

[Shri Muhi Ram Saikia]

neering College, Silchar, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Regional Engineering College, Silchar for the year 1995-96.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2328/97]

- (9) A copy of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 33 of the National Council for Teacher Education Act, 1993 :-

- (i) The National Council for Teacher Education (manner of filling casual vacancies among members of Regional Committee) Regulation 1996 published in Notification No. F-28-2/96-NCTE in Gazette of India dated the 5th April, 1997.

- (ii) The National Council for Teacher Education (Guidelines for B.Ed. through Correspondence for regular serving teachers) Amendments Regulations, 1997 published in Notification No. F-28-3/96-NCTE in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 1997.

- (iii) The National Council for Teacher Education (determination of Conditions for recognition of institutions offering or intending to offer through correspondence education or distance education including open distance education, or any mode other than face to face instruction for any course leading to B.Ed. degree or its equivalent and permission to start any new course or training) Regulations, 1996 published in Notification No. F-28-9/96-NCTE in Gazette of India dated the 5th April, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2329/97]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Visva-Bharati, Shantiniketan, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Visva-Bharati, Shantiniketan, for the year 1995-96.

- (11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2330/97]

12.03 hrs.

NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AMENDMENT BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : On behalf of Shri P. Chidambaram, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ : I introduce the Bill.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my views by referring to an old issue. Last month I had raise an issue in the House. Derogatory language was used in reply to that which was later expunged from the record. My request is that for some times, at least since my presence in the Parliament, I don't know the situation prevailing prior to that, but for the last seven-eight years some people have been elected to the Parliament who speak in an idiom, which should be avoided even in our normal talks outside.

Mr. Speaker Sir, as far as you can do, you expunge that from the record, but I specially request you, whether it is being recorded or not in the House, there should be provision for punishment or not for using derogatory or indecent language against anyone ? I believe that to expunge such remarks from the record is not enough because it encourages impertinence and the Member on whom such remarks have been passed himself found exasperated and it is also not true that one is not able enough to settle to scores himself. I have the capacity to settle scores inside the House and out side as well, but You are our patron here. Therefore, I request you whether

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 2, dated 11.8.1997.

it is recorded in future or not, If someone is using undignified and derogatory language in the House and somebody complains for the same to you, then there should be adequate provision here to punish him through you. It is my request to you that if a Member of the House uses derogatory language even outside the House, there should be a proper provision of punishment for that even.

Mr. Speaker Sir, due to exasperation, I could not attend the House for long. I have come to the House on your request and from the leadership of my party, when you allowed me to raise this matter in the House and you accepted to comment on it. That is why I have come to the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think, you are making a valid point.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I am of the opinion that whatever happens in the Parliament and the Hon. Members who come to the Parliament observe certain decorum. If sometimes such incidence occurs which is not dignified one then Hon'ble Speaker certainly takes care of the situation. So far as women's and dignity of women is concerned and if we take care of matters related to women, my opinion is that all the parties are fully aware about these matters and no one has any intention to hurt the sentiments of women Members deliberately. If their sentiments are hurt, Hon'ble Speaker takes action on that. I think that if you pass a comment on it then this sad episode will come to an end.

[English]

SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH (Tehri-Garhwal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha had passed a resolution unanimously on 12th August, 1991 recommending creation of a separate State of *Uttarkhand*. The Vidhan Sabha again passed a resolution on 24th August, 1994 and again on 24th April, 1997. Thereafter, the former Prime Minister had also declared from the ramparts of the Red Fort about the creation of a separate State of *Uttarkhand*.

After that, our Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Indrajit Gupta, had, in an interview given recently, stated that under Article 3 of the Constitution, a draft Bill on the subject will be prepared by the Central Government and thereafter the President of India will send the Bill to the State Vidhan Sabha for its approval. I feel that this is not a correct interpretation in our case because the State Government

has already passed a resolution asking for a separate State.

Now, take Assam, It was truncated in spite of objections from the Government of Assam. Our comparison does not apply. Therefore, to that extent, Article 3, of the Constitution does not apply. I am not asking the Government to take an action. I am requesting you, Mr. Speaker, to give a direction to the Government from the Chair to take time bound action. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, please listen to him.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker Sir, how many times the issue of Uttaranchal will be raised? How many times this Government will be requested to take decision? How long will such situation continue? There is no reason to think that the people living on the peaks of Himalyas will not loose their patience. I am also loosing my patience.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Government do agree that Uttaranchal should be formed. It was announced from Red Fort when this issue is raised by the Hon'ble Home Minister time and again he says that the process of legislation is going on. The bill will be sent to the Government of Uttar Pradesh. Then it will come back again. For how many years this process will continue? Whether this Government will form Uttaranchal before it's dissolution?

Mr. Speaker Sir, there is no difference of opinion on this issue, but decision is not being taken, actions is not being taken and the issue is lying pending. A demonstration was held Yesterday also. Day before yesterday people of Uttaranchal even came to knock the door of Parliament. People from outside are knocking at the doors and we are sitting inside. Now only one way is left, that is, we should go outside. You should intervene in this matter. We are inviting you to intervene. You please give some directions to the Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the point raised by the hon. Member is very important. When the Prime Minister addresses the nation on the Independence Day and whatever he announces, is a national issue.

It should not take one year to implement that commitment. I also feel that this matter should be attended to by the Government as early as possible.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Speaker Sir, I wish that you give a ruling on my issue.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have agreed with you. I have said that you have made a valid point. I have already made a remark on this. You have not heard what I was saying.

12.11 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) : Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. This matter was raised in this House on so many occasions. Assurances were given by the Ministers from the Government side. Decisions were also taken by the Government and were subsequently conveyed to this House and to the Rajya Sabha on a number of occasions but the decisions have not been implemented.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we find ourselves in a very helpless position. I am referring to the issue of the recognition of the RPF Association. The Association of the Railway Protection Force (RPF), whose membership number about 75,000, was a recognised organisation since 1970 to 1985. For all these 14 years this Association was working without any problem. Their recognition was withdrawn in the year 1985.

Sir, since 1985, cutting across all Party lines in this House, the Members have been raising this issue. When Shri George Fernandez was the Railway Minister he ordered that this recognition would be given back but it was not done. In this House, the Congress Members sat on a *dharna* in the well of the House - I do not say, that was an approved method of raising an issue here - and Shri Janeshwar Mishra, who is sitting here now was then the Railway Minister. On 27.2.1991, a decision taken by the Central Government, that the recognition would be given back, was conveyed to the Lok Sabha by the then Railway Minister, Shri Mishra. But till date this has not been done.

Sir, the Secretary and some of the members of the Association said that after the monsoon session was over they would commit self-immolation in the constituencies of the Railway Minister, Shri Paswan and the Home Minister. I am not speaking about the threat which they have given but the question is, how is a situation driven to this point? When Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was sitting on this side of this House, he supported this issue. How is it happening that after having gone to the Treasury Benches he has become a part of the establishment?

Sir, it is such a serious matter and the Government is saying that the Railway Protection Force is also an Armed Force of the Union and it comes under article 33 of the Constitution. But it is not so. You know it very well. The

duty of the Railway Protection Force is to protect the property of the Railways. They are not in charge of the law and order. That is being done by the Railway Police and not by the RPF. A number of assurances for giving back their recognition was given since it was withdrawn in 1985.

Sir, you may kindly recall that Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev raised this issue last month and you directed the Government - there was a direction from the Chair - that this demand may be met. After half a dozen assurances by the Ministers, the Government taking decisions, this legitimate demand, which is being accepted by all Parties, is not being implemented.

Sir, I would like to request you to kindly direct the Government that they should not sleep over this issue and they should come out with a decision and if this decision is also not implemented then it is unfortunate. It is a reflection on our system. The hon. Railway Minister is sitting here. Let the Government please come forward on this issue.

Sir, there as a time when the Home Minister was not agreeable to this. When late Y.B. Chavan was the Home Minister he agreed to this proposal and said that it could be considered. Now, if the Home Minister agrees, the Railway Minister agrees, why is it not being implemented?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, it is not my feeling alone, this is the feeling of all the Members of this House. Kindly direct the Government so that the recognition of the RPF Association is given back and they should not be driven to the extreme course of action.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the essence of the request is to form an Association and not a Trade Union. It is a Welfare Association. The demand of forming a Welfare Association for RPF is very different to the establishment of a Trade Union. We can go into the logic or illogic of not permitting people to form Trade Unions. That is a different matter. But here the simple point is of forming a Welfare Association of a particular segment of Government employees. Why should the Government stand against this for all the while when almost all the sections of the House approve it? It is really another example of the Government's complete somnolence on issues of national importance.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : This is not a new issue. We have been raising it for a very very long time. We have raised it earlier and all sections had supported this demand. I was sitting next to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan then and he had also been raising it very strongly and supporting this demand.

A plea is taken that because it is supposedly an armed force, no such association or trade union can be allowed to be formed. But we do not agree with that. What they are forming is the members' service association and there cannot be any possible objection to that. It has become an issue and the long pendency of it and the denial of basic right to them has now driven them to take a decision for self-immolation. This will be a national tragedy.

