

[*Translation*]

Absorption of Officials Engaged in Connection with Bhopal Gas Tragedy

7363. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many officials were employed by Indian Council for Medical Research in regard to the Bhopal Gas Tragedy;

(b) whether in a meeting convened under the Chairmanship of the then Cabinet Secretary on September 29, 1988, it was decided that the persons appointed in connection with the Bhopal Gas Tragedy will be absorbed against other posts in the Government of India;

(c) if so, the total number of such employees and the number out of them absorbed so far in the Government services; and

(d) if not, the schemes of the Government in regard to the absorption of these employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir. However, in the said meeting dated 29.9.1988, it was decided that the Ministry of Health would examine and prepare a scheme for absorbing the scientific personnel engaged by the ICMR for their studies in Bhopal. Under the scheme these persons can be offered appointment in the Government provided they possess the necessary qualifications on their release by the Indian Council of Medical Research.

(c) and (d). The Indian Council of Medical

Research has informed that 245 individuals were employed from time to time in various research projects of the ICMR in connection with Bhopal Gas Tragedy. Further that the Bio-data etc. of the employees seeking absorption have been submitted in the office of the Principal Secretary to Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Pension to Arjun Award Winners

7364. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of pension given to the Arjun Award winner sportsmen;

(b) whether some of them are not claiming the pension;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is a demand to increase the amount of pension; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) There is no scheme for grant of pension to Arjun Awardees. However, under the National Welfare Fund for sportspersons, monthly pension of upto Rs. 1500 may be given to outstanding sportspersons if they are living in indigent circumstances. These pensions are granted for limited periods. Such pensions have been sanctioned to four Arjun Awardees or their families, so far.

(b) to (e). Does not arise.

Statement correcting reply to unstarred Question no. 5391 dated 30-3-1992 regarding Recruitment SC/ST employees in health Ministry

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY

AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): I invite attending to the reply given to the Lok Sabha unstarred Question No. 5291 on 31-3-1992 regarding recruitment of SC/ST employees in Health Ministry. In the reply pertaining to part (a), (b) and (c) of the Question, inadvertently some error was committed. The correct information is as follow:

<i>Question</i>	<i>Reply</i>																												
(a) the number of candidates belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes recruited by his Ministry under special recruitment drive during last one year;	During the special recruitment drive ending 31.5.1991, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare recruited 126 and 75 candidates belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, respectively.																												
(b) the category for which they have been selected; and	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">Gr.A</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Gr.B</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Gr.C</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Gr.D</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SC:</td> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">90</td> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> <td style="text-align: center;">126</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ST:</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">54</td> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> <td style="text-align: center;">75</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">25</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">144</td> <td style="text-align: center;">28</td> <td style="text-align: center;">201</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						Gr.A	Gr.B	Gr.C	Gr.D	Total	SC:	18	4	90	14	126	ST:	7	-	54	14	75		25	4	144	28	201
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(c) the category-wise total number of posts lying vacant in his Ministry at present?	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">Gr.A</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Gr.B</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Gr.C</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Gr.D</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SC:</td> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">86</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ST:</td> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">95</td> <td style="text-align: center;">17</td> <td style="text-align: center;">132</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">28</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">181</td> <td style="text-align: center;">26</td> <td style="text-align: center;">242</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">(As on 10.3.1992)</p>						Gr.A	Gr.B	Gr.C	Gr.D	Total	SC:	13	2	86	9	10	ST:	15	5	95	17	132		28	7	181	26	242
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The inconvenience caused is regretted.

Statement Correcting Reply to Unstarred Question No. 4331 Dated 24.3.1992 Regarding Land for Lalit Kala Akademi

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): I invite attention to the English and Hindi version of the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4331 for 24.3.1992 regarding Land for Lalit Kala Akademi.

While no formal proposal has been made to the Maharashtra Government regarding allotment of land, the Chairman, Lalit Kala Akademi has taken up the matter with the various functionaries of the Maharashtra State Government for allotment of land for a regional Centre of the Lalit Kala Akademi. Formal response from the State Government allotting the land and abiding by other conditions for setting up a regional centre is still awaited. This correction statement is submitted by way of

amplification of facts, which were noted from records only recently; hence the delay in laying the statement.

Inconvenience is regretted.

12.00 hrs

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LA KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I am citing a glaring example of the blatant violation of Prime Minister's orders, particularly, by the Finance Ministry as also various Ministries of the Central Government, which have adopted an insensitive and improper attitude towards States and created a wedge in the centre state relations.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in October, 1991 in the three districts of Uttar Pradesh, viz. Uttarakashi, Tehri and Chamoli there was a loss of nearly Rs. 400 crore and nearly 750 people lost their lives. The Prime Minister issued the directive to send a Central team to the affected areas to make an assessment of the damage and to report as to how much additional financial assistance is to be provided to the Government of Uttar Pradesh as relief.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister sent the information about this decision to the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh on the 23rd March, 1992 and in response to it, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh sent a letter of thanks to the Prime Minister. With that begins the story that on the 2nd April, Under Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Shri R.B. Kutty, issued an order under his signature announcing a 7 Member Central Team to be sent to the State and I possess a copy of the concerned order which was sent to various Ministers including the

Finance Ministry. But you will be surprised to know that only the next day i.e. on 3rd April, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Finance Shri N.P. Bagchi wrote a letter to Shri B.K. Das, who is Joint Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat. In the last para of the letter he says:

[*English*]

"It has been our experience that whenever a central team visits the State, it invariably recommends additional assistance over and above the Central contribution to the fund which is in accordance with the recommendation of the 9th Finance Commission. Therefore, Centre is not in a position to bear additional burden resulting from the recommendations of the Central team. It was in this background that we have expressed our inability to the Ministry of Agriculture to depute officers on the Central team visiting the States."

