

sented a scheme to the hon. Finance Minister and hon. Prime Minister so as to make these banks profitable. According to the said scheme, there was demand for setting up of a Rural Bank of India instead of Regional Rural Banks. In this connection a delegation of five MPs met the hon. Prime Minister on 31 July, 1991. The memorandum contained the signatures of 60 MPs. It is for the first time in the history of Trade Union Movement in the country that the All India Rural Bank Workers Organisation is struggling hard for setting up of a Rural Bank of India for increasing the profit of rural Banks in the larger interest of the institution and the society. An indefinite dharna is going to be staged in front of the Banking Division of Ministry of Finance on 2nd and 3rd March, 1992. A nationwide strike is also proposed to be called on 31st March, 1992. It is amazing that the Government which claims to improve the financial condition of the country is not paying any heed to it and is neglecting the national interest and the interests of the society completely. The Government should make a clear statement in this connection. *(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday serious misgivings were raised about the import and export of wheat. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had promised to have a statement made by the Commerce Minister today. I think this was a formal announcement made by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs yesterday. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): He says he has no information.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): That is why I said they are all functioning on their own. Nobody knows what is happening. Even Shri M.M. Jacob does not know what is happening there. *(Interruptions)*.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Detailed information in this respect

has been sought from the Ministry of Civil Supplies. They are responsible and answerable for it.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: I have asked the Ministry of agriculture to give a reply in this connection.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The Law Minister and the Finance Minister do not know what is happening. What sort of a Government is this. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Yesterday, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs said that it would be responded to by the Commerce Minister.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Does he know anything?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: In this connection, when the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs says that the Government has given the information, let us accept that he is right. It is the collective responsibility of the Government. You have understood the gravity of the matter. You also gave a hint to the Government. Yesterday it was said that this matter concerns the Ministry of Commerce. The Minister of Commerce is present here. Later on the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs says that no such information was given. Then what can be a greater contempt of the House than this?

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Issues were also listed there. They framed the issues and decided that so and so will give the reply including the report about Cuba. I would also like to know as to what price was fixed for import.

[*Translation*]

At what price, we imported and exported the wheat. The Government has made an assurance that it would make a statement in this regard but even today it

appears that nobody in the Government is prepared to make any statement.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Today itself I have written a letter to the Hon. Prime Minister in this regard. It is a very serious issue. Statement must be made just now.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The matter is a very serious one. Does the Commerce Minister know that such a statement had been made on behalf of the Government and will the Commerce Minister make a statement? (*Interruptions*) Sir, he is sitting here and he should respond. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, the Commerce Minister is here and he should respond. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: The Government should at least disclose the rates in American Dollars at which the wheat was exported and the prices at which it is being imported. The Government must disclose the export and import prices of wheat. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday this issue was discussed in the House for more than 15 minutes. Hon. Members of both the sides as well as you expressed your concern over this issue. We are levelling a charge against the Government as to why it is not making a statement. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: If the Government is not prepared to come out with the facts, then I am prepared to disclose the price in American Dollars at which the wheat was exported to other countries and the price too at which it is being imported. Till date 6 lakh tonnes of wheat has been exported to Jordan and other African nations. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: What

reservations have the Government got in coming out with these details. Information must be made available when the whole House is expressing its concern over it.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the condition of only one year. When there is a shortage of foodgrains in the country, then why is it being exported at the same. Time this paradoxical situation is not at all clear.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down and listen, what has he got to say.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hear him. He can also give the information.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point. Let us hear his response.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARMANGALAM): Sir, let me make one thing very clear. I had never stated yesterday and a copy of the debate is in front of me, that the Commerce Minister will make a statement. No. All that I had said was that since it was raised yesterday and that this has to be brought to the notice of the Commerce Minister, I said I would bring it to the notice of the Commerce Minister. I had categorically stated that we have no problem and we will definitely come back to the House. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Come back to the House!

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARMANGALAM: Yes, Sir. We said that. All that I had said was that we will come back to the House. I had never stated that a statement will be made by a particular Minister. (*Inter-*

ruptions) There is no problem. We will come back to the House. I can read the debate also. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Let understand the meaning of those phrases.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: What does he wants to say?