Therefore, I request the hon. Minister and the Government to look into the matter. There is almost an unanimous demand among the RPF for this. This issue has been raised many times. I have also written a letter to the hon. Minister very recently reminding him once again.

Therefore, I support the request of Shri P.C. Chacko and ask the Government that an early favourable decision may be taken.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : When I raised the matter last time, there was a direction from the Chair. Subsequently I had a discussion with Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and he explained certain difficulties about the legal position. This morning, Shri George Fernandez and ten others met me and they told me that in West Bengal and Tripura, the State Governments have recognised the welfare associations. They did not have trade unions but they only had welfare association. Kerala has also recognised this.

I will request the Railway Minister to overcome the objection of the Home Ministry by collecting the information as to how and in what manner the recognition has been given in those States, and on that line, he may also give the recognition. When in our country, three progressive States are doing it, why can we not do it? We can take the same line. The representatives have told me this morning that even the association on the line of welfare with whatever restriction on the movement and other things, will be acceptable to them. When I had discussion this matter with Shri Ram Vilas Paswan on last Thursday, he said that he was sympathetic to it and he was seized of that matter. Since they have taken a line which Shri Somnath Chatterjee has said, which is not desirable, we all of us jointly can request them to stop the agitation and the issue will be resolved. That could be an honourable solution to them and I expect the hon. Railway Minister to react to that. . . (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please wait for a minute. This issue had been raised earlier also in this House. The whole House is concerned about it. I will request the hon. Railway Minister to expedite the matter.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : The Chair has already said, "You expedite the matter". What more can I say?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Let him say a word to stop that agitation.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, on the opinions expressed by the Hon'ble Leaders of all the parties, I say that I also used to demand the same when I was in the opposition and my opinion is same even now. I certainly believe that Welfare Associations should be given their rights. If it is not done by the armed force, because this issue was raised. Janeshwar Mishraji is sitting here, I had tried twice, I had told even that day. I had requested the Hon'ble Home Minister. Hon'ble Home Minister had called meetings twice, and I myself was present in both the meetings as a Minister, Janeshwar Mishraji was present in one meeting. Basu Deb Acharia ji was present there, I myself had pleaded this issue in the meeting that they should be given.

Objection was that, as long as they were not given the status of Armed forces, there was gross indiscipline, so many things were there simultaneously, after giving the status of Armed force, the discipline has been restored and they have been recognised as an armed force at all the places, they are being deployed on election duties. Progress has been made in all the spheres but inspite of that I have said time and again that there should be no difficulty in welfare association. I came to know that the Home Minister was also of the same opinion. I don't know which ministry Railway or Home is a nodal Ministry. Later on, when the Home Minister asked for legal opinion from Law Ministry, then they put an objection that this cannot be done. Two meetings have been held. I would like again to request Home Minister through you to call Railway Minister, Minister of Law, Shri Janeshwar Mishra, Shri George Fernandez, former Railway Minister, who is present here and other leaders may also be called.

[English]

I am for it.

[Translation]

I do not want to do anything which is not valid in legal terms and in future it will be said that we have done this illegally. So we are ready for it.

[English]

Let the hon. Home Minister call a meeting and decide in internally.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I will request the hon. Minister not to indulge in that.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : When the matter of Railway came and issue of Bonus was raised. I first of all put these issues. I am proud of railway employees and the Jawans of R.P.F. you will see in the current year's supplementary budget that I have allocated Rs. 60 lacs as welfare fund, which was actually out of our jurisdiction. As a Minister of Railways I did it for them for the first time, which was never done before. I did for what I am elected to the Parliament but which was out of my purview. I shall make effort to do whatever is in my jurisdiction. Therefore, I request the jawans of R.P.F. and other people, that they should not do something which is harmful to them and may cause concern to me.

SHRI JAG MOHAN (New Delhi) : I wish to bring to the notice of this august House a matter which has been the subject of a controversy and which is of great national importance, in my view. That relates to the installation of Gandhiji's statue under, what is called, the *Chhatra*.

Shri Chandra Shekhar had raised this point twice. I wish to make it clear that those who are opposing this have a great respect for Gandhiji's Ideology and his way of life. What is being objected to is the incompatibility of the site with Gandhiji's ideology and philosophy.

I have an alternative proposal without going into the controversy. I wish to place before this august House an alternative proposal which may be accepted by all concerned. This proposal has several components.

First is, that we should extend this Rajpath right up to the Yamuna river-front. If this is done, then we will have a clear view from Rashtrapati Bhavan.

12.23 hrs.

[SHRI P.C. CHACKO in the Chair]

This will create a very big green vista, which will be a pride of the statue and pride of the nation, right from Rashtrapati Bhavan to Yamuna river-front.

The only building that comes in the way - if we see it - it will be at right angle to the Yamuna river-front, is the 50-60 year old National Stadium. The National Stadium can be demolished and certain portion can be used. If the straight line is drawn then only a small portions of the National Stadium has to be demolished and rest of it can be re-sited in the Nehru Stadium where land is available. Most of these are sheds which can be dismantled

The fourth point is that in the complex underpasses will be there, so, it will be a total tranquillity from one end to the other end. Gandhiji's statue will be installed at a point which is slightly eastwards to the National Stadium. This will be slightly at a higher level and it will be surrounded by mounds thereby indicating Gandhiji's philosophy of moving from lower level of truth to the higher level of truth.

That had been his attempt throughout his life. This was his experimental truth. Gandhiji's statue will be at a higher level than the Rashtrapati Bhavan. This will symbolise another feature of our cultural heritage that we have always placed the spiritual factor at a higher level than the temporal factor. Then, this very vista will extend right up to the river-front, where the green area will be in the shape of a *charka*, which will represent Gandhiji's philosophy and all this area will be developed into a simple form and it will be extended on the North up to Gandhi Samadhi along the river-front. On this very green area, we will be having a larger section of our leadership, Swami Vivekananda, Aurobindo Ghosh and all others, who had carried out the cultural and social reform. Even a village known as 'Nangli Jalib' could be adopted, where Gandhiji's economic ideals could be given a shape. In fact, in this fiftieth year when we are going to do something, let us do something big, something more imaginative, something visionary, which will remain in this country for thousands and thousands of years and it will not destroy anything, which will show our constructive mind, which will also show that we are capable of remembering our great leader and also giving a concrete shape to our values.

This is the broad feature that I am giving it to you. I am prepared to work because I have gone to this site a number of times. I can give a very clear picture on the drawing. If the august House agrees, if the hon. Speaker agrees, we can have a Committee, which I am prepared to head as a technical propose committee. I will mobilise the Town Planners and the Architects and prepare an alternative plan on the lines which I have indicated and then this very plan could be considered by a National Committee of all the eminent leaders, in which the views of all sections of this House can be taken. We can explain, we can modify to the extent that is desired and then we can work it out. I am sure that this will symbolise Gandhiji's simplicity, dignity, serenity and way of life and his religious sense.

If we follow what is being suggested in regard to demolition. I think, we will be subjecting ourselves to a great deal of criticism in the world opinion because the entire structure and beauty of Delhi will go away. Of course, we cannot wish away the structural legacy that had come to us. So, if we do that, we will be destroying the

geometrical pattern of the whole New Delhi and we will be just putting Gandhiji's statue at a very odd place. In fact, this will not be honouring him but this will be showing our lack of respect for Gandhiji.

I do not want to take the time of the House. This is a very important matter. I am prepared to spell it out in detail and I am sure that it will be acceptable to almost all sections of the House. This is my submission and I thank you very much for giving me this time.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR (Dibrugarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I received a disturbing news that there was a bomb blast this morning in the Guwahati Rajdhani Express on its way to Delhi. I do not know whether the bomb blast was on the track or in the bogey, but six bogies of the train had been derailed. This is the information which I have got. So, I request the hon. Minister of Railways to give information to the House as to whether there was any casualties or any other thing in this accident.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please take your seat. This is a very important matter regarding bomb blast in the train. Let us listen to the hon. Minister of Railways.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, I am informed this morning and I have asked for the complete report. There is one Barpeta station in the Kokrajhar area. These days one safety train is running separately ahead of a train. A bomb blasted after this train passed. I am relieved to inform the House that though the train was derailed but none of the passengers was killed or even injured. Bomb blast occurred and it was good that a safety train was running before it and the train was not damaged. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No casualties.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Sir, I want to ask a few questions regarding the same thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, the answer is given.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (WB): Sir, I have an important thing to raise. Please consider it. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is for the first time that she is raising an issue during the Zero Hour. You please sit down. Shrimati Kamal Rani.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You see the hon. Member is raising an issue for the first time in the House. Please listen. Please take your seats.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI (Ghatampur) : Mr. Chairman Sir, Uttar Pradesh. . . *(Interruptions)*

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad) : Sir, Members of Rajya Sabha are availing the facilities of LPG. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called another Member. Please take your seats. You can raise it after that hon. Member.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called a Member. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please take your seats ? I am requesting you to please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am requesting you to please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : This is disparity. Lok Sabha Members are not getting this facility. I would like the hon. Minister sitting here to provide us this facility. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You see, no procedural matter should be raised during the Zero hour. That is my first point. Another thing is that I have called an hon. Member. She is raising an issue for the first time during the Zero Hour. You have to listen to her. I will come to you after that, please.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Ghatampur area in Uttar Pradesh is my Parliamentary Constituency. There is not a single LPG agency in any of its five Assembly Constituencies. As a result, people there have to cover a distance of 40-70-80 kms. to come to Kanpur and then buy gas cylinder at the double price.

and that too by some wrong means. This year, we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of our independence. It pains me that there is an area in our country where even this common facility is not available.

