

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am just told that the Minister is going to make a statement today. I received it only one minute back. He will make the statement at 4.30 P.M. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): May I have your indulgence please?

SHRISRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): What about Meghalaya?

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: According to the List of Business, that day was fixed for a discussion on Meghalaya and with the permission of the House none of these two topics was taken up for consideration on that day. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: We will find out at that time, he says.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Sir, I am also interested in Meghalaya because the Statutory Resolution is in his name and also in my name. While supporting him, I am coming to my subject.

Sir, for some time there are attempts on behalf of certain newspaper owners of foreign countries to enter into collaboration with Indian newspaper owners. It is reported that the owners of *Financial Times* of London are preparing to enter into collaboration with one of the big newspapers of India. If such collaborations are allowed, it will be harmful for our country as well as for our journalists. As it is, India is yet heavily dependent on foreign news sources particularly those of Britain and America. Most of these sources have their own angle, which are not necessarily to the best interests of our country.

On top of this, if foreign collaborations, as mentioned above, are allowed, then we may have to see Editors and even

Sub-Editors of foreign origin. This is not at all welcome. Therefore, through you, Sir, I draw the attention of the Minister for Information and Broadcasting to this matter. Since the Ministers for Information and Broadcasting is not here and the Parliamentary Affairs Minister is not here, I request through you Sir, to draw the attention... (*Interruption*)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): He is here.

MR. SPEAKER: You think that he can hear only when he sits in his place.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and request him to take it up with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, it is only a point of procedure I want to raise now. Yesterday I raised this when you were not here in the Chair and the honourable Deputy Speaker was in the Chair. I know that it is not possible for the Government to respond in all matters which you were allowing to be raised during this period. But, Sir, at least some steps should be taken to inform the Members concerned later on as to what is the Government's response to these matters. I hope, what is expected in Matters under Rule 377 should also be applied to this.

MR. SPEAKER: While I would not respond to it immediately, I would discuss it with you in the Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the unprecedented hike in the fee of the students in the Delhi University is not only unparalleled but also it is unheard of in the annals of the Universities. And the educational establishments in Delhi have hiked their fees almost on 100 per cent basis which has greatly disturbed the students all over Delhi, the national capital.

A large number of students called on me yesterday and explained to me about the

hike in fee. It is not only the examination fee that has been hiked but other administrative charges such as the fee for mark-sheet, fee for transcript, migration and other special certificates, enrollment fee, late fee, reevaluation fee, rechecking fee, duplicate degree fee, have also gone up upto 100 per cent. I will not take the time of the House in highlighting the various details about these fees.

It is gathered that this step has been taken by the authorities without even consulting the Delhi University Students Union, which is an elected body of the Students.

Yesterday, the All India Students Youth Forum, which is comprised of many students organisations and unions, explained to me as to how these fees have been hiked by the authorities in Delhi.

Sir, in Delhi, there is no Assembly, there is no Metropolitan Council, there is no elected Corporation, there is no elected NDMC. And there is one elected body, that is, the Delhi Students Union, which should have been taken into confidence.

Will the honourable Education Minister ensure that this hike is stayed today by the Government of India? The students are involved in this; the teachers are involved in this and the parents are involved in this. This kind of unprecedented hike in the fee will badly affect the poor parents whose children will have to cut their studies because of the fee that has been hiked by the authorities in Delhi. Now unfortunately, the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is also not to be seen. May I request the hon. Education Minister to have a second thought on this and call upon the Delhi University and its authorities to issue an immediate stay order. The Private educational institutions running in Delhi are doing a lucrative business. They are making money out of it. If the Delhi University is short of funds, let them mop up the money from these organisations which are looting the people in the name of education. Let the students not be bothered. Perhaps, Delhi University is one University which is peace-

ful. Let its peace not be disturbed by this unwise act of the administration. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*].

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever Buta Singh Ji said, is correct and we support it, and I would say that we have not discussed it yet with the M.Ps. of Delhi. That is why, unless a structure is evolved for Delhi, the rise in the fees is improper and it would be anti-people. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Khurana Ji, please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur): Mr. Speaker, sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the projects of Delhi involving foreign collaboration. The Minister of power may please remain seated as the question relates to his Ministry. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the projects with foreign collaboration such as Rihand Thermal Power Project and Vindhyaachal Thermal Power Project which are being set up in collaboration with Britain, Russia and Japan. May I know that if a thing is available in India, why is it imported from foreign countries at a higher price, who are the people who sign such an agreement? It is surprising that we are importing such items for these projects at a very very high cost as are available in India.

Electricity projects especially those which are set up with foreign collaboration have become a kind of business. Both the countries, i.e., our country and the collaborating country should consider the respective gains. If the collaborating country is thinking of its own gains, the people who sign the agreements on behalf of India should also keep in view our gains as well. Bofors case was right or wrong, it has caused the ball of Government and the same type of scandal is going on in power projects? Such topics should also be discussed in the House.