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12.25 hrs.

Title: Regarding reported decision for closure of Central Government Printing Press in Kolkata and Gangtok.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA (CALCUTTA, NORTH EAST): Sir, I raise a matter of urgent national importance. There is an acute scarcity of Central Government printed forms. A largely circulated Bengali newspaper, the *Anand Bazaar Patrika* today reported this matter. There are three such Printing Presses in the Eastern Region, two in Calcutta and one in Gangtok. It has been further stated that they are going to be closed by April 2003.

Sir, already there is an acute scarcity of Central Government printed forms. The other day public sector units were discussed here. One after another unit in the Eastern Region, particularly, in West Bengal, is being closed down by the Central Government. I want to know from the Central Government, what arrangements they have made for the supply of printing forms. Many statute and rule provide that action is to be taken by people on Forms prescribed and without those prescribed forms nothing can be done. I would like to bring this matter to the notice of the Government through you.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Sir, this is a very vital issue and I thank Shri Panja for raising this vital issue.

It is not merely a question of availability of forms, but the Government printing work is being done outside when the Government Presses are kept idle and now they have decided to close them down. There is a wonderful management over there. The workers are losing jobs. Government Presses are being closed and they are getting the work done by Presses outside. The forms are also not available.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You associate with him.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, this is a serious matter, it cannot be taken casually. It is not the question of printing forms, the Presses are involved, they are very well run Presses. But the printing work is being done outside by private people and then these Presses are being made sick and are being closed down one after another.

I would request the hon. Minister to look into it and not to consider it as an ordinary 'Zero Hour' matter. I earnestly appeal to the hon. Minister to intervene. This is the time for the Government to intervene. All the Ministers are away, but the Government should do something here and get something done in this regard.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should respond to this.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, I cannot say that I will look into the matter because under the allocation of Business rules, I am not competent to look into the matter of other Ministries. But definitely I will, with all seriousness, take it up with the concerned Minister.
