

(a) when the foundation stone of Barsingspur Thermal Power Plant is likely to be laid;

(b) the number of farmers whose land has been acquired in this regard;

(c) if so, the number of farmers who have been paid compensation and those who are yet to be paid;

(d) when the Suratgarh Thermal Plant was approved;

(e) the total amount allocated for Suratgarh Thermal Plant this year; and

(f) the estimated capacity of this Thermal Plant and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c). Barsingsar mine (1.7 m.t.)-cum.-power project (2x120 MW) has been sanctioned by the government in April, 1991. At present, there is no programme of laying the foundation stone of the Barsingsar project.

The No. of farmers whose land has been acquired for Barsingsar project is 662. Out of this, 611 farmers have been paid full compensation; 15 farmers have been paid compensation partially and 36 farmers remain to whom compensation is yet to be paid. The process of paying full compensation to all eligible farmers is continuing.

(d) to (f). the Suratgarh Thermal Power Plant (2x250 MW) Stage-II has been sanctioned by the Planning Commission on the 13th November, 1991 at an estimated cost of Rs. 1253.31 crores including IDC of Rs. 205.16 crores at September, 1990 prices. The project is envisaged to yield benefits during the 9th Plan. During the Plan discussions for the 8th Plan (1990-95) and

Annual Plan (1991-92), the working Group has recommended a provision of Rs. 450 crores for the Suratgarh project for the 8th Plan and Rs. 30 crores for the year 1991-92 subject to approval of the scheme.

12.00 hrs.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, two leading newspapers of our country. The Times of India and Navbharat Times are going through a phase of crisis today. The owner of these newspapers, want to make the Hindi newspaper 'Navbharat Times' a translated version of the English Newspaper. As a result, the editor of Navbharat Times, Shri Surendra Pratap Singh is about to resign and has gone on long leave. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Are they not private companies? Can we discuss about them here?

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: The Chief of Bureau, Shri Dina Nath Mishra has also gone on leave and he is also about to resign. Near about 2000 journalists have been kept out of the purview of the working Journalist, Act. They are just like bonded labourers and may be removed any time. A situation of uncertainty has been created in the news world of our country and particularly in the field of Hindi journalism. A problem has also arisen before the readers of Hindi newspapers. Navbharat Times is the most popular newspaper among the Hindi readers.

Sir, in such a situation, the Government should give a statement on this issue and

directions should be given that the journalists, reporters and the readers should not fall prey to any dispute among the owners of the newspapers. This situation of uncertainty should be ended as early as possible. The Times of India is more than 100 years old and the Navbharat Times is completing its 5th decade. In view of the problem faced by the Hindi readers, a Committee of the House should investigate the matter and submit a report to this House. The House should also direct the Government to interfere in the working of both these newspapers and improve the condition of working journalists.

[English]

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO (Sundargarh): Sir, on the request of the Executive Officer of NAC (ST) I had gone to his office on 2.11.1991 at 2.30 p.m. for a discussion pertaining to the change of the President of Sarla Mahila Samiti of Timber Colony, Rourkela. While the discussion was going on, some twenty hooligans forcibly entered the hall, misbehaved with the ladies and used filthy language against me and the ladies. They took away the Executive Officer.

Suddenly, some more hooligans came at the gate and started throwing stones on us. They created law and order problem and demanded my arrest. Some 150 ladies and 100 men were arrested with me by Shri R.K. Biswal, DSP on duty. We were taken in a police van to Sector 7 police station at 6.30 p.m. and were detained there till 4.30 a.m. of 3.11.1991. It was raining throughout the night and we were kept sitting on the Verandah of the Police Station. The District Civil and Police Administration did not care to come to the Police Station to solve the problem. The District Magistrate who was camping at Rourkela also did not come to the Police Station.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this august House, I appeal to you to refer the matter to the Privileges Committee of this House and

request that necessary action may be taken immediately against the officials responsible for such an incident, which is uncalled for. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. Why am I standing. It is quite useless. Please understand into why I am standing.

(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. This was a matter which was brought to my notice. I had asked for the explanation on 8.11.91. Reminders were sent on 15.11.91, 19.11.91, 22.11.91 and 25.11.91. Then, the show cause notice as to why the privileges notice should not be admitted was given on 27.11.91 and on 29.11.91.

