

[*Translation*]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, due to the negligence and lack of proper care on the part of forest Officials. Under 'Project Tiger' in the Garhwal region, the tigers have become a terror in the Garhwal villages. Almost every day, old tigers attack women and children in the broad day light. In my constituency, Pauri Garhwal and Chamoli, so far a dozen people have become the victims of these tigers. Due to the rules and regulations relating to the Project Tiger, the people are unable to take any action. Due to the terror of the tigers, the people are unable even to perform their daily tasks. The parents have stopped sending their children to schools, as the tigers have either killed or attacked a number of children. The kith and kins of those killed or injured by the tigers are not even granted compensation. The rules of the Environment Ministry are so complicated that it is very difficult for the common people to claim the compensation. I urge the Minister of Environment and Forests to take necessary steps to end the tiger menace and also simplify procedure for claiming compensation. Along with it a comprehensive and a fair policy be formulated to kill those man-eater tigers. The present policy is not only wrong but is also unjust.

[*English*]

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK (Phulbani): Sir, in my State there has been a grave and serious situation arising out of the delay of disbursement of old age pension and pension for the widows. There has been a complete halt on the disbursement of pension and even the application forms are not available to the beneficiaries. The State Government is

indulging in political harassment of the people. Besides, the Central Government has also not released the amount in time.

I request the Central Government to immediately release some fund to the State and also give necessary direction to the State Government to rise above political consideration in a matter like this.

12.15 hrs. .

RE: ATROCITIES ON WOMEN

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN (Vidisha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Ever since the Congress party has come in power in Madhya Pradesh, atrocities on Harijans and tribals have increased there. On 24th February, in Chandrapur village under Bilaspur district of Chhatisgarh region which is the most backward area of Madhya Pradesh a female labourer named Sundarwati was washing some clothes on hand pump. All of a sudden the Havildar Kedar Singh came there. After getting the reply to his query from the lady, the Havildar took her in her wet clothes to the rice mill of Rajesh Aggarwal. Having been interrogated regarding the sheet which was she washing, she was stripped. That lady could hardly save her dignity only with a small piece of her torn sari. But that piece of Sari also was forcibly pulled out from her body and holding her by her hair she was thrown down on the ground. Rajesh Aggarwal, the Havildar and the incharge of the police station collectively beat her with their legs and fists. Her medical report has proved the marks of injuries on her body. Thereafter, her husband Samra was locked with his wife in the rice mill.

Later on his wife was acquitted but her husband was sent to jail in a forged case and he was bailed out on 28th February from the S.D.M's court. After he was released, he narrated the incident to the public and the press. In this country, though people recite 'Yatr Naryaste poojayante ramante tatra devataah', yet the atrocities on the Harijan and tribal women are being committed. How long the country will remain mute spectator? I would like to submit that Government should take concrete steps in this regard so that uniform clad custodians of law may not play with the honour of these helpless women.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): There should be a discussion under Rule 193. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Fernandes you have given notice to raise two questions. You are permitted to put only one...

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): Sir, I totally agree with the hon. Members who want to have a discussion... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad): The Hon. Minister must make a statement on it and the matter of atrocities on women should be discussed under Rule 193.

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY (Allabahad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, just now the hon. Member has described the incident of Stripping and insult of a women. Similarly in the wake of quarrel between two children a mother was stripped and burnt in Faridabad. That lady has sustained injuries and is lying in a hospitals. From these frequent incidents it is obvious that a general tendency is cropping up in the society to settle accounts with women by stripping them. I would like to request the Government to call a meeting of all the State Chief Ministers and issue strict instructions to them so that stern action could be taken against the persons for their inhuman behaviour or dishonouring the women in society. If there is any dereliction of duty on the part of the police officials, stern action should be taken against them also. Only then the humiliation of women could be stopped. It is a matter of shame that the women are subjected to dishonour, time and again.