I request you and hope that you will arrange to provide gas agencies in these five Assembly Constituencies. In this regard, I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what he has to say about such a place where even this common facility is not available. . . .(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : All of you will get a chance today but please remain quiet.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : Sir, I am sorry that the Parliamentary Constituency of the hon. Minister is lacking the facility of LPG agency. The Government has decided to increase the number of gas agencies in the country by over a thousand. If a township has the population of ten thousand then with it as the centre, gas would be distributed to people even in the villages within a radius of 15 kms. . . .(Interruptions). The Government will complete this place within 10-15 days. Allotment of gas agencies is not my job, it's the job of the committee and only committee will allot it. If I start the allotment of LPG agency then there would be only handcuffs for me. But, the Government will do the work very soon.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : As a matter of fact, why are the cooperatives not given preference ? Is it that there is no feasibility in that ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us listen to the Minister, please.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Why are the cooperatives not given preference ? . . .(Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was not incharge of this department at that time. Even before that, it was declared by Mr. Speaker in the House that gas coupons should not be given to the Members. I don't know if it was a declaration or decision or an instruction. But even a hint is an instruction for us. When I came in this department the hon. Members started putting their pressure on it. The parliamentary Affairs Minister will talk to Mr. Speaker and convey the intention of these people. It is correct; this thing is gaining ground because Members of the Rajya Sabha are having this facility, and Members here are not having it. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Sir, Members of the Lok Sabha should also have this facility. . . .(Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Some of us are of the opinion that we do not want this facility. The hon. Speaker's ruling has only saved the Members of Parliament. We do not want gas coupons. . . .(Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Members don't understand our limits. Whenever a Minister will go beyond the instructions of the Speaker of Lok Sabha it will mean the end of democracy. So, you please don't compel a Minister. A way out will definitely be found, but if we do anything beyond the instructions of the Speaker in this House then it will be a great wrong doing. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point in shouting. Please listen to him.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Pappuji, please listen to the hon. Minister. Let us hear what the hon. Minister is saying. Let us listen to the hon. Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Azal, please take your seat. Let the hon. Minister complete his reply. The Minister is replying to the same thing. Please listen to the Minister. That is exactly what he is replying. Shri Thomas, he is replying on the same point.

[Translation]

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM (Gulburga) : This discrimination that is there between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. What type of a double standard is it ?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why do you argue like this ?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : In this regard we would talk to Mr. Speaker and the Prime Minister and try to do away with this double standard and find a way out. But to exact a straight away declaration from us is not appropriate.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. What are you doing ?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is happening here ? I have a request to all the hon. Members to please take their seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : Sir, I have a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order in Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rudy, let me say something. I know that your name is there. You will be called also.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Sir, these facilities should not be there anymore.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are behaving like this. You are delaying yourself a chance.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : You are a millionaire so you don't have to worry.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pappu Yadav, you are making too much noise. This is not good. You are going on freely talking with other hon. Members. I do not appreciate this.

Shri Rudy, I understand your sentiment. Regarding the question which is being raised in the House, I have a request that the hon. Members and Leaders of the Parties may discuss this matter with the hon. Speaker. The hon. Minister has made it very clear that he will try to avoid discrimination. Probably, that is a matter which is worrying hon. Members and beyond that I do not think that we can discuss it here because it was a decision taken by the Chair.

So, I request you that as Party Leaders, you all can discuss this matter. . .

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. This is not a matter to be raised in the House at all. I am requesting you that if you want, you can meet the hon. Speaker. This decision has been taken by the hon. Speaker of this House. But the matter is raised here and the Minister has said that discrimination in this matter can be avoided and he will try to do that. The discrimination is creating worry among the Members of Parliament. So, beyond that we will not go now, please.

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : Sir, the ruling be given in this very session, and let it be issued.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Sir, since you have given the ruling, I have nothing to say about the ruling. But this matter was adequately discussed with the hon. Speaker of this august House. Secondly, some petitions have been given duly signed by all the Members of Parliament. Thirdly, the hon. Speaker, in this regard said that he had mentioned it in the House, it is left to the hon. Prime Minister and the Government to take a further decision.

This is how even the Speaker had to say in the meeting. So, in view of this position, every time our M.Ps. should not be treated as a football – from here to the Speaker, from the Speaker to the House and then to the Minister. They should not be played this way. Once they take a decision. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : It was settled in this very House. The Chairman had made the declaration on the Members' demand.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : No, Sir. This was not the demand of the Members. Barring one or two Members, no one had raised this demand. . . (Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : It was not the demand of the Members.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : They do not know what a bad name it brings to the Members. . . (Interruptions). This is an insult to the House.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, Nitish

[Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee]

Kumar Ji is right. The entire Left Front together objected to issuing the coupons. The Speaker really expressed the views of the House and we are all satisfied that the gas coupons have been withdrawn from the Members. That was our position and we are happy with the situation. If the Rajya Sabha does it Independently, let them do it. . . .
(Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : This facility should be withdrawn at all costs. The amount of Rs. one crore should also not be given. . . .
(interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us not argue like this.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : Sir, more than 300 Members had signed a representation and given it to the Speaker. Let us take a Division on this. He says that the House had been taken into confidence. The House had not been taken into confidence. Some leaders sat together and the Speaker had announced it, but the whole House had not been taken into confidence. This is the fact. . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. Please take your seats now.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not try to raise it again. We are not continuing this discussion. I have made a point. Then the hon. Shri Sarpotdar said that the Members had a discussion with the Speaker and the Speaker only expressed his desire in this matter.

(Interruptions)

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : Sir, more than three hundred Members had signed and given it in writing to the Speaker. Let it be told here why the House is not being taken into confidence. . . .
(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is too much. How do you expect this House to conduct the business like this ? Do not try to justify it. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The sentiments of this House are

very well known to the hon. Minister. I have a request to the Minister that this issue should not come up before this House again on another occasion. You know how an unhealthy discussion is developing in this House. This is unfortunate because the matter was discussed earlier. The Minister may discuss with the hon. Speaker and sort out the matter so that the Members should not have any grievance on this issue. I do not want this issue to come up before this House on another occasion because there was sufficient discussion on this question and the Minister knows the problem. He knows how it was given in the other House and how it was not given in this House. All these problems and what are the issues causing heartburns to the Members are known to the Minister very well.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This way we cannot conduct the business. I have said very clearly that there is not going to be a debate on this question. We cannot allow a debate on how it was stopped and why it was stopped.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nitish Kumar Ji, please do not make it complicated.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, your statement is one sided. We do not want that this facility should be restored. Please do listen to us also.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I did not say that.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nitish Kumar Ji, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : There is no argument behind this. These facilities should be stopped. Telephone and gas is not a facility, it should not be anymore. If the Speaker has said in the House and there is some argument behind it then that should be discussed in the House.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sarpotdar Ji, you have made your point.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. We cannot

work this way. Please listen to me.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Sir, please take the consensus of the House. . . .*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Nitish Kumar, you have made the point. Why do you continue like this ? I have not given a directive that it should be restored. I have not said that it should be stopped. I have only said that the hon. Minister, understanding the sentiments of the House, should discuss with the hon. Speaker and sort out the matter. Can you not agree with this ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, the hon. Speaker announced in the House itself that this should be abolished. . . .*(Interruptions)*. This was after the persistent demands from various sections of the House. . . .*(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on this topic there should be a discussion in the House.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, there is no discussion on this question. There is no directive from the Chair for either restoring it or for re-starting it or for stopping it. The matter is being sufficiently discussed in this House and understanding the sentiments of the House this issue should be sorted out.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : What is the sentiment ? Some Members are asking for it. The gas coupons should not be restored to the Members. . . .*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is this ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, the House has debated it. The coupons should not be restored. . . .*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you expect from the Chair now ?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Nitish Kumar, I want to know as to what you expect from the Chair now. What kind of thing do you expect ?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I do not expect anything from you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then why do you talk like this ?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I am not talking like that. . . .*(Interruptions)*. Please listen to my suggestion. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then, what is the problem ? You make your suggestion.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. I want a suggestion only. I do not want any speech.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I was saying that the topic was already raised in the House*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. What are you talking ?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : When this topic came up in this House the Hon. Speaker directed on the Members' demand that it be stopped. . . .*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are explaining that. I do not want your explanation. If you have a suggestion, you make your suggestion. Otherwise, that will not go on record.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it should not be restored. . . .*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will tell you that. .

(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, you have not yet*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not want to hear your explanation. If you have a suggestion, please make it.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, I want to suggest that the gas coupons should not be restored to the Members. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, I am not going to listen to that.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : How many times will you raise it?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, I want to suggest that they should not be restored. . . .(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : I once again direct the hon. Minister to meet the hon. Speaker and sort out this matter. The conflicting opinions expressed in this House are very well known to the hon. Minister. So, kindly meet the hon. Speaker and sort out this matter so that this issue is not raised in this House again.

