

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the linking of rivers of Kerala and Tamil Nadu is feasible? What is the Action Plan? So far as I know, this coastal areas of Kerala will be drained if the rivers are allowed to flow eastwards. Is there any suggestion in the Action Plan regarding Pamba and Achankovil rivers in Kerala or have any directions been issued in this regard?

SHRI SOMPAL : Sir, in the National Plan for inter-linking the rivers particularly in the southern peninsula, one of the components is about the West-flowing rivers and their water being transferred to the eastern portion. There are some rivers in Kerala, but on this again we have to consult the States and unless there is an agreement between the States, we cannot take any action. The Centre will take the responsibility to initiate the discussion and if there is an agreement we are thinking of transferring some water of some rivers to eastern portion.

AN HON. MEMBER : Coastal areas should not be drained. There is a plenty of water in the coastal areas....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL: There is no question of draining in any coastal areas.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether a central water policy has been announced? If such a policy has been announced then how is the grid irrigation system proposed to be incorporated therein? Indravati, Mahanadi Godavari rivers link Andhra Pradesh with Chhatisgarh region of Central India. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Central Government has any proposal to link the two regions?

[English]

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the National Water Policy was announced in 1987 and it lays down the broad framework of utilisation of water, which falls by way of rainfall on the whole subcontinent.

Regarding his specific question, I do not have the information at hand but I can find it out and supply the same to the hon. Member.

Suicide by Farmers

*2. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :
SHRI MUKUL WASNIK :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken note of the reported suicides committed by the farmers in various parts of the country:

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether any official enquiry has been conducted to look into the causes of alleged suicides ;

(d) if so, the findings thereof and steps being taken including import of quality seeds to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future;

(e) the details of the compensation sought/package awarded/released to compensate affected farmers, State-wise; and

(f) the steps taken to ensure speedy disbursement of aid/loans to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) to (f) According to the reports received from the State Governments, there have been cases of suicides committed by the farmers as a result of damage to crops due to natural calamities in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka & Maharashtra. 236 farmers in Andhra Pradesh, 29 in Karnataka and 51 in Maharashtra are reported to have committed suicide.

2. State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Punjab have conducted enquiries to look into the causes of alleged suicides. Government of Andhra Pradesh has sanctioned ex-gratia to 142 out of 236 reported deaths, 61 cases were not considered and cases of 33 are under re-enquiry. Government of Karnataka has confirmed 13 deaths due to suicides as a result of damage to crops. Government of Maharashtra has confirmed 12 cases of suicides having direct linkage & 7 cases have some linkage with crop loss. Government of Punjab has also inquired into the media reports regarding some suicides in the district of Sangrur. However, according to the State Government these incidents were not connected with crop damage.

3. It is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Government to make available certified/quality seed to the farmers in time. However, Government of India assess the seed requirement and availability position, State-wise prior to each sowing season. As per the information furnished by the State Governments, overall position of seeds in the country is satisfactory, Government of Andhra Pradesh has drawn up a seed supply plan for each district in order to supply quality seeds to the farmers. The Government of Maharashtra is taking action to procure good quality seeds through State's Seeds Corporation.

4. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has announced the following package of relief for the affected farming families:

(i) Providing a house under JRY, (ii) Providing admission to the children in residential schools and hostels, (iii) Re-scheduling of bank loans, if any, (iv) Pension under social security scheme to old persons in the family and (v) Rs. 1.00 lakh to the next kin of each deceased.

5. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has also taken steps to assist the farmers who are facing debt traps due to damage of crops. These include :-

(i) No recovery of either principal or interest of an agricultural loan will be made from the affected farmers for a period of two years, (ii) Amounts not collected during these two years will be rescheduled to be covered in a period of 7 years, (iii) Banks will give credit immediately for fresh crops to the affected farmers on the enhanced scales of finance recently revised by the district level Committee, (iv) Rate of interest will be reduced to 4% for small and marginal farmers who are eligible under DRI Scheme, (v) There will be no compounding of interest in respect of rescheduled loans, nor banks would levy and penal interest and would waive penal interest, if charged.