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI (Maharaj Ganj): The Issue of burning of his wife by an IAS Officer working in the Ministry of External Affairs in Dhaka had been raised in this very august House. Shri Suraj Dubey had also raised the issue of burning of Ms. Usha Dhingra. The Government keeps mum on such issues. Women are burnt, tortured and dishonoured but the Government merely gives assurance. But the practice of stripping the cloth of Draupadi still continuous in the society. Even today the Dushashans laugh at us and enjoy. The Government should reply to it and take effective measures to check such incidents of stripping of women.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Sir, there was a discussion the other day

[Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee]

when this question was raised. Now, I do not think such small discussions can solve the problem. In any case, the solution is much more difficult. But, I believe that in this Session, there must be a full discussion under Rule 193 on this question. Incidentally, in the last two Sessions, we were supposed to discuss this question but unfortunately, this is the question which does not find place in the list of priority of the Government.

Therefore, Sir, I firmly demand that there must be a full discussion under Rule 193 on Atrocities on Women where we can give our numerous suggestions instead of politicking with this affair.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur): Sir, I fully endorse the opinion that has just now been voiced by Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee and I agree that there should be a full discussion on this very important issue on the floor of the House. It is not much, our occasionally raising one or two such issues at the Zero Hour because we never get any reply from the Government. We have numerous, as Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee has said, positive suggestions on this issue also. So, I urge upon the Government to arrange for a discussion under Rule 193 on the subject of Atrocities on Women.

Now, Sir, if you allow me.
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No. Please excuse me. Kindly take your seat. I will see afterwards.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARTI
(Khajuraho): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir,

through you, I would only like to urge upon the Government that this issue should be discussed under Rule 193. Moreover, you are requested to direct the Ministry of Home Affairs strictly that whenever such an issue is raised in the House, the ministry should submit its report properly. Whenever I raised the issues regarding women in the House, Government gave the assurance that report would be submitted in the House. If the Ministry of Home Affairs issues strict directives to the State Government only then stern action will be taken thereon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please accept this suggestions and allow the matter to be discussed under the Rule 193. This issue should be discussed in the House.

PROF. RITA VERMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this incident shows as to how seriously the Government is taking this matter. No statement regarding the incident of Dauna Village has yet been made in Lok Sabha and in Rajya Sabha. The statement has not been made even after 40 days of the incident. It shows that the Government is least concerned. The atrocities on women are continuously increasing, but the Ministry of Home Affairs does not want to give any clarification. As Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee has stated that time and again Government had been giving assurance to discuss this issue for the last two sessions. But this matter has not been discussed. No attention is paid to their problems, and from the attitude of the Government in this session it is uncertain whether this matter will be discussed or not. I would like to appeal to you to exercise your right and allow discussion on it under the Rule 193 and issue directives to the Ministry of Home Affairs to give statement on it.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI KAMALA KUMARI KARREDDULA (Bhadrachalam): Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this subject. I will speak cutting across party lines. It is not a party matter; it is not a matter only confined to a particular State or a particular incident or a particular party; it should be above the party lines, above every individual.

We are very much ashamed that in a country like ours — even after 45 years of Independence, where so much civilization has developed, so-called civilized people are there — the culprits are getting scot free; there is no severe punishment for them, whatsoever. In some of the cases, even FIRs have not been filed by the Police or the Home Department irrespective of the State. This is the attitude of the Police and the Home Department. They have taken it as a fancy subject against the atrocities on women, whether it is a vulnerable section or a weaker section or Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes women or any women especially in a country like ours. The culprit should be severely punished; severe action should be taken against him. If necessary, the House should pass a legislation in this respect and direct the State Government to take severe steps, legal steps and also the Home Ministry should do the same thing.

Then we should have a discussion under Rule 193.

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN (Mukundapuram): Now I am in a dilemma. May I talk on the atrocities against women or may I talk on the major train accident which has taken place in my constituency?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should first talk on atrocities on women.

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will you also give me a chance to raise it later on?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That you can raise afterwards.

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Without wasting the time of the House and the Zero Hour, I fully agree with all the suggestions made by our women Parliamentarians to have a discussion on it under Rule 193 so that we may get a chance to raise this hot issue of atrocities on women.

