people's representatives in Bareilly would surrender their telephoens. My submission is that a new telephone exchanges for at least 10,000 telephoen connections should be set up at the ealiest.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): I would also like to submit one thing in his support. I also live there. Lok Sabha funds are going waste. The telephones given to us are always out of order. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: The Government should take their telephones back because they are of no use in Bareilly.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will call your name also. Rabi Rayji, the former Speaker, of this House, raised his hand. He wanted to speak. You know, the former Speaker, and other dignitaries enjoy certain status. I just obliged. But there was strong objection saying that Rabi Rayji's name was 19 in the list, why did I call his name and that I did some favour. All are very senir and enlightened Members. They are keen about all these things. Therefore I call your name also. Your name is not there. You are agitating on a very serious matter. Let us go according to the list.

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS (Karimganj): The mails from all the post offices under Karimganj and Hailakandi Districts, Assam and Tripura are conveyed to Silchar RMS at night. All those mails remain in deposit at Silchar RMS without being sorted out due to abolition of night duty. the belated mails then sorted out and despatched to the respective post offices after a lapse of long hours of stay at Silchar RMS. To avoide such heavy detention of

mails the necessity of a sorting office at Karimganj Railway Station is keenly felt by the public. The surface mails for Karimganj, Hailakandi and the entire Tripura will be speeded up if the same are segregated and sorted out at Karimganj Sorting Office and thus detention to public mails could be avoided instead of over carrying to and back-routing from Silchar RMS. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURYA NARAYNA YADAV (Sahasara): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a poor man's house is on fire. I had given a notice(*Interruptions*) We spent an hour discussing the death of a journalist, but no one pays any attention to the plight of the poor.

We are walking out of the House, as we are being denied an opportunity to speak.

13.24 hrs.

Then Shri Surya Narayan Yadav left the House

[*English*]

SHRIDWARAKANATHDAS: I therefore request the Ministry of Communications to open up a Sorting Office in the existing RMS. office (T.M.O.) at Karimganj Railway Station for the greater interest of the public being the District Head Quarters as early as possible.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): The House passed the Public Premises Eviction Act in respect of those persons, ex-Ministers, ex-MPs, ex-MLAs and senior Government Officers who were not vacating the flats. The purpose of the Act was very laudable. But what has happened is that subsequently many organisations have been nationalised - Insurance Companies were nationalised; Banks were nationalised; Textile Mills were nationalised - and the tenants of those Textile Mills or Bansk now have become the tenants of the Government.

The Government making use of the Public Premises Act, has started uprooting the tenants. The matter went to the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court has said that the Tenancy Act will not have precedence over the Premises Act. That is why, all such tenants are being evicted.

There was an agitation in Mumbai and subsequently the Government said that they would not amend the Act, but would issue guidelines. They have issued the guidelines on 27th January to all the public undertakings. The Life Insurance Corporation of India is a public undertaking the National Textile Corporation is a public undertaking. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is making a submission.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK: The Life Insurance Corporation of India is evicting the legal tenants. The Government has issued guidelines to the effect that they will not be evicted. These guidelines were issued on 27th January 1992. But, the Life Insurance Corporation says that they are not bound by these guidelines. So, I demand that these guidelines should be circulated once again to all the Government undertakings. The Act should be amended and it should be ensured that they tenants are not thrown out. There are several thousand tenants in Mumbai who are being evicted.. So, I demand that eviction proceedings must be stopped and the Act should be amended, immediately.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): Sir, the production of natural gas in this country is of the order of 50 million cubic meters per day. A major part of this, that is 40 million cubic metres-about 80 per cent-is produced in the coastal areas of Maharashtra and Gujarat.. The natural gas production of 40 million cubic metres per day, in this region comprises of about 30 million cubic metres per day of associated gas and about 10 million cubic metres per day of free gas. The entire production of free gas is being taken to Hajira in Gujarat for further use. Out of 30 million

cubic metres per day of associated gas, four million cubic metres per day is directed to HBJ pipeline; 12 million cubic metres per day is brought to Uran for further use and the balance 14 million cubic metres per day is flared up at well-heads for want of facilities for transporting it for utilisation at on shores. The gas received at the Uran Terminal is being utilised for the manufacture of fertilizers, Ammonia, LPG, petro-chemicals, etc. Sir, by 2000 A.D., the production of this gas is going to be increased by 23 million cubic metres more.

