

13.28 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF
FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI
H.K.L. BHAGAT) : With your permission,
Sir, I rise to announce that Government
Business in this House during the week
commencing 4th August, 1986, will consist
of :

- (1) Consideration of any item of
Government Business carried over
from today's Order Paper.
- (2) Consideration and passing of :
 - (a) The Merchant Shipping
(Amendment) Bill, 1986 as
passed by Rajya Sabha.
 - (b) The Constitution (Fifty-Third
Amendment) Bill, 1986.
 - (c) The Mines and Minerals
(Regulation and Development)
Amendment Bill, 1986, as
passed by Rajya Sabha.
 - (d) The Repealing and Amending
Bill, 1986, as passed by Rajya
Sabha.
 - (e) The Essential Commodities
(Amendment) Bill, 1986, as
passed by Rajya Sabha.
- (3) Discussion under Rule 193 on
economic situation on Monday,
the 4th August, 1986, at 4.00
P. M.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV
(Morena) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the
following matter may kindly be included in
the next week's agenda :

Morena city has been inundated due to
heavy rains in Madhya Pradesh. Hundreds

of houses of the poor people have been
washed away in these devastating floods and
three children have died as a result thereof.
There is no drainage system in the city.
Therefore, I request you and the Government
to construct drains in Morena city to drain
out water so that people could be saved from
the floods every year.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH
(Jahanabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir,
please include my resolution in the next
week's agenda.

In India, floods and droughts cause loss
to the tune of crores of rupees every year.
This year, on 28th June as a result of floods
in the rivers of Bihar, fertile land was filled
with 4-5 feet of sand, which used to yield
crops worth crores of rupees. As a result,
the land has become a desert. The loss was
caused by this flood due to inactivity of the
bureaucracy. The seedlings of paddy were
completely destroyed. The work of the paddy
sowing in the districts of Nalanda and Patna
of South Bihar is about 10 per cent. The
whole land will become fallow. With that
thousands of houses of Harijans and poor
farmers have been destroyed due to rains
and flood waters. They have no shelter.

13.31 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the chair*]

Village Sugaon, P. O. Makhdumpur
block, village Hardaspur, Sujatpur, Arihat,
Ghosi block and Bera (Masaurhi) block are
in danger of being flooded by the river
Yamuna, Phalgu and Dargha rivers. This
will pose a danger to the Harijans and back-
ward classes. I request the Government to
take immediate action in order to save
them.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : Mr.
Deputy Speaker, malaria has reappeared in
epidemic form in our country particularly in
Orissa and in the Eastern Ghats tribal
regions and coastal plains since the last two
years.

The National Malaria Eradication Pro-
gramme is not being implemented properly,

[Shri Somnath Rath]

The blood samples collected are not being properly analysed and there are no remedial measures.

All the urban areas of Ganjam district (Orissa) are without sewerage, the discharge from septic tanks and city drains are accumulated in pools providing breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Spraying of D. D. T., disinfecting the village ponds are urgently needed to arrest the spread of malaria which might take alarming proportion by 21st century if it is not checked right now.

(1) In addition to the taking of long-term measures, the Government should give heavy subsidy on purchase of mosquito nets to the people, which will enable poor people to use mosquito nets. These nets should be made available to the people through the public distribution system.

(2) Community bio-gas projects should be set up in every Gram Panchayat and block headquarters and water hyacinth and cowdung collected from farmers on compost sharing basis be utilised for these gas plants. This will largely control the breeding grounds of mosquitoes in the rural areas.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK (Sonepat) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following item may kindly be included in the business for the next week :

Geographically, if we see, we find that Sonepat is situated on both the sides of the railway-line. This town has a population of more than one lakh. There is a level crossing on the railway-line. When a train passes, the gates of the crossing are closed. Out of 24 hours, the gate remains closed for 10 to 12 hours, which results in traffic jam on both the sides and it takes hours to get the traffic cleared.

Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister of the Railways, through you, that an over-bridge should be constructed at that place in

Sonepat, so that the inconvenience of the people of Sonepat could be removed.

From time to time, the Government has accepted that the children belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and of the people engaged in scavenging work, whether in cities or villages, drop out after 3rd or 4th class. The main reason behind this is their weak economic condition. The Government spends crores of rupees on education but these children do not get its benefit.

Therefore, through you, I request the Government to make arrangement to give scholarships to all such children up to 10th class, so that they do not discontinue their education on account of their economic condition. The school teachers should be given directives to contact the parents of the children in case they do not attend classes for some period to ensure that such children do not discontinue their education.

