

the State Government to the Central Government, the State Government has not yet received formal allotment order from the Central Government. Sir, this is a clear case of deprivation of the State of Bengal. The Ministry of Coal, *vide* its letter dated 10.09.2018, instructed the State of West Bengal to take certain preparatory activities, which was done, and it has been conveyed to the Central Government *vide* State Government's letter dated 25.09.2018. Sir, the compliance letter was sent, but, even after that, the progress in this matter has been agonizingly slow, and this agony seems to be unbearable given the fact that the West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited, that is, WBPDC, is unable to operate the coal power plants at full efficiency for want of adequate supply of coal. Approximate requirement of coal per day to them at its full capacity is fifty-five thousand metric tonnes, whereas, the average supply per day is approximately about forty-two thousand metric tonnes only. Sir, the operationalization of this mine will not only ensure regular and adequate flow of coal for running the power plants of WBPDC to its full capacity since this mine will supply coal to the power plants in Bengal but also the same for all States and their power plants across the country. Therefore, I request the Government to expedite the process and ensure that the formal allotment order is sent at the earliest. So, Sir, it will be beneficial not only to West Bengal but also to the country as a whole. Therefore, I request the Government to expedite the process and ensure that the formal allotment letter is sent at the earliest. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I would like to say ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Himachal Pradesh): Sir, he would like to say something and he may please be allowed.

श्री सभापति: नहीं, बीच में नहीं बोलिए। He can come and meet me, but not here like this. ...*(Interruptions)*... आनन्द शर्मा जी, प्लीज बैठ जाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... Yes, it is the right of the Chairman to decide whether to allow a Member at a particular time or not. ...*(Interruptions)*... Members can meet the Chairman in his Chamber and discuss the issue. Please don't disrupt the House proceedings. ...*(Interruptions)*... All references to BJP, Congress and Communists have been expunged earlier also. It is all on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is not the way. We have 22 notices before us. Ms. Dola Sen, please start. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Plight of tea industry in West Bengal

MS. DOLA SEN (West Bengal): Sir, the tea industry would suffer in our State of West Bengal due to the Budget proposal. The proposal to levy two per cent tax if annual cash withdrawals exceed ₹ 1 crore will affect West Bengal's tea industry as most gardens disburse wages in cash. Around 3.25 lakh workers are employed in

277 tea gardens in the State. Around 90 per cent are paid their weekly or fortnightly wages in cash. "Several tea estates have a huge workforce and their annual expenditure on account of wages is much higher than ₹ 1 crore. 'These gardens will have to bear this TDS, which means additional expenditure that will add to the production costs,' said Prabir Bhattacharjee, Secretary-General of the Tea Association of India. For example, if there are 1,200 workers in a tea estate in West Bengal, where the daily wage is ₹ 176 per day, an annual payment to the workers means a sum of around ₹ 7 crore, in total; it means a TDS deduction of around ₹ 12 lakh as an additional expenditure for the garden. Then, there are other payments like bonus, which would push the tax bill up even further.

Sir, in November, 2016, when the Centre had demonetised 1,000 and 500 rupees notes and laid stress on digital modes of payment, the disbursal of tea workers' wages got delayed because of the cash crunch. The banking infrastructure is so weak in these areas, that the management had to resume wage disbursement in cash as the workers refused to travel around 30-40 kilometres to reach the nearest banks. Moreover, even though private banks have opened ATMs in some areas, the telecom connectivity is weak. Therefore, the workers demand their wages in cash. After *Note-bandi*, no new banks were opened over there so common people are still suffering.

After this election, the tea industry had been expecting some good news for the industry that is going through a rough patch. The expectation was especially about Devkaru Tea Estates, where the Central Government Tea Gardens of which Hon'ble Prime Minister has given assurances after. But the Budget has dashed their hopes.

So, Sir, I urge through you, the Central Government, to take necessary action and do the needful so that the tea industry does not suffer in our State and all over the country. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir.

SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please go back to your seats. यह पद्धति ठीक नहीं है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... You are all senior Members. You were in Government. कृपया अपनी-अपनी सीट पर जाइए। अगर किसी मेम्बर को कोई समस्या है, तो वे आकर चेयरमैन से मिल सकते हैं। They can meet the Chairman and discuss the matter but not in the House.

SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Sir, I have a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your point of order?

श्री भूपेन्द्र यादव (राजस्थान): सर, रूल 267 के तहत इन्होंने नोटिस दिया। ...*(व्यवधान)*... रूल 267 की admissibility चेयरमैन की तरफ से होती है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... सर, रूल 258 बहुत clear है कि ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: These are all not going on record. It is a waste of energy! ...*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: The Chairman shall decide all points of order which may arise and his decision shall be final. Sir, the decision of the Chairman is final. That is in the Rules. Secondly, Rule 169, Rule 13 and Rule 14 say that only the matter which is related with the Government of India can be raised by the Member. This matter relates to their own party. The indiscipline is in their own party. How can they raise it in this Parliament, Sir?

I request you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, to ask them to follow Rules 258 and 267 where the Chairman's ruling is final. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You see, the rule's position is very clear. The ruling of the Chairman is final. If any Member has got any problem, he can come and meet the Chairman. This was the position last year and the years before that also. I have umpteen number of rulings with me where the previous Chairmen have held it a number of times that the Chairman's ruling is final. Then, if any reference to any party was objected to by others, it has been removed from the records. I have the examples of Congress name being removed, BJP name being removed, Communist Party name being removed, Samajwadi Party name being removed. If Members want, they can come and meet me. I will show them, but you are agitating on multiple issues. ...*(Interruptions)*... You are now talking about defections. Please have affection for the House. Please go back to your seats. Please allow democracy to function. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please allow democracy to function. ...*(Interruptions)*... I earnestly appeal to you. ...*(Interruptions)*... Your leaders are saying something and you are also shouting over something. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... No slogan will go on record.

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE; AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): Every MLA who has resigned, has accused and levelled charges against their own Party. How can this be relevant here? This is more relevant. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Congress Party and BJP settle their issues outside, not in this House. I cannot allow this House to be taken for granted, to make allegations and counter-allegations. What is defection, what is affection is for the Speaker to decide. The Speaker is there, the State is there. I am not allowing.

The House is adjourned to meet at 12 o' clock.

The House then adjourned at twenty-one minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House reassembled at twelve of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

Financial crunch faced by Civil Aviation companies

*181. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) how many civil aviation companies in the country are facing financial crunch during the last two years, the details of the air traffic handled by them during the last two years; and

(b) whether Government has any scheme to help such civil aviation companies in the interest of passengers, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

- (a) The financial performance of Scheduled Domestic Airlines for last three years is attached as Annexure-I (*See below*). Details of passengers carried by Scheduled Domestic Airlines is attached as Annexure-II (*See below*).
- (b) Government is acutely conscious of financial difficulties faced by the Airline Companies. Accordingly, the Government has constantly been responding to industry conditions and undertaking specific measures to facilitate and enable growth of the sector. The major steps by the MoCA to help civil aviation include:—
 - (i) Provide airport infrastructure through Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the private operators.