

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: No, Sir. I want to say one thing if I have your permission. Just one minute, sir. This House is often criticized, the Opposition is criticized, for resorting to the Select Committee route to choke the Bills. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I am not allowing this. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, we are discussing about the Factories Act ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: * ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. This is not going on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is relating to Zero Hour mention of Shri Rajmani Patel, 'Action against cement factories in Satna and Rewa' ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no. You don't have the freedom to rise as and when and speak. If somebody violates the rule next time, I will not give them an opportunity. This is my decision. Now, Shri Ahamed Hassan. Do you want to speak in Bengali?

Need for starting a direct flight from Kolkata to Europe

SHRI AHAMED HASSAN (West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for having given me an opportunity to raise an important issue. I will speak in my mother tongue, Bengali.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I always encourage mother tongues. I lost my mother when I was 13 months old. So, I have strong emotions for mother.

SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Yes, Sir. *** "Hon'ble Chairman Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on an important issue. We know that the Metropolitan city of Kolkata is known as the gateway of Eastern India and North-east India. Kolkata is the third largest Metropolitan city and is the most populous after Delhi and Mumbai. But sadly, there is no direct connectivity between Kolkata and any city in Europe. There are 4 direct non-stop flights from Delhi to Europe and 3 from Mumbai. There is one flight each from Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad to Europe. Yet Sir, there is not a single flight from Kolkata to Europe.

Sir, let me tell you that about 2 lakh 50 thousand passengers travel from Kolkata to different cities in Europe every year on purpose of education, business, tourism and treatment. They have to take flights via Delhi or Mumbai or have to take flights from Kolkata in airlines meant for Gulf countries. So the passengers of West Bengal and other states in Eastern India have to face difficulties and there is wastage of money and time. Besides these, trade, business, education and technology delegations in addition to tourists are also facing difficulties in visiting these regions. While the

*Not recorded.

***English translation of the original speech made in Bengali.

[Shri Ahamed Hassan]

government is focusing on the 'Look East' policy, the lack of direct connectivity between the major city of Kolkata and North-eastern States with Europe is causing much harm.

Air India and British Airways had been operating flights between Kolkata and London decades ago, which had been stopped. Aeroflot, KLM and SAS also withdrew the fleet which was operating earlier. The Airlines side said that they were withdrawing due to paucity of travelers. We know that Left Front Government was ruling at that time and there was erosion of industry and economy in the State. Present situation in the state under Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has seen a tremendous improvement in various sectors and about 2 lakh 50 thousand passengers travel to Europe from Kolkata every year via other airports.

Many Members of Parliament from West Bengal had requested the Minister of Civil Aviation at different times and had also drawn the attention of 'Air India' authorities so that air connectivity could be established again between Kolkata and Europe. Besides these, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Civil Aviation had also recommended in this respect, but those have been ignored.

Sir, I therefore request that the Government may instruct Air India to immediately start non-stop direct flights from Kolkata to Europe. It will also be beneficial and helpful to passengers from neighboring countries like Bhutan, Nepal, and Bangladesh if such connectivity is established from Kolkata airport. It will also be helpful for travelers to Europe from the states of Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram. It will contribute to large improvement in the areas of business, industry, technology, export, education, tourism and employment in West Bengal and the States mentioned before."

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA (Bihar): Sir, I would like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

MS. DOLA SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA (West Bengal): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE (West Bengal): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI (West Bengal): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI BHASKAR RAO NEKKANTI (Odisha): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

PROF. JOGEN CHOWDHURY (West Bengal): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

श्रीमती जया वच्चन (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं स्वयं को माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

श्रीमती मीशा भारती (बिहार): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

श्री सभापति: धन्यवाद, अहमद हसन जी। श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर।

**Need for steps to be taken to prevent burning of hands of women
deshelling cashew nuts**

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर (हिमाचल प्रदेश) : माननीय सभापति जी, आपका बहुत-बहुत शुक्रिया। आज मैं एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण विषय उठाने जा रही हूँ। जिन स्टेट्स में काजू होता है, cashew nut होता है, वहाँ पर जब उसको peel किया जाता है, तो उसमें एक प्रकार का acid सा निकलता है, जिससे वहाँ के workers जब उसका छिलका उतारते हैं, तो उनके हाथ जल जाते हैं, उनमें allergy हो जाती है और हमेशा के लिए एक घाव सा बन जाता है। इसलिए मैं चाहती हूँ कि भारत सरकार का जो Cashewnut Board बना हुआ है, उसके जरिए उनके लिए कोई न कोई प्रावधान करना चाहिए, चाहे उनको gloves दिए जाएँ, चाहे वे हाथों पर कोई ointment या तेल लगा कर उसका छिलका उतारें, जिससे उनके हाथ न जलें और हमेशा के लिए पूरी लाइफ उनको यह दर्द न सहना पड़े। खासकर महिलाएँ इस काम में लगी हुई हैं। महिलाओं को देखते हुए, उनकी हेल्थ को देखते हुए, उनकी आने वाली जिन्दगी को देखते हुए हमें इस ओर ध्यान देना चाहिए, क्योंकि अगर वे थोड़ा सा भी काम न कर पाईं, तो उनका जीवन एक तरह से बेकार हो जाएगा।

इसलिए मैं अनुरोध करूँगी और प्रार्थना करूँगी कि यह गवर्नमेंट इस बारे में सोचे और उनके लिए कोई ऐसा प्रावधान किया जाए, जिससे वे यह जलन न सहें। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

श्री आनन्द शर्मा: महोदय, मैं स्वयं को माननीय सदस्या द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री सभापति: धन्यवाद विप्लव जी, आप अच्छा बोली। Shri K.K. Ragesh and Shri Prabhat Jha.