

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Gross misuse of UAPA has become the order of the day in.. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K. K. RAGESH (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, we also associate ourselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, what is your point of order? *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Sir, the last part of his speech relates to a matter which is pending before the court of law and under Rule 169, it cannot be admissible. Therefore, the last part of the speech should be expunged.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will go through the records. I will go through the records and do the needful. *...(Interruptions)...* Now, Shri Vivek Gupta.

#### **Lack of efficient service in Passport Seva Kendras**

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA (West Bengal): Thank you, Sir, for allowing me to raise this important subject in the Zero Hour today... *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री मेघराज जैन (मध्य प्रदेश): इनसे पूछिए कि इन्होंने क्या *...(व्यवधान)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please. *...(Interruptions)...* Please. *...(Interruptions)...* जैन साहब... ऑनरेबल जैन साहब, आप बैठिए। *...(व्यवधान)...*

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Sir, it is shocking to know that almost 28 lakh passports are undelivered and there is no status shown in the dashboard of the Ministry. Another shocking thing is that 62 lakh passports are showing as pending. Sir, 35 per cent of police verification is taking more than 180 days. The CAG report has also mentioned that in some States and Union Territories there was no electronic connectivity provided by the passport offices. Sir, it is taking more than 71 days to process a passport. All these data are pointing to one thing that there is something not correct at the Passport Kendras. Although the Government collects more than ₹ 10 crore as fees per month, through these Passport Kendras to process the passports, yet, the consumers are not getting any service or delivery. Sir, through you, I would

request and urge upon the hon. External Affairs Minister to look into the matter, order some inquiry and find some solution so that people get some relief.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay; thank you very much.

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Sir, I have time.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You made your point.

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: No, Sir. I have not made my point. Sir, two lakh passports have been received with delay and no compensation has been given. Thirty seven Passport Kendras point out that they have the capacity to process only 12 lakh applications. Sir, the capacity needs to be augmented and through you, Sir, I would request the hon. Minister to do the same.

SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV (Chhattisgarh): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Ahamed Hassan. *...(Interruptions)...*

श्रीमती रूपा गांगुली (नाम-निर्देशित): सर, हमारे यहां भी कई लोग ऐसे ही झोला लेकर घूमते हैं। *...(व्यवधान)...* किसी को भी बहुत आराम से आधार कार्ड मिल जाता है। *...(व्यवधान)...*

**Assistance to West Bengal to fight against the wheat blast disease**

SHRI AHAMED HASSAN (West Bengal): Let me speak, Sir. *...(Interruptions)...* Only five minutes are remaining. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Ahamed Hassan. *...(Interruptions)...* I called Shri Ahamed Hassan only. He should speak. *...(Interruptions)...* Why are you not speaking? *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Sir, how can I speak? She is disturbing. *...(Interruptions)...* Sir, I am raising an issue which is very important for the country's agriculture. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You start. *...(Interruptions)...* Don't be disturbed by her. You speak. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Sir, a deadly fungus for wheat crop is severely affecting the wheat cultivation in two districts of West Bengal, namely, Nadia and Murshidabad. Sir, at least, 1,000 hectares of wheat cultivation has already been burnt to stop this infection and dangerous disease called, Wheat Blast. Burning of the affected crop is the only way open for the Agriculture Department to prevent this fungus-related disease of wheat crop so that it doesn't spread to the other areas of the State and the country.