[English]

SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH (Bombay North) : I request that the following item may be included in the next week's business :

Lakhs of people are staying on Central Government land, i.e., Railway, Port Trust, Civil Aviation, Defence, etc. in urban areas, specially in Bombay since last several years. Some of the slums on Central Government land are prior to 1976 and 1980; but Central Government authorities are not allowing local bodies to provide basic amenities like water, W. C. and electricity. This has created a lot of problems to the State Government and slum dwellers in Bombay. So I request that the following subject should be included in the next week business :

"To review and revise the policy to give N. O. C. (no objection certificate) to provide basic amenities to slum dwellers on Central Government land, prior to 1976 and 1980 in the cities like Bombay, Calcutta and Madras."

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : I request that the following may be included in the next week agenda.

Because during the entire Sixth Plan period not even one additional Megawatt of power was added to the generating capacity of Orissa, Orissa is in the grip of acute power famine from the beginning of the Seventh Plan and this acuteness will be most serious by the end of the Seventh Plan as the envisaged generation of 483.5 Megawatt of additional capacity in Orissa is not going to materialise.

So the proposed super-thermal plant of 1000 Megawatt capacity at Talcher in the Central Sector is the urgent need of the hour.

The Central Electricity Authority have accorded techno-economic approval to the Talcher Super-Thermal Power Project long time back. To say that funds are not available for this project is also not true. The World Bank has already agreed for funding this. There is no difficulty in establishing coal linkage. It is because of the non-clearance of the environment and forest department, the project is being delayed and delayed so long I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to get immediate clearance from the Environment and Forest Departments and to start its construction work immediately in order to overcome the increasing power crisis in Orissa which is assuming serious proportion from year to year and has paralysed the economic activities of Orissa which is sliding down in its per capita income.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore) : I request that the following may be included in the next week agenda :

1. Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education at Pondicherry, though has been recognised by many universities like J. N. U., Hyderabad, Osmania, Bombay; Banaras, Hindu University, Jadavpur, Calcutta, Annamalai Universities as well as by the Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages, have recognised the Higher course of it, as an equivalent to B. A. and B.Sc. and the Ministry of Home Affairs in their office memorandum of 14th August, 1962, recognised it as equivalent to the first degree recognised Indian University for the purpose

of appointment in services and posts under the Central Government but the Ministry of Education, Government of India, has not yet issued such type of office memorandum by approving it as equivalent to B. A. and B.Sc. of all the Universities in the country, resulting in utmost difficulties, inconveniences and sufferings to the thousands of students in taking their admission in Post-Graduate course, in other Universities. But the standard of the education imparted there, syllabus and curriculum, etc. are much higher than that of any other universities in the country, which should have been given the same status, as to the other recognised Universities. The UGC is also giving grants to the School of this institution from time to time, though this institution is not affiliated to the UGC:

2. After the report of the Fourth Pay Commission is out, in the press and media, the prices of all the essential commodities has been increased in the market. Vegetables of all types, fish, meat, onion, garlic, ginger and various types of spices which are used by the common man have increased to a great extent which is not within the reach of poor consumers and common man.

These very important subjects need to be included in the agenda in the next week's business.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please include the following item in the Business for the next week.

The cement factories running in Satna Parliamentary constituency in Madhya Pradesh are doing gross injustice to the local people. Neither the Local people are given employment in these factories nor the labourers working in these factories are provided with facilities and protection. They are playing with their lives. The trade unions working for the protection of worker's rights are being obstructed in Satna, Kemor and Mahir cement factories. To date, these factories have not adopted the anti-dust proof measures to check the dust and in this way they are playing with the lives and health of the local people. The Central Government should

[Shri Aziz Qureshi]

intervene and take strict measures by enacting Central legislation.

[English]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I would like to submit that the following item may be included in the next week Business :

Because of White Fly menace which caused unprecedented loss to cotton growers in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, Cotton Area is going to be reduced drastically this year. So, it is high time that Government should immediately take necessary steps for propagating and making available to the farmers seeds of the White Fly resistant cotton varieties. Otherwise, our export plans will be affected considerably. It will have large adverse effect on domestic market too. The Government should ban synthetic pyrethroids immediately and Control White Flies of Cotton crops also.

Secondly, Vijayawada city with six lakhs population is having several Central Government organisations like Railways, Indian Air Lines, Central Revenues, All India Radio, T.V. Centre, Posts and Telegraphs, Telecommunications etc. etc. In the absence of a central school, the children of the Central Government employees are suffering very much. So, I suggest that Government in the Ministry of Human Resources Development, should take immediate steps for starting Central School at Vijayawada, Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I submit that the following matter may be included in the next week's Business :

Present condition of the Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Ltd. The Government's decision to protect the interest of the employees, field workers and depositors.

