

The House then adjourned at twenty-four minutes past twelve of the clock.

The House reassembled at thirty-seven minutes past twelve of the clock.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Baishya. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, what happened to my matter?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Chairman is examining it.

Appointments in North-East Frontier Railway

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (Assam): Sir, there is an allegation of corruption against the GM, NF Railway. Sir, the GM of the NF Railway has appointed about hundred of people without giving any advertisement, without holding any interview, totally violating the norms of the Railway Ministry. Not only that, Sir, I have a list of these sixty persons who got the jobs in NF Railway, without any interview, without any advertisement, and it is quite unfortunate that out of these 60 persons, not a single person is appointed from Assam and North-Eastern Region. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, it is the attitude of an officer. Not only that, Sir, it is done by totally violating the existing norms of the Railway Board. Not only did he appoint 60 persons from outside the North-Eastern States, but there is also a series of allegations published in the newspapers...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please don't show the newspapers. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Baishya, please don't show the newspapers.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Right, Sir. He himself or his agent took an amount of two lakh of rupees each from the persons who got the job. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is a very serious allegation. Sir, all this is happening in Assam. So, I want to draw the attention of the House to the problem of Assam.

Sir, unemployment is a very big problem in Assam. In the Railway Ministry, not a single boy from Assam, not a single youth from the North-Eastern Region got the job. Only outsiders got the job, and this is done without holding any interview; this is done without any advertisement. This is the attitude of the GM, NF Railway. Not only that, there is also a series of conspiracy going on against the youth of Assam. Sir, a serious conspiracy is going on against the people of North-Eastern Region, depriving them of jobs in the North-Eastern Region. So, we need protection. We want that this corrupt official should be suspended and removed immediately from his post, and all the irregular appointments made by him should be cancelled immediately. There should also be a CBI enquiry against him immediately. Not only that, I want to tell you very frankly that Assam is an insurgency-hit State. It is known to everybody, and, by this attitude, it is not possible at all to solve the insurgency problem in Assam and the North-Eastern Region. ...*(Time-bell)*... And by this, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*... this insurgency problem is going. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Over, over. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: I want one minute only. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, one minute.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It will not go on record. The mike is off. *(Interruptions)*... एसोसिएट करने वाले सदस्यों के नाम लिख दीजिए।

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया (झारखंड): उपसभापति महोदय, मैं इससे अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री विक्रम वर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, मैं इससे अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS (Assam): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

श्री भगत सिंह कोश्यारी (उत्तराखंड): उपसभापति महोदय, मैं इससे अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास (छत्तीसगढ़): उपसभापति महोदय, मैं इससे अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री भागीरथी माझी (उड़ीसा): उपसभापति महोदय, मैं इससे अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री विश्वजीत दैमारी (असम): उपसभापति महोदय, मैं इससे अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All Members associate themselves with this. Shri Prasanta Chatterjee.

Purchase of Air Defence Missile System

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, Ministry of Defence has given the contract for supply of around 12 Air Defence Missile Systems for Rs. 10,000 crore to Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI). This is shocking, considering that such a contract has been given at a time when IAI is already under investigation of the CBI on charges of bribery and corruption. The deal with IAI is also open to question on other counts. First, it involves systems that have yet to be even developed by IAI, let alone manufactured and test proven. Secondly, our Defence R&D Organisation (DRDO) has already developed and repeatedly field-proven DRDO's Advanced Air Defence (AAD) missiles capacity. This missile is capable of destroying incoming enemy missiles as well as aircraft whereas the proposed IAI missile can deal only with enemy aircraft. The DRDO (AAD) missile is capable of intercepting even ballistic missiles at altitudes up to as high as 18 km. Thus, the proposed missiles sought to be developed by IAI appears to be inferior to the DRDO developed missiles, AAD, on the counts of technical, cost and operational readiness.

Thirdly, to give a picture of indigenous involvement and content, DRDO has been forced to enter into a so-called "joint development" of the IAI Air Defence Missile even when it already has its own superior AAD missile. This deal again brings out the disturbing influence that Israeli arms manufacturers including Government-owned entities assert on India's arms purchases.

I would request that the contract should be cancelled immediately and Government must see to it that the DRDO's indigenous missile programme is not subverted in any way.

*Not recorded.