

SHRI D. RAJA: The Minister is sitting here. Let him state the facts. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: He is misleading the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... Don't mislead the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Raja, please complete your speech.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, there are interruptions. You should protect my right.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am asking them to sit down. I am protecting your right. ...*(Interruptions)* There cannot be interruptions in the Zero Hour mentions. Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is the Member's prerogative.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, the Prime Minister of India has made several assurances. But what action has been taken so far to guarantee the safety and security of Indian fishermen? And I demand that it is time for the External Affairs Minister and the Government to take up the Katchatheevu Agreement with the Sri Lankan Government for its re-opening and renegotiations. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, we would like to know. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, no more interruptions, please. We are not allowing a debate.

DR. K. MALAISAMY (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you want, you associate yourselves with it. I cannot allow a discussion.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: I would very much like to associate myself with it. At the same time,...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is all. You have associated yourself with it. ...*(Interruptions)*... Other than that, nothing else will go on record. Now, Shri M.V. Mysura Reddy.

**Illegal construction of Bridge-cum-barrages by Karnataka over river
Krishna and its tributaries**

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the Government of India and the Ministry of Water Resources regarding unauthorised construction of bridge-cum-barrage by the State of Karnataka. The State of Andhra Pradesh is already suffering because of the construction of Almatti Dam. Now, the State of Karnataka is constructing a chain of bridge-cum-barrages on the Krishna River. Sir, the Karnataka Government is constructing 20 barrages on Ghata Prabha, 18 barrages on Bhima, 10 barrages on Mala Prabha and 7 barrages on River Krishna. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No interruptions, please. Interruptions will not go on record.

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: The mala fide intention of the Government of Karnataka is to store more than 100 TMC of water in the above barrages and use the same for irrigation. The surprising thing is that it has commenced construction – some part of the work is already over-without giving information even to the Tribunal. The illogical argument of Karnataka is that it is constructing road bridges. But it is not road bridges. Sir, They have fixed gates and want to utilise 100 TMC of water. This would create problems for Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh is a lower riparian State and the State's interests need to be protected. I would request the Government of India to immediately direct the Government of Karnataka to desist from such illegal and unauthorised construction and do justice to the State of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI SAYED AZEEZ PASHA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Special Mentions will be taken up immediately after 6 o'clock. Now, Shri Tarini Kanta Roy. Your Party is left with only fifteen minutes. Still, two speakers are there. You may, please, conclude now.

THE BUDGET (RAILWAYS) 2009-10

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY (West Bengal): Sir, I was speaking yesterday about vacancies in Railways. The Railways have about 1,50,000 vacancies. At the same time, about 1,20,000 posts have been abolished by the Railways. I was asking the hon. Minister whether she was ready to fill up the vacancies immediately and, at the same time, restore the abolished posts. I was asking her about this when I was speaking here yesterday on the Railway Budget.

Sir, I would like to say that in her Budget Speech there was not a single word about wages and social security of lakhs of contract workers working in the Railways. I would also say that the Budget Speech was silent about the condition of millions of hawkers, vendors and commissioned vendors, who are actually earning their daily bread working with the Railways. Sir, I was very happy because the Railway Minister expressed her desire to give 'izzat' to the poor people. I welcome it. At the same time, I would request her to issue licenses to millions of hawkers, vendors and commissioned vendors at a subsidized rate, say, Rs. 25 per month. This would help them and would also restrict the entry of unlicensed and unauthorised hawkers and vendors in the Railways. Sir, like in previous years, this Budget also starts with a declaration about introduction of new trains, non-stop trains, extension of trains, increase in the frequency of trains, and so on. While I welcome these proposals, I would like to know whether our railway tracks are adequate to run all these trains and whether the renovation, restoration and rebuilding that our old bridges require has been done. Sir, this needs lot of money. I am afraid, that the Railway's operating ratio has gone up to the dangerous level of 92.5 per cent in the current Budget from 75.9 per cent, in actual, in 2007-08.