May I also raise my second issue for which I had given a notice? Day before yesterday, a major train accident had occurred in my constituency.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no. Shri George Fernandes.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have called Shri George Fernandes.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I need not repeat it that in Zero Hour only extraordinary subjects should be taken up. That means only incidents of greater importance may be taken up in the Zero Hour.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, we would like to have a statement from the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs as it is a matter of great

importance... *(Interruptions)*... Sir, atrocities on women is a subject on which we are all interested.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Let me first have my say. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to submit that this is pinching me most that only women are speaking on the issues related to women. Just now it has been stated that there are many Dushasans who enjoy such incidents but these Dushasans do not belong to any particular side. Whenever a question, concerning women is raised in the House, the male members do not speak in their favour. Instead of considering the seriousness of the issue, they chuckle as if the women are a thing to be ridiculed. This is highly objectionable and it troubles me the most. Some members of this House chuckle in this way.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the notice of a question given by me is also related to the women. There are Red-Line buses in the city about which the hon. Minister had given a statement yesterday that no bribe was taken for issuing permits for these buses but I am not raising the issue of bribe etc. These days, the issue of liberalisation is being talked about, you have also talked about privatisation of different organisations but what is happening with women. This you can see in Red-Line buses in Delhi which have such slogans or couplets that I feel are very disturbing if we read them. I think the Government will take action if it is mentioned in the House. A newsitem in this respect was published in the Times of India on 28th February, about which I had a talk with some higher

officials and the police, but later on I came to know that no action was being taken either by the State Government or by any other concerned authority. Just have a glimpse over what is written in the Red-Line buses.

"Skirt Pehankar Kamar Kyon Bal Khati ho, Nazren Milakar Nazren Kyon Jhukati ho."

Another one says,

"Ankhon Mein Laga Kai Kajal, Gulab Jaise Mehkati ho, Bus Main Khari ho Kar Driver Ko Kyon Tarsati Ho."

These sort of things are written in the Red-line buses. It shows that the Red-line bus scheme has been completely hijacked by anti-social elements and women are the worst sufferers. The skirt is generally worn by young girls and such type of filthy language is used for them. It is not that these words are written by mistake but this is being done intentionally. It shows that the Government in the city. The women feel very disgusting and find difficult to travel in such buses. They sometime weep as to where should they go in such a situation. By talking of liberalisation you cannot understand the pain and agony being experienced by women because you are under the spell of the liberalisation policy of Shri Manmohan Singh. How it has affected our culture can be well understood by the operation of these Red-line buses?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I request that the Ministry of Home should take immediate action in this regard. Secondly, the Police Commissioner of Delhi be directed that each and every bus be checked and he should seize those buses in which such things are

written and their owners should be arrested and cases should be filed against them. They should be jailed. You have the section 509 of IPC which relates to the insulting behaviour against the modesty of a woman. They should immediately be arrested and the State Transport Authority should be given directives to this effect. I admit that there are law enforcing agencies in Delhi like the Government of Delhi and the Delhi Administration. I have had a discussion with the Government of Delhi over this issue but I want that Ministry of Home should take initiatives in this regard. Action should be taken in this regard considering that it is not related to women only but also to our culture and traditions.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would draw the attention of the Government as well as the House towards a very important issue. At the time when the Finance Minister presented the budget, there was a newspapers strike that is why none of us could understand its implications. Later on when people read about it they came to know about it. The Finance Minister reduced the duty on imports but imposed excise duty on items being manufactured by small scale units. In protest against this, all small scale units of northern part are on an indefinite strike. You will be surprised to know that a duty has been imposed on soap, pipe fittings, hair fixer, steel industry and Ayurvedic medicines. Thousands of Labourers are working in small scale units. Shri Fernandes has drawn the attention towards this fact that the policy of liberalisation which should have been meant for India is being applied on MNCs and on the other hand they are dead set to close down the small scale units in India. We demand that the

increased excise duty should immediately be withdrawn.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I wholly support him on this issue.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhunjharpur): I, through you, would like to draw the Governments' attention towards an issue of urgent public importance. The recent advertisements by the UPSC for its competitive examinations does not indicate the provision for 27 per cent reservation under Mandal Commission. It also does not mention about age relaxation as well as relaxation in chances. It clearly shows that 52 per cent socially and educationally backward people of this country are being deprived of the benefits of reservation.

Not only this, the Government is also adopting evasive policy by going for Iron filter gate in respect of implementing the recommendations of the Mandal Commission. I, therefore, request that the Government should immediately issue orders to remove Iron filter gate immediately and to implement the recommendations relating to reservation. The provision regarding creamy layer should not be introduced. I had raised this question three days ago also. The hon. Minister of Welfare (*Interruptions*)... the Government had given an assurance... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): It is a matter of concern for all. This situation has arisen due to the delay on part of the Government. This four years' delay is also due to the Government. A relaxation in this respect has always been given by the authorities. Therefore, they are demanding for a relaxation in a natural way which is being supported by one and all. As he is saying, the Minister of Welfare has also given his assent... (*Interruptions*).