6. Government of Karnataka have provided assistance of Rs. 1.00 lakh to next of the kin of each deceased besides providing Rs. 4.00 crore for crop compensation and postponing the recovery of the cooperative loans.

7. Government of Maharashtra has paid Rs. 1.00 lakh per family of deceased in 12 cases to those who had committed suicide having direct linkage with crop loss/ indebtedness. State Government has paid Rs. 50,000/- in 7 cases having some linkage with crop loss.

8. Keeping in view the magnitude of the situation, Government of India have included pest attack due to adverse seasonal conditions in the category of natural calamities to qualify for assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR). Government of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Punjab and Rajasthan have sought assistance from NFCR in the wake of pest attack. After following the prescribed procedure, an amount of Rs. 12.00 crores has been released to Andhra Pradesh from NFCR during 1997-98. The requests of other States are under consideration.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, an unprecedented number of over four hundred farmers have ended their lives. Never in the history of independent India, our farmers committed suicide in such a large scale.

Sir, it is not a localised problem. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, even Punjab and Haryana are reporting the cases of deaths every day. Even the statistics supplied by the Government are not correct. Even two or three days back, in Nagpur, there was another reported case of suicide.

The statement given by the Government does not address the gravity of the situation. It is just a dry compilation of facts obtained from the States. They have not taken it

seriously. The Government is silent on the causes. They have not talked about spurious pesticides, insecticides and spurious seeds. There is no attempt to evolve a uniform policy among various States. There is no attempt to call the Chief Minister of all the States to work out a uniform policy about investigation, about compensation, about the Calamity Relief Fund, about NCFR, about sending task force to States. Also the problem of private moneylenders usurping interest rate and strong malpractice by the moneylenders is not addressed. Then there is nothing about crop insurance.

Sir, through you, I want to deplore this callous attitude of the Government. It is a very serious matter. Over four hundred farmers have ended their lives. The number is rising every day.

My first question to the Government is whether the Government is thinking of calling all the Chief Ministers of the States to evolve a uniform policy about investigation, about compensation and other things. Different States are giving different compensation. Some State is giving a sum of Rs. 50,000 and some State is giving a sum of Rs. 1,00,000. They are waiting for the farmers to starve. They are not alleviating the problems, which are all known to the Government and to everybody.

MR. SPEAKER : Please come to your question.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : My main question is this. What is the Government doing about calling the Chief Ministers of all the States to work out a uniform policy about the Calamity Relief Fund, about sending the task force, about moneylenders and about crop insurance? We want a full-fledged report on these things from the Government and not a just dry compilation of facts. I want to know whether the Government is going to give a detailed report on each case after analysing carefully the causes.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not correct to say that we do not have a uniform policy in administering the Calamity Relief Fund.....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Yes, you do not have. Please see your answer(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL : There is an arrangement, which has come into being after the Tenth Finance Commission's report. There are two funds. One is the Calamity Relief Fund.....(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Your uniform policy is to allow the farmers to commit suicide. That is your uniform policy.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I appeal to the hon. Members that they should be serious in listening to the answer(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is an important question. Please listen to him.

SHRI SOMPAL : The Calamity Relief Fund at the Centre came into being after the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission have been accepted by the National Development Council.

There is an arrangement for 75 per cent contribution to be given by the Central Government and the remaining 25 per cent by the States. Four tranches out of these funds are released every first day of every quarter to the respective States. Over and above this, there is an arrangement by the National Calamity Relief Fund, which is administered by a sub-committee of the National Development Council, rather a national relief committee and in that five Chief Ministers and Central Ministers are there.

I am on the uniform policy about which the Member has asked. ...*(Interruptions)* After this arrangement, this has been made the responsibility of the States to meet such calamities except in certain cases. Where the calamity is of a rare severity and the State concerned sends a report and the Centre finds it *prima facie*....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI SOMPAL : He has asked about the National Calamity Relief Fund.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : This is not about National Calamity Relief Fund.

SHRI SOMPAL : A Central team is despatched and after an assessment is made it is placed before the National Calamity Relief Committee. These funds are released according to certain norms which have already been worked out.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : What about moneylenders? What has this got about national calamity relief?

SHRI SOMPAL : I will be responding to all the components of your question. When the report comes back there are certain guidelines according to which the funds are released.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The Prime Minister should answer serious questions of this type.

