

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Salve, the difference between you and the Minister is that you think it is everywhere and he thinks that it is here and there.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, I am grateful for this comment. I should like to know what according to him the difference is between here and there and everywhere.

SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH: You can very well read the question. Does this supplementary arise out of this question?

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL: How can "here and there". . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know if "here and there" includes bungalows also? (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think you have gone beyond the question very much.

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL: Sir, the D.D.A. and its performance is being discussed for the last so many years, and lately about its inefficiency the House has raised its voice so many times. He says there may be cases of corruption "here and there". How can it be different from the whole, from the Government? It is part of that whole, of "everywhere"; it is part of "everywhere". It is in D.D.A. where "here and there" it is there. This is the only difference.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You ask a question and not give a lecture on geometry.

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL: I am asking a question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: "Here and there" has created confusion.

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL: Here and there in the DDA and everywhere in the Government. That is the only difference.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is no question. We will pass on to the next question.

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL: Has this come to the notice of the Government?

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL: Formerly a certain quota was there for the journalists. And the big journalists have captured a big colony, the Gulmohar colony or somewhere. But the small journalists are left out. Likewise the working women had also asked for an area nearer the Secretariat. That has also been rejected. Does the Minister know that there was a 3 per cent reservation for MPs, MLAs, Municipal Councillors, etc.? That has also been abolished. May I know what percentage was reserved in 1980-81 for these categories and whether for the year 1981-82, this percentage will be reserved for these categories?

SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH: I had already replied that the previous Government had abolished this reservation. Now I have received so many representations from journalists and the whole matter is under consideration. I have already said it.

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : कब तक हेगा कंसिडरेशन में !

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 43. This will give you plenty of time.

Gearing up of Anti-Corruption Machinery in the P.&T. Department

*43. SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABI-BULLAH:†

SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to gear up anti-corruption machinery in the Posts and Telegraphs Department; and

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Hamida Habibullah.

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It would not be in the public interest to give the details in this regard.

SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIB-ULLAH: Sir,... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. Please wait.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, his answer is absolutely unacceptable. There is nothing about the gearing up of the anti-corruption mahinery in the P & T Department the revealing of which is against the national interest. You should not accept this as a reply from the Minister.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, you find this is the second time... (*Interruptions*) Sir, I have a submission to make. This is the second time in this session that we have been denied an answer and the answer is sought to be withheld on the ground that to answer the question would not be in the public interest. It is for you, Sir, to go into the question as to whether public interest is involved. Tell me from the rules how it could be interpreted. Sir, P & T corruption is here and there or nowhere; I do not know. But what is the public interest involved? Is it intended to shield corruption? Is it in the public interest to shield corruption, or is it in the public interest to expose corruption? (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are all speaking out of turn. The lady has to ask her supplementary. She is entitled to ask this way.

SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIB-ULLAH: It seems there are so many Hamida Habibullahs here. Sir, as everybody knows, the Prime Minis-

ter's firm directive to root out corruption at every level has been welcomed. Sir, in this connection, Mr. Stephen declared... (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen.

SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIB-ULLAH: This is my time. (*Interruptions*). In this connection, Mr. Stephen declared that there was need for quick enquiry and action. Sir, the hon. Minister also suggested that the vigilance section should be trained in modern techniques of investigation. He asked the officers to consider whether a separate cadre of vigilance officials was necessary with a view to eliminating the problem of transfer from one department to another. These are wonderful declarations. But corruption is hindering the entire progress of our country. I would like to ask the honourable Minister how quickly or how long or how short it will take to implement these plans. Please give me a time-limit.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: Sir, the Government is determined to eradicate corruption... (*Interruptions*) Will you please allow me to reply or will you reply?

SHRI PILOO MODY: This is a system of asking questions.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: Please let me reply and then you ask your questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please give the Minister a chance.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: Sir, ...

SHRI PILOO MODY: This is a wrong practice. Please discontinue it, this business of writing down names.

SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIB-ULLAH: Don't interrupt. Allow the Minister to reply to my question.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Kindly understand, Madam, God has given you something. Use it.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: Sir, the Government is determined to eradicate corruption. We cannot deny that corruption is there in some form or other, in a lesser or greater degree, express or implied. The Government is determined to eradicate corruption. Now there is a vigilance set-up. There is already a very good vigilance set-up under the Ministry of Communications and there is a Chief Vigilance Officer answerable to the Secretary of the Ministry of Communications. He is also answerable to the Central Vigilance Commissioner. There are a large number of vigilance officers and they man the telecommunication and postal circles and they have got supporting staff. Very recently there was a conference of these vigilance officers. A large number of delegates were there. This was inaugurated on 27th March, 1981 by our Minister. These delegates were addressed by the Secretary of the Ministry of Communications and the Chief Central Vigilance Commissioner and the Secretary, Department of Personnel in the Ministry of Home Affairs, senior officers of the CBI and the Ministry of Law....

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: Sir, what is the relevance of all this?

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL: What is he talking?

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: There the representatives of the Railways also were associated. They discussed various problems facing the field officers and they came forward with certain conclusions with regard to....

SHRI PILOO MODY: What is the reply? What is he saying?

SHRI KARTIK ORAON:(1) the administration of P&T Department, (2) the role of preventive business, (3) flying squads and surprise checks, (4) leakage of revenue and pilferage of departmental machinery.... (Interruptions), need for streamlining the stores and all those things....

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, what is he reading? How is it all relevant?

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: What I am saying is that we have a number of flying squads in all the four metropolitan cities and then again we have taken steps to revamp this vigilance set-up by making frequent visits, surprise visits, by vigilance officers. And then I would like to say that we have started training camps for the inquiry officers. And again constant collaboration is being maintained with the CBI. The important Point is, I would like to make it very clear,... (several interruptions) Please do n't disturb. I love you all. Please hear me, please listen to what I have to say and then shout. I will tell you one thing....

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: What is the relevance of this reply?

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: My point is the *modus operandi* of apprehending the culprits cannot be disclosed. That is the point. It would not be expedient for an income-tax officer to inform in advance the blackmarketeers and hoarders before making raids and before he will go about unearthing the black money. Similarly here this cannot be disclosed in public interest. That is all.

SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIBULLAH: My second supplementary, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let her put her second supplementary.

SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIBULLAH: Because the opposition had made it absolutely impossible for me to hear what the Minister said.... (Interruptions)

SHRI PILOO MODY:....he must repeat his reply. He must repeat. The lady is quite right.

SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIBULLAH: Sir, may I ask my question again?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not ask the question again. You ask your next supplementary.

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Kindly control them. We are unable to hear either the question or the Minister's reply. It is a great tragedy.... (Interruptions). Shri Kulkarni who is a Vice-Chairman behaves like an ordinary Member. He does not maintain any decorum. .. (Interruptions).

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: Mr. Yadav, the Minister should also be relevant. Secondly, I am a member of this House. I am not the presiding officer now. The Chairman is the presiding officer. The Minister must not be irrelevant in his reply.... (Interruptions).

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: He should not be in the panel of Vice-Chairman. You should remove him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot remove anybody from the panel. Shall I tell you that we are all corrupting the proceedings of the House. The corruption is here. ..

SHRI PILOO MODY: There, there.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: Please allow the lady to repeat that question.

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: You are wasting public money.

SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIBULLAH: The hon. Minister has quite clearly stated that since there is corruption, the Government is very much worried about it and they are taking very strong measures to root it out completely. My question was and again is about the time limit. Since you have already admitted yourself—we all admit it—that it is possible to cure it once you find out the disease, may we have some kind of idea as to how long will it take and whether the measures you are taking are active enough measures or dynamic measures to be able to root out corruption under which the country is reeling at the moment and because of which our

progress is being stopped? If your measures are really dynamic and strong and clearcut, then some time limit can be given within which all corruption should be rooted out so that the country can go forward.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: Government is equally concerned about what is happening in the country for which every individual is responsible. It is the very fabric of our society which has to be recast. About time limit, I would like to submit one thing very humbly.

SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI: Do not shout.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: I am very sorry. I am not shouting. This is my way of speaking. I do not mean to shout.

My point is that it is something like research work. It takes a long time to yield results. Inscrutable are the ways of human nature, more so with corrupt people. No mechanism has so far been devised to assess the working of human mind. It is, therefore, very difficult to mention any time limit. But we are determined to see that it is removed by all possible means. That is all I would say.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot give a time limit.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir, I raised my hand first.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Mehrotra, please hurry up.