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, your order will be complied with. . . .(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sudhir Giri to speak now.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Sir, it is not the opinion of any one individual or two individuals. The consensus on the House should be taken into account. . . .(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is this Sarpotdar ji ? We cannot take a decision. You should not expect from the Chair a decision which we cannot take. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is not one man's opinion. How can it be said. . . .(Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Sir, it should be the consensus of the House. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not going to produce any result. Why do you waste your valuable time ? This is not going to produce any result.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing other than what Shri Sudhir Giri is saying, is going on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sudhir Giri, you may speak.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I am aware that I am going to raise a matter which pertains to the State List of the Constitution and the matter should

not be raised in this House according to the Rules and Procedure of Lok Sabha. But I am constrained to raise the matter simply because the matter relates to atrocities on the weaker sections of the community. There are abundant examples of how the matters like that I am raising have been discussed.

However, I would say that the poor farmers, the landless peasants, the marginal farmers are surely the weaker sections of the country, like the Dalits, women and minorities. These poor people are being attacked on various occasions in different parts of the country. There are different *senas* maintained by the landlords of the country which are inflicting injuries on them and killing them.

Recently, there has been a report in the *Indian Express* regarding the atrocities on the marginal farmers in Maharashtra. I am quoting from the newspaper.

"Two landlords stoned a marginal farmer to death in full public view and simply walked away, in Adobavasti, a village in Indapur Taluka, on Saturday. The incident occurred in broad day light before the entire population of the village, of around 250 people. Shankar Parshuram Mohite from Tannu village was murdered in the main *chowk* of the hamlet."

I would therefore, earnestly urge upon the Government of India to take steps to find out whether the incident is true or not. If it is true, then the steps should be taken to prevent such atrocities on the weaker sections of the country. I would, therefore, request the Chair to kindly urge upon the Home Ministry to take steps in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw your attention to a very sensitive issue. Recently on the 5th-6th of June hon. Prime Minister signed documents with Nepal on the Mahakali Treaty and the treaty was finalised, but at that very time there was a claim from the Nepalese Communist Party and the Government of Nepal that the place called Kala Pani in Dharchula of Pithoragarh under my constituency, including Gunji to Chhota Kailash, Leepuo Lake, Ooty and Nabi village of the Kailash-Mansarovar route, belongs to Nepal and Government of India should clear away from there. It is stated from the Indian side that at the time of China war in 1962 a military post was established here and now there is a Police post over here. We have good relations with Nepal and our relations with China have also improved, but from the strategic point of view their claim on Kala Pani area with reference to areas bordering, Tibbet, China and Nepal is not correct. Now, within six months our detailed project report is going to be submitted

* Not Recorded.

on Mahalkali Treaty which includes very serious issues like Pancheswar Bag, Dhauli Ganga, Project and all hydroelectric projects here. The residents of that area are also worried that the Communist Party of Nepal, and the Nepalese Government is continuously demanding from India to hand over this area to Nepal. Keeping in view their fears and the strategic importance it implies, the Government of India should make its point of view clear about it, as there have been a lot of incidents over there, and from the security point of view also it has been demanded that a separate state of Uttaranchal should be formed. The youths have migrated from here and the borders here are very sensitive from the security point of view. Where there is Kala Pani area, and then the pillars of our border like Banbasa, Tanakpur in Udham Singh Nagar districts, people have come there all the way from Nepal Unauthorisedly occupy hundreds of acres of land. A clearcut statement should come from the Central Government on such an important issue so that on the occasion of the golden jubilee of our independence the message should go that our borders will be safe for the citizens of that area to stay fearlessly over there. Such a statement should come from the Government and a strong action should be taken in this regard.

[English]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasaragod) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to draw the attention of the Ministry of Health towards the insufficient CGHS Centres in Kerala. Though CGHS was started in Delhi in 1954, the CGHS Centres were opened in Kerala only in 1996. The Pensioners' Association of Kerala took the matter before the Central Administrative Tribunal and the Central Administrative Tribunal had given its verdict in which it had seriously criticised the Government of India for not extending CGHS facilities to the State of Kerala. Then, the Government of India started three CGHS Centres in the Capital city of Kerala. But there is a long-standing demand from the Pensioners' Association of Malabar region to start a CGHS Centre there. There are more than 10,000 employees and retired persons living in the Malabar region of Kerala. So, I would request the hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare to start a new CGHS Centre in Cannanore district of Kerala.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, during zero hour I will put forth my point in a very easy manner this time because the Government does not understand my point of view. In the Saran district of Bihar where my constituency is there, the Ministry of Industry, Government of India had sanctioned an Industrial Growth Centre in 1995 which was declared to be established in the Madhora division there. An amount of Rs. 50 lakhs

was released for the establishment of this industrial growth centre, but it is not traceable anywhere, and no industrial centre has been there till date. There is an apprehension that there has been a complete embezzlement of the money released by the Government of India, and the amount given from the State Government fund for this purpose is also not traceable anywhere. Therefore, through yourself I request the Government that such an important issue, where an amount of Rs. 50 lakhs was released by the Government of India for the establishment of an industrial growth centre in the Madhora division of Saran district of Bihar, and where the amount was sent to the State Government fund which is not traceable now, may please be investigated properly.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I personally asked the officer-in-charge of the industrial branch as to how the amount was utilised but nothing could be known. When I visited there and met the Industry Secretary of the Bihar Government, I came to know that the allocated funds were diverted. Therefore, through you, I would like to request the Government of India to find out the amount released for setting up of the industrial development centre at Madhora under my Parliamentary constituency in Saran district of Bihar. I believe that the scandal of Rs. 900 crore committed by the State Government includes the amount of Rs. 50 lacs allocated for my constituency. I, therefore, request the Government to trace out the amount of Rs. 50 lacs remitted for setting up of an Industrial Development Centre in my Parliamentary constituency and action may be initiated for setting up an Industrial Development Centre there.

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA (Jammu) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very important issue. According to news item in today's 'The Hindustan Times' the director of an institute in the USA during a function of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of Independence of India has said in his speech that the State of Jammu-Kashmir is a disputed territory. According to the daily, he also added that he did not consider it a part of India. He further added that this has been the stand of America from the very beginning and there would be no change in this stand.

Sir, through you I would like to tell the Government of India that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have pronounced their verdict through the Assembly elections in 1952 and it was mentioned in its constitution that the State of Jammu and Kashmir is an inalienable part of India. Assembly election have taken place there for nine times so far. The State witnessed there Parliamentary elections also. Such an election took place there in 1996-97 and today a duly elected representative Government is functioning there. The efforts of Pakistan to spread terrorism there have been foiled.

[Shri Mangat Ram Sharma]

13.00 hrs.

Today the people of Jammu and Kashmir have the same opportunity for development as are available elsewhere in India. I fail to understand why America formed such an opinion regarding Jammu and Kashmir ever since the Independence. It is a matter of great regret. On many occasions it has vetoed our Resolution in the UNO which was in favour of India. Even today the USA asserts that it won't veto if the issue is internationalised. I want to submit that the the Government of India should categorically tell the US Government that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and the USA has no right to impose its opinion that it is a disputed territory. If there is at all any disputed territory, it is the territory in the possession of Pakistan which forcibly captured. The dispute is regarding taking it back from the possession of Pakistan or taking back the territory gifted to America. America should refrain from making such a statement. Moreover, the Government of India should hold a dialogue at proper level and send a warning to America that it should stop making statement encouraging the terrorist, secessionist and disturbing elements in the State. The Government should take notice of it. . . .(Interruptions).

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : I want to speak on this very issue. . . .(Interruptions).

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also should be given a chance. If is a very important issue(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai-North East) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it has been just mentioned that some Indian youth were celebrating the Golden Jubilee of our Independence in America. At this function an American official asserted that Kashmir was a disputed territory. He further stated that not only India and Pakistan but Kashmir also should be intimated in this regard. India has clarified her stand time and again on this issue yet America continues to make such a statement. Three days ago I had pointed out that such an outlook was not only of the US officials at lower levels, but also of others. The statement made by the US President Shri Bill Clinton regarding the Indian subcontinent in the specific Press Conference of White House three days ago is very strange and highly objectionable. But it is unfortunate that no response has been made on behalf of the Government of India in this regard. The President of America Mr. Bill Clinton himself said this in a Press Conference about which I heard from the Media and read in the newspapers :

[English]

"United States' presence should be heavily felt in

South Asia."

[Translation]

Now its not clear as to what does Mr. Bill Clinton want to say.

[English]

"United States' presence should be heavily felt in South Asia."

[Translation]

By making such a statement what does America want in South Asia ? What type of a presence ? When America is saying.

[English]

"Presence should be felt. What kind of presence ?"

[Translation]

What type of a direct presence do they want ? Is it physical presence or strategic, and whether they want to empower their stronghold Diego or they are talking about any financial matter, and when they say.

[English]

"Our presence should be felt."