Therefore, I request that some arrangement should be made for the utilisation of this gas. The Maharashtra Government has requested the Central Government in 1985 at another gas terminal at Usar in Raigad District should be erected. The Government has requested them for necessary land which will be provided.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I request the Government, through you, that instead of taking the gas to Hijira, this new gas terminal may be erected at Usar, in Raigad District.

[Translation]

DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA (Etah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Irrigation towards the drinking water problem. Although one of my friends raised this issue earlier, I would like to point out certain other aspects before you. Drinking water is more important for the survival of a human being than even food. Summer is yet to come, but already newspapers are crying hoarse about the acute water shortage in five States. The wells have dried up and water is not available from taps. This problem exists throughout the country. It is indeed a matter of deep regret that even after 44 years of independence, we have not been able to solve this problem. I feel that these are two reasons behind it. First is that whenever we seek information from the Centre or State Governments. we are told that it is not being done for want of funds. Secondly, when we seek this very information from reliable sources, we come to know that

every State has some funds at its disposal, which is not being utilised in the absence of permission from the Central Government. Therefore, I would like to tell you that if the Union and State Governments Co-operate with each other in this regard, this problem can be solved without much delay... (Interruptions) I would like to mention here that two monetary sources are available one is the Drought Relief Fund and the other the amount kept apart for the Million Wells Scheme. So, I urge the hon. Minister to permit the State Governments to utilise these funds. I also urge the Centre to direct all the State Governments to utilise those funds on drinking water projects.

[English]

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO (Sundargarh): Sir, it is a matter of great urgency that the sad incidents of dowry deaths and atrocities on women have been increasing in Orissa and more particularly in western Orissa. Steel city Rourkela, where people from different regions of the country are staying, has virtually become prone to such crimes. A comparative study for the years 1990 and 1991 shows that such heinous crimes are committed more in number in Rourkela than in the coastal districts for Cutack Puri and Balasore in Orissa.

According to a Government estimate, 293 women were murdered, 1,000 women were tortured and 319 dowry deaths have taken place during the last eight years in Orissa. The atrocities on women have been increasing every day. Unless immediate steps are taken to effectively involve the law and order machinery, the media, the voluntary organisations and to change the attitude of the State Government on women and girls, the situation will not improve. The future of the married girls will remain dark and uncertain.

As such, I draw the attention of the House to the growing incidents of such atrocities at Rourkela and other places in Orissa and to take immediate steps to bring the new Acts with more stringent measures to protect the women.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Sir, yesterday, the Government's attention was drawn to the drought conditions prevailing in Maharashtra and the hon. Agriculture Minister was kind enough to intervene also. His intervention has created more confusion among the people and many Members in the House, including myself. The UNI has circulated a report regarding the drought conditions in several States, not alone in Maharashtra. According to that UNI report, five States are, at the present moment, under the grip of severe drought. About 70-80 districts of the country are affected very badly. More than two crore hectares of land are affected. And there will be no cultivation of these more than two crore hectares of land in different parts of the country.

More than seven crore people are directly affected by the prevailing drought in different parts of the country. The most alarming effect is that more than 60 cases of starvation deaths have appeared in the Press in different States including Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Gujarat and other States also.

Therefore, these starvation deaths have started. In the last session of this House in November, the question was raised about the starvation deaths. There is no procedure to determine or to ascertain the deaths due to starvation. Almost all the State Governments, whatever might be their political complexion, deny the incidents of deaths due to starvation. Sir, the honourable Speaker was there to make a comment that there should be some announcement or some mechanism to inquire into incidents of deaths due to starvation. In this context, I want that there should be inquiries regarding starvation deaths in all States. Secondly, Government of India should announce financial assistances that the Government proposes to give to the effected States, particularly, in view of the fact that the Central Government has got the proposal to extend financial assistance to the affected State. Lastly, a statement should be made by the Government regarding the drought condition all over the country and should be followed by a discussion in this House.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA (Junagarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak. The matter concerning Poonam has been appearing in the newspapers for the past few days and it was raised by two hon. Members in the House also, yesterday, but we have not been given any assurance in this regard by the Government. As such, the number of women in the House is less, they are in a minority. This matter was raised at the special meeting of the Indian Housewives Federation held on February 29, Chaired by the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha Dr. Najma Heptullah. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri M.M. Jacob was also present at the meeting and he immediately summoned the Commissioner of Delhi Police, Shri M.B. Kaushal. But so far no action has been taken against Inspector neither has he been questioned in this regard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I request the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to make a statement in this regard, today itself.

SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI (Gazipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at present the population in the Gazipur district of Eastern Uttar Pradesh is above 20 lakhs. There are also about a dozen big localities in the district. There are thousands of L.P.G. consumers in the District, but it is a matter of regret that the cooking gas consumers in this District have been facing tremendous difficulties, over the past few years. The reason is that there is not a single L.P.G. distributor in the entire district. Earlier, an agency in Ballia used to cater to the districts cooking gas requirements, but now it is being looked after by an agency in Varanasi which is doing its job in an arbitrary manner. Consequently, the consumers don't get L.P.G. Cylinders in time.

I request the Government to take notice of the difficulties being faced by the Cooking Gas Consumers in Gazipur District and sanction at least two-three agencies, which should be allotted to educated unemployed or Ex-Servicemen belonging to Scheduled

Castes backward castes or minority communities.

SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV (Shahjahanpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue that I want to raise here is of immense national importance. Terrorist activities are on the rise in the Terai region of Uttar Pradesh and the most disturbing aspect of it is that more and more youngmen both Sikh and non-Sikh are getting involved in it. The present State Administration is responsible for this situation, to a great extent. The terrorists coming from outside get food, tractors and trolleys from the local Sikhs at the point of bayonet. The innocent local Sikhs are forced to comply with the illegitimate demands of the ultras, as any refusal on their part would mean extermination of their entire family. If they don't report the matter to the Police, then the latter, put them behind the bars under the TADA Act. At present, thousands of people are imprisoned under the TADA Act. The most intriguing fact is that despite the existence of a duly elected Government on the State, neither special courts have been constituted nor those held under the TADA Act are being put on trial. The fallout of this is that today whenever a young man, Sikh or non-Sikh is called to the Police Station, he goes underground fearing that he might be averted under the TADA Act and will languish in jail for years, without any trial whatsoever.

Sir, the youth becomes terrorist under compulsion. Our district Shahjhanpur and Terai area is in the grip of terrorism. Last week, three people lost their lives and two youths were apprehended in this connection. Balbir Singh and Hira Singh were not involved in this but they were kept in custody for two weeks. A false case was prepared against them and they were put behind bars under TADA Act. I urge the Government to immediately conduct the trial of their case and release all the innocent people and to issue instructions to the police to do away with the practice of taking into custody the people who help the terrorist under any compulsion. Those people should not be treated as culprits. The police is not that much brave that they can move in uniform

and fight with the terrorists and go to the courts. They expect the citizens to encountering with the terrorists. (*Interruptions*) As such both the Central and State Government should pay attention to this aspect.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: 32 names have come in today's list. But everybody cannot have a chance.

SHRI VIJAYA NAVAL PATIL (Erandol): Sir, unlisted business cannot go on for more than one and a half hours. Only 10 or 15 Members should be allowed to speak. Or this may be scheduled at 9 o'clock in the evening and the Members and the concerned Ministers may be present at that time. (*interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ballayogi, you have given a valuable suggestion but you will have a chance to speak tomorrow. It is getting very late.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Sir, you said that all would be allowed and we are waiting for more than one hour.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it the desire of the House that all the 32 Members be allowed to speak and should we sit upto 2 o'clock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRIRANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): Sir, in this way, we can have only unlisted business, waiving all the rules.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Of the 32 names, today we have covered 22. The remaining will have priority tomorrow.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: But tomorrow, hon. Speaker may have his own list. And we may have to give notice again. There is 'no guarantee that tomorrow we will

get a chance.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Tomorrow is really a certainty. Please don't think that tomorrow is notoriously uncertain.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): Sir, seven Ministers are sitting here for the last two hours, waiting to speak just one line.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will take up papers laid on the Table.

13.49 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Demands for grants of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for 1992-93

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the year 1992-93 [Placed in Library *sec* No. LT-1855/92]

Annual Report and Review on the Working of Food Corporation of India for 1990-91 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): I beg to lay on the Table —

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Food Corporation of India for the year 1990-91 along with Audited Accounts under sub-section (2) of section 35 of the Food Corporation Act, 1964.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Food Corporation of India for the year 1990-91.