

down and many more are on the verge of closure.

Through you, I would like to make a submission to the Government that the present arrangement of cotton supply is not at all fair. There should be an effective arrangement for the supply of cotton yarn at reasonable rates to both handloom and powerloom units. The government's wrong policy of exporting cotton (without fulfilling the requirements at home) too is responsible for the sharp increase in its prices. I request the Government to make fool-proof arrangements to supply cotton yarn to handloom and powerloom units at reasonable rates.

[English]

SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI (Kasaragod): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may be permitted to raise the following during the zero hour:

The reported decision of the Kerala State Government to scrap the State's total literacy programme is a retrograde move and it is a set back to those who are yet to be touched by this scheme but also to all those neo-literates who will be pushed back to their old illiterate status. With the achievement of near hundred per cent literacy in the State, only some tribal pockets with a total of about one lakh people have been left to be covered in a part breaking programme of building human capital. Given that the state wide efforts towards total literacy has cut across all ideological barriers the continuation of the project to its logical conclusion would have been a natural step, irrespective of party in power in the State. The project is being financially supported by UNESCO and organisations engaged in this noble mission were all geared up to achieve the target set. But, strangely enough the new Government has sought to give a political twist to the whole programme, at a time when the literacy campaign in India is gaining momentum after Kerala's pioneering

effort and is breaking ground in different parts of the country. Politicising this largely a political movement can prove to be a major stumbling block in its further progress.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the plight of the people affected during the 1984 riots. Almost every month, the widows of those butchered during the 1984 riots stage demonstrations and dharnas at the Boat Club. Although, seven years have passed since that massacre, no arrangement whatsoever has been made so far to rehabilitate them or to provide jobs to the dependents of those killed during the riots. No effective step has been taken in that direction by the Government. This issue has been repeatedly raised in both the Houses, but of no avail. Through you, I insist upon the Government to take immediate steps to fulfil the assurances given to them by the Government for their rehabilitation, including provision of jobs for the dependents of the riot victims.

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (Sasaram): Mr. Speaker Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a very serious matter. Abandoning all its policies and established conventions, the Government has appointed Shri Dhirubhai Ambani and Shri Mukesh Ambani as Chairman and Deputy Chairman respectively of L and T (Larsen and Toubro)...(Interruptions) ...It is known to one and all that the Government of the National Front had been provided liberal financial assistance by these persons. People such dubious integrity are being appointed on important positions...(Interruptions)...through you, I urge the Government to immediately...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I have also given a notice for this.

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday, a matter was raised by the hon. Members of the BJP and Shri Lal K Advani, the Leader of the Opposition. I have been informed by Shri Madhav Rao Scindia that he wants to make a statement giving true facts. I would request you all to allow him to make that statement. Let there be no interruption.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: L & T is going to be taken over by Ambanis.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cut-tack): It is a serious matter. The Finance Minister should make a statement in the House. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Chhedia Paswan, Mr. Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seats. Let me help you. It is only today that we are going to discuss the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Industry.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: It does not come under the Ministry of Industry. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is a separate matter; it does not come under the Ministry of Industry; it comes under the Company Affairs.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It cannot go on like this. When we are going to discuss the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Industry, you can raise this issue then.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: L & T is going to be taken over by Ambanis in a clandestine manner. It is a serious matter. The Finance Minister should come to the House and make a statement. This matter should be responded to immediately. Why is the Leader of the House is silent about

this matter? Why is the House silent about this matter? It has come in all the newspapers. I charge the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister that they have instructed the financial institutions, as has been alleged and published in many newspapers, to help Ambanis to take over L&T. It should be clarified immediately by the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are given an opportunity to discuss it for eight hours. But you want to discuss it in one minute.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: This is my information and the news item has not been contradicted.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not correct. When you have eight hours at your disposal, why do you want to dispose it of in one minute?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: We want it to be discussed.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It does not come under Industry. It comes under the Company Affairs. It is a separate matter. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The company has been allowed to take over. We have to discuss it. We want to discuss it. The role of financial institutions is dubious. This is the way they are leading. *(Interruptions)* They are helping companies to take over in a clandestine manner.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Today in the afternoon there will be a statement on BCCI. There are charges against the BCCI that the money has been misutilised by people for getting enriched and it is being utilised for all kinds of purposes including providing arms for the Pakistani militants etc. Now, that refers

to one particular institution which has a branch in Bombay. This Ambani affair is related to Bank of Baroda and it relates to the role of public sector financial institutions in the deal. L&T is also involved.