[Translation]

I feel that in the type of new world we imagine a power like America feels that it should be present in South Asia. What type of a presence do they want and if it is to be a powerful presence then what does it imply ? This is not understood. It is very unfortunate, and the Government of India has not reacted to it at all and I see that after the cold war and the disintegration of USSR, America has come up as the only super power and since then the talk is on about a new world order; in the light of it all the statement by the Amercian President is very important and objectionable as well.

I demand the Government of India first to make its stand clear then ask for the meaning of this statement from the Government of America and then react to it. Otherwise, if we forget these incidents as small ones, we will only create an objectionable policy with regard to Indo-American relations as was the case with Kashmir. So I feel that the Government of India should take a timely not of it and react accordingly.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, this is a very important matter. . . .(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will come to you after Shri Namgyal because I already told him that I would call him after Shri Mahajan's statement.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a related subject. I will come to you. It is not your subject. It is a different one.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to associate myself to the issue raised by Shri Pramod Mahajan of BJP and would submit that under the India Independence Act, 1946 passed by the British Government all princely states were given option to either merge with India or with Pakistan. When Maharaja Hari Singh decided the accession of Kashmir with India, soldiers of regular Pakistani army in the guise of Pakistani tribals invaded the valley. But it does not mean that the Independence Act passed in 1946 is meaningless. Since it was enforced in the entire country, why should Kashmir be left out? Why such a question is being raised repeatedly? We strongly condemn the views of America on this issue. Their designs are known and this campaign of false propaganda on the Kashmir issue has been going on since the times of John Douglas, who once was the American Secretary of State because Pakistan has been their allies. I would like to say it categorically to the people of this country that we will not allow their evil designs to succeed against India and at the same time we will deal with them with all our might at our command. Our Government should strongly condemn such a move. I would like the House to have a full-fledged discussion on this issue.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, he has drawn our attention to the strong presence of Mr. Clinton. In fact, the tendency in the international scene is very very dangerous today. We have discovered, only a few days ago, the expansion of the NATO towards the East. Despite the fact that the Cold War has ended, the situation that is developing seems to be that some people and some forces in the United States are trying to expand their area of influence all over the world, including the Europe, including South Asia. He has mentioned South Asia because they are celebrating India's Independence. Their presence in South East Asia, their presence in the Pacific and all these things bring in a very dangerous portent for the world. In fact, it has been characterised that the Cold War has ended and what has come in is Cold Peace. It is always this situation which exists. The statement on Kashmir is only a part of their global plan. Therefore,

it is urgent that we voice our protest from the House. The External Affairs Minister and our Prime Minister should come out with a statement about the position that we take in relation to the statement. . . .*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar) : It is a serious matter that has been raised by Shri Mahajan. I think the Minister should react to it. We are all one in this respect. A vehement protest must go from the Government of India to the Americans and to the American President Mr. Bill Clinton in regard to that statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Chaman Lal Gupta, are you also speaking on this ?

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have given a different notice.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : I have given a Calling Attention notice on this subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your Zero Hour notice on this subject is not there.

[Translation]

You have given that on different subject.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : I have given a calling Attention Motion on this issue. I therefore, want to know only about that Motion.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is not before me. I have before me only the submissions pertaining to the Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : But he has said it. Nirmal Da did not give any notice.

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : As Shri Nirmal Da spoke without a notice, he may also be given a chance to speak.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your notice is with me.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : I am saying that I have given two notices on the subject. But on this subject, I have also given a calling Attention Motion.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will call you later on. Now Shri Premchandran to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : I would like to raise a serious matter of urgent importance. . . .
(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Premchandran, he wants to speak on the same subject. You can take your chance afterwards.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, not only this House but the Upper House, Rajya Sabha, has also passed a Resolution declaring that Kashmir is an integral part of India but in spite of that whatever is happening in Kashmir is hidden from nobody. There is also frequent American interference on Kashmir issue. The American evil design is directed towards formation of an Independent Kashmir which motivates them now and then to make some policy statement on Kashmir.

I would like the Government to give a categorical assurance to this House that this House and the entire country stands committed to the Resolution passed by this House, and we stand by the declaration made from the ramparts of the Red Fort. Come what may, we will not tolerate any kind of foreign interference in this matter at any cost. Today they have made a strange statement. They have said that Pakistan, the people of Kashmir and India should be consulted in this matter. Sometimes they say that they honour the Shimla Agreement whereas on the other hand they create world-wide confusion throughout by making contradictory statements. I want the Government to allay such confusions and apprehensions from minds of the people and reiterate that we will never tolerate any foreign intervention on Kashmir issue at any cost. . . . (Interruptions). At least, someone, from the treasury benches should give a reply to this point.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry of Commerce in respect of the crisis of sea food industry in India. The ban imposed by the European Economic Community has plunged the sea food industry into a crisis. Because of the ban being imposed, the sea foods which have already been exported, may either be rejected or returned. Formerly, India was exporting sea foods before processing. Recently India has started exporting sea foods after processing. This may be

the reason for imposing of ban by the European Economic Community in respect of sea foods.

I would like to highlight here that last year, export of sea foods was of the order of Rs. 4,121 crore out of which 30 per cent of the export was going to Europe. 22 per cent of export revenue, that is, Rs. 936 crore, comes from Kerala. The price of prawn has already come down because of the ban. Other European countries are also trying to bring down the price. I urge upon the Ministry of Commerce to immediately intervene in respect of this matter and solve it so that the price of sea food be save.

[Translation]

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV (Saharsa) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the alarming proportion of poverty and unemployment in Bihar due to which lakhs of people are migrating to other States in search of livelihood. Generally it is observed that whenever any major accident takes place, list of injured/killed necessarily includes atleast some people from Bihar. It was because of this that when on 04.8.1997 a water tank, which was under construction, collapsed in the premises of Daewoo Motors, Gautam Buddh Nagar district in greater Noida of Uttar Pradesh. 12 workers died which also included Vinod Yadav, Chhote Lal Yadav, Ramji Das, Jhamsa Mistri, Suchin Mistri who belonged to village-Nalha, Post Gadhiya, district Saharsa of my Constituency. I demand that compensation to the tune of Rs. one lac should be provided to the next of kin of each deceased and job should be provided to one member of each such family.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : This is a very serious matter. Home Minister should make a statement in this regard.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The matter has been brought to the notice of the Government. That is enough.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please sit down. Yes, Shri Jadav.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV (Parbhani) : CBI has completed investigations in regard to 149 cases and has sought assistance from the Central Government to take action on these cases. CBI has requested the United Front Government which is supposed to wipe out corruption but their reply is still awaited. Our Hon. Prime Minister has said several times in this House that they would wipe out corruption. But the United Front Government is not giving

permission to the CBI to pursue cases of shops allotment of petrol pumps by Captain Satish Sharma, case of Shri Vedwan Marwah, the former Chief Home Secretary of Delhi and certain other cases figure among the pending cases. In this context a news item has been published in the Times of India and Rashtriya Sahara last Saturday. I would like to request the Government which is supposed to wipe out corruption to permit CBI to pursue the pending 149 cases in which investigations have already been done with a view to punish the guilty.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity. I want to raise a very serious matter. Only four days are left for the 50th Anniversary of our Independence. . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANIL YADAV (Khagaria) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to raise a matter related to the Ministry of Health. The Minister for Health is sitting here. I would like to tell her that I had gone to South Avenue to take medicine.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have not given a notice for raising your point in the Zero hour. So, please allow others Members to raise their points who have already given notices.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Anil Yadav, Please sit down. This is not correct.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Anil Yadav, you are from the ruling party. You have to be more responsible. That is not the right way to raise it.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am repeatedly telling you that you are from the ruling party. You have not given a notice. Whoever has given the notice from your side, I have called their names. Please sit down and allow Shri Hannan Mollah to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not raise it now. What you are saying is not going on record. Please do not waste your time.

(Interruptions)*

* Not Recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, you also please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I can tell you, if you are behaving like this I cannot allow you to continue, to sit in the House. You are from the ruling party and repeatedly, you are disturbing the proceedings of this House. I am telling you time and again that this is not the way. Do not behave like this. Without giving a notice, do you think that you can disturb the House like this ?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are other Members also who have given their notices at 9.30 hours waiting for their turns.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : How long the House should bear this? I do not appreciate this Shri Yadav.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have 38 names here. Your name is not in the list. Please understand that.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : At this fag end I would like to draw the attention of the House to a serious problem. Only four days are left for the 50th Anniversary of our Independence. The entire political climate of our country has been polluted by charges of corruption. We have pledged to eradicate corruption by taking appropriate measures. The Common Minimum Programme of the United Front also has pledged to pass the Lokpal Bill by the Parliament. But only four days are left in this session. At least before the 50th Anniversary of Independence we should pass this Bill. Unfortunately this Bill has not seen the light of the day. It is sending a very wrong signal to the whole country. We want to fight corruption and we want to eradicate corruption. If this is our pledge, then it is the bounden duty of the Government to implement the Common Minimum Programme and pass the Lokpal Bill in this Session before 14th of August, so that we can send a signal to the whole country that whoever may be in political power, they will not be spared if they are found corrupt.

I demand that within these coming two-three days this Bill be passed by the House, so that one of the important promises of this Government is fulfilled.