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Nitish Kumar, I am sorry. I cannot allow you. Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav has already spoken on this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Three days back when I had raised this question the Minister of Welfare had said that the Government would consider it. I have received information from higher sources that in order to make this issue very complicated the Government is preparing to refer this issue to the Supreme Court. It is simply an effort to delay or put off the issue so that the people belonging to backward classes may not get the justice.

[English]

Justice delayed is justice denied.

[Translation]

I have given four arguments in support of my point. Just now, the hon. Member said that it was to be implemented in 1990. Had it been implemented at that time, the case would not have been referred to the Court and they would have got the benefits of reservation.

Nine categories have been receiving reservation benefits in U.P.S.C. All these categories are getting age relaxation and chance relaxation. With the provision of excluding creamy layer these benefits have also been given to persons belonging to economically backward classes etc. which were earlier given to socially and educationally backwards only. Now, it is their right that they should be given relaxation in age and more

chances like other categories. But now a conspiracy is being hatched to deprive them of these benefits. So I demand that immediate action should be taken by the Welfare Minister on the assurance given by him in this House that he will consider it. U.P.S.C. has already announced examination dates. Whole process will become meaningless, if immediate action is not taken in this regard. While drawing the attention of the Government towards this serious matter, I request for immediate action on it.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this demand has been made constantly and it seems that Government's intention is not clear in this regard. Hon. Welfare Minister has given assurance in this House on it just three days before. When entire House unanimously agreed on it, then relaxation should be given definitely, otherwise it will not be of any advantage to real needy i.e. the people residing in rural areas and also O.B.Cs. It should not be delayed further and hon. Minister should make announcement in this regard so that they may be benefited.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We had agreed that we should close the Zero Hour by 12.30 p.m.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): There is no hard and fast rule. Yesterday Zero Hour went up to 1 p.m.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We had limited the Zero Hour to half an hour as agreed upon by all the parties. The hon.

Members have raised some of the important matters on the floor of the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, there are some very urgent matters which are pending for the last two or three days... (Interruptions)..

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are some matters which could not be taken up for want of time. In this way, there will be agitation and unrest in the minds of the hon. Members.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue raised by Shri Devendra is not an ordinary issue. Advanji has also agreed to it. I think that people belonging to ruling Party will also agree to it. This issue is not related to any political party. They should be given relaxation upto five years in age and more chances should also be given to them. The list of backward classes should be prepared in the States where it has not been done so far. Some persons from 'Saini' community came to me and told that this community has been recognised as backward community in the whole country but not in Delhi. So I demand that the list of backward classes should be prepared and sent to Secretary, Joint Secretary of Central Government and should be completed within one month. Not only in the advertisements of U.P.S.C. but of all other services which are being advertised by the Government, there should be provision for 27 per cent reservation for backward classes. I demand that 27 per cent reservation should be made for OBCs in all educational institutions like colleges,

universities for admission as well as for the post of Professors etc.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): Mr. Deputy, Sir, I just want to take a minute to warn the Government of an explosive situation which is building up and if timely steps are not taken to avert it then we may find ourselves in a great trouble. The point is that several lakhs of Central Government employees had reached an agreement with the Government of India long ago-on 12 October last year-that the Fifth Central Pay Commission for the Central Government employees would be set up. And the Government said that it would be set up in one month. Only the composition of the Commission and the terms of reference were to be decided. Now, five months have passed. They are not doing anything. They are keeping quiet about it. The representations made to the Cabinet Secretary and other senior officials to announce the Commission and the terms of reference have failed. There is no response. The Cabinet Secretary assured them that the whole thing will be announced before this Parliament Session begins. But nothing has happened. Therefore, the Government has gone back on its assurance.