Again there were letters sent on 6.12.91 and again on 12.12.91.

In spite of so many letters, nothing has been done. That is why, I am referring this matter to the Privileges Committee for taking stringent action.

(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Have you referred * this matter to the Privileges Committee. But if you want and the House approves, immediate action can be taken in this matter. The concerned official can be summoned to the House and can be reprimanded. (*Interruptions*) This is prima facie case. (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Iakshadweep): The concerned official should be summoned

to the Bar of the House and punished.
(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: We will get the report from them. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Pleased take your seats.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Please let me work in a regulatory system. Whatever Shri Vajpayee, Shri Panigrahi and others are saying, I agree with it.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN. (Rosera): We also have not objection.

MR. SPEAKER: I think that the entire House is of the same opinion in this regard

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am saying that I am fully one with your views. At the same time, I am referring this matter to the Privileges Committee and I will request the Privileges Committee to submit the report in the shortest time. And if the Privileges Committee comes to the conclusion that there is some mistake - real mistake - then we would take stringent action on it.

But, at the same time, let us find out what she has to say and it is the last chance, nothing more than that. We should not appear to be doing something at the back of anybody. This would be the last chance.

[*Translation*]

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH (Buxar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, like the Scheduled Castes

and Scheduled Tribes, there is a caste of Nai in our country. their population is in lakhs. They are landless and have nothing except a house. Therefore, I would like to demand from the Government of India that this Nai caste should also be included in the list of Scheduled Castes and all the facilities provided to them regarding jobs and other things should be provided to these people also, so that these people can also live respectfully in the society.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur): Mr. Speaker, sir, any game is played with the feeling of competition and unity. But it is regretful that a lot of discrimination is done in the field of sports in our country. a meeting of nearabout 100 new and old wrestlers was held today. The, spoke about their basic problems and they were also agitated. As I have also played this game, I am quite proud of it and also know its basic problems. the players of other sports, which have got much publicity and facilities and who have won Olympic medals, were awarded with Padamshree also. But the players of rural games like wrestling, who have also won Olympic medals, have not yet been awarded with Padamshree. The officials of the sports Federations may have played any sport, such as Olympic games, wrestling

12.11 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the chair*]

hockey or athletics and crores of rupees are spent on the management of these sports federation, but when these officials have not played a particular game and have no idea about it, how can they thing of bringing progress in that game. That is why our country is gradually losing its place in the world of sports.

I would like to know from the Government as to what steps are being taken to improve the management of these sports federations?

In view of this ad state of affairs, the wrestlers submitted a proposal that a conference of the wrestlers from all over India will be called, in which the Lok Sabha Speaker, the Prime Minister, the president and the Leaders of Opposition will be invited and will be requested to solve their problems. In the conference, the Government will be asked to state the steps that it would take in this regard. Mr. Speaker, Sir. You should direct the Government to state as to what steps and being taken by it to solve the problem in this regard?

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you might kindly recall that I had raised the matter of recruitment of police constables in Lakshadweep. It is the not the first time that I am raising this issue. In the previous weeks also, I had mentioned about it in this very session.

Now it appears that the Home Ministry people are fast asleep. they do not know what if happening in far-flung Islands. The tension is mounting up like anything. the Home Minister had given an assurance that the constables would be recruited from Lakhsadweep itself. The position now is 45 per cent from locals and 55 per cent from outside are taken. Already there are underground organisations working against the integrity of the country. I have given sufficient notice to them. they are not rising from their fast sleep. I have no other way but to sit in the well of this House. (*Interruptions*). They are going to recruit again on the 16th. Therefore, I am going to sit in the well. I am not going to budge. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman-Nicobar Islands): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, sir, I fully support Mr. Sayeed. I will also sit with him.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, no.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: This is how small island territories - union territories - are treated by the Central Government. I also join with him. I am also sitting with him.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: NO, no; this is not fair. (*Interruptions*) There are others who have got important issues.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Ponnani): I also join.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): We are supporting him, Sir.

(*Interruptions*)

12.13 hrs

At this stage, Shri P.M. Sayeed and some other Hon. Members came and sat on the floor near the table.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister is about to reply to your questions. You kindly resume your seats.

