

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into it. Mr. Manorajan Bhakta.

(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, I raise a point of order. If leave has been granted to move a privilege motion, then Members of the House may also be allowed to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed it.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, Rule 225 is very clear.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed it. I have said that he has given a notice.

(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED: Under Rule 225, with the consent of the Speaker, the Members shall rise in their place..

MR. SPEAKER: But I have not given the consent. Are you obstructing Mr. Manoranjan Bhakta from speaking?

SHRI E. AHAMED: I am not obstructing Mr. Bhakta. I am just pointing out the matter under Rule 225 here. In that case, we may also be allowed to speak. Rule 225 is very clear and it says;

"The Speaker, if he gives consent under Rule 222 and holds that the matter proposed to be discussed is in order, shall call the member concerned, who shall rise in his place and, while asking for leave to raise the question of privilege, make a short statement relevant thereto."

I would just like to know whether the Speaker has already permitted him or not.

MR. SPEAKER: You are questioning

me on the Floor of the House. Should I allow every Member to question the authority of the Presiding Officer?

(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED: I am not challenging, Sir. I would like to know the thing, whether the Speaker has given consent or not. If not, I have nothing to say, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ahmad, why are you taking time? I have already said that he has given a notice and I have called for the comments and then I will decide. Was it necessary to take this much time of other Member

[Translation]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman & Nicobar Islands): I would like to draw your attention as well as that of the House towards a very important matter. As you are aware, the Budget proposals of various Union-territories are passed by the House in the absence of Legislative Assemblies in majority of them. The Budget proposals of four Union-Territories except for Pondicherry i.e. Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshdeep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Chandigarh and Daman and Diu, where there is no provision for Legislative Assemblies, are passed along with the Demands of Ministry of Home Affairs. But no discussion could take place on them. So the House did not get an opportunity to hold a discussion whether the funds sanctioned from the consolidated fund of India are properly spent by the Governments of these Union Territories or not whether these are spent in the public interest and what are its priorities?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had once requested you also to give us an opportunity to discuss the daily problems of the areas we represent. Suppose, a post of labourer is to be created in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the proposal

is sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs. The file lies pending for two to three years in office after which a decision is taken on the matter. Then only the post is filled. But in the case of a violence taking place in any part of the country, the Government takes immediate action and holds talks with concerned parties..(Interruptions) while allotting time, you should also consider our case. I know you have always had a soft corner for the small areas. That is why I request the Government that democratic process should be started in these areas also. If these steps are not taken in time, then the time this not fa when violence' would also erupt in these areas endangering the unity and integrity of the country.

Therefore, through you, I would like to request the Government to make provision for setting up of Legislative Assemblies in these Union-territories, as it has been done in Delhi so that the Administration of these States could be run smoothly.

SHRIMATIRITA VERMA (Danbad): Mr. Speaker Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to draw the attention of the whole House towards the critical condition of Dhambal's Coal Mines Area Development Authority, as has been published in 11 May, 1992 edition of "Janasatta". Dhanbad supplies coal to the entire country and the Coal Mines Area Development Authority looks after the roads, water supply and community development etc. For this purpose, the BCCL levies Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 on the sale of per tonne of coal and pays the same to the said Authority. After meeting all expenses, the Authority was spending about Rs. 2 crore annually on development activities. But now the BCCL is denying the Authority its rightful dues of cess on the pretext of a verdict date 6 November 1992 of the Ranchi Bench of Patna High Court. This particular order sought to impose a ban on levy of cess but there was no ban on the Coal Mines Area Development Authority to receive

cess or cess on royalty. But the Bharat Cooking Coal Limited interpreted this verdict in its own way and thus put the CMADA in to a great financial crisis. Now on this basis it has stopped payment of cess to the Development Authority at Dhanbad. But it still pays rural employment and development cess, PW cess and authority cess to the Asansol Development Authority. I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Coal as to why such step-motherly treatment is being meted out to Dhanbad based Development Authority while payment of cess is being made unabated to Development Authority located at Asansol.

On the other hand, there can be no stronger words to condemn the indifference being shown by the Government of Bihar. It has not asked the BCCL explain the discrimination it is making between the Dhanbad Development Authority and the Asansol Development Authority. Besides the State Government has not paid the cess it collected from coal traders of Bihar till April 1990. to the Authority The Government of Bihar is so careless that it has not yet decided as to the accounts in which cess on royalty amounting to crores of rupees should be kept. It owes more than Rs. 370 lakh to the BCCL, even now.

Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister of coal to issue clear dissections to Bharat Cooking coal Limited to pay the arrear amount to the Authority. It should clearly be told to pay the arrear amount out standing against it and the time by which it will make the payment. Otherwise, a time will come when the Authority will not have funds to pay salary to its employees. We have no expectations from the Bihar Government, Neither it is pressurizing Bharat cooking Coal Limited for in payment of the arrear amount, nor is it pressuring of the coal company to pay cess to the CHMADA in the same way it is paying to the development authority at Asausol. With these words, I conclude .