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a matter of grave concern that such a large number of farmers have committed suicide and it is natural for the House to be worried over this issue. The Members sitting in the Opposition benches may recall that I had taken up this matter at various places during election campaign. India is an agriculturist country and it is unfortunate that such a situation has arisen where the farmers are forced to commit suicide. Investigation teams were despatched and their reports have been received.

Required amount of assistance has been provided to the States ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Sir, no investigation team has been sent to Maharashtra.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete please. Please take your seat.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Wherever investigation is required and more assistance is needed, it would be provided. However, this question needs united stand. If we do not discuss it collectively...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was found during investigation that the crop was damaged due to use of pesticides. Farmers were already in debt. They have to obtain the loan from money lenders and businessmen. It has also come to light that the money lender also sell Pesticides and they encourage the farmers to purchase and use large quantity of the pesticides, which cause damage to the crop. They are busy in profit-making. These are very serious matters which should be resolved and we are making efforts to find a solution in this regard. For this we want your cooperation because this matter does not concern a particular party.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Last time also you assured to send an investigation team to Maharashtra, but till date, it has not been sent...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : What are the preventive measures you are taking ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No. I have allowed Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan. Please take your seats

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed only Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, earlier the Minister has confused the whole issue. It is not about natural calamities; it is about special problems which I have enumerated.

MR. SPEAKER : You ask the second supplementary.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, it is obvious particularly in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh...

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : Andhra Pradesh comes first.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Yes, in Andhra Pradesh, the maximum number of deaths have occurred. The main causes of these deaths are two fold. One is the

inability of the State Governments and the Central policies to make agricultural credit reach farmers through cooperatives and nationalised banks. The private moneylenders are charging usurious rates and adopting strong arm tactics which are forcing the people to commit suicide. My specific question is whether the Central Government will give additional relief to the States affected so that they can waive off the loans and can give interest subsidy and whether the RBI or NABARD will come out with a special scheme so that the people who are still living or are about to commit suicide do not do that.

I would also like to know how many people have been arrested or are being prosecuted for selling spurious pesticides and insecticides.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is correct when he said that the flow of credit has not been adequate in agricultural sector. Over the whole Seventh Five Year Plan when the hon. Member's party was in power, ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Where does the question of party come in? It is a calamity and the question of the party does not come into the picture.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : How can you play with the lives of people on party lines?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, only 17 per cent of credit loans flowed to agricultural sector ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : The Hon'ble Minister has given a very kind consideration towards the farmers ...*(Interruptions)* You also suggest some preventive measures.

[English]

The hon. Prime Minister has very categorically stated ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, only 17 per cent credit flowed to the agricultural sector. During the Eighth Five Year Plan, all the nationalised banks taken together were given a target of 18 per cent flow to the agricultural sector and less than 13 per cent was achieved. At no point of time, more than ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : It has nothing to do with the Seventh or the Eighth Plan. It is the present situation which is to be controlled immediately.

SHRI SOMPAL : We have asked the Reserve Bank of India, the NABARD and other financial institutions to reschedule the loans, waive off the interest wherever it possible and also waive off certain loans for the weaker sections. These measures are being taken up in all the States.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on March 30th I mentioned this in the same House. The hon. Prime Minister was kind enough to immediately react to it and promised that he would be taking all the steps to find out the root cause of the whole problem while the Minister is going on telling the Eighth Finance Commission, the Tenth Finance Commission, Reserve Bank of India and all these things. You have to come to our rescue. He has not come prepared to give a proper answer here. As our friend Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan has mentioned, credit flow and other aspects have to be looked into. Perhaps the Minister does not know about the Ninth Finance Commission or the Tenth Finance Commission; we know all these things better. The hon. Speaker has to come to the rescue of the House to see whether the Minister is giving a proper answer or not.

The Prime Minister is now telling that we all should discuss about this matter. I would like to know whether there is any mechanism in this Government -- whenever the Prime Minister says something in the House -- to work out the modalities, and then put it into action. I do not think that the Prime Minister's word is carrying that weight. What had happened to the promise that he had made on 30th March when I was speaking on the Motion of Thanks? Now, the Minister is coming forward with the Tenth Finance Commission. So, it is irrelevant.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your supplementary.