श्री प्रकाश मेहरोत्रा : : मान्यवर, माननीय मंत्री जी के उत्तर से दो बातें साफ हैं। एक बात तो यह है कि इस विभाग में करप्शन है और दूसरी बात यह है कि करप्शन में नये नये तरीके इम्प्लाय किये जा रहे हैं। यह कहना तो मुश्किल है कि करप्शन एकदम से समाप्त हो जाएगा। यह हो भी नहीं सकता है। यह तो एक कन्टीन्यूअस प्रोसेस है। करप्शन भी चलता रहेगा और उसको फाईटिंग का प्रोसेस भी चलता रहेगा। अखबारों

में जैसा कि देखा गया है और जो न्यूज आई है उससे पता चलता है कि पोस्टल सर्विस की पैरेलल सर्विस भी पकड़ी गई है, फोक पोस्टल स्टेम्प्स भी बेचे जा रहे हैं और मनी-आर्डर्स का मिस-एप्रोप्रिएशन भी किया जा रहा है। इस तरीके से कई तरीके के वकायात सामने आते रहते हैं जिनकी आप इन्क्वायरी करवा रहे होंगे। आप जानते हैं कि पोस्टल सर्विस एक पब्लिक यूटिलिटी सर्विस है। जिस तरीके से हमारे देश में रेलवेज हैं उसी प्रकार के पोस्टल सर्विस भी है। रेलवेज के लिए रेलवे एडवाइजरी कमेटीज बनी हुई है जिनके साथ पब्लिक के लोग एसोसिएट रहते हैं और जिनका पब्लिक के रोजमर्रा के काम से ताल्लुक रहता है। ऐसी स्थिति में मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या वे पी० एण्ड० टी० विभाग के लिए भी इसी तरह की कोई एडवाइजरी कमेटी नेशनल लेवल पर और डिस्ट्रिक्ट लेवल पर बनाएंगे जिसके साथ पब्लिक के लोग एसोसिएट हो और जो यह बता सकें कि कर्प्शन किस फार्म में पनप रहा है? अगर इस प्रकार की कमेटी पहले से ही है तो क्या आप उसको थोड़ा एनलार्ज करने की कृपा करेंगे?

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: Sir, I would be brief in giving reply to this question and I would like to say that to bring the culprits to book... (Interruptions)... Sir, this side, Sir. I am saying something. Sir, to bring the culprits to book one very important method is to be followed and it is that such results of human conduct which the law seeks to prohibit must be made punishable. That will do. But, as far as the question raised about the postal committees and other such things is concerned, it is a very good suggestion. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has only asked, Mr. Minister, whether an advi-

sory committee on the lines of the Railway Advisory Committees, you intend setting up.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: Sir, it is a suggestion for consideration.

SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI: The Committee is already there and the Minister does not know about it.

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI: Sir, just one question only.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir, I raised my hand first.

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Sir, will the honourable Minister be pleased to state whether, in addition to all these steps which are being taken to gear up the machinery, he is also considering the question of rooting out corruption by looking after the efficiency part of it which can be done by means of surprise checks and other such things? Is this being considered? He can make surprise checks to see whether the employees come in time, whether they are there in their seats, and so on and such a sort of system of checking will also bring credibility to the Department because, at the moment, the credibility part also has to be looked into. Is the Government taking steps in this direction?

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: All these come within the purview of the vigilance and we take all reasonable steps to see that this type of corruption is eradicated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will have only two more questions. Yes, Mr. Kul-karni.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir, I have been raising my hand.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. I will make it three.

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI: I also want to ask just one question. I will not take a long time. Just one question, one straight question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right; but afterwards only. Yes, Mr. Kulkarni.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: Sir...