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to inform this House that a team was appointed to assess the losses in Uttar Pradesh on the directives from the Prime Minister, the team is organised, but the Finance Minister says that if it sends a team there, it shall have to recommend additional assistance, so it would not be sending a team there. This way the orders of the Prime Minister are being violated and it becomes quite clear from it as to what sort of treatment is being given to the States by the Centre. I would like to add that the Order is not only for Uttar Pradesh but it is written in it. "Central Team visiting the States" It means that it will not visit any other state in future also, let the Prime Minister go on issuing any directive to any State. I would like to say that

the Para 6 (18) of the recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission provides that if the loss due to any calamity is too much, the natural calamity should be handled at the national level and provisions should be made for special financial assistance. The Prime Minister decided to provide additional assistance to U.P. in accordance with the same para 6 (18). May I know whether the Government can function in this manner, when the Finance Minister is guarding the coffers like a cobra coiling over it. Will the States continue to live at his mercy. The Prime Minister should come forward with a reply as to the conditions under which his orders were neglected.

[English]

SHRIMATIMALINIBHATTACHARAYA (Jadavpur): Sir, it has appeared in *the Times of India*, *Economic Times* and other Papers that the Union Carbide Company is selling off its holdings in India, ostensibly to raise up to seventeen million to set up a hospital for the treatment of the gas victims. This is being done at a time when the Supreme Court, by its judgment on 3.10.91, has revoked the criminal immunity granted to Union Carbide Company by the earlier settlement of February, 1989 and when criminal proceedings have been initiated against the UCC. The Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bhopal has already proclaimed UCC, the accused No. 10 as absconding in the Bhopal gas leak disaster criminal case, and proclamation to this effect has already been published in *Washington Post* and *Times of India*. Also, a non-bailable arrest warrant has been issued against Warren Anderson, the then Chairman of UCC, to initiate extradition proceedings against him. This rouses suspicion that attempts of the Union Carbide Company to sell off its holdings at this stage is only a pretext which might enable them subsequently to escape

any financial penalty that may be imposed on them by the Indian judiciary.

It may be mentioned here that originally, in 1986, the Indian Government, as the sole legal representative of the gas victims, had announced that it would claim \$3,000 million as damages. In view of this, the Government's subsequent acceptance of the Supreme Court's settlement of the paltry sum of \$470 million has failed to satisfy the victims as being inadequate and arbitrary. Contributing an additional \$17 million which is peanuts for a company like UCC to build up a hospital, has some kind of token atonement of their sins perhaps, is, to say the least, an insult to the victims, apart from the fact that it also is an act of defiance against the Indian Judiciary. It is all the more strange that the hon. Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers, in answer to a supplementary question that was asked by me on 25.3.92, said: "We are not thinking of prosecuting anyone". When the CBI is already helping criminal proceedings against the Union Carbide Company, can the Minister make a statement of this kind? That is the question that I would submit to you.

There is today a rally of the gas victims in the capital in the name of justice that has been long denied to the gas victims, the Government should come out with a statement and say whether they are willing to freeze the UCC's assets in India and help to initiate extradition proceedings against Warren Anderson (*Interruptions*)

SHRIBASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): The Government should respond to it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Sir, we have raised this issue again and again. There should be some response.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I and Shri Saifuddin Choudhury had raised this issue some days back that the orders of the Judicial Magistrate should be complied with. We have also made a demand for the extradition of Mr. Anderson in order to maintain the dignity and respect of Indian Law but it is not being done. Reports appear in the U.S. newspapers that Mr. Anderson is innocent. The people of that country say that the Government of India does not have the courage to obtain his extradition. There is a question of freeze also. It is multi-national company. The power of the U.S. Government is at its back. The political question also arises. Shri Kumaramangalam is present here and he is listening to what we are saying. Will this Government bow before Union Carbide? Will there be no action on the orders of the Judicial Magistrate who has said that he should be arrested and brought here? Most of the victims of this incident have staged a dharna today. Eight thousands people died and 40-50 thousand people are nearly dying for which the Union Carbide is responsible. So it is the question of dignity and respect of India. The Government should at once make a statement about the decision of the Union Carbide that it will freeze its subsidiaries here and set up a hospital. The Union Carbide is a multi-national company and the U.S. Government is at its back. It is because of this threat that the decision of the Judicial Magistrate of Bhopal is not being implemented.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): I support what Shri Rabi Ray and Shrimati Bhattacharya, have said. I want to raise a question on the independence of the press. There is terrible assault on the press at many places in this country.

MR. SPEAKER: It is another issue.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: It is very important.

MR. SPEAKER: I will call your name afterwards.

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): Sir, this matter has been raised, time and again, in this House. The real question that is involved is to uphold the dignity of our courts. The Government has to be very responsible to maintain it. I now want to know what action the Government has taken after the Chief Judicial Magistrate gave his order and declared that Mr. Anderson is an absconder and later on issued arrest warrant. I want to know whether they have taken up the matter with the U.S. Government to start extradition proceedings or not. This is very important.

