

construction of a rail link between Talcher and Sambalpur.

(viii) **Need to Check Spurt in the Prices and to ensure its Regular Supply**

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU (Rae Bareilly) : Disproportionate rise in tea prices recorded during the last six months is causing concern to the consumer. According to available information, despite the smart recovery in tea production, particularly in North India, there has been a decline in the quantum of offerings at the Calcutta and Siliguri auctions. Available figures indicate that sale through the Calcutta auctions was almost 25 million kilograms lower till 15 November this year against the corresponding period in 1982. Similar is the case with Siliguri. I would urge upon the Government to check the spurt in tea prices and to ensure that there is enough tea to go around during January-April, a traditionally lean period, in terms of production in North-East India.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, SPORTS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : Sir, I just want to make a humble suggestion that today there is Legislative Business mentioned in the List of Business. It will be possible only if you kindly permit us to sit through Lunch. Then we will be able to pass this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : To suspend Lunch. Because we are going to take up at 2 O'Clock—that is what he says, the International situation, he wants to complete this Bill.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Sir, don't suspend lunch. Suspend Kunch Hour.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, he wants suspension of Lunch Hour. If you want to take lunch, you can go even to the Minister's place.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY (Bombay North East) : This is the direction of the Deputy-Speaker.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Is it the pleasure of the House that we suspend Lunch Hour ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, it is agreed, there is no Lunch Hour. Now, Statement by the Minister, Shri K P. Singh Deo

(Interruptions)

12.15 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : ARREST OF CERTAIN DEFENCE SERVICES OFFICERS IN CONNECTIONS WITH SUSPECTED ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : Mr. Speaker, Sri, On information furnished by an Air Force Officer with the high sense of duty and patriotism, that he had been approached to furnish certain classified information for a consideration, investigations were carried out which led to the arrest of some persons. A case u/s 3/5/9 of the Official Secrets Act has been registered by the Delhi Police and is under investigation. Investigations so far have led to the arrest of one Air Vice Marshal K.H. Larkins (Retired), his elder brother Major General F.D. Larkins (Retired), one Lt. Colonel Jasbir Singh (Retired) and one Shri Jaspal Singh Gill.

I would like to assure the House that steps have been immediately taken to prevent leakage of any classified information.

Since investigations are still in progress, I would request the-honourable Members to bear with me and not seek

details lest this should jeopardise the investigations.

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**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE** (Rajapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I only want to bring to your notice that when on such a sensitive issue we give notice, we give it with a full sense of responsibility. I am happy that the Minister has done the needful. We do not want to obstruct any further investigation because it is a sensitive issue. We are thankful to the Minister as he has responded.

**DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY** (Bombay North East): Continue to be vigilant.

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12,26 hrs.

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE :  
DISAPPROVAL OF TRANSFORMER  
AND SWITCHGEAR LIMITED  
(ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF  
UNDERTAKINGS) ORDINANCE, 1983  
AND TRANSFORMER AND SWITCH-  
GEAR LIMITED (ACQUISITION AND  
TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKINGS)  
BILL.**

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** We go to the next item. Item, Nos. 12 and 13 to be discussed together. Dr. Vasant Kumar Pandit.

**DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT** (Rajgarh): Sir, I beg to move :

"This House disapproves of the Transformer and Switchgear Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Ordinance, 1983 (Ordinance No. 11 of 1983) promulgated by the President on the 8th November, 1983".

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN  
THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY  
(SHRI S.M. KRISHNA) :** Sir, I beg to move\* :

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\*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

"That the Bill to provide for the acquisition and transfer of the undertakings of the Transformer and Switchgear Limited with a view to securing the better utilisation of the available infrastructure thereof and to modernise and augment the production of transformers, switchgears and other allied electrical equipments by the said undertakings so as to subserve the interests of the general public by ensuring the continued supply of the aforesaid articles which are essential to the needs of the economy of the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Motions moved :

"This House disapproves of the Transformer and Switchgear Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Ordinance, 1983 (Ordinance No. 11 of 1983) promulgated by the President on the 8th November, 1983."

"That the Bill to provide for the acquisition and transfer of undertakings of the Transformer and Switchgear Limited with a view to securing the better utilisation of the available infrastructure thereof and to modernise and augment the production of transformers, switchgears and other allied electrical equipments by the said undertakings so as to subserve the interests of the general public by ensuring the continued supply of the aforesaid articles which are essential to the needs of the economy of the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

**DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has been our experience that almost in every session the Government comes forward before the House with Bills to cover the ordinances issued by the Government. While assuring full powers of the parliamentary practice with regard to promulgation of ordinances. These are almost, in every instance, according to established