SHRI PRAMOTES MUKHERJEE : Have you at all considered my name, Sir ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It has already been considered. The list is already prepared. You will have to wait, please.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am going to raise a very important point.

[Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan]

There is contonment area in my constituency. There is a commercial area adjacent to this cantonment. Different markets developed in this area has taken form of a city called Mohan Nagar. Even after many years the small shopkeepers of that market are being served notices by the cantonment authorities to vacate the shops. It is being argued that the shops would be reallocated. This is not so in the case of market only but the people are not being allowed to get their sale deed of houses registered nor are they permitted to repair their houses. People who have been living in Bunglow areas for the last 100 years are being issued notices to vacate their bungalows. The people of the area are in turmoil. I would like that they must not be issued notices again and their protection may be ensured, these people are neither getting sale deed of their houses registered nor are they permitted to build a new house and nor are they getting the NOCs. If somebody wants to sale onè's old house, the registration of the sale deed of the house is not done. Moreover the situation has become so adverse that the small shopkeepers are forced to vacate their shops despite the facts that they have been running their shops for the last 40 or 50 years. I would like that hon. Defence Minister and hon. Prime Minister would look into the matter. I would like to request that they should save my area from this turmoil.

[English]

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Thank you for the opportunity given to me today to raise a very imortant matter. We are discussing important national affairs. But I would like to draw the attention of the whole House to the internationally important affairs of Hong Kong. You know very well that Hong Kong returned to China on 1st July, 1997 after 156 years of British colonial rule. I propose that this House do express *lidity with the people of Hong Kong and do share the joys of freedom on the historic event of the union of Hong Kong with China.

For centuries together, Hong Kong was an inalienable part of China. They have the same social heritage, cultural integrity and psychic bonds. But China ceded Hong Kong to Britain as a result of the Infamous opium war imposed upon the Chinese territory, including Hong Kong, by the British traders.

Hong Kong was taken over by the British traders of silk, tea, etc. The people of Hong Kong had experienced torture, sufferings, imperial intrigue and plunder even in the midst of freewheeling capitalistic development. The People's Republic of China had the courage and boldness to translate the dreams of the people of Hong Kong into a reality. The people of Hong Kong had a dream, an aspiration to come back to the mainland China just as a child would desire to go back to its mother for its is safety, security, self-

respect and spontaneous flowering. This was the reason for which a treaty was made between Britain and the People's Republic of China in the year 1984 and pursuant to that treaty, Hong Kong was handed over to China.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please be brief. You know that this is a very important subject and not a subject to be raised during Zero Hour.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : It is my proposal that this House do consider that this incident indicates the victory of nationalism, the victory of national sovereignty and the victory of patriotism upon colonialism and imperialism. This incident, that is, the handing over of Hong Kong to China indicates the beginning to a new era of self-Government within the Chinese suzerainty and the concept and the idea of 'one country, two systems' only in order to attract the people of Macao and Taipei. That is why we welcome a bold and confident Hong Kong.

I would urge upon the whole House, upon the Chair, upon the Government, upon the Leader of the Opposition, upon all the hon. Members to draft a unanimous resolution to show our solidarity and integrity with the people of Hong Kong. I thank you and I request you to convey this message of this House and the unanimous position of this House to express its solidarity with the people of Hong Kong.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai-North) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is scarcity of the coins at present in the whole country. Even in the State Bank Branch located in Parliament House, coins are not available. The coins are not available even in the nationalised banks and Government treasuries at the Tehsil level. The customers are facing a big problem. If they have to buy a ticket in a Bus or have to buy a ticket at the Railway counter or have to pay the money in a hotel, everywhere scarcity of the coins, is causing a lot of problem to the public. The customers who do not possess 50 paise are asked to pay a rupee. In this way they are being cheated and the shopkeepers are illegally making profit. I, therefore, would like to know from the Finance Minister what steps have been taken to check the scarcity of the coins. The people would have to face the problem of shortage of coins ? How long I demand that the Minister should give a statement in this regard.

Coins of Rs. 5, Rs. 2 and Rs. 1 are almost identical. While making these coins different designs for each coin should be used and special care may be taken to ensure that the difference is felt even by touch so that the customers do not have to face any inconvenience.

I would like that the Government should make a statement in this regard. The Finance Minister is not

present today, if the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs responds, it would also be better. But the countrymen should know as to what the Finance Minister and the Government of India are doing to meet the shortage of the coins ? I demand that a statement should be made in this regard.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : On the same subject Shri Nand Kumar Sahi will speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will call you after this. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI (Raigarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have also given notice on the issue raised by Mr. Ram Naik. We are facing a lot of difficulties due to the scarcity of coins. The problem is every-where in the country and Delhi is no exception. Business has come to a stand still. Serious incidents are taking place. Earlier for some days we were managing somehow with torn currency notes by pasting the pieces together. But now since currency notes are so much mutilated and torn that they can no longer be used. Therefore, I support Shri Ram Naik and demand as to what steps are being taken by the Government in this regard ? Similarly, how would the citizens keep themselves free from such difficulties. I demand that the hon. Finance Minister should take this house and the entire country into confidence on this issue. Thank you. . . .(Interruptions).

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH (Balua) (Bihar) : Sir, we are also getting mutilated notes. This is a serious issue which has been raised in the house for many times. I would request the chair to direct the Government to ensure its availability so that a common man may be free from difficulties. Sir, a direction to this effect may be issued to the Government as this is a very important issue and it has been raised in the House many times. Hon. Members raise this issue time and again but the Government turn it down or ignore it. . . .(Interruptions). what is the problem with the Government due to which it has failed in removing the difficulties of the people. . . .(Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : Sir, this is a very serious matter. The entire mechanism of currency printing and coin minting of the Government of India has collapsed. We are getting the coins minted from outside the country. For the first time, in our history, eight foreign companies have been given orders for printing of currency

notes. It is a very sensitive matter. Currency notes worth Rs. 1,00,000 crore are going to be printed outside the country. I request you to please allow a discussion on this very serious subject of currency and coinage management and printing of notes by RBI. We have invested so much money in creating this capacity, but now we are getting our currency notes printed by eight countries. Small countries are going to print our notes. What about security? I request you to allow a half-an-hour discussion on this very important subject, about the security of the nation, our country being destabilised by some forgers because the security papers will be going to these eight countries. Please allow a full-fledged discussion on this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is an important subject. We will discuss it with the hon. Speaker and then decide.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRYA PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to convey my anguish before presenting my views. . . .(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have given a notice on Employment Assurance Scheme.

SHRI RAMASHRYA PRASAD SINGH : Yes Sir, I have given a notice on Employment Assurance Scheme. But kindly hear my grievance. Sir, this grievance is about discipline which has termed as foolishness. In fact you are not paying attention from the chair. . . .(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramashrya Prasad Singh, you have given notice on some other subject. We have no time to go into other things. You need not speak on procedural things.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRYA PRASAD SINGH : I am speaking on my notice but is it the duty of the chair not to allow disciplined Member to speak ? . . .(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please speak on the notice that you have given ? Other things will not be allowed.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRYA PRASAD SINGH : Sir, our scheme is very important one. The Government, in order to remove the poverty, have initiated a Prime Minister's Employment Guarantee Scheme.

This scheme can be successful only with the cooperation of industry, finance and banking. It would not work if any of them do not cooperate. When the Department of Industry extends loan to youth to do away with

[Shri Ramashrya Prasad Singh]

unemployment turn the bank keeps the disbursement of loans pending for an year or two with the result that they fail to start a business and the scheme get flopped. Loan sanctioning authority of the department of Industry and the bank officials both demand commission of 15 percent of the loan sanctioned. Even then if someone manages to get the loan money by paying some percentage of commission to them, we spends that money for meeting the house hold expenditure instead of starting a business. In this way the loan money is not used for starting any business rather it is wasted and it neither benefits the youth nor the country. A committee comprising MP and MLA be constituted to take care of the work. Today we are going to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of our freedom. I fail to understand as to what are we going to celebrate and what is the benefit we are going accrue from it ? Corruption is every where in the country. It is my humble request to constitute a committee to get this work done. . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please bear with us. There are two more hon. Members to make their submissions.

[Translation]

SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE (Jabalpur) : Jabalpur is in the second place among the cities of Madhya Pradesh in terms of population. There are two trains for Delhi from this place. One is Mahakaushal Express and the other Mahamaya Express. Mahamaya Express passes through Kastni-Bina stations. Only half of the coaches of Mahamaya Express go there and they are attached to the Gudwana Express coming from Bilaspur at Katni since only half of the coaches of the train go there resulting in heavy rush. There five ordinance factories in Jabalpur and it is also a very big army centre. Therefore, I demand that all the bogies attached to Mahamaya Express should go upto Jabalpur and this train should be extended upto Jammu instead of Hazarat Nizammuddin.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Sir, the nation is celebrating its 50th year of Independence. In the Independence Struggle, Vakkom, an important place in Kerala, had played a very vital role. Vakkom Satyagraha was one of the memorable events in the Independence Struggle. Thousands of people participated in the Vakkom Satyagraha which was against untouchability. This was a Satyagraha for allowing the Dalits to enter into the temple. Thus,, this agitation has completely geared up the national movement in our State, Kerala. Mahatma Gandhi, the

Father of the Nation, visited this place. This Stayagraha is being remembered by the generations. Periyar, the social reformer from Tamil Nadu came with his followers to Vakkom and participated in this Satyagraha.