MR. SPEAKER: Would you like to respond Mr. Commerce Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, with great respect, I would like to say that I am sorry; I was not here yesterday. Therefore, I was not aware of what was said yesterday. (*Interruptions*) I was not aware of what happened yesterday. I have read the newspapers and the newspaper have carried a statement that a statement will be made in the House. I have no hesitation....(*Interruptions*) Sir, let them first finish the interruptions. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman & Nicobar Islands): Sir, they do not want to hear. They want to malice the Government. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: If the hon. Speaker directs and if the House wishes, surely the Government will make a statement. Since I have been apprised about it today, I will consult the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and a statement will be made, as I understand from what Shri Advani said, on the decision to export wheat and on the decision to import wheat. And a reference was made to the request by Cuba for sale of wheat and rice. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: United States have refused to sell wheat because India is supplying it to Cuba.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: That is what I am saying. On the request of Cuba for sale of wheat and rice and the reported statement of the United States that they will not sell us wheat because we have agreed to sell rice to Cuba. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Why don't you wait for one minute?

SHRI NIRMAL KANT CHATTERJEE: Shri Chidambaram has got it wrong.

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete at least.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Do a favour and sit down please.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have enumerated the points as I have understood from the observations made. If there are any other points on which hon. Speaker desires that we should make a statement, we will be quite happy to make a statement. Which Minister will make the statement will be decided by the Parliamentary Affairs Minister after consulting the Minister concerned. Somebody will make the statement.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Whosoever is the concerned Minister will make the statement.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (CHIMUR): Your primary concern is the outcome or the intricacies? You will get the information.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Yesterday we were told by the hon. Agriculture Minister that the Commerce Minister is really the concerned Minister. But today we found Commerce Minister is not concerned and some other Minister is concerned. Have you thought of it? Up-till now have you decided who is the concerned Minister?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We said a statement will be made.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: It is for the Government to reply. We would reply any moment. We will see that the concerned

Minister will reply....(*Interruptions*).....I would like to know whether you are interested in the Minister or the statement.

SHRISOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Who is the concerned Minister ?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: It is the right of the Government to decide.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): The Agriculture Minister yesterday said that the Commerce Minister is involved in this affair ! Therefore he should make the statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Please don't talk to each other from one bench to the other. Talk through the Chair.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: They are by-passing you !

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I don't like that by-passing !

Anyway, yesterday we were discussing three issues and all the three issues attracted a lot of attention of the hon. Members in the House. The first issue was, when the decision to import the wheat was taken and the date - Members wanted to know. The second issue was, what was the import price and the export price and the difference between the two. The third issue was, whether the United States of America had refused to give wheat to India on the ground that India is supplying rice to Cuba. These were the three points on which the members were agitated.

It is not necessary for the Speaker or the Members to say that the answer should come from one Minister or the other. Any Minister who is properly briefed can come to the House and can answer. That hon. Minister should not say that he does not have the information. That is the only condition.

The Members were certainly very much agitated and I do think that it is a point on which the Government also would like to respond properly. It is in the interest of the

Government, it is in the interest of the Parliament, it is in the interest of the people have information on this point. I expect that the information would be given by this evening, if possible, or Monday before one o'clock.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Since you have given the ruling, there is only one point I would like to rise.

MR. SPEAKER: No, it is not a ruling.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Since the Minister could not reply yesterday properly we should be allowed to ask questions as a very very special case on that statement. That should be done in your discretionary rights, so that more information can come.

MR. SPEAKER: No, please.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 2nd of October at the meeting of National Integration Council, it was decided that Ayodhya issue will be resolved under the Law through negotiations. As per our information, a wall is being erected on the disputed land. This action is likely to endanger the communal harmony and peace prevailing at the moment. Was well as the country would like to know about the map that has been cleared but not made public till now and whether the map pertains to the disputed land and whether the map in anyway falls into the purview of the court? I just want only these details. I do not know whether the leader of the opposition has the information about it or not. I would like to know whether the consensus arrived at the meeting of the National Integration Council is being observed or not. I wish that it should not be violated in any way. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, has he paid a visit to the site or is he quoting hearsay? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, construction of wall in Ayodhya has again become a