MR. SPEAKER: You are also talking about those persons who cannot defend themselves on the floor of the House.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: If the House is taking seriously the matter concerning BCCI, then why should we not discuss this also?

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point now.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: It affects us and our prestige. Shri Manmohan Singh is a friend of mine. The papers say that when he was a Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, he refused. (*Interruptions*)

Yes; he is a friend of mine. Why do you say so? He belongs to the same profession as I do. Now, the papers say that—we could move a Motion of Privilege—when he was the Governor of Reserve Bank of India he prevented this kind of a transfer to Ambani.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, Shri Chatterji, you have made a long speech now.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Now, as a member of the Cabinet, why does he allow it? That is the kind of question that is being raised. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Muttamwar, do not instigate him to speak further.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: We want Shri Manmohan Singh, the Finance Minister, also to clear his name. Therefore, you kindly instruct him to make a reference to this question also. That is my request to you.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: An assurance was given that the Ambanis will not be allowed to take over L&T and there is a move to take it over now, (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Shri Ambani got many votes for you. Why do you deny it? You cannot prevent election for a long time.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Shri Dalbir Singh is here. He can clarify the role of financial institutions. (*Interruptions*) Is this also in the election manifesto that you will hand over L&T to Ambani? (*Interruptions*)

He can clarify it.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: What we want is just a response from the Leader that this a matter worth referring. You can talk to the Finance Minister and let him make a statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Every day you cannot do like this.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Now, how can you prevent such happenings every day? If it happens everyday, how are we held responsible for it?...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter has been raised here on the spur of the moment. I hope the hon. Members would agree with me that one cannot respond to this kind of things absolutely off the cuff. It is not possible...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, it has come out in Indian Express

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is very irregular. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Let me complete. It is not a question of any individual, whether it is good, bad or indifferent. I have nothing to say. What I am saying is that this matter

has been raised here and now no one can reply to it off the cuff. That is what I am saying...*(Interruptions)* The utmost I can do is, I will request the Finance Minister to go through what the hon. Members have said and if he thinks any information is to be given, he will give it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI (Bhadrak): Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, since the beginning of this Session, I have been submitting notices under various rules of the House. But you have not given a chance to me to speak so far...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I am giving the ruling on your point of order.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: I have submitted notices regarding my constituency. You are giving chance to some other hon. Member to speak on the same subject. But you have not allowed me to speak. This is certainly unfair...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What he says is not going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[*Translation*]

SHRI KESRI LAL (Ghatampur): Mr. Speaker Sir, since I came here after having been elected, I am giving Calling Attention Motions on one or the other subject, but none of my motions has been admitted. I am not being given an opportunity to put up my views. If I do not get an opportunity to make my point in respect of my constituency, why was I elected by the people. As such, I am walking out of the House.

12.52 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Kesri Lal left the house).

*Not recorded

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I can appreciate the anger of the Member. But there are 542 Members in this House. And if every Member is wanting to speak on the same day, it is not possible. It would be very unfair on the part of anybody in the House to allege things against each other, even against the Chair also.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now I do not appreciate it. And this way we will not be able to conduct the proceedings in the House because it is not possible for me to satisfy each and every Member at one and the same time.

(Interruptions)

12.54 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat, Shri Madhav Rao Scindia.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION UNDER RULE 357

Clarification regarding certain remarks reported to have been made by Shri Madhav Rao Scindia, the Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism at a press interview at Lucknow on 4-8-91.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): Sir, I rise to make a clarification regarding a statement purported to have been made by me at a press conference in Lucknow on the 4th August. Our country today is facing challenges of gigantic dimensions. We are passing through a grave political economic and social crisis. At such a juncture it is imperative that we stand united in our resolve to protect the unity and integrity of our country, and it is the duty of every nationalist to ensure that his every step contributes to strengthening the national fabric and not to destroying it.