SHRI M. JANARDHANA REDDY (Bapatla) : This is my supplementary. What is the action taken by the Prime Minister, on the promise or commitment which he had given to the House, to know the root cause of the problem? It is not a question of giving money to the States to avoid the problem. I would like to have a specific answer from the Prime Minister.

SHRI SOMPAL : Sir, there is not one reason due to which this calamity has taken place. There are several reasons ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very serious question has been put. The Minister's reply is not satisfactory.....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, two months ago in this very House the hon'ble Prime Minister had given commitment that this matter would be looked into. This House would like to know about the efforts made by the Government in this regard during the last two months after the assurance given by the Prime Minister.....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you later.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : Two months ago, in this very House Hon'ble Prime Minister had stated that action would be taken in this matter. You please ask him about the action taken by the Government in this regard. The Hon'ble Prime Minister gave a commitment in this House.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this House has its own dignity. The Hon'ble Prime Minister had stated in this very House two months ago that he would consider this matter seriously...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Minister complete his reply please take your seat.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Hon'ble Prime Minister may please be asked to reply as to what action has been taken during the last two months(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a Statewise enquiry has been conducted for the reasons behind the large number of suicides committed by the farmers. Results do not reveal any specific reason due to which the crops were destroyed and heavily indebted farmer could not face the circumstances. At some places crop was destroyed due to bad weather and at others it was due to the excessive use of pesticides for reaping higher yield. Situations are different in all the States but after the complete investigation, we have reached a conclusion that either there is no extension service in the villages to advise the farmers and if it is there, it is not working effectively. Farmers want crop. If the weather conditions are adverse(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Money is also needed.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Yes, money is also needed. Just now, it was being said that it is not important that how much money/compensation is given. Money has also its importance but crop should be saved. Farmers took the loans at higher rate of interest but could not repay it and their inability to repay the loans ultimately led them to commit suicide. Such a scenario is before us. I think if the House(Interruptions)

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Last time when you replied about it, the number of people who committed suicide in Maharashtra was 26. Now, the figure has reached 51 You

did not take measures to stop it. Had this matter been taken seriously, such a large number of people would not have committed suicide. You did not care to look into this matter.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is an important question.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is an important question. If all the Members are interested, we can have a half-an-hour discussion

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : The Hon'ble Minister had stated in this very House that it was a serious matter(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Dhananjaya Kumar(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Chaubey ji, please sit down...(Interruptions)

[English]

This matter is very serious.....(Interruptions) This matter is very serious. Why cannot our friends listen?

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : This matter relates to the interests of farmers(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand. Take your seat. I am on my legs

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : It should be discussed in the House(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : First you please sit down

.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please hear me. What is this? I know it is an important question. If all the Members are interested we can have a half-an-hour discussion. Shri Dhananjaya Kumar, you please wait. I will give you a chance.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two important issues. The most important issue is of default. Bad season or not having enough rain caused damage to the crops. The substantial responsibility and the burden of various loans and the farmers' incapability to repay the loans ultimately led them to go to the extent of suicide. There are three alternatives. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken two decisions.

Firstly, they have decided that no recovery of either principal or interest of an agricultural loan will be made from the affected farmers for a period of two years.

The second decision which they have taken is that amounts not collected during these two years will be rescheduled to be covered in a period of seven years and banks will give credit immediately for fresh crops to the affected farmers on the enhanced scales of finance recently revised by the district level committee and the rate of interest will be reduced to four per cent.

So, these are some of the suggestions and decisions which have been taken by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The only thing is that these should not be restricted only to those individuals or the families of the farmers who have committed suicide. This should be made common to all the affected areas. Unless and until there is a clear cut instruction to the NABARD and the Reserve Bank of India, the District Central Cooperative Banks or the various branches of the nationalised banks will not be able to take any decision. So, there has to be a clear cut instruction from the Government of India to NABARD and RBI to give all these concessions to all the affected areas.

Secondly, there has to be a detailed discussion on this particular subject. We will give the Motion and you can fix the discussion on any day. But there has to be a more detailed discussion on this.