(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri P.M. Sayeed is a very senior Member of this House. Sir, I would like to tell Shri Kumarmangalam that he should give satisfactory reply to his problems, so that the people living in the far-flung north-eastern states should also have no complaint. You should reply them satisfactorily so that these Members, who belong to our party, should have no complaint and should not have to sit in the well of the House. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIRAM VILAS PASWAN: The Home Minister must be present here.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): Can't I reply?

I can sit if you don't want. Have I become junior for you?

[*English*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to assure the hon. Members that their grievances will not only be brought to the notice of the Home Minister definitely but it would be sorted out definitely to their satisfaction also within the date which they have mentioned as there is going to be fresh recruitment. The matter will be paid definite attention. (*Interruptions*)... I assure that the Home Minister will definitely look into the matter and we will see that their grievances are redressed. Now, I request the hon. Members to rise from the well of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the hon. Members may resume their seats.

(*Interruptions*)

12.17 hrs

(*At this stage, Shri P.M. Sayeed and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.*)

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak on the issue raised by Shri Mohan Singh. He said that the Hindi journalism is gradually being deprived of its independence and the Report of Bachawat Committee is also being neglected. We should be given time to speak on this. The freedom of Press is in danger today. We would like to express our views on the freedom of press and would like to condemn this incident. Therefore, please give us time. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the editor is being removed. He is being made a publisher and printer. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious issue. It should not be neglected like this. We should be allowed to express our feelings.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Anna Joshi.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): Sir, Maharashtra State is deficit in edible oil and has, therefore, to depend largely on the allocation of imported edible oil being received from the Government of India. At the rate of one kilogram per card, the minimum monthly requirement of Maharashtra is 15,500 metric tonnes per month. But we are shocked to see the very meagre supplies during the last eleven months. During the last eleven months, the total minimum requirement was 1,70,500 metric tonnes as against the total supply of 12,600 metric tonnes only. Therefore, most earnestly, I urge upon the Government of India to give this State a higher allocation of edible oil at the rate of 15,500 metric tonnes per month and also to maintain the supply constant at the rate of 26 per cent of the all-India allocation.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: The matter just now raised by Shri Mohan Singh is very sensitive. "Nav Bharat Times" is a Hindi Daily newspaper. I know that "Nav Bharat Times" is the leading newspaper among all the vernacular dailies. Both the editor of the daily, Shri S.P. Singh, and Chief of Bureau, Shri Dinanath Mishra, are being harassed by the management in several ways to seek their resignations. I agree to the matter raised by Shri Mohan Singh that the contract system of appointment is not confined to just 'Nav Bharat Times' and 'The Times of India', but is seen in whole of the print media. In violation of the relevant Acts and rules of the

Government, journalists are being appointed on contract basis through out the country and are subjected to the system of bonded labour. A big conspiracy is being hatched against all the vernacular newspapers, especially Hindi dailies to reduce them to just a translated version of English newspaper. The process was initiated by 'India Today' but now 'Nav Bharat Times' is also following it, which has a circulation of 11.30 lakh in Delhi alone. Even the sale of any English daily does not exceed the sale of Nav Bharat Times because no English newspaper has the circulation of more than 5 lakh. It is a serious matter that all efforts are being made to demean the editor of the daily, known for his contribution to journalism for 20 years and who has carved out a place for himself in India among Hindi journalists because of untiring devotion to his profession and impeccable honest. The matter cannot be ignored by claiming it to be just a matter of a private sector. In last session the issue was raised by the Congress(I) member, Shri Ratnakar Pandey, in the Upper House. I think the issue raised by Shri Mohan Singh is above party politics and has also got the support of most of the members of the august House. The manner in which the contract system of appointments of journalists, evolved in the first instance by "The Times of India" is being adopted by other newspapers in violation of the laws in force at present, is a novel method of computerisation and modernisation by associating the editors with management. All these things will greatly harm the progress of journalism in the country.