The delay, we are told, is due to the Prime Minister's Office where the files have accumulated and nobody is clearing them. Therefore, this delaying of the matter is such that it will compel the Central Government employees all over the country again to take to the path of agitation. It is better that timely steps are taken to announce whatever they had assured the employees that they would announce about the setting up of the Fifth Central Pay Commission. (Interruptions)

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and Shri Sharad Yadav, we have agreed that by 12.30 p.m., we will complete the Zero Hour business (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Kindly allow Shrimati Malini Bhattacharya. It is a very important matter. It is about the National Library in Calcutta, which is in trouble (*Interruptions*)

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, if I have to extend it for you then I have to accommodate others also.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to the crisis which is vitiating the atmosphere of the National Library in Calcutta where a section of employees are violating rules and regulations and trying to bring the work to a standstill through hooliganism and physical violence. An allegedly irregular promotion order which the Director was forced to sign under threat of physical violence and subsequently withdrew is the immediate cause of this. We find that after this neither the Director nor the other officers are allowed to come to the office and pay bills are not allowed to be made. In spite of some of us, MPs, urging the Ministry and the Department to have an enquiry made by the officials of the Ministry through an on-the-spot survey, the Ministry has been sitting inactive and allowing the crisis to precipitate.

Now, suddenly, from newspaper report we hear that the Ministry through a fax message has reversed the order given by the Director cancelling the promotion. This is creating a new tension in the atmosphere of the National Library.

We urge upon the Government that the Department must send its representative-before giving any such order to the National Library-immediately; ensure that the Director comes to the office; give only its considered verdict on the promotion order and also have a thorough inquiry made into what disruptive forces within are encouraging the continued flouting of the Director's authority by a number of officers and fuelling hooliganism.

We want that the smooth running of this prestigious institution must be ensured and MPs must be immediately informed of what steps the Government is taking. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: What about the issue regarding reservation for OBCs? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this issue is related to the future of millions of youth in the country.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yadav ji, regarding this OBC, Nitishji has spoken and others have also spoken. My request is.....

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Sir, I would like to know that whether we will get the reaction of the Government to it or not. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sir, it should be implemented.

[English]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nitish Ji, there are other hon. Members also in the House who have got some important matters to be raised. This subject has taken sufficient time also. You have been able to impress upon the Government the urgency of the matter. Now kindly allow others also to raise their points.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: When the Government has given assurance then it should be implemented. Less than a week has left. (Interruptions) We, therefore, are stressing on this because once the examination of UPSC starts, then it would be futile. (Interruptions) We would like to know whether this assurance will be translated into action or not? (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): It appears that Shri Nitish Kumar always smells something fishy in every action of the Government, but it is not so. The hon. Members of the treasury benches and the Government are more concerned to do justice to the youth of the back ward communities than the hon. Members of the Opposition. However, I would like to urge the hon. Members that such serious issues, which are raised in this manner... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I have objection to this, Sir.

[Translation]

Then, you tell us how to raise these issues. One week time was given in the assurance by the hon. Minister of Welfare. I understand that both the Ministry of Law and the Ministry of Welfare are planning to refer the matter to the Supreme Court. (Interruptions) just to linger on the matter so that the people do not get benefit in this year.

[English]

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: Sir, I would just like to say to the hon. Member through you that the Government will do nothing which is illegal. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I would like to know as to what is going to be done in regard to the assurance given to us in the House? Please tell us. Move to refer it to the Supreme Court means to put off the things. Will any statement be made or not in this regard?

[English]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sir, justice delayed is justice denied. (Interruptions)

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: Sir, I will definitely bring the feelings of the hon. Members on this important issue to the notice of the concerned Minister for his appropriate action.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now I shall call the names up to one o'clock. Kindly cooperate with the Chair. If each Member were to speak for one to one and a half minute, then we shall have to extend the time up to one o'clock. Today is

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

an extraordinary day and this should not be taken as a precedent or a custom. The Zero Hour shall have to come to an end by 12.30 p.m. Since so many Members are very much agitated and an important issue has come up before the House which consumed good amount of time, others should not be denied a chance of ventilating their grievances. Therefore, under extraordinary circumstances, the time is being extended...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall call everybody.