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : श्रीमन्, हमारा नाम भी इसमें जोड़ दीजिये । हमको भी समय दीजिये ।

श्री समापति : इस तरह से तो बोलने वाले बहुत जादा हो जाएंगे ।

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: Sir, while replying to the questions from the various honourable Members on the treasury benches, the honourable Minister accepted that corruption is there. Whether it is here or is there is not the question because it is everywhere. Everywhere there is corruption. But he will agree with me that there is a racket going on in which the officers, the other postal employees and the telephone operators are involved. There is a big racket and there is no doubt about it. Right from the Telephone Advisory Committees in the cities up to the mofussil areas, up to the district level, up to the telephone operators of even the postmen, there is a racket. So, the advisory committees will not root out corruption, but only will accelerate the flow of money because so many people will have to be satisfied. So, Sir, this suggestion should not be accepted. On the contrary, you will have to tell whether you will yourself tighten the administration which is in the interest of the country. The people are at present very much frustrated and they are complaining that they are not getting their letters and other things. They say, it is lost somewhere. Telephones are also not working. Corruption and inefficiency in the Postal Department have gone up so much. Will not the Advisory Committees accelerate it more...

AN HON. MEMBER: Or 'Stephennize' it more. (Interruptions)

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: I will request the hon. Minister to reply to me and to the House and say whether corruption and efficiency in the administration are not two sides of one coin? For that purpose, what steps are you taking to streamline the administration, and not be swayed away by political influences?

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: Sir, I do not know politics.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL: Then how have you become a Minister? (Interruptions)

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: I would like to say that Government is very keen to eradicate corruption. So far as your question is concerned, my dear sir, the corruption in the Telephone Department and other things, I would like to say... (Interruptions) There are certain things, for instance the unions, that also create some problems. (Interruptions)

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: My telephone is out of order—388184.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: No telephone system is perfect, I can tell you that. Therefore, we have to put up with some difficulty. So far as the Government is concerned, we are determined to see that we give the best service to our people. This is the only department which covers a large mass of the population in the country. (Interruptions) And no other department. But only those people do not make mistakes who do not work. We work. Therefore, we are likely to make mistakes. But we are trying our best to see that it works efficiently, and if any Member makes a suggestion we take it seriously and we will try to sort out the problems.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: Sir, have you understood his reply?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The reply was to you. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: If every reply becomes a 'lathi-charge', it is very difficult... (*Interruptions*) Kindly protect us. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid, there are many who want to ask questions. But we have only 12 minutes left. Mr. Gopalsamy, first.

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI: I have to ask one straight question. I will take only half a minute.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: The hon. Minister stated about the Vigilance Conference. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Vigilance Conference of the P&T Department was inaugurated in the month of March, 1981, and a matter brought for discussion was about the difficulties faced by the P&T Vigilance Wing in combating frauds in the Department on account of political pressures brought by the perpetrators of fraud. I would also like to know from the hon. Minister whether any paper was presented in that conference which dealt with the harassment suffered by honest officers by those who committed the fraud. Was such a serious matter discussed in the Conference? I would like to know from the Government, what steps have you taken or you propose to take to check this serious menace?

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: Government would not like to make any compromise with any inefficiency, indiscipline and corruption. (*Interruptions*) I am very sorry, Sir ..

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Have you understood my question?

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: I have very well understood your question. (*Interruptions*) Sir, when they speak about the 'lathi-charge', this 'lathi-charge' is being made by a number of people from that side; I do not make it; I take the 'lathi-charge' and I am trying to defend and reply... (*Interruptions*) The point that I want to

impress upon is that there are certain things. Some decisions have been definitely taken in the right direction, and I am sure that on the implementation of these, we will be able to find out a suitable solution to this problem.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I asked whether any paper was presented in the conference.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: There were so many procedures that the were discussing. What is the conference for? This conference was meant for discussions. And if the conference is without any discussion, what this conference is for?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the last question.

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI: I do not want a philosophical discourse. (*Interruptions*) I would request the Minister not to give us a philosophical discourse. My simple question is whether the Government is considering a proposal to apponit another vigilance organisation to overlook the vigilance organisation already existing. And secondly, if it is so, what is the criterion of the membership of that vigilance organisation that the Government is considering?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ramamurti, the Privy Council had before a case of one Nazir Ahmed an anti-corruption officer who was the most corript of the whole lot.

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI: That is why I asked that question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Privey Council suggested that there might be an anti-corruption officer on an anti-corruption officer.

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI: That is why I am asking whether they are thinking of having another vigilance to cover the vigilance organisation and if so, what is the personnel they are thinking of.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: Sir, this does not emerge out of this question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Piloo Mody.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I must condemn this practice which seems to be developing that when a question day for a particular Ministry comes up, the Cabinet Minister is not present. And I am glad that the Leader of the House has arrived and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is there. And the State Minister of Parliamentary Affairs...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You leave that part.

