

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, I wish to raise a very important issue.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All of you will get a chance. I will give a chance to all of you one by one.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to draw your attention to a very unfortunate incident. Today's Newspapers are carrying this distressing news very prominently. You must have read the news that day before yesterday, six tourists were killed by the terrorists in Srinagar.

This incident has belied the claims of the Government, that normalcy has returned in Kashmir and peace has been restored there. Out of these six tourists, three belonged to Jaipur, Rajasthan and three to Allahabad, UP. These six tourists were kidnapped from Dal Lake at 5.00 pm. In fact twelve persons were kidnapped but six were released around 10 p.m. The other six persons were kept hostages and it was said that they would be released in the morning. However they were shot dead in the darkness of the night.

This incident is very painful but more than that ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall give you a chance. You will get the chance to speak.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : I have also given a notice and you have allowed me to speak. My notice has been accepted.

More horrifying than the incident is the way the Government is assessing the situation in Kashmir and the manner in which it proposes to tackle the situation. The senior police officers have admitted that local and foreign terrorists have gathered in Dal Lake area. One of the hostages, who has survived, has given the statement that the kidnappers claimed to have been from police task force. The Government should have taken strong measures to tackle the situation and it should have chalked out a plan to deal with the terrorists firmly but instead of that the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, who has been elected from Kashmir itself, has given a statement that the time has come for the security forces to return to their barracks. We would welcome the day the army can be withdrawn from there. We will welcome the day the Kashmir refugees will be able to return to their homes but such a situation should be created first; such improvement should be brought about first and peace should be restored there first. But before creating such a situation if the Government keeps on giving such irresponsible statements, the situation would further deteriorate. The restraint and patience required for tackling a sensitive issue like Kashmir, appears to be missing in this Government. The Government should exercise restraint and patience while issuing statements and should

try atleast not to worsen the situation with its statements.

Adequate compensation should be paid to the dependents of the tourists killed and the Government should exercise restraint so that such an incident may not recur.

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA (Jammu) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice to raise the matter during zero hour which has been raised by Shrimati Sushma Swaraj. The Membes elected from J & K should have been given the opportunity to speak first.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No such distinction is made.

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : I would like to say that situation has improved to a great extent after Lok Sabha elections in J & K. Pakistan and its allies do not want the situation to improve. This incident has occurred because of the announcement made by Government to hold elections for Legislative Assembly in September. They want to stop the election process at all costs. I demand that in order to maintain the improvement registered in the situation of J & K, strong measures be undertaken by the Government to control the activities of terrorists. The police and military forces should be given full authority to check such activities. The tourists from our country and abroad are coming to the valley on being assured about the improvement in situation. I regret to state that the State Government, does not pay any attention to them, and does not give them proper security. The tourists should be allowed to visit those areas which are peaceful and safe. It seems as if the Government does not have complete control over same areas. The atmosphere created in favour of India and the conducive atmosphere to hold elections should not be allowed to deteriorate and the Government should take steps to bring peace there.

The families of the tourists from Jaipur and Allahabad should be given adequate compensation and better atmosphere should be created so that the tourism industry of the area does not get ruined. This tourist industry has been lying closed fro the past five-six years whereas most of the people there depend on this industry. Now the situation is becoming normal and people have started coming to the valley. Such incidents cause much harm, hence the Government should pay attention to it.

SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS (Sitapur) : Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention once again towards the subject that has been discussed in the House earlier also. The Electricity Board of Uttar Pradesh is mired in terrorism... (Interruptions)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : I should also be given the opportunity to speak as three people belonging to Jaipur city have been murdered.

SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Ambedkar Scheme was started in Uttar Pradesh and it was decided that