Now, in the criminal case that has been filed against this company and personally against Mr. Anderson it is said that they are responsible for the killing of at least 4,000 people in that gas leak disaster that took place in Bhopal. Compared to the issue of Libyan suspects- whose crime has not been proved and still the U.S.A. is forcing Libya to extradite the two persons- is Bhopal not a big issue? Sanctions have been imposed against Libya on the bombing of the aircraft case. Then on what right U.S.A. would oppose extraditing Mr. Anderson? We should take up this matter with the U.S. Government and ask for the extradition of Mr. Anderson so that a proper trial can be conducted in our country and justice can be done to the victims and also to their relatives and to the people of this country. This is very important. I want to know whether this matter has been taken up with the U.S. Government and also what action the Government is taking in this matter. (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This matter was raised in this House 15 days back. The Government has not responded. I want to know what steps the Government is taking to arrest Mr. Anderson.

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Malini Bhattacharya belongs to your party. She spoke just now.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a discussion on the Bhopal gas tragedy has taken place in the House many a time. Still there are thousands of people in Bhopal who have not got full protection nor have they been provided any health facility. Under such circumstances and in the light of the recent Press reports that the Union Carbide is selling off all its holdings to set up hospital whereas the claims of gas victims have not been settled as yet, thousands of people have died, the decision of the Government should come forward as to what is their line of action? Have all the cases of claims been settled or whether they have been given full permission, how many cases are pending in the courts? After all, what is the factual position? Why are they selling off their holdings, I would like to know about it all. The Government should make a statement on it. Thousand of people are still facing crisis. Demonstrations are being held.

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Government should respond. The Bhopal Court has given the Judgment for arresting Anderson. What action the Government has initiated to arrest Anderson? Why the Government is silent? (*Interruptions*) The Law Minister is here. He should respond. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, what did the U.S. Government do? A very senior Minister is present. He can respond. Every day we are coming up against this that we feel helpless before the stance of the United States Government. Every day this coming up in this House. We want to know the response of the Government. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Now we allowed you to bring this matter to the notice of the Government, you have brought it to the notice of the Government.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:

Let the Government respond. We will sit down immediately. (*Interruptions*).

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roseria): The Government should come out with something in this connection today or tomorrow. Is there any institution called Government or not? Even on such a serious issue, the Government is not coming out with any statement. I think that right now facts are not available with the Government... (*Interruptions*). The Government is more engrossed in the Congress (1) 's internal politics. The Government reacts even on minor issues, but on such a major and serious issue the Government must say something if not today, later on. It must say some -thing. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Government is keeping silence. (*Interruptions*). We want to know whether the extradition proceedings have already been started.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: The very senior Minister, Shri Arjun Singh, is there, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is also there. Let them respond.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: We want to know why they are not responding. (*interruptions*).

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Bhopal Court has given the judgment. We want to know the action taken by the Government. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Now, what is the fact on this point? Please collect it and inform the House.

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

KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I will obtain all the full facts and let you know.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: When? Today?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, now please sit down.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: At least it should be done before the end of the day. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let the information be given to the House.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise an issue here which might cause a storm in the House, but there is no other option. Fresh onslaught has been launched on the press in the country.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he gave a similar assurance earlier in the House that after verification of facts, he will come out with details. I raised the issue of sufferings of the Indian students studying in USSR as a result of its disintegration. On your direction, the hon. Minister had promised to make a statement, but till date no statement has been made....

MR. SPEAKER: There is no question of merely making a statement. I had asked the Government to render all assistance to the students in USSR.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: We want to know as to what type of assistance has been given to them. Will you please find out?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That we will find out. We have gone one step ahead, not information.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): They have been given help. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, attack on the press in the country means attack on the Constitution of India. For the last few days attempts have been underway to throttle through various means the freedom of speech and freedom of expression guaranteed under Article - 19(1) - (A) of the Constitution. I do not want to go into the history, but whenever any journalist is attacked by terrorists in Punjab or at any other place, it provides us an opportunity to raise hue and cry against it and also to raise the issue in the House. However, if the Government itself perpetuates such an attack or even a stronger attack than that, then where should we raise our voice against it? The question now stands at this point. A journalist of Madras, South India, is living underground in Delhi for fear of arrest against an arrest warrant issued against him. Arrest warrant had been issued because within the Legislative Assembly.....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, Mr. Fernandes.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am not referring to the name of any Legislative Assembly.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am allowing you to raise this issue outside the House. If it relates to anything done by any Legislature, we shall have to decide whether we have to take it up here.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr.

Speaker, Sir, will the hon. Ministers demand arrest and production of press persons handcuffed in the House if they report tomorrow that the Minister maintained silence like a dumb in the House during the Question Hour when Anderson issue was being debated upon. There is a limit to everything. Sir, you at least need not give sermons about the Constitution of India. Sir, you must be remembering that subclause-2 was added later on to the article -19, wherein right to freedom a fundamental right is enshrined in the Constitution of India. In the first amendment to the constitution, after two years of the Constitution coming into effect, subclause -2 was added to the article. Sir, you please go through it

[*English*]

"Nothing in sub-clause (a) of clause (1) shall affect the operation of any existing law, or prevent the State from making any law, in so far as such law impose reasonable restrictions"

[*Translation*]

Next thing is quite important.

