

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, 17th December, 2013/26th Agrahayana, 1935 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

Re. Suspension of Question Hour

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have received a notice for suspension of Question Hour from the Leader of the Opposition to allow the debate on the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Bill.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, इसमें और भी नोटिस हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

प्रो. रामगोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): सभापति महोदय, ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just one minute, please. Let me finish ...*(Interruptions)*... Please let me finish ...*(Interruptions)*... नरेश जी, आप बैठ जाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सर, नहीं-नहीं ...*(व्यवधान)*... इसमें हमारा भी नोटिस है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप सारे नोटिस पढ़ दीजिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: In view of the importance of the matter, I have accepted the notice. I will call upon the Minister to resume the speech on the Bill. Thereafter, the House will take up discussion on the Bill. Members are requested to adhere to the party-time. ...*(Interruptions)*...

The House is adjourned till 1200 hours.

The House then adjourned at two minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House reassembled at twelve of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Shifting of HMT watch factory, Ranibagh

†*161. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the HMT watch factory situated at Ranibagh, Nainital in Uttarakhand is being shifted to some other place;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if not, whether there is any action plan to improve the performance of HMT factory in Ranibagh;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the details of the alternate plan of the Government regarding the rejuvenation of this factory?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Ranibagh watch factory is a unit of HMT Watches Ltd., Bangalore. A revival plan of the Company has been formulated but it could not be finalized for sending it to Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) as in the matter of taking over the Ranibagh unit by the Government of Uttarakhand, no final reply has been received from the State Government.

(d) The question does not arise.

Free electricity to farmers in the country

†*162. SHRI RANBIR SINGH PARJAPATI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by Government till date to provide free electricity to farmers in the country;

(b) whether Government has formulated any concrete policy to waive the loans and electricity bills of farmers; and

(c) if so, the measures proposed to be taken to address these issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Electricity being a concurrent subject, supply and distribution of electricity in a State to different categories of consumers/sectors including farmers comes under the purview of the respective State Government/State Power Utility. It is the responsibility of the respective State Government/State Power Utility to provide reliable and quality power supply to all consumers in their area of operation including farmers. The concerned State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) fix the tariff for the sale of electricity to different categories of consumers including farmers. In case the State Government decide to subsidize any consumer or categories of consumers, the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.