Your name will be called at the end. By talking to the Presiding Officer, the time is lost. Some of the senior Members really feel annoyed.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue pertaining to the recession which is going on in the newsprint industry all over the country. The public sector undertakings in the newsprint industry which are functioning very effectively, are facing a very difficult position now and about 10,000 metric tonnes of newsprint have piled up and are stored in the different godowns of various factories. One factory, the Hindustan Newsprint Limited, is situated in my constituency at Velloor and more than 10,000 metric tonnes of newsprint have piled up there for the last two weeks. The other mills like NEPA Mill, Tamil Nadu Mill, Mysore Mill and other public sector undertakings are also facing the same problem. The point is, the free import of newsprint is causing great concern to the public sector undertakings.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ramesh Chennithala, you should accommodate your friends also. So, please finish quickly.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, due to the frequent interferences from the Chair. I am unable to finish quickly.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the Chair is interfering, then the Chair apologises to you.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: In the newsprint industry 2:1 formula is followed, that is, when we are purchasing two tonnes of newsprint, one tonne has to be imported. But this formula is not at all implemented. As you know, there are anti-dumping laws in our country. But the point is, cheaper rate of newsprint is imported into our country by certain multinational companies. This is going to hamper the prospect of the public sector undertakings which are functioning effectively in our country. This is dangerous for the Fourth Estate also. Today, they are giving newsprint at a concessional rate to them, but after sometime, the whole indigenous industry will suffer and these people will capture the Indian market in a big way. This will seriously affect the Fourth Estate also. So, I request the hon. Minister for Industries to convene an urgent meeting to solve the problem which is faced by the public sector undertakings in the newsprint industry.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also support this demand made by Mr. Ramesh Chennithala.

Sir, there is a grave situation caused by the delay of the Government in declaring the floor price of certain agricultural produce. For example, coconut is not only grown in Kerala, but it is grown in

all the States of our country. Now, the problem is, the price of coconut has gone down steeply, but the Government has not declared the floor price for the past several months and it is going to be almost one year now.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Thomas, the liberty should not be misused. You should conclude now.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, the declared price of rubber is very low and so, we strongly protest against the price which has been declared.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is the difficulty. If a chance is given you are speaking for two or three minutes. You should keep in mind that there are other Members also who want to speak and you should accommodate them

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as we all know, some of the major nationalised banks had been severely indicted by the Joint Parliamentary Committee and the whole country knows about it. But still they are merrily continuing the malpractices. In reply to my question, I have been told that so far no major action has been taken by many of the operators there.

Sir, after the change in the State Bank of India Act and the initiation of the process of privatisation, the notorious brokers like Mr. Harshad Mehta are purchasing the equity shares of the State Bank of India in a big way. That is not end of it. The State Bank of India presented a very dismal picture in its last balance-sheet. What is happening in Calcutta now? They are shifting their offices continuously from one place to another; they are shifting from Tata Centre to Chatterjee International, from Jeevan Deep to

Commerce Street and from there to another place. But they have vast properties, lands and buildings which are inherited from the Imperial Bank of India.

A decision was taken in the mid-60s to construct a multi-storey building. Instead of agreeing to that decision, they are draining money.

I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to stop this drainage and malpractice.

SHRI R. PRABHU (Nilgiris): I would like to focus the attention of the House on a very important matter. Suggestive advertisements have been appearing in certain newspapers and magazines for quite some time. I am raising this very important subject which affects the youth of this country specifically because a group of ladies came and met me last week and gave me some advertisements and the cassette tapes which, with your permission, I would like to lay on the Table of the House. I would like to read these advertisements. But unless I point out at least one, you will not understand the importance of this. The advertisement says:

"Fantastic true stories. Share my fantasies."

Our youth in this country has to share some fantasy with some lady in Hong Kong or Australia.

There are two aspects for this. We have embarked once massive mobilisation programme for our economy. We are reforming the economic system. We are not reforming our moral system. Unfortunately, these advertisements have been appearing in all newspapers and magazines. Even today, some leading newspapers have carried advertisements.

[Shri R. Prabhu]

request the Government to ban these advertisements immediately.

There is another very important economic aspect. Who is paying for these advertisements? Who is paying for these calls? People here ring up Hong Kong to hear somebody else's fantasies. But who pays for it ultimately? The reverse charge is paid in foreign exchange by our Department. On a rough calculation, in the last two years, about Rs. 300 crore per year in foreign exchange is going out because of these advertisements. The way to ban this is to stop paying in foreign exchange accepting these reverse charges. Then automatically, these things will stop. This is running the moral fabric of our country. This is very important. I bring it to the notice of the Government. How much foreign exchange out flow has gone in the last two years? You should immediately ban these advertisements.

