

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN (Cannanore): Sir, I would like the hon. Minister of Finance to enlighten us on some of the points which my hon. friend, Shri Ravi, has raised. He said that last year, in Parliament, though the sessions were limited to transacting certain businesses like the Constitutional amendments, if I remember correctly, apart from the constitutional amendments the House also considered certain other businesses. If you will verify that, then perhaps, you will be able to give a convincing answer to the question.

Coming to the Excess Grants, I find that there are certain amounts which are big. For example, take the case of Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Home Affairs, or take even the Posts and Telegraphs where the capital outlay is more than Rs. 9 crores and, in relation to Home Affairs, that is more than Rs. 4 crores.

Why such a big amount should be spent at all? This is something which the Government does not also know when the budget is presented before Parliament. I would like to ask the Minister to explain about these three items only which run into nearly Rs. 10 crores in two items and Rs. 4 crores or even more than Rs. 4 crores in another item in relation to Home Affairs.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to make my submission to the Finance Minister. There are excess demands for agriculture and power. In Kerala, during the last so many years, Government has been continuously asking the Centre to give a little more money so that not only Kerala will be benefited by that but the power of Kerala will go to the benefit of the whole country. You know that even Karnataka is getting electricity from Kerala. So is the case with regard to Tamilnadu. Power generation in Kerala should have been treated as an important aspect by which we will strengthen

our national economy. The demand placed before the government was not much. It was only three and a half crores of rupees. If this amount is provided to Kerala government, their major power schemes will get completed.

Another important aspect which I would like the hon'ble Minister to look into is the setting up of a Coconut Board. It has been discussed several times in this House that the coconut cultivation in the coconut producing States is facing a serious crisis due to lack of coordination, irrigation facilities, etc. To fight this problem on a coordinated basis a consensus had emerged to setup a Coconut Board. No action has been taken in that regard so far.

Then, Sir, I would like the hon'ble Minister to use his good offices to arriving at a settlement in the continuing strike at Bharat Electronics, Bhopal. For the last ten days the strike is continuing there as a result of which the factory has suffered loss to the tune of Rs. 5 crores. I think it is necessary for the government to take serious note of this problem and do something by which the strike may come to an end.

Lastly, Sir, the Ministry of Home Affairs has spent by way of Rs. 4 crores as excess during the period under discussion. If you take into account the recent few months you can see that the Home Ministry failed miserably in protecting the Harijans in this country. Belchi incident is a matter of shame for this country. Even today a Harijan has been killed in Andhra Pradesh and a large number of harijans were attacked by caste Hindu landlords while they were cultivating the land which was allotted to them by the government. It is reported from many States that Harijans are not protected well. I would like the Minister to give an assurance that government will do something to that the money spent on Home Ministry will also be spent for providing protection to these weaker sections.