Thus, this movement has become an important historical movement in our freedom struggle. In 1978, a foundation stone was laid by no less a person than the former Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi for constructing a Satyagraha Memorial at Vakkom. Unfortunately, it is a sad thing to say that this memorial did not come up. The Human Resource Ministry should have extended financial help to construct this Satyagraha Memorial. The Plan to that effect was ready; the Municipality had given one acre of land; but till now, nothing has come up.

When we are celebrating the 50th year of Independence, it is our bounden duty to help construct the Satyagraha Memorial at Vakkom. Otherwise, we would be disrespecting the movement which was considered a very historic one in the southern part of our country. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE (Bilaspur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to put forth my view about constitution of Indian school of Mines for providing technical education to the workers engaged in the coal mines of Madhya Pradesh. No means for higher education for the people are available in the Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh and other parts of the country where maxium coal is produced. In view of the high quantity of coal production at these places Indian school of Mines should be established to provide education at higher technical level. The people living these areas are neglected in the field of higher technical education. In view of these conditions Indian School of Mines should be established in the Bilaspur district. . . .(Interruptions).

13.41 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, have you heard of an agitation where farmers are put to great hardships by their cultivations being destroyed ? Such an agitation is now taking place in some parts of India, especially in Kerala. This type of agitation has been seen, I think, only in Kerala and nowhere else. In Kerala, some persons under the leadership of one prominent party. . .

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Which is that party ?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: It is a prominent ruling party and

I think other parties are opposed to that. The most prominent ruling party in Kerala is giving lead to the agitation where in the cultivations of the poor and marginal farmers, whose cultivations are in their own property, are being rashly destroyed by the agitators saying that long time ago, this was a property where paddy was being cultivated and since that property has been converted for the use of other cultivations like coconut, plantain, etc., some people are taking law and order into their hands and are instigating it. They are entering into the property of the farmers and forcibly cutting off all the cultivations. The basic constitutional right is being questioned now. The unfortunate aspect is that the farmers are not being protected by the authorities. The Police and even the Government are simply standing as silent spectators. We have taken up the matter with the Central Government also. The hon. Minister for Agriculture had written a letter to the Chief Minister of Kerala but still, no action has been taken. Since it is cutting at the root of the fundamental right, the freedom of a person, more so of a farmer, I would submit that the Lok Sabha should be seized of the matter. It should be taken very seriously and we would like to have a response from the side of the Government also.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : It is a very serious matter. The entire farming community is in a lot of difficulty in the State of Kerala.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Our association may also be recorded.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : The CPI(M) workers have taken the law into their hands. The Police are silent spectators and are creating a lot of trouble. I would request the Minister for Agriculture to intervene in this matter. The law and order is deteriorating there. The Leader of the House is here. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : The Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture is here. We would like to have a response from the Minister. The senior Minister has already written a letter to our Chief Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Law and order is a State subject. You cannot raise it in this House. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Thomas, you have made your point.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

* Not Recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Banatwalla, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had given a notice to raise the issue of Sanjay Ghosh in the House. Till the day before yesterday, the Ministry of Home Affairs was not sure whether Sanjay Ghosh was alive or not but only the day before yesterday the Ministry of Home Affairs has confirmed the death of Sanjay Ghosh and the Minister of Home Affairs has stated that he has asked the State Government to arrest the ULFA Chief and he was going to inform the Interpol also. I do not understand how the Government of India is dealing with these issues. In the entire North-Eastern region, which includes all small states including Assam, you know that each and every State is affected by insurgency. At present there are eight private forces operating in Manipur itself and the Indian security forces have to fight against them and with the result many casualties have taken place from both sides and the ULFA issue also is not different from that. The ULFA struggle is a fight for freedom and they want a separate country and this fight is going on for a long time. There was a time when everybody knew about the insurgency in Kashmir and it was being said that Pakistan was interfering there and because of it, situation was becoming worse. At that time some people of North East who were in the forces, used to say that when the North-East would be engulfed into the fire of insurgency then the Kashmir issue would look like a child's play. Today, the North East is passing through that situation and the Government is giving orders to arrest ULFA Chief instead of giving a thought to these issues. These news are being published in newspapers but where is ULFA from where they are getting training. How they are managing training within the country and how much help they are getting from neighbouring countries ? Their forces have sophisticated weapons but who is providing finances for procuring these weapons and who is delivering these weapons to them in Assam ? Since one has to reach Assam via Burma or Bangladesh or through the routes within the country itself. From where these things are coming ? The Government is not prepared to discuss all these issues ?

Sanjay Ghosh was a very dedicated worker engaged in constructive work. He was a young chap and earlier, he did a lot of work in Rajasthan. Thereafter, he went to Assam which has a backward state for a long time and started the development work from Majoli village. According to information available with us there was a lot of corruption prevailing at Majoli village and he launched a campaign to fight against contractors and corrupt Government officials. Then suddenly, he started getting threatening calls

[Shri George Fernandes]

from them. He was asked to quit that place and when he refused to go from there then an allegation was made against him that he had misused the money. He is getting money from somewhere else and is engaged in forming a new type of society. When he called the meeting of all villagers and produced the accounts in front of those people then all those people including contractors and corrupt Government officials, who levelled allegations against him had no answer.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, one day he was "kidnapped" and the "ULFA" people told that they had not kidnapped him. They said that they had arrested him. How they could arrest him? He was arrested through kidnapping. But neither the State Government nor the Central Government took an initiative in this regard. As per information available with me, at least fifty thousand soldiers of India Army are engaged in Assam process to tackle with ULFA. Neither the Army nor the State Government or any vigilance department of the Central Government can do anything in this regard. Now, after the death of this person, today the Government of India have informed the Interpol and issued arrest warrant against a person. This is really a silly thing. Therefore, I would request the Minister of Home Affairs to highlight Sanjay Ghosh incident not only to this House but also to entire country so that all other voluntary organisations may know the truth because it is not safe to work in Assam. Today, all voluntary organisations and the entire country are worried at this incident. Therefore, I desire that the Minister of Home Affairs may explain the position in this regard.

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Sir, I am very thankful to you for your kind permission for raising a very important issue on democracy.

Sir, as you know, India is the largest democracy in the world. We have won our Independence not only because of our own strength but we have also won our Independence because of the International solidarity and support from outside. India is going to celebrate its 50th Anniversary of Independence. When we are going to celebrate our Independence and are going to strengthen our democracy, some lakhs of people in Bhutan are also struggling to win their democracy.

Sir, I know my limitations. Bhutan is a friendly country. We are not entitled and we would also not like to interfere in the internal affairs of any country. But democratic movement in Bhutan has assumed very great significance and proportion. More than one lakh Bhutanese people had to flee their country and are now living in exile in West

Bengal and Nepal. It has become a problem for the State of West Bengal also. The people are spread over the northern part of the State.

Sir, this democratic movement was being led by Shri Rongthong Phunle Dorji, who happens to be the President of the United Front for Democracy in Bhutan. He has been arrested in India on certain charges.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : He is a political personality. He is fighting for democracy in Bhutan. It is reported that . . . (Interruptions) I have not disturbed anybody.

Sir, It has been reported that the Government of Bhutan has demanded the extradition of Shri Dorji from India. He is facing trial in an extradition court. Even that being so, the Government of India has got the sole prerogative in the matter of taking a final decision. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, during the Zero Hour discussions should be held regarding the constituency problems of the MPs or such type of international problems should be raised.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat now.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : The Government of India is bound by the Constitution not to allow the extradition of Shri Dorji. If Shri Dorji is brought back to Bhutan then his life would be in danger. His wife has already written to some of us. We cannot, in India, allow somebody to go to the gallows because he is fighting as a political worker, as a political leader and is trying to free the people from their slavish existence in Bhutan.

Therefore, according to the law of the country, namely the Indian Extradition Act, the Government of India should intervene and see that a patriot, a democrat like Shri Dorji is protected. We believe in democracy because we are democrats. As our democrats had fought for the Independence and democracy of the country, we have to give solidarity for all democrats and all patriots all over the world. Therefore, I think, the House will support me in this case.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think, the entire House is one on this.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have sent an open letter to Prime Minister and several MPs

and have stated that if he is not released till the afternoon of 14th. . .(Interruptions). This Government has kept him in Beggars Home. His friends have to move the High Court to release him. They have also met with Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs but nothing has been mentioned about their talks. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : The Government should give its statement. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : On the night of 14th August. . .(Interruptions) I do not understand the logic behind the 14th and 15th August. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : We are on the way to struggle. The Government must intimate the factual position. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are talking about fiftieth year of Independence and in this country a man is arrested and sent to Bhutan to be hanged. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU : We have got the tradition of supporting the liberation struggle in Goa.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : The whole world supported the liberation struggle of our country and today if one man struggles for not only Independence but for his dialect which is known all over the country and five parties intend to fight against Monarchy. Therefore, I reiterate in this House if he is not released by the noon of 14th August, we will stage a dharna in front of Tihar Jail. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to raise an issue related to the Union Territory of Chandigarh. Our problem is that there is no legislature there. You know we have to face this problem in Union Territory since we have to raise their issues in the House. . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Have you noted this ?