[*English*]

"on the exercise of the right conferred by the said sub-clause in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India",

[*Translation*]

How do the Ministers behave here

[*English*]

"the security of the State",

[*Translation*]

If they kept num like a dumb.

[*English*]

-that does not affect the sovereignty and the integrity of India, the security of the state..

[*Translation*]

They wrote that they maintained silence like a dumb person.

[*English*]

he is defending and protecting the security of the State, if anything he is not offending it.

[*Translation*]

Behaviour does not make any difference to him.

[*English*]

"friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offense."

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, nobody outside can put curbs on my freedom of speech and on freedom of expression of the press in anyway. However, if Constitution of India is violated in any part of the country and the Constitutional and moral rights are sought to be curbed, then.....

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: To protect the fundamental rights of the citizen, the Constitution has provided a machinery. Under Article 32 and under Article 226, anybody who is aggrieved can go to the Court of Law and protect himself.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: What for are we here. I took on oath right to defend the Constitution.

[*English*]

I have taken an oath to defend this Constitution standing there right in front of you.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not like this.

SHRIGEROGE FERNANDES: I agree that if this House...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI M.R.KADAMBUR JANAR-THANAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is assaulting the contempt of the House. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: If they themselves feel guilty, then what can I do..

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has not referred to the State Assembly. To that extent, I have not allowed him.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He is doing it in a very intelligent manner. If you want to do it in the same intelligent manner, I will allow you. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not mentioned any name. I have not even referred to the name of —*—**. When I have not even referred to his or her name, so why are you so much agitated? *(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir., we can go to the court in case provisions of Article 226 are violated. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Oh -Yes.

SHRIGEOGE FERNANDES: But the question of approaching the court will arise when in safeguarding this Constitution and people working under it, we...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question whether the law is implemented properly or not cannot be seen by this House.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: -I am not on law but on the Constitution.

MR. SPEAKER: On the constitutionality of anything done in this House is also decided by the court.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we cannot leave on courts the responsibility of conducting this House and fulfilling our responsibilities towards the Constitution.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can amend the Constitution if you like in whatever fashion you want. But once you have the Constitution, the interpretation of the Constitution is the responsibility of the Supreme Court.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, I am not trying to interpret the Constitution. I am saying, I have the fundamental right under the Constitution. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.R.KADAMBUR JANAR-THANAN: Does the Constitution allow to degrade to the dignity of the House? *(Interruptions)*

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

**Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not going to stretch this dispute too far. (*Interruptions*) I am not going to argue here about the courts (*Interruptions*) I know that you have no such intention, but in view of the present situation in the country and particularly the attacks being made on journalism, as the Speaker of Lok Sabha, it becomes your responsibility to safeguard the Constitution by intervening in these matters. I do not want to break the conventions of the House or to infringe the rights of any State Assembly. But I condemn the four-sided attack being made at the political level on the freedom of press and reporting in newspapers. I want your protection.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speaker, sir, Shri George Fernandes has raised a very important issue, but there are some limitations about expressing views on it. I also agree with what you have said and what Shri George Fernandes understands. But it is also a fact that if there is any attack on journalism anywhere, this House should be concerned about it and we are one of them, who had suffered on account of it. During emergency, the biggest blow to democracy was the attempt made to curb the freedom of the Press and not the arrest of lakhs of people. In this matter, you have said that there is a provision that one can approach the court, but you are also aware that court has its own limitations and Mr. Speaker, sir, therefore, you are the only person who can take initiative in this matter.

This issue is being discussed for the past few years. The reporters sitting in the press gallery are not aware of their limitations. They are asked any time not to record this or that and due to this reason, this issue has been raised here several times, which I would like to repeat today that in view of the freedom of the Press, it is necessary to codify the jurisdictions of the Parliament and the State Legislatures so that the rights and privileges are known to the people and for this you are the right person to take any initiative. If the privileges are codified a

solution can be found to such.... *..... issues which have cropped up today, otherwise, if such issues are taken to the courts without codification they will also say they do not want to have friction with the State Assemblies and therefore, they cannot give you justice even though they want. Due to this reason, it is for you and the Parliament to play a role in this regard and while supporting them I would like to say that the entire House should be concerned that the freedom of the Press is not curbed in any way. The journalists should have the freedom of expression and fulfill their duties with full responsibility.

SHRI RABI BAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a very important issue. I am in great distress. I will not be able to say this. As you are in the chair, how can I say whether the Parliament is becoming irrelevant today. But with great distress, I am saying this to you that we debated the issue yesterday and Shri Atal ji and Shri George Fernandes also participated in it. It has come out on the front page of all the leading newspapers today that in regard to the decision of President Yelstin, the Russian Space Agency, Globe Cosmos, has announced in Moscow that-

[English]

"The decision to suspend transfer of rocket technology was taken under duress from US."

[Translation]

I am saying this, because it has been said by a very responsible officer of the Russian Government that -

[English]

US had threatened to impose trade sanctions on Russia if the contract signed in 1991 was not revoked."

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are distressed, because even though the discussion on the

External Affairs Ministry went on for the entire day, neither the Prime Minister nor the concerned Minister was present here....

MR. SPEAKER: They were with the President of Turkmenistan, who has come on a visit.

SHRIRABIRAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am saying this, because this issue was discussed in the House yesterday also and the Government is giving its final decision today. Infact, Russia has been pressurized on account of us it is our friend and it is in distress today. The way Soviet Russia has been disintegrated, it has made them weak, but for us they immensely resisted the pressure put by US. Mr. Speaker, Sir, a discussion on Nagaland is scheduled for today and that is why, there can be no discussion on External Affairs Ministry today. It was told by the hon. Minister yesterday that a delegation had been sent there. In spite of a delegation being present there, the Russian Government is taking such a decision. This decision to suspend transfer of rocket technology has been taken under duress from United States. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the time is not far when trade sanctions will also be imposed on us. Sir, when it has already been announced by Moscow, why the Government is still silent. Is the Parliament not authorized to ask for an answer from the Government? Will it take 3 days to give an answer Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was nice that you allowed a 90 minute discussion on the issue yesterday, but what is the result? They are creating tension in this way and Ms. Carla Hills is threatening from US. It means that they are pressurizing Russia to keep us under duress and are saying -

[*English*]

Under duress from United States of America.

[*Translation*]

What does this mean? Mr. Speaker,

Sir, that is why I am requesting you that before starting the discussion on Nagaland, please call the hon. Prime Minister here and he should explain the factual position while taking the people and the Parliament into confidence. The Government has not yet given any clarification regarding the Russian Government's announcement about taking this decision under duress from US. Regarding our self-reliance in the field of space technology, I have said it yesterday and again I am saying that we will have to suspend our programme regarding "Agni". Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had been the Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence. That is why, I am saying that for the dignity of this country, the Government should take the Parliament and the people into confidence and state what has happened actually.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you said yesterday that you will allow a discussion on the issue.

[*English*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: The Government should come out with a statement. This is all we want. You should help the House by requesting the Government to come out with a statement here.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: They cannot. Please allow a discussion on this issue.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: If you sit quite, we will do it.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Please help.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: A separate discussion should be held on this issue and it should be done in the presence of the Prime Minister.

(*Interruptions*)

He should admit it.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after the discussion which was held yesterday, we expected that the hon. Prime Minister will himself come and give details to the House.

MR. SPEAKER: I said that the President of Turkmenistan had come for a visit.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: The Minister of State could have made a statement and given the details in this regard. We were concerned on the basis of newspaper reports and you allowed a discussion for about an hour on the issue. You also did not have the information then and you said that you do not have the information, except that a Secretary has been sent there.

(*Interruptions*)

But they should, at least, inform us today.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: But there are no occasions. Immediately after the Question Hour, we started with this unlisted business.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: There ought to have been a statement on this particular subject.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, yesterday he said that he would convey - the sentiments.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I

have conveyed to the hon. Prime Minister the feelings of the House and what was mentioned here yesterday. The Prime Minister has agreed that he would make a statement. He will take time you. Whatever time from you fix in consultation with the Prime Minister, that will be good. He will make the statement after consulting you for the time. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Any time can be given according to his convenience.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: But I would like to make a request, keeping in mind the fact that under the rules, we have no right to raise questions, once a statement is made. You yourself had accepted the gravity of the situation and admitted that this issue is not limited only upto defence, rockets or technology transfer; rather it has wide ramifications including the hegemonistic tendencies of the U.S.A. The economic pressure being put on this country and the American one upmanship which is evident across the world today. Therefore, it is my request to you that the House should take up this issue separately for discussion. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday, I was asked: How can it be raised? There are rules under which it can be raised. Under Rule 184, Rule 193, it can be raised. We can ask the Minister to make a statement and on that statement you all can speak. That is one of the courses which can be adopted. Now that we have adopted this course of raising it, I am saying that if the House is informed about the factual position, immediately after that you can discuss. You are going to discuss the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs. You can speak in that. I have also said that if you are not satisfied with the reply given and if all the hon. Leaders give it in writing to me that you want to discuss it, we will certainly find time

for it. But we shall have to follow the rules.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: We accept that but you should respond to the issue pertaining to the newspaper reports that we had raised here. Please say something within the parameters of the constitution.

MR. SPEAKER: Please don't ask the Speaker to speak every time. Although he is known by the term Speaker, it is not proper for him to speak more than necessary. If he speaks more, it will create problems.

SHRI RABI RAY: To whom shall we go then?

MR. SPEAKER: I will make the necessary arrangements, even without your asking for it.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Central Government to a title news appeared in all the papers today. The title of the news is: "Premadasa rules out Prabhakaran extradition". It says:

"Sri Lanka President Ranasinghe Premadasa virtually ruled out the extradition of LTTE leader V. Prabhakaran and the rebel group's intelligence chief Pottu Amman wanted by India in connection with the assassination former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, news reports said today...."

The news report says so. This is quite a contradictory news to the previous news given by the Sri Lankan Government. They are further attacking India. In a function, the former President of Sri Lanka Shri

Jayawardene has blamed India for the LTTE consolidation. In the Patriot, it has been mentioned like this: "India blamed for LTTE Consolidation." This was given by the former President Shri Jayawardene. Recently, our Prime Minister has stated that the Indian Government is seriously considering to ban the LTTE. Now, it is time for the Government of India to declare that it has banned the LTTE. They say: "We do not want to take action on our younger brother." This is wrong. They say it is a simple mistake. We want that the Sri Lankan Tamils and the Sinhalese should live as brothers. There is no contradiction in that. It is the duty of the Central Government to ban the LTTE after Shri Premadasa has declared that he has virtually ruled out the extradition of Prabhakaran, the prime accused in the case of Shri Rajiv Gandhi's assassination. Since Sri Lanka has conveyed contradictory signals, the Central Government must take a decision quickly to ban the LTTE.