SHRI A.C. JOS : I want to add to what the hon. Leader of the Opposition has said. The situation in Kerala is very serious. This morning, we sat on a dharna. The prices of copra and rubber have fallen down like anything. The economy of Kerala is shattered and, therefore, we need a discussion. It is not a question of committing suicides. The price is so low that the rubber growers are really cutting down the rubber trees.

Similar is the case in regard to coconut. The name 'Kerala' originated from coconut. So, I would request for a full-fledged discussion or a half-an-hour discussion on this.(Interruptions) A full day discussion is necessary because as rightly referred to by the hon. Prime Minister, our country is dependent on agriculture. So, I would request

that a day may be set apart for a full-fledged discussion on cash crops also. Kerala mainly depends on its cash crops.

SHRI SOMPAL : According to what the hon. Leader of the Opposition, Shri Sharad Pawar, has said, there cannot be a difference of opinion on the relief measures, which have been adopted in the Andhra Pradesh case, to be extended to other States. For the information of the House, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to state that these decisions were taken by the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India and the Chairman and Managing Director of the NABARD, who had gone to the Andhra Pradesh State. They should be extended to other States as well.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : You may issue the orders.

SHRI SOMPAL : If this is accepted, we will ask NABARD and the RBI to provide similar relief measures to the farmers in other States(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI A.C. JOS : I would request the hon. Prime Minister to agree for a full-fledged discussion because it is a very serious situation.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Everybody knows that it is a very important question or an issue. Therefore, everybody is interested in participating in the discussion. If all the hon. Members are interested, then we can have a half-an-hour discussion.....(Interruptions)

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : No.

SHRI A.C. JOS : I would request the hon. Prime Minister to agree for a full day discussion.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Let there be a full day discussion.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ahamed, please take your seat.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Janardhan Reddy, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker Sir, we do not have any objection to have a full discussion on this matter. Discussion may continue for full day instead of half-an-hour.....(Interruptions)

[English]

The Kerala problem can also be included in that.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, farmers of Mutal village of Distt. Betul in Madhya Pradesh were affected by heavy rains and natural calamities, but instead of committing suicide they tried to draw the attention of the Government by staging a dharna. However, Madhya Pradesh Government ordered firing which resulted in killing of 27 protesting farmers. Will the Government of India get this incident investigated through C.B.I.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not do like this. Please sit down

.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the Government of India get the firing incident which took place in Mutal village of Distt. Betul in Madhya Pradesh investigated through C.B.I.....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : No, please take your seat. Take your seat first.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, incident of firing on the farmers in Madhya Pradesh should be investigated.....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : If the House agrees, we may have a full discussion for a full day on this subject. No problem.

Extradition Treaty

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*3. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the extradition treaty with the United Arab Emirates has since been signed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the progress so far made in this direction;

(d) the number of criminals and terrorists of Indian origin at present in UAE; and

(e) the efforts made to bring them back to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) An extradition treaty with the United Arab Emirates has been initialled in November, 1997 and is expected to be formally signed upon completion of necessary formalities by both countries. I just want to add that yesterday the cabinet had approved the signing on the ratification of the treaty.

(d) and (e) According to available information, over 30 alleged Indian criminals are residing in the UAE. Government is using all possible legal and diplomatic means at its disposal to bring them back to India.

[*Translation*]

.....(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Mumbai bomb explosion around 200 innocent people were killed.....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : I have not allowed you. I have not permitted you. Please take your seat. You must know the procedure also. What is this?

SHRI E. AHAMED : I object to it. Dubai is having a very cordial relationship with us. He cannot accuse any country. It is very bad. He can refer to Indians going there. He cannot accuse any country. That is unethical.

MR. SPEAKER : I have not allowed you. I have allowed Shri Mohan Rawale

.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri E. Ahamed, Please take your seat. This is Question Hour. Please understand

.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat, Shri E. Ahamed. Only Shri Mohan Rawale's speech will go on record

.....(*Interruptions*)**

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Have courage to listen
.....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. P.J. Kurein, please take your seat. You know the procedure. This is Question Hour. The hon. Minister is there. He will give a reply.

.....(*Interruptions*)

* Expunged as Ordered by the Chair.
** Not Recorded.