

**Status of implementation of recommendations/observations contained in the One
Hundred and Forty-ninth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary
Standing Committee on Commerce**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SOM PARKASH): Sir, I lay a statement regarding Status of implementation of recommendations/observations contained in the One Hundred and Forty-ninth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the One Hundred and Forty-fifth Report of the Committee on 'Impact of Chinese Goods on Indian Industry' pertaining to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have received notice under Rule 267 for Suspension of Rules by Shri Binoy Viswam and Shri Anand Sharma regarding Assam and North-Eastern States. I have not allowed it, but I will allow them to mention it in Zero Hour. On priority I will be allowing you.

**Need for inclusion of the Union Territory of Ladakh in the Sixth
Schedule to the Constitution**

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI (Punjab): Sir, several leaders from Leh, former Cabinet Ministers, Chairman of the Hill Council, other personalities, representatives of the youth and students met the Leader of the Opposition and me yesterday. They wanted, through us, to apprise the Chairperson and hon. Members of this august House of the alarming situation developing in Leh because of the demonstrations taking place daily for inclusion of the Union Territory of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule. Sir, they feel that the Sixth Schedule covers and extends to some of the North-Eastern States like Assam, Tripura, Mizoram, Meghalaya and their Hill Councils have been given constitutional legality. People in Leh and Ladakh were initially very happy and by and large welcomed the announcement of the Union Territory as opposed to the people of Kargil. However, that initial euphoria is now giving way to a lot of apprehension, fear and disenchantment that if they are not able to protect and safeguard their resources or their unique cultural identity, the failure of this will be a big problem for them and pose enormous difficulties

[Shrimati Ambika Soni]

for protection of their land. This what they feel. They say that both Leh and Kargil have at least 97 per cent of their population as tribal. So, their inclusion in the Sixth Schedule should be granted by the Government.

Sir, I would like to say that the two Autonomous Hill Councils in both Leh and Kargil have no powers to make laws. They have no authority to protect private land. Presently, they are statutory bodies and not constitutional bodies. Unless they are under the Sixth Schedule, they will not be able to protect the people and the land of Ladakh. People fear that it is not rumour-mongering. They feel that people have already come into the very rich territory of Leh to buy land and make their way. It is, therefore, a reasonable demand of the people of Ladakh. Through you, Sir, I would like to request the Government to consider this demand favourably before the situation, which is alarming, gets out of hand. Thank you.

SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Shrimati Ambika Soni.

SHRI SUBHASISH CHAKRABORTY (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shrimati Ambika Soni.

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shrimati Ambika Soni.

SHRI KUMAR KETKAR (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shrimati Ambika Soni.

SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA (Gujarat): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shrimati Ambika Soni.

श्री हुसैन दलवाई (महाराष्ट्र): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्रीमती छाया वर्मा (छत्तीसगढ़): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करती हूँ।

श्रीमती झरना दास बैद्य (त्रिपुरा): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करती हूँ।

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर (हिमाचल प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करती हूँ।

श्री राजमणि पटेल (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करता हूँ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Leader of the House, it is a sensitive matter. Please take note of this and see to it that it is communicated to the Home Minister and concerned Ministers. Now, Shri Anand Sharma. Please make brief submissions.