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Let the Minister react to it. . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have said, he has noted down. He has taken note of the matter. It is a very serious matter.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, the Government is obliged to respect the sentiments of the House and of the Members. What more can we do ? I have taken note of this.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Chandigarh is a small Union Territory facing acute housing problem. You yourself know better that the people of the Union Territories have to face a lot of problems. They have to face a lot of problems due to non existence of Legislative Assembly. Therefore, it is the only forum where we can raise our demands. Due to shortage of accommodation, some people floated housing cooperative societies there and Chandigarh Administration launched a scheme to allot houses, flats and plots to the cooperative housing societies after taking money from them. Plots have been allotted to a number of societies but many societies did not get plots. The societies to which houses have been allotted were the societies consisting of IAS, IPS, officers and other influential, people. Rest of the people, some of whom were clerks, peons, small shopkeepers and lower grade employees formed their own cooperative housing society. They filed a case in the High Court when Chandigarh Administration did not allot them flats. The administration told them that they could provide flats instead of plots and they readily agreed to it and told the administration that the people were ready to deposit money. They are paying 15 to 25 per cent of the total amount but unfortunately, they are not being allotted houses even today. You are aware that a lower middle class person cannot purchase a house with his income in the present time of price hike. The houses are not available even at the cost of rupees 20 to 25 lakh and the members of the above cooperative housing society belong to economically weaker section of the society.

14.00 hrs.

I would like to request the Government that under the scheme formulated in 1991 and before that houses should be allotted to all those cooperative housing societies registered upto 1991 and those which have deposited the money and which are ready to deposit the same. There is no shortage of land in Chandigarh. Land is available there and in case, there is shortage of land then it can be acquired because the policy of multistoreyed flats is being implemented every where. These people are ready for this also. They are saying that they may be given flats if plots are not available. They are ready to take flats.

Through you, Sir, I would like to request the Union Government that their demand be acceded to and directions should be issued to the Chandigarh Administration to allot houses to them immediately. They are ready to pay the outstanding amount. Amount should be recovered from them.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai-South Central) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Railway Minister visited Bombay

[Shri Mohan Rawale]

a few days back. He made an announcement that job would be provided in Railways to one member of each family of the dalits killed in police firing on 11th July at Ramabai Nagar and Ghatkopar in Mumbai. We respect and welcome the sentiments of Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji. But I want to say that Ram Vilas Paswan ji does not represent any particular section of the society but he is the Railway Minister of the entire country. . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak on the topic for which you have given notice.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I am speaking about the same. The hon. Railway Minister had gone there and my notice is about that only.

There was a bomb blast in Bhatinda also. I want to ask the hon. Railway Minister whether he would provide job to one family member of the persons killed therein ? There was a bomb blast in Mumbai. There are bomb blasts all over the country. I welcome the announcement made by the hon. Railway Minister. I am requesting not only the Ministry of Railways but all the Ministries to accept this policy. . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak about it only when you speak on supplementry Demands.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I have the opportunity, so I am speaking. Employment should be provided to one member of the family of those innocent people who are killed in bomb blasts. Employment should be provided by no only the Ministry of Railways but by all the Ministries. There should not be any discrimination about it.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are fully aware that Kanpur was known as an industrial city of North India. But unfortunately some trade unions came to us with flags of revolt in their hands and today it is in a dilapidated condition. Many efforts are afoot for its rehabilitation. There are about 350 Tanneries engaged in leather export and lakhs of people belonging to minorities and scheduled castes are working in these tanneries. Uttar Pradesh Government has provided facilities such as powersupply, roads, drainage etc. in order to develop infrastructure facilities in the said region. The south districts of Kanpur are situated on the bank of the Ganges. This scheme was sent to the Union Government in August 1996. But it is still pending due to indifferent attitude of the Union Government. Not only this but several schemes sent by Uttar Pradesh Government pertaining to the departments of irrigation and public works are also pending with Union Government. Under this scheme, power supply was supposed to be made in two phases. For this purpose,

rupees 8 lakh 60 thousand were demanded from the Union Government in regard to which an assurance was also given. This is pending since August 1996.

Through you, I would like to demand the Union Government's Ministry of Textiles to release rupees 8 crore 60 lakh immediately for expansion and strengthening leather industry of Kanpur wherein lakhs of people belonging to minorities and scheduled castes are engaged and which is a major source of foreign exchange. Therefore, the Union Government should clear the said project and release rupees 8 crore and 60 lakh immediately.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir the Government of India have passed the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. As a result, whatever forest land was there in possession of the State Government or where forests were not existing. . .(Interruptions) Please keep quiet. No forests were existing there. The State Government had stopped according any approval for undertaking any sort of construction work there. The mines which were operating around the cities for several years have been closed under this Act. The State Government can neither lay telephone lines, electricity lines nor water line there and not even a single house can be constructed there. For that reason, there is immense dissatisfaction among the people.

The State Government has demanded that if the land is less than 50 hectares and if such a construction work is to be done, then it should be allowed to do so. It is a very important issue, related to life and subsistence of the people. Therefore, I want that for lands less than 50 hectares, the State Government should be free to take any decision. I hope the Government would certainly take a decision on it. . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Joshiji, it is all right. Your support is inherent in it.

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA (Surat) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House towards a very serious problem in Gujarat. In the previous week, a thorough discussion took place on drought and floods and the Government had given an assurance to provide help immediately, in view of the floods in Gujarat.

I undertook a two days visit to the flood affected areas and found that no relief measures had been started by the State Government there. Even today, the farmers, who have been hit hard by the floods, cannot work on their fields and their standing crops have been damaged. Relief has not been provided even to the jhuggi-jhopri dwellers. Apart from this, necessary measures are yet to be undertaken to repair the damaged roads and bridges. I feel that Central assistance should be provided. The State Government has sought an assistance of Rs. 665 crore. But, except the

assistance from the calamity relief fund, no other assistance has been provided. Although it was promised to provide assistance in instalments, in advance. Due to this, the State Government is yet to undertake any relief measures, although loss due to flood and drought is to the tune of hundreds of crores of rupees.

Through you, I would like to submit to the Government that, due to the severe floods in Gujarat, thousands of farmers and jhuggi-dwellers have nothing to eat. I demand that the Central Government should provide Rs. 665 crores sought by the State Government. Assistance should also be provided to the State Government by our Rural Development Departments which have millions of rupees for various schemes, so that it would be possible for the farmers and the other flood affected people to make both ends meet. This would also help in repairing the damage caused to the infrastructure. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There has been enough discussion on floods. Now, no more discussion on it.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR (Begusarai) : No flood relief measures have been undertaken in Bihar. People are dying. The situation is very alarming. . . (Interruptions) People are dying due to malaria and no one is paying any heed. Relief is yet to be provided.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : My name has not been called. Earlier also, I have been raising this issue. . . (Interruptions)

MR CHAIRMAN : Joshiji, you speak daily. You may speak tomorrow.

[English]

Now, we shall take up item No. 9, Matters under Rule 377.

Shri Chintaman Wanaga.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing is going on record except what Shri Chintaman Wanaga says.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : I will take only one minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may speak tomorrow. I will also support you.

* Not Recorded.

14.11 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need for Construction of Railway Line between Dahanu and Nasik, Maharashtra

[English]

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA (Dahanu) : Dahanu Lok Sabha Constituency covers tribal belt of Thane and Nasik districts in Maharashtra. Even after independence, this tribal belt remains undeveloped, educationally, economically and socially. The State Government as well as the Central Government have not paid adequate attention to this belt. This tribal belt is having hilly and jungle area and people from this area are still living in miserable condition, having no source of income. Most of them are uneducated and jobless. They are suffering from malnutrition. They have to migrate for earning their livelihood from one place to another. Number of schemes of Government for upliftment of tribals have failed due to the absence of proper transport. No industrialist would prefer to come to this area in the absence of road and railway communications. This can be developed by linking Dahanu-Nasik Railway. This railway can reduce the time and distance from West to the Southern States and benefit carrying goods and passengers. It will also benefit the proposed Marine Harbour of Vadhavan.

I request the Union Government to construct railway line between Dahanu and Nasik with a view to develop the most backward tribal belt of Dahanu Lok Sabha constituency.

(ii) Need for uninterrupted supply of gas and power to the industries in Taj Trapazium Zone

[Translation]

PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' (Jalesar) : A large part of this area of my Jalesar Constituency falls under the Taj Trapazium Zone. Lakhs of people were employed in foundaries, bangle and 'ghungroc' industries. But due to the problem of pollution and in compliance of the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, most of the industries have been closed down in Agra, Tundla, Ferozabad and Jalesar. As a result, about ten lakh people have been rendered jobless.

I request the Central Government to immediately ensure supply of gas and electricity round the clock in the Taj Trapezium Zone and to the industries of that area, as per the Supreme Court judgement so as to protect glass and ghungroo industries.