I will lay these on the Table of the House with your permission.

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Sir, as I tried to inform you earlier, day before yesterday a goods train accident had occurred unfortunately at Chalakkudi in my Constituency. Twenty-eight bogies of a goods train carrying diesel and kerosene were gutted on fire. But no death directly connected with the accident took place.

The timely action taken by the driver of the goods train saved the whole train from being burnt. So, the driver of the train should be rewarded for taking timely and gallant action.

When the Fire Fighting Force was to bring the equipment to put off the fire,

unfortunately the equipment fell into a well. A man went into the well to take out the equipment from the well but unfortunately he died in his attempt as he drowned in the well.

So, I would request the Government, through you, that adequate compensation should be paid to the near and dear relatives of the man who died in the well in his attempt to bring out the fire fighting equipment.

Two local people tried their level best to detach 28 bogies from the main train. I request that they also should be rewarded adequately by the Department of Railways.

This railways accident took place in the midst of paddy fields which were also very much affected. Therefore, the owners of those paddy fields should also be paid some kind of compensation.

An immediate inquiry should be conducted by the Government into the matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The difficulty is if a chance is given, you do not stop. You do not realise that some of your friends also want to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the non-repairing of the roads for the last 5 to 10 years in Danapur Cantonment in my Constituency, Patna. Condition of roads is so bad that big pot holes have developed. Though through the officials we tried to bring this to the notice of the Government yet it has not been paid nay heed.

13.00 hrs.

Such accidents do occur there and as a result thereof people of that area are facing a lot of difficulties. People of that area are very much agitated and are living in a hell of eye. Sir, through you, I would like to urge the Government to get the roads repaired immediately so that accidents could be avoided.

KUMARI UMA BHARTI

(Khajuraho): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards private airlines operating in the country. I am not raising it just for the name. Passengers, contrary to the practice in Indian Airlines and the Railways, are served liquor by the private airlines. It is nice that managements of private airlines cut down fares to attract passengers. However, serving of liquor often leads to unsavoury incidents. I would like to urge the Government to immediately put a ban on this. When Indian Airlines and Railways are following rules of morality then these private airlines should also follow these rules. The Government should tell us what it can do? What is the hitch in taking the remedial measures?

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): All the political parties except the Congress, have been demanding for electoral reforms. And this is not the first time that we have been demanding it. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Jena, it is a question of prestige of the House. Is there not any scope under the rules to take action?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: I am raising this issue because the Chief Election Commissioner day before yesterday has said that there is a conspiracy.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is true. It is between an individual or an institution versus Parliament. There are rules in the procedure and you can take action against them.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: The office of the Election Commission is an institution and officially it has been said that there is a conspiracy not to reform the electoral process and all political parties are responsible for this. He has said that the Prime Minister is not clearing the electoral reforms. In his statement he has categorically stated that since 1990, the draft legislation has been pending the Government is not bothered to react on this. Though the political parties like the JD, the BJP and the left parties have been demanding for the electoral reforms, yet the Government is keeping mum. Now the Chief Election Commissioner says that there is a conspiracy by all political parties not to go in for electoral reforms. Then ID card issue has become a serious matter because the Election Commission has said that from 1st January, they are not going to hold the election. Elections to the States of Orissa, Bihar, Maharashtra and Gujarat are due in March 1995. And the Chief Election Commissioner says that from January 1995 onwards he is not going to hold the elections. It is a serious issue. We would like to know what exactly the position of the Government is and whether the Government is sincere on this issue or not.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY (Ranchi): Ex-MLA of Bihar, Shri Pankaj Kumar Sinha, of Islampur in Nalanda district was kidnapped 8 or 9 months back while on a excursion trip. His children are crying and there is nothing to eat in his house. His wife ran from pillar to post for his release, but his whereabouts are still not known. Kidnappers have demanded huge ransom. I would like to urge the Government to solve the problems being confronted by Shri Sinha's family. Shri Sinha's whereabouts should be found out and his family should be given all assistance. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI R. PRABHU (Nilgiris): I have not been given the permission to lay it on the Table of the House. I am willing to authenticate it. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are certain rules and regulations; and if you want to lay any document on the Table of the House, then you have to do so according to the rules and procedures of the House.