I would like to submit that Shri S. P. Singh and Shri Dinanath Mishra are the two great starts in the field of Hindi Journalism, but through the present conspiracy being hatched against the interest of journalism in the country, both have become its worst victims. Both of them are being made a target of it. The Government must be aware of a circular issued one or two months earlier wherein it was stated that 'Nav Bharat Times' must daily carry out at least 5 translated columns of 'The Times of India'. Whole of the management everyday sees that the orders in this regard are adhered to. If you kindly permit me, I am ready to produce the circular issued by the

management and the capitalists which has torpedoed the freedom of journalists. That is why this matter is quite serious. I would like to impress upon Shri Vajpayee, and the members of his party, the members of the Communist parties and Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee, and the hon. Members of the Congress(I) that this is a very serious matter and it is a joke being played with the vernacular papers of India. I would like to submit that such things should be got stopped immediately.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Thank you for allowing me to speak. I think, in this House, there should not be any two opinions on this question. We fully support and stand by the staff of the *Nav Bharat Times*, be they in the editorial branch or in the other branches. Only the other day, I raised the matter about the multi-national collaboration that some of our Indian newspapers are entering into. Later on, the foreigners will dominate our newspapers and they will drive out some of our editors as well. Let us be vigilant on all counts about the interests of our workers and editors and now in particular, about the *Nav Bharat Times*.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I also want that this matter should be raised in the Zero hour. The owners of the newspaper 'Nav Bharat Times' are hatching a conspiracy as to how the national newspapers of the country may be discontinued. In the first instance, with a view to remove a number of journalists, The owners have sought their resignations. The Editor of 'Nav Bharat Times' has been serving in the field of journalism for the last 20 years and now is being asked to become a printer or a publisher or he should resign from the post. Now the 'Nav Bharat Times' will be the translated version of 'The Times of India'. This will be a serious onslaught on Hindi journalism and will also affect the lot of the journalists.

I want to raise the matter of contract system and of bonded labour system. Suppose a young man of 24-25 years of age

joins the field of journalism and after putting a contract service of 5-6 years, at the age of 30-32 years, his services are dispensed with, where will he go, the whole of his career will be in dark. Therefore, I would like the hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting that he should come to the House and make a statement directing the owners of the newspapers to abolish the contract system of service for the journalists.

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR (Durg): It is nice that 'Nav Bharat Times' is the largest daily and its popularity is increasing day by day. In the circumstances they will have to see whether any conspiracy has been hatched by the owners to lower its popularity. Switching over to merely a translated version by destroying its originality will definitely downgrade its prestige and reputation. Efforts are underway for hatching a conspiracy against 'Nav Bharat Times' with a view to bring its prestige down. Provision of wage board is there to consider the pay scales of journalists etc, but there is also a need to constitute Committee, Commission or Board to draw guidelines on the functioning and management of newspapers. Foreigners also read our newspapers in India so what conclusion they will draw if the newspapers are not upto the mark. In this way the newspapers are being supposed. So, what will be its consequences and whether the Government proposes to appoint any Committee or Commission in this regard?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: This matter is quite serious and not so simple. 'Nav Bharat Times' is merely an example of it. If the matter is not solved once for all, it will create more chaos in future, because on the one hand there are the capitalists and on the other hand, there are intellectuals ready to sell their services. In this, the freedom of press is in danger. When the editors will be directed to follow the dictates, and if they do not abide by their directions, they will be appointed as publishers. This is the direct violation of the recommendations of the Bachawat Wage Board report as Champak Kunja has also rightly said. For the first time in the history of India there is direct conflict between the management of 'Nav Bharat Times' and the working as well as non-

working journalists. Shri S.P. Singh and Shri Dinanath Mishra are the assets of the whole nation as has been stated by Shri Sharad Yadav. Translation work will reduce the journalists of 'Nav Bharat Times' to merely translators of all that appears in 'The Times of India.' If the orders are not carried out, the journalist will be removed from the service. Biggest media which is in the hands of capitalists is being misused. This is a direct threat to the freedom of press. Contract system has been abolished under the law, but is reigning supreme in the print media. That is why I urge that the matter is above party politics. All the political parties feel that the Government must take initiative and the chair should also give a ruling in this regard. Press is the soul of the constitution and is its eyes, ears and nose. If the freedom of press is restricted, the democracy will come to an end. Therefore, the chair must give ruling in this regard and direct the Government to take necessary steps in the matter. Shri Khurana has also insisted for the constitution of a Parliamentary Committee. The Government must take the necessary steps to preserve the freedom of press. This is all we expect from the chair in this regard.