With these words, I thank you for giving me the opportunity.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU (Dharam puri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I share with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member who has raised this issue. This is a very important issue. The Government of India is very much aware that the LTTE is connected in connection with the murder of our great leader the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. The Government of Sri Lanka has openly come out with this reported statement.** This is not an ordinary matter.

We, therefore, urge upon the Government that the Government must come out with a statement in this matter stating what steps the Government is going to take in this matter. The Government must come forward with the statement and ban the LTTE immediately. That is the only way. The other way is that the extradition of Prabhakaran is a must. The Government should take immediate steps and inform the people of this country in this regard. The Government must not allow any culprit to go scotfree.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE(Lucknow): Sir, did you notice what the hon. Member has said? He accused the Government of Sri Lanka of being involved in the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi..

MR. SPEAKER: If it is there, I will remove it from the record.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: We have friendly relations with Sri Lanka and such a statement should not lightly be made. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): That is why I asked whether he is a Minister or a Member. *(interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into it and we will take appropriate action. I do think that we should not accuse anybody like this.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If it is there, we will see that it does not form part of the record.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV (Machilipatanam): Sir, the sugarcane growers of Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh, who are known for the hard work and progressive farming, are in a very pathetic condition despite the supply of nearly ten lakh metric tonnes of sugarcane to the KCP Limited Factory at Vuyyuru, right from December 1991 to 20th April, 1992. Till today their dues towards the supply of sugarcane were not received since it was not paid by the management of the KCP Limited.

On one side, the KCP has fixed a low price of Rs. 425 per metric tonne for 11 per cent recovery rate whereas their counterparts in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra have fixed a price of Rs. 500 per tonne for more than 11 per cent recovery. In addition to that, they are not getting the

money back due to delaying tactics of the KCP Limited. As the House also knows that KCP Limited is a big business magnet having huge resources and earning huge profits at the expense of hard working farmers of Krishna District. Recently, the accumulated Reserve Fund of Rs. 36 cror, earned out of the profits of the KCP Sugar Factory by withdrawing and diverting to Madras-based factories is only to harass the farmers who have supplied sugarcane. Their only intention is to cheat the innocent farmers by avoiding payment of interest for this six months period on Rs. 42 crores worth of sugarcane supply during these five months.

Despite the elected Government at Centre and the State, the unorganised sectors of India are not getting justice in spite of several legislations, rules, regulations etc., made at the State and the Central level for safeguarding the interest of farmers. I, therefore, request, though you, the Government of India to send a team of Secretaries and Income-tax Intelligence officials to take all the statistics for the last ten years and probe how this Reserve Fund is created and diverted elsewhere, depriving the share-holders of KCP Limited Vuyyuru and sugarcane growers of that area. I hope that a genuine fact finding team will be sent by the Government of India, not only to assess the sufferings of farmers but also hundreds and thousands and thousands of workers who are cheated and kept as casual laboures for the past 15 years. This may be treated as warning to the administration who are always surrendering to the sugar business lobbies to deprive the innocent and unorganised sectors of this country.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards a very serious issue. A serious situation has emerged following fires in the eastern part of Uttar Pradesh. Scores of people have lost their lives, thousands of animals have perished and many villages have got destroyed in the process. The

Uttar Pradesh Government is not able to provide adequate relief with its limited resources. The devastation and havoc caused is grave and more serious than those caused by droughts or earthquakes. Thousands of people have lost their kith and kin and have been rendered homeless. Under the circumstances, I request the Union Government to send a team to Uttar Pradesh to estimate the damage and provide relief to the affected people. Those who have lost all their belongings should be provided assistance to the tune of Rs. 700 to Rs. 1,000/-. Those who have lost their children, women and elders should be provided with a minimum assistance of Rs. one lakh. Free assistance should be provided to people who have lost their cattle. The State Government is not in a position to render any aid, until and unless the centre takes some initiative in this regard. Thus, a serious situation has arisen in eastern Uttar Pradesh. I would like to make a special request that the Union Government should despatch a team to study the situation and inform the House of the Central assistance to be provided to the people to face this natural calamity.

SHRI SHIV LAL NAGJIBHAI VEKARIA (Rajkot): Mr. Speaker, Sir, telephone is an essential service in this modern age. Some people in Rajkot went to give a memorandum to the General Manager and Deputy Manager of the local telephone office. Some arguments took place at the meeting, as a result of which the G.M. and the Dy. GM GM along with their entire staff went on a lightning strike and 50,000 telephones in the city have been affected. News items pertaining to this have appeared in various newspapers. They went on a strike, without giving any prior information to the public. This strike has crippled all the essential services including Fire Station and hospitals. Two people died of heart attack, and many cattleheads were perished in a fire because the Fire Brigades could not be contacted due to the strike. Many associations including the Rajkot Engineering Association and the Rajkot Engineering Association and the Rajkot Chamber of Commerce convened several meetings in the district and also

despatched telegrams to the Centre, but the staff are continuing with their illegal strike. I represent the Rajkot constituency in the House, and in that capacity, I would like to draw your attention towards the seriousness of the situation there. Already the telephone services are unsatisfactory as the machinery is 25 years old and to add to the woes of the subscribers, the telephone staff have gone for a strike. People have made several appeals and representations, but to no avail. The G.M. and the Dy. G.M. are answerable to the public but they do not pay any attention to the grievances of the people. The Dy. G.M. had completed 10-12 years of his service there and has not yet been transferred from there. There has already been a C.B.I. inquiry against him. The income tax department also conducted a raid at his place and seized Rs. 25 lakh....

