

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1506/97]

12.01¼ hrs.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

MR. SPEAKER : Sir, I have to inform the House that I have received the following message dated the 5th March, 1997 from the President :

"I have received with great satisfaction the expression of thanks by the Members of the Lok Sabha for the Address which I delivered to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 20th February, 1997."

12.01½ hrs.

RESIGNATION BY MEMBER

MR. SPEAKER : I have to inform the House that I received a letter dated 3 March, 1997 from Shri B.L. Sharma 'Prem', an elected Member from East Delhi Parliamentary Constituency of Delhi, resigning from membership of Lok Sabha.

I have accepted his resignation with effect from 6 March, 1997.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, when is the discussion under rule 184 coming?

MR. SPEAKER : Tomorrow at three o'clock is the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : May I humbly request that the discussion on the General Budget should not start before the discussion under rule 184 is disposed of so that there is no interruption in the discussion on the General budget?

12.02 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS

Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Reports

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Communications :

- (1) Sixth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the First Report on Demands for Grants (1996-97) relating to Department of Post.

- (2) Seventh Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Second Report on Demands for Grants (1996-97) relating to Department of Telecommunications.

- (3) Eight Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Third Report on Demands for Grants (1996-97) relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

12.2½ hrs.

UTTAR PRADESH BUDGET

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to present a statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the State of Uttar Pradesh for the year 1997-98.

12.03 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS - UTTAR PRADESH

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the State of Uttar Pradesh for 1996-97.

12.04 hrs.

RE : DETAINEES UNDER TADA

[Translation]

SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS (Sitapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards an important issue. The Government of India have abolished TADA but even today thousands of people are languishing in jails and 37000 persons are under trial under is law which is no more in operation. These people have been alienated from their families. It is a humanitarian matter. Hon'ble Prime Minister had made an announcement in Mainpuri, The Parliamentary Constituency of Sh. Mulayam Singh that TADA prisoners would be released. Maharashtra unit of our party and are all the members of Parliament of our Party are sitting on Dharana before the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Parliament House. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to make a statement on TADA so as to clear the position. In reply to my question the hon'ble Home Minister had said that two thousand five hundred people were detained under TADA. I want to now what action has been taken in this regard... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM SAGAR (Barabanki) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first listen about TADA...*(Interruptions)* it is very serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Mr. Speaker, if you kindly recollect...*(Interruptions)*

Let me speak on this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, TADA prisoners should be released immediately. Many promises have been made, but the Government have not taken any step in this regard. The United Front Government have mentioned about it in its common minimum programme...*(Interruptions)* But inspite of that no action has been taken in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

When the law is not there, there can be no trial under the law...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

The Act has been scrapped but in spite of that...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let us listen to Shri Rajesh Pilot first. I will allow you also.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have given him permission. Why do you not have some patience?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that the Act has been scrapped. There have been review committees by every State since long. He is very right in saying this. The cases of all the State Governments could be called by the Home Ministry and a final decision could be taken because the Act is no more in operation. If the review has been done by the State Governments, those details will be given to the Home Ministry so that the nation knows and the innocent people, if any, booked under that Act can be released. The nation could be told that there is no more involvement of the people under TADA who are in jail and against whom the cases are going on. We are not saying that you withdraw the cases. But the position regarding innocent people, who have been linked with that, should be clarified by the Home Ministry as a whole...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Anees, you had your say. Let Shri Banatwalla speak.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have repeatedly raised this issue about TADA here in

the House and about those who are languishing in jails. Sir, it is a serious irony of fate. It is most undemocratic. The law has lapsed and yet the cases go on and the people languish in jails. The law was scrapped. The TADA law lapsed because it was the most savage, undemocratic law misused and abused by the authorities. Now, for the trials to continue under the same lapsed law is a contradiction and a serious fraud on the nation. I must, therefore, say that without any delay the Government must come forward to withdraw all cases under the lapsed TADA Act. If anyone is supposed to be guilty, there are sufficient normal laws of the land under which the Government can proceed. Let, therefore, no time be lost and those who are in jail facing trial be released...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I think you have made your point.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SAGAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thousands of people have been detained under TADA and cases are going on against them. Only in Uttar Pradesh the Government of Sh. Mulayam Singh Yadav had released the TADA prisoners. But the TADA prisoners in other parts of the country have not been released. So I demand that the manner in which the Government of Mulayam Singh ji had released the innocent TADA prisoners and withdrawn their cases, the Central Government should also release the TADA prisoners in the entire country and withdraw their cases under the law which is no more in operation.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Sir, Please allow me. I have been fighting against it for the whole of my life. I know many things...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAGWATI DEVI (Gaya) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, birds keepers have been sitting on Dharana for about 10-15 days. On 7th one of them...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please speak later on.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BHAGWATI DEVI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, You see one man has died. Birds are reared in almost each family. Despite that there is a provision for fine of Rs. two thousands and imprisonment for seven years for rearing birds. A large number of people are poor in our country. Either the Government should provide employment to the poor or withdraw the ban from rearing the birds.

It is being said that a fine of Rs. one lakh would be imposed on the persons who would catch the birds. In this way the poor are being harassed.