

[Prof. Samar Guha]

(3) What are the precautionary measures the Central Government have asked the various State Governments to adopt to meet the danger if it overtakes some parts of India?

(4) What are the information about the Skylab fall-out received by the Space Department of India from NASA and other international space agencies and Governments as well?

The Government should make a prompt and informative statement today about all aspects of danger, apprehension and hazards connected with the question of crashing of Skylab and fall-out of its splinters.

MR. SPEAKER: A proper reply will be possible only next week.

13.02 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377—Contd.

(iii) LOCK-OUT BY MESSRS. BENNET COLEMAN AND CO., THE PUBLISHERS OF THE *Times of India* PUBLICATIONS.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Under Rule 377 I wish to raise the following, namely:

The management of Bennett Coleman and Company, publishers of *Times of India* allied publications, has declared a lock out throwing nearly 4500 employees out of employment. The employees were agitating on the demand for interim relief. The lock out in Delhi, Ahmedabad and Calcutta and the efforts to take similar action in Bombay came in the wake of the unions in the four centres going on strike after the complete breakdown of

the two and half months of negotiations with the management. The management was adopting delaying tactics not to reach any accord. Meeting of the employees' demands has become urgently necessary, especially since the presentation of the Union budget for 1979-80.

The demands of the employees are quite legitimate, reasonable and should be accepted by the management without delay. The Central Government should not remain as a passive spectator and should immediately intervene in favour of the employees and see that the dispute is settled in their favour.

(iv) RE. CONVERSION OF NATIONAL INSTRUMENTS LTD, CALCUTTA, INTO A GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT

SHRI SAUGATA ROY (Barrackpore): Under Rule 377 I would like to raise the following matters in Parliament:

The National Instruments Limited, Calcutta, is Government of India undertaking under the Ministry of Industrial Development. It manufactures items for the Defence Ministry, Survey of India and also consumer items like cameras etc.

The number of employees is about 1300.

For the last 3 years the company has been suffering losses and the cumulative loss now stands at Rs. 6 crores. The present range of production will not be able to wipe out the loss. The situation in the Company has been made more difficult by the recent formation of the CITU union which is causing indiscipline, violence and loss of production in the company.

The department of Science and Technology has already recommended that the company may be converted into a Government Department and placed under the control of Survey of India as one of the specialised branches. The Defence Production Minis-