MR. SPEAKER: You are crossing the limits, now please sit down.

SHRI SHIV LAL NAGJIBHAI VE .KARIA: The loss is estimated at crores of Rupees, it is an essential service....

MR. SPEAKER: The issue of transfer cannot be raised on the floor of the House. You were speaking so well, but by raising the transfer issue, you spoiled it all.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: By raising the issue of transfer, you spoiled the grace and dignity of your statement. Please you to understand what I am saying, because whatever I say is in your interest. The moment you raised the transfer issue, everything got spoiled.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIV LAL NAGJIBHAI VEKARIA: I had just given a reference. I would like to say two things. I was a Member of the Ninth Lok Sabha also, but to date my name is not there in the local directory. Similarly, the names of all the Members from Saurashtra are also missing from the directory.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

You are misusing the precious time of the House. You should have properly utilised it, but you are misusing it. I am sorry to say that you are not following the rules.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVLAL NAGJIBHAI VEKARIA:

I would like to say only this much that this matter should be investigated

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: At the beginning itself, I had said that I will allow only one Member to speak. Please don't lower the prestige of the House and spoil the atmosphere.

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV

(Azamgarh): Sir, as the Minister of State for External Affairs is here. I would like to know whether he would like to appraise this House about the latest situation in our neighboring country that is Afghanistan particularly about the former President of Afghanistan, Mr. Najibullah and his security and safety. Because it appeared in the newspapers that while he planned to leave his country, he was planning to go via India and all the arrangements were made also here in Delhi to receive him. He had to go back from the airport because he was prevented to fly out of the country. The latest position is that because of the intervention of UN representatives perhaps now he had been allowed to leave the country safely. I would like to know whether the Government of India has got any information about that.

Another thing is that the former Afghanistan Ambassador in India has also sought the help from the Government of India for his security and protection. I would like to know that position also from the Minister of State for External Affairs.

What is the latest development in Afghanistan? India had played a role. India had a very friendly relation with Afghanistan. It is our neighbouring country. Pakistan is supposed to play a role there. In this latest

position what we are doing, I would like to know from the Minister.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani):

I support what my friend Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav has said. Besides that, it is a question of our own national interest and peace in the whole West Asia and South Asia. Under the grab of UN intervention for maintaining peace, the fundamentalist elements on the Afghanistan issue have gone on proceeding in their own way. It looks as if one side had been bound hand and foot and the other side has been proceeding. It will have effect on our environment, on our safety. I would like to know whether the Government of India, particularly when India is a member of the Security Council, is taking into account as to whether the UN is being misused as a *Burkha* for the fundamentalists to come to power in Afghanistan to the detriment of our own interest.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Cittorgarh):

I just wish to place it on record that even though a full-fledged discussion is now in progress, we have had occasion yesterday to express our very great concern about the situation in Afghanistan. The principal concern that this House, this Government and indeed all the Members have is the safeguarding of India's national interest. Personalities are transitory. I had yesterday also appealed to the Government that it is not a question of personalities; in the situation that is prevailing in Afghanistan what is the Government of India doing to safeguard India's national interests. That is the question that has already been raised and it is my expectation that the Government will come forward forth-rightly and categorically about the aspect of safeguarding India's national interests when Afghanistan is fast heading for a situation almost of a civil war, civil strife there. That is the principal concern.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI (Robertsganj):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, all of them have been speaking for long. Why don't you allow us to

speak? Something very outrageous had taken place in my constituency(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All right, you may speak.

SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, everyone talks about the adivasi region of Jharkhand but a grave atrocity was committed on the people of that area on April, 3 1992.

Sir, five or six forest guards gangaped Phulwa, a 14 year old innocent adivasi girl belonging to the Ghasia tribe. She is the daughter of one Shankar and is a resident of village Kharpathar, Police Station Pipri, Chowki Renukoot, District Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh.

I have got the relevant information and also the photographs, but when in the morning of the 4th her father Shankar went to the Renukoot Police Post to lodge a Report, the police refused to register it. However, when he went there again accompanied by an advocate on 8.4.92 an F.I.R. was registered. Then she was sent to a Doctor in Sonbhadra district. However, she was not provided any treatment there. Then she was sent to the Mirzapur District Hospital. Although her condition was serious, she was not attended to. Today, the adivasis of Uttar Pradesh are dying of starvation, but the State Government is not able to feed them. The police officers or the Station Incharge or Doctors are perpetuating these inhuman atrocities on these starved people, for they are aware of their helplessness. Through you, I would like to make a submission and I shall also be sending the details of the incident to the hon. Minister that a C.I.D. inquiry be ordered into this atrocious incident and also into the role of the District Police Officials and the Station Incharge. They had committed similar excesses in the area, earlier also. They shot Tulsii, who tried to escape from their clutches. Today, there is no one to listen to the grievances of these helpless Harijans. Through you, I would like to request the Union Home Minister to intervene in this matter and protect the adivasis and the