Secondly, Rehabilitation of the displaced persons who came to India from East Pakistan, between 1947 and 1962.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Howrah) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I request that the following may be included in the next week's agenda :

The present condition of Howrah city is possibly worst among all the major cities of India, keeping in view of its huge traffic burden and industrial population. The unplanned structure and multi-storied buildings have made the future of the city much more difficult. Very recently at North Howrah i.e. Bandhaghat area, a old godown of 200 yrs. collapsed in working hours and five women were burried alive. There is no underground sewerage in the city. Possibly this is the only city of India and Asia where modern facilities are not available and there is a serious problem of health and hygiene

The Howrah Improvement Trust and Howrah Corporation need a greater support from the Civic Authority in the form of more funds-both from plan and non-plan expenditure of the Government. The Planning Commission must take special care to study in depth the problems of the city and should see that the International funds through World Bank assistance programme are adequately given along with the Plan Project support for this city through State Government. The South Eastern Railway and Eastern Railway bring every day more than 1.5 million commuters in this city, who in the peak hours, use this city. The condition of the Howrah Bridge is very fast deteriorating and the prospect of 2nd Hooghly Bridge is unknown to the people there. It is creating not only hazards for the people but also Government is deprived of huge amount of revenue for not having enough facilities due to the traffic congestion. During the peak hours the traffic congestion on G T. Road and Howrah Bridge approach causes wastage of fuel and motor-oil to the tune of Rs. 1 crore every three months. The Urban Development Ministry both at the Centre and in the State have not studied the multitude of the problem. The water supply system of this city has reached the climax. There is a provision of Rs. 35 crores in the

Seventh Plan under the Scheme. The Urban Development Ministry should instruct the State Government to immediately include in the scheme all slums development programmes. Urgent intervention of the Planning Ministry, and Urban Development Ministry in this regard is called for before final implementation of the Seventh Plan programmes.

I desire that this matter will be taken in the next week's business of the House.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have very carefully listened to all the submissions made by the Hon. Members and I will convey them to the Business Advisory Committee.

13.45 hrs.

INDIAN ELECTRICITY (AMENDMENT)
BILL—Contd.

[English]

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI (Bellary) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Indian Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 1986. The main object of this Bill is to discourage theft at all levels and hence it seeks amendments to sections 39, 44 and 50 of the original Act.

Sir, electricity is the basic need for all-round development of this country. The progress of any country depends upon its capacity to generate power for the industrial and agricultural development. Sir, there are various sources of producing energy in our country. The main source is to produce electricity from the hydro electric projects. We produce electricity by thermal plant; we produce electricity by nuclear plants; we produce electricity by putting generators and captive generation also; and we produce electricity to some extent by non-conventional methods like solar energy and also bio-gas plants. But with all this, now various States are facing a lot of power shortage and it has resulted in almost closing the industries in the private sector, public sector and also small scale sector. More industries are going

to be closed in future for want of proper power supply. The States which are mostly depending on hydro electric projects like Karnataka are put to a lot of hardship due to failure of monsoon. Taking this into consideration, I would request the Government to take further steps to produce more power and see that the country's economy grows faster.

Sir, coming to the Bill, I welcome the amendment. I am glad that the Government has given a thought to it very seriously to plug the loopholes including theft of power and prosecuting them, either by asking them to pay fine or imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years. It has been stated in the Bill that the concerned State Electricity Board has been asked to initiate the prosecution. It is not clear whether the prosecuting authority is the State Electricity Board or the Government. In my opinion, it is advisable to vest powers of prosecution with the Government rather than with the State Electricity Board. State Electricity Board should be an advisory body. They can advise the Government, to what extent this prosecution should take place. Therefore, I would request the Hon. Minister to look into this aspect and see that the Government only should be vested this kind of prosecuting powers.

I am surprised to go through the Bill because the penalty or imprisonment is not discriminated between a small farmer and an industrialist. I can understand that imprisonment may be given to an industrialist who indulges in this kind of theft or who is also involved in other kinds of malpractice. But there are small farmers who are having pumpsets to the extent of 1 HP to 5 HP. They have put irrigation pumpsets. If you are going to penalise these farmers also, I am afraid, that will certainly make the farmers' position very pitiable.

I would like to suggest that instead of meter charges, charges should be levied only on horse powers. Some of the States like Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have already taken a lead. They are charging on only horse powers and not on meter reading. So, the Government should take immediate steps to introduce this system throughout the