SHRI RABI RAY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, right now a very important issue is being discussed in the House. Sir, you are the Hon. Deputy Speaker of this House and occupying the chair of the presiding officer at present. In view of the sovereign status of the Parliament, it becomes our duty to preserve the freedom of fourth estate. Representative of the fourth estate is the print media. I agree with the present position of the electronic media being in the hands of the Government. The Government can use it in whatever manner it deems fit. Only print media gives us unbiased news as well as views. The question raised by Shri Mohan Singh about the owner of 'Nav Bharat Times' and 'The Times of India' is quite pertinent. Sir, we have ourselves been the victims of emergency days. Whenever fourth estate becomes the victim of the dictatorial attitude, the democratic freedom ends. The matter is above party politics. We felt satisfied, when Shri Chandrasekar of Congress(I) also raised this issue, I would like to submit that on the day of strike, America threatened us to amend the patent laws as per their wishes,

otherwise the action will be taken under '301 Special Trade Act'. Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev must be listening to my speech. It is my apprehension that multinational corporations are buying print media in India in collaboration with business houses like Jain group etc. Sir, you are the custodian of our rights. Therefore, you must issue directions to the Government in this regard. It is not at all proper for the journalists to follow the dictates of the newspapers as has been going to happen with the 'Nav Bharat Times', which is going to be a translated version of 'The Times of India' on the direction of their owners. Some guidelines may be laid down in this regard. I would like to urge Shri Chandulal to exert pressure on the Government to intervene in the matter. Freedom of 'Nav Bharat Times' must be preserved. In the end, I would like to submit that the freedom of Hindi newspapers must be safeguarded.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is an insult to the national language. *(Interruptions)*

(English)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): I will convey this to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

(Interruptions)

(Translation)

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV(Azamgarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what action will be taken in this regard it is a very important issue.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Direct the Government to act in the matter. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, discussion has taken place in the House, but what will happen? Is any Minister willing to come out with any concrete assurance? *(Interruptions)*

(English)

I am raising a point of order.

(Translation)

Please listen Sir, the entire House is united on the issue relating to hatching of biggest conspiracy against the print media in India. All the journalists were already aware of this threat to the freedom of press. It is an international danger which is engulfing our Hindi journalism today and tomorrow it will create problems to all of our vernacular journalism and in the end, English journalism will also be directed to publish those things which will be despatched by the International News Agencies. This is a serious conspiracy and if it is not prevented, it will seriously affect the freedom of press. It will destroy whole of the media. Today, it is engulfing the print media and tomorrow it will also affect Radio and Television. It is a serious matter that in the name of openness, the international companies will prevail over the country. The assurance given by the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel that he will convey this to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, is not enough. It would be an appropriate step if the concerned Minister should either be called to the House or the Government should make a fullfledged statement over this issue, because the entire House is unanimous on this matter. If the Government does not make a fullfledged statement over this issue, because the entire House is unanimous on this matter. If the Government does not make a statement, I demand that a detailed discussion should be held on this issue. Merely, conveying the views to the concerned Minister on such a serious matter means taking the House very lightly. Therefore, I request the Chair, as custodian of the House, to direct the Government to make a statement and if the need be a detailed discussion should be held in the House. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: The Government is not taking the issue seriously. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): All the sections of the house are participating in the discussion, but the concerned Minister is not present in the House. The concerned Minister should be directed to make a statement.

(Interruptions)

[*English*]

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(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PAWAN : A motion must be passed today in the House expressing concern over the matter.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRAJEE YADAV: Some things also being witnessed in PTI and UNI. international again spatch want PTI to print all the things what they despatch. It is a serious issue, because all this will not remain confined to just print media, but will also percolate to electronic media, Radio and one day the whole industry will be engulfed by it....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ahamed.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): The Government should assure the House that they will see that the Bachawat Commission's recommendations and the rules framed thereunder will be implemented and that no violation will be permitted. Now the freedom of Press has become the freedom of Press barons. We want the real freedom of Press, in its real sense, and the editors should be given the liberty as it is recommended by the Bachawat Commission report.

I request the hon. Minister to assure the House that whatever views have been expressed by hon. Members will be taken into account and necessary suitable action will be taken to protect the freedom of Press.

SHRI INDERJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): This is one of those rare occasions in the

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I request the hon. Minister to assure the House that whatever views have been expressed by hon. Members will be taken into account and necessary suitable action will be taken to protect the freedom of Press.