SHRI PILOO MODY: No, Sir, It is a very serious problem. I have noticed that it is only the fourth day of this session and on three occasions the Cabinet Minister has not been present. And, therefore, this practice must be discontinued. The presence here in the Rajya Sabha takes the first precedence over everything else that they have to do. That is the first point.

The second point is that the Minister reads out a written reply and says that it is against the national interest to reveal, and then the other Minister gets up and tells us of the various steps that have been taken, both hypothetical and real. And one does not know. The problem is really a two-sided problem. There is a problem of corruption and there is a problem of inefficiency. You ring up the telephone assistance, nobody picks up the phone. You ring up the overseas operator, nobody picks up the phone. I have two experiences, one in New York and another in California...

AN HON. MEMBER: Is it a lecture or a question?

SHRI PILOO MODY: ... where the operator... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mody, this is not a complaint cell. If you want to lodge a complaint, go and lodge a complaint. This is not the forum for

complaints. This is a forum for asking questions and supplementary questions relating to that.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Sir, I can only ask a question in the background of some information. (Interruptions) The information that I was trying to give the House is that the operators in New York and California, both said to me, "Please, Sir, do not ask us to find a number in Delhi because the operators there never reply to the telephone, and when they do pick it up, they just say 'hold on' and disappear and never reappear again." I want to know... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it a part of this question?

SHRI PILOO MODY: Sir you please read that part of the question. You want me to explain or you just feel happy interrupting me everytime I say something because by now I would have...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No

SHRI PILOO MODY: ... finished it if you had not interrupted me (Interruptions) I want to know from the Minister what steps are going to be taken to gear up the machinery and to root out corruption. Half the mail today does not get delivered. 50 per cent of the letters that arrive do not reach. I do not receive 50 per cent of the letters written to me. And the Minister says that it is not in the public interest to reveal. I would like to know what is in the public interest as far as the P&T Department is concerned.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is not a question.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: Sir, the question is irrelevant.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, question No. 44.

AN HON. MEMBER: What is the answer given?

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL: What is the reply by the Minister?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There was no question really in Mr. Mody's statement. He talked of New York, the telephone operator, his own experiences, and that 50 per cent of the letters do not reach him. I do not know how he knows that 50 per cent of the letters do not reach him and 50 per cent that he writes do not reach the addressees.

SHRI PILOO MODY: You might read the question yourself. It talks of gearing up. What does it mean?

MR. CHARMAN: Gearing up means... (Interruptions).

SHRI PILOO MODY: Gearing up means efficiency and the Minister replies to say that the question is irrelevant and you, as the presiding authority, have nothing to say about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think I can...

(Interruptions)

SHRI PILOO MODY: You allow the Minister to get away with it and abrogate your authority. That is even worse.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not abrogate authority. Please sit down. (Interruptions).

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: One Hon'ble member was talking of California and New York. I have myself been in the U.K. for nine years and I know what is what.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You forget that he has been in the Atomic Energy establishment. He will get the atom bomb for you.

SHRI ERA SEZHIYAN: He is also explosive, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will now take up Question No. 44.

*44 The questioners (Shri Harishankar Bhabhra and Shri Jaswant Singh) were absent. For answer vide Col. 34—36 infra.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, we will take up Question No. 45.

श्री रामानन्द यादव : यह 44 नवंबर क्वेश्चन पुट करके दोनों सज्जन भाग गये हैं, हाउस में नहीं हैं। क्या कारण है इसको आप जरा देखिए। This is very bad. When they ask a question, why should they not be present? I am talking about question No. 44.

श्री सभापति : तो क्या करें।

श्री रामानन्द यादव : यह बड़े दुख की बात है कि क्वेश्चन पुट करके भाग जाते हैं। There must be some ulterior motive.

श्री पीलू मोदी : अब आप भी भाग जाइये।

Raising of wages of Spinners and Weavers

*45. SHRI HARVENDAR SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the wages of spinners and weavers covered by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission are proposed to be raised;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken and what is the likely effect thereof on the rural workers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (MISS KAMLA KUMARI): (a) to (c) The Central Certification Committee appointed by Khadi & Village Industries Commission examines the proposals for the upward revision of wages/ payment norms for spinners and weavers. Any upward revision of wages/