

SHRI KRISHAN KANT (Chandigarh): Sir, before you go to the next item, because I had not given my name earlier, I would like to know from the hon. Minister one thing. This is the President's Address dated 28th March, 1977. They have stated here that during the course of the year, a comprehensive measure will be brought before the House. I want an assurance from the hon. Minister that this Bill must be brought before 28th March, 1978.

SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN: It may be difficult to bring forward a comprehensive Bill in this session. It will be brought forward in the early stages of the next session.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN (Coimbatore): There has been a reference to the President's Address. Everybody is very seriously concerned about one other matter. I would also like to know, what about the other commitment for the repeal of MISA which we have been asking for.

MR. SPEAKER: That had already been raised.

13.57 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **BOYCOTT OF WAGE BOARDS OF WORKING JOURNALISTS AND NON-JOURNALIST EMPLOYEES BY I.E.N.S. AND INDIAN LANGUAGES NEWSPAPERS ASSOCIATION**

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Under rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter on the floor of the House.

The newspaper tycoons of the Indian Eastern Newspapers Society and the Indian Languages Newspapers Association have decided to boycott the wage boards of working journa-

lists and non-journalist employees in the newspaper industry. This has been conveyed to the Prime Minister, as it is reported. The decision to boycott was on the issue of giving adequate interim relief to working journalists and non-journalist employees and the tycoons have opposed the inclusion of a veteran politician and an eminent trade union leader, Shri B. C. Bhagwati and another member. This situation by the newspaper tycoons was created on the pretext that Shri Bhagwati and other non-official member was trying to protect the interests of the working journalists and other non-journalist employees. Shri Dutt, the other member was also a member of the fact-finding committee on daily newspapers and, therefore, his stand was also based on first-hand knowledge of newspaper working.

The Government should now intervene in the matter and ensure that the working journalists and non-journalist employees get adequate interim relief which is justified by the rise in the present cost of living index.

- (ii) **NON-AVAILABILITY OF STREPTOMYCIN MEDICINE**

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Durgapur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to an urgent matter of public importance under rule 377.

A news has appeared in newspapers that streptomycin, a very vital medicine, is not available in the market causing difficulty to lakhs of patients. For want of vital medicines, like streptomycin, lakhs of patients may die. It is a very important and serious matter. Therefore, through you, Sir, I draw the attention of the Minister concerned and I would request him to inquire into the causes of short supply of streptomycin, whether it is hoarding or not, and make a statement on the floor of the House and assure the House about the easy supply of streptomycin.