SHRI INDRA JEET GUPTA (Midnapore): This is one of those rare occasions in the annuals of Parliament when the entire House without any exception is united on a single issue, and this is because of the unprecedented development which is taking place, the threat from outside the country, from powerful forces, international forces, the threat to the freedom of our Press. I think, enough has been said here already by many Members from different sides of the House to justify our demand that the hon. Minister for Information and Broadcasting should come to the House and make a statement on this. Enough has been

said. If the Ministers who are here are not in a position to say anything, there is no reason why that the Minister should not come and make a statement here. If we fail to get any remedy from this House, then we will have to think of some other means. That is all. I am sorry to say this. When all Parties are united on this question, either we get a remedy in this House by means of the Government clarifying its position and giving us some minimum assurances. Otherwise, I think, all Members will have to go together to the Prime Minister and we will have to make some other form of demonstration outside the House, which may not be to everybody's liking.

Sir, this matter has been sufficiently agitated here. Sir, you now how the feelings of the Members are running high. And I see no reason why the Minister should not be informed that he must come here as soon as possible and make a clarificatory statement so that our fears are set at rest. If they are not set at rest, then the country will have to decide what to do about it...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Sir, Please ask the Minister to give statement.

[*English*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): A direction should come from the Chair....*(interruptions)*

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Ponnani): Sir, I fully support Mr. Gupta. Sir, I want you to direct the Government and ask the Minister to come over here and clarify the Government's stand on this. It is a very important matter. This cannot be ignored by us at any cost....*(Interruptions)*

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): Sir, you must take into account the opinion expressed by our senior colleagues. The freedom of the press in India is at stake and it cannot be thrown to the mercy of the multi-nationals. The Deputy Speaker may direct the Government and ask the Minister to come over here and clarify its stand on this issue. This is a

serious issue. If it is not settled on the floor of the House, as our senior colleagues have expressed, clarification on this issue has to be sought outside Parliament... (*Interruptions*) Uncorrected/Not for publication

[*Translation*]

SHRI DATA MEGHE (Nagpur): Sir, it should be taken up for discussion in the House (*Interruptions*). Hon. Minister is not present and it is an important matter. There must be discussion on it (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): Sir, Please ask the Minister to come to the House and make a statement.

[*English*]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, there is unanimity in the House on this issue. The freedom of the press is something which cannot be compromised. I join with the opinion which has been expressed here by all sides of the House. I request the hon. Minister for Information and Broadcasting to come out with a statement on this. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I fully appreciate the sentiments expressed by all sides of the House. The demand is that the Government should react immediately. Sitting here, I will not be able to know whether the Minister is in station. If he is in station definitely he will react to this. Today or tomorrow, one of the Minister for Information and Broadcasting will come here and give the Government's view on this, which I can assure you, Sir.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whenever important issues are raised on the floor of the House, normally Government will react to it. The hon. Minister has categorically assured this House that he would convey this information and the Government would make a statement on this today or tomorrow as the case may be.

(*Interruptions*)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Today itself.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The difficulty is that this matter is not on the agenda and you have not given a notice to the Government. The Government shall have to get information and prepare themselves and substantial, logical, reasonable information shall have to be furnished to this House. Therefore, it is necessary. The hon. Minister has sought some time. I think, the House will agree with this. Your feelings have been very deeply felt by the Treasury Benches... (*Interruptions*) 40 hon. Members have given their names and they want to raise very important issues here. All those names have been listed according to the priority. Now I will call the names. I earnestly request that every Member should take only one minute or one-and-a-half minutes so that more matters can be brought to the light of the day and Government can take notice of that. I hope, you all agree with that. (*Interruptions*)

As and when names are given in the office, they are listed. Suppose, the names are given at 9.50, 9.51, 9.52. Accordingly they are being listed. So it is upto us to save time and allow our younger brothers and elders to take the opportunity. I hope, you will agree with this.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Before 10, the position is the same. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I know, you raise only very very important issues. Every one should have a chance. Therefore, accommodation lies in our hearts.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a very important issue in my constituency.

In Vijayawada city there are railway quarters which are 80 years old. In fact, they are condemned quarters. Even then the Railways are deducting house rent allowance from their employees who are staying in those quarters. There are not even minimum sanitation facilities. Whenever there is a rainfall, these quarters, water gushes into women in particular are the worst sufferers.