SHRI R. PRABHU: Sir, I have given a prior notice and I am ready to authenticate it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us do it according to the rules.

*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this matter regarding Pankaj Kumar Sinha is very serious. The Government should make a statement about it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House has to be run according to certain rules and procedure. If the Presiding Officer is standing, then it is not right on the part of the Member to stand the same time.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali): The Government should take measures to get Pankaj Kumar Sinha released from the terrorists.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Lodha, do you know that there are certain norms? When the Presiding Officer is standing, the Members are not expected to stand at the same time. What is it that you are doing?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I tell you that this is not fair on the part of the Members; the Zero Hour shall have to come to an end at 12.30 p.m. If it being extended again and again what does it convey?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is we who framed the rules and it is we, willingly, who violate those rules. This is not fair on our part.

DR. R. MALLU (Nagar Kurnool): Sir, for more than three or four years, the post of Director (Welfare), a Central Government post, in Andhra Pradesh is lying vacant. This post has been created to take care of the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The same post, that is, Director (Welfare) is also lying vacant in Bhopal and other States for more than three or four years. I have made several requests for filling up this post immediately because of the increasing atrocities on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. So, I request, once again, to the Welfare Ministry to take immediate steps to fill up this vacant post.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, an unprecedented incident has taken place in the history of the country. About more than one hundred journalists including senior journalists as well as journalists responsible for reporting of Parliamentary proceedings have been courted arrest at gate No. 2 of the Parliament in protest of the economic policies of the Government. It is for the first time that the journalists have launched a agitation and courted arrest in protest of entry of multi-national compa-

nies like Pepsi Cola, Coca Cola and also the foreign print media and electronic media in the country. They deserve all praise from me and at the same time I condemn the misbehaviour of police with the people courting peaceful arrest at gate No. 2. You should direct the Government to enquire into the matter and also tell them that the intelligentsia, the enlightened people and the journalists have come on roads to oppose the economic policies of the Government and it should check entry of foreign newspapers, print media and electronic media into our country...

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Yadav, there are other hon. Members who would also like to speak. I want you to see the time also. If you are given some time to speak, then the hon. Member also has the right to speak. You can raise your matter on Monday.

If the Chair wants to take a strong decision, in that case, you cannot do anything.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my only submission is that the matter relating to one lakh and sixty thousand workers of NTC is proposed to be referred of the BIFR. As this will take time, pending decision of the case, the Government should help the workers so that they may get their wages.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I seek your permission to raise a very important and serious matter

[Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh]

regarding NTC in the House. Commission amounting to crores of rupees has been taken in purchase of clothes for the Defence Ministry. Bungling of crores of rupees has been committed by selling clothes to Benami and non-existing parties. This corporation is in Maharashtra. A committee was also constituted to enquire into the bungling and irregularities committed by it and the report of the said committee was submitted to the Government. However, no action was taken on the report. The committee was also disgraced by providing wrong figures to them. The person who made complaint about it is being threatened that he would be killed and ultimately he was dismissed from the service. Since the victim has been the person who was fighting for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and opposing corruption, the matter should be got investigated. It is yet another Bofors in which misappropriation amounting to crores of rupees have taken place.

[English]

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur): We passed the Panchayati Raj Act as per Constitution Amendment No. 73 to article 243 and the Panchayati Raj Act has come into force from April 1993. The Constitution has authorised the Parliament to extend this provision to the scheduled areas. The State Governments have got no power to extend this Act to the scheduled areas. After expiry of one year, this Panchayati Raj Act will not be in force in the scheduled areas because the Parliament has not extended it. I draw the attention of the Central Government to take up this matter and pass a Bill in the Parliament to make it come into force in the scheduled areas. Or else, there will be vacuum in the

scheduled areas and there will be no Panchayati Raj in the scheduled areas.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry, some of the hon. Members could not be accommodated for want of time. I hope you will excuse me. Now I proceed to the next item, Papers to be laid on the Table.

13.12 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report, Annual Accounts and Review on the working of Indian Airlines, International Airport Authority of India etc. for the year 1992-93

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM) (SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR): On behalf of Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Airlines for the year 1992-93 under sub-section (2) of section 37 of the Air Corporations Act, 1953.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Airlines for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts under sub-section (4) of section 15 of the Air Corporations Act 1953.