honour of their women. If such incidents are ignored, this country will be destroyed. All those persons who are employed there and go to perform their duty in those areas, molest the Harijan and Adivasi women. Through you, I want to state that the limbs of the members of these rapists' families should also be broken, so that they might also learn some lesson. The victims should be given immediate assistance. Through you, I would like to urge that the Government should manage food etc. for the victims of atrocities and pay proper compensation to them and apprehend the culprits of this incident and take action against them ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not the case of a particular state. But we have been observing for the last few days, that the incidents of atrocities have again increased against the downtrodden, the adivasis and the weaker sections of the society. But no action is being taken against the culprits.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had allowed a discussion on the Tsundur incident for 16 hours in this House. Some days earlier, ten thousand people had gathered at the Boat Club. They demanded only this much as to why all the culprits have been set free. This happened at 10 a.m. Shri Reddy is sitting here. We have demanded a CBI enquiry into the whole matter. Rape and murder cases have become the order of the day and in some places people are being burnt alive. Thus, an atmosphere of resentment is spreading all over the country. I am not talking about a particular State. This is the responsibility of the Central Government. It is monitored by the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India. I would like to request the Government of India that it should issue necessary instructions to the State Governments in this regard. The Government of India itself should take interest in this connection and wherever such incidents take place, stern action should be taken. You must be knowing that 22 downtrodden people were killed in broad - say - light and it is very strange that not even a single person was punished. Therefore,

this must be taken seriously....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur): This should be discussed under rule 193.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sonkar, please sit down. Please let the Members speak one by one.

(Interruptions)

13.00 hrs

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): Sir, in view of the concern expressed by honorable Members regarding situation in neighbouring and friendly country of Afghanistan, though the debate is on, if you permit me, I will share with the honourable House whatever information is available with me.

MR. SPEAKER: Will it not be proper if it is with the debate? Not here now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That would be in the fitness of things.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It becomes all irregular. Supposing he makes the statement; you want to say something,

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: As a matter of fact, when we are discussing the External Affairs Ministry itself, such a matter should have been discussed at that time itself.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDEW RAM (Palamau): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 6 tribals were brutally killed on 12.4.92 in the village Peeta a block chandwa

district Palamau in Bihar. The name of the victims are Devgyani Uraon - 50, his son Birla Uraon -30, Kunwar Uraon -45, Jayam Uraon -45, Pattu Uraon -45, Mangal Dev Uraon -36, Lakhandew Uraon -35, Sarju Uraon -40. The hands of all these victims were tied and were killed mercilessly through some sharp weapons but Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Bihar Government is totally inactive and has not been able to protect the lives of tribals and Harijans till today. I demand that the Central Government should dismiss such State Government immediately.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISRA (Padrauna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with our colleague Shri Mohan Singh, I too had given a notice. The condition of the Dist. Deoria is so miserable that even today, the poorest of the poor live there, it is the poorest area and most of the people live in huts.

13.02 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

You will be surprised to know of unprecedented incidents of village after village catching fire during the normal process of cooking food. Scores of persons have been burnt to death in this way. On behalf of the State Government Rs. 1750 are given to each of those persons whose houses have been burnt, and Rs. 10,000 are given to each of the families of deceased in the form of assistance. Till now more than fifty persons have been killed there but the situation cannot improve in this way. Through you, I want to urge upon the Central Government that it should formulate a similar plan as it had formulated in the past under which a provision was made to provide residential accommodation costing from Rs. 6000/- to Rs. 8000/- for the people living below the poverty line. The Central Government should provide grants to the people who are living in straw-huts for constructing pucca houses. The Central and the State Governments should share the cost of construction equally. This will prevent fire in the villages in future as

hundreds of villages have been burnt and more than fifty persons have been killed in these fire. The recent events have engrained the situation too much. I, therefore, request that the Central Government should provide assistance in collaboration with the State Governments to the poor who are living below the poverty line, for constructing pucca houses.

[English]

SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH (Tehri Garhwal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I bring to your kind notice that a public sector undertaking in my backward constituency of Tehri Garhwal, namely, the Indian Drugs and pharmaceuticals Limited is threatened with closure. This is a mother unit which feeds bulk drugs to multinationals, private sector and small sector entrepreneurs.

This public sector undertaking manufactures life savings drugs for treatment of serious diseases, like TB, malaria, leprosy and for family planning, etc. It also manufactures raw materials for supply to the private and multinational drug manufacturing companies. Under these circumstances, it cannot be clubbed with other industries like engineering, textiles etc.

The drug prices are fixed by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers and are not remunerative to IDPL. The drug prices are not fixed by the IDPL.

Under these circumstances, it is unfortunate that this company is being referred to BIFR. If that exercise takes place, it would be prelude to stopping all its financial grants and programmes and would ultimately lead to the closure of the IDPL factory. The closure of this factory will also lead to a mass retrenchment of its highly skilled employees.

Therefore, I request that the Government should provide suitable finance as working capital to the IDPL. It is not

necessary that such an essential industry should run on profit lines. Just like public distribution of foodgrains, it is public distribution of medical aid. I may also mention here that the workers are ready to sign a memorandum of understanding, to convince that full cooperation is forthcoming. Therefore Government should retract from the BIFR investigation and give suitable grants to this industry so that it can continue to run smoothly.

13.06 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Detailed Demands for grants of the Ministry of Environment and Forests for 1992-93

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 KUMARAMANGLAM) On behalf of Shri Kamal Nath, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests for the year 1992-93. [Placed in Library See No. L.T. 1800/92]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for 1991-93

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the year 1992-93. [Placed in Library See No. LT. 1801/92]