

independent India. They are feeling that they are not living in independent India and that they are slaves.

So, I urge upon the House that the Government should take appropriate measures and look into the matter to remove the sad plight of the villagers. The Government should take measures to enable the villagers to return from their mainland. So that they should be made to feel that they are living in independent India.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the agitation being launched for a separate Uttaranchal state uniting the hilly districts of U.P. In this agitation abhorable and condemnable events like Khatima, Mussorie, Mujaffarnagar have taken place. Bearing all these, people of Uttrakhand have kept their agitation non-violent and demanded the Uttrakhand state under the provisions of the constitution. When Shri Indrajit Gupta, Minister of Home Affairs in present Government, was in opposition then he introduced a Private Member's Bill. I am demanding from the present Government that they should start action to give the status of a separate state, to Uttaranchal. Former Prime Minister Shri Chandra Shekhar has also supported the demand for the state of Uttaranchal. When Defence Minister Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav was the Chief Minister of U.P., he also passed a resolution to accord status of a separate state Uttaranchal, which was supported by the Bhartiya Janata Party. Even today if the Government take action to accord status of a separate state to Uttaranchal under Article-3 of Constitution of India the Bhartiya Janata Party will support it rising from all considerations.

Sir, even now people of Uttaranchal are staging dharnas, resorting to demonstrations and courting arrests unabated for this demand. Processions are held in Delhi. During the recent past foreign intrusion by I.S.I. is going on. This time decision of boycotting the election was also taken. This is a border area and weapons go in the hands of the youths when it will take no time to turn this region into a terrorist prone area just like Jammu, Kashmir and Bodo Land. Therefore, I demand from the Government that they should declare Uttaranchal as a separate state and give a statement in the House in this regard.

[English]

SHRI HARADHAN ROY (Asansol) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Eastern Coalfields Limited, a Subsidiary of Coal India Limited, a Government of India Undertaking, have closed down more than 52 coal mines in West Bengal in spite of having huge reserves of coal. In complete violation of the safety rules and regulations, they are, however, extracting coal in a most unscientific manner. As a result, gas, fire and subsidence are taking place almost every day in and around the coal belt

area, endangering the lives and properties of the people residing along the coalfields area.

Besides, our country is losing not only coal but also huge revenue due to fire not extinguished inside the closed coal mines. It has also created environmental hazards. It is also regrettable that in spite of the assurances given on the floor of the Parliament by the Government of India, no effective measures for stabilisation and reclamation of the land have been taken so far.

I would, therefore, urge on the Government not to close down the coal mines and implement the safety rules and regulations. I would also request the Government to take proper steps for the rehabilitation of the subsidence-affected people in safer areas and undertake stabilisation and reclamation work immediately- for which the entire expense should be borne by the Government of India- so that the people may be saved from the disaster.

SHRIMATI USHA MEENA (Sawai Madhopur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a news-item published in a newspaper dated 17.7.96. The terrorists in Jammu-Kashmir have killed tourists of Rajasthan and U.P. after kidnapping them. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, killed hostages included four persons belonging to the Scheduled Tribe Meena of Rajasthan. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let her speak.

[Translation]

Please sit down. This is second chance Mr. Yadav.

SHRIMATI USHA MEENA : I am also an Adivasi M.P. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government through you, towards those deceased. The families of victims should be suitably compensated and financially assisted. The Central Government should provide job to one person from each family of people because some of the deceased were Government servants and the others were students.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let her speak.

[Translation]

Only one person can speak at a time. One of you may speak.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with reference to the incident narrated by the Hon'ble Member, I would like to add that certain families from my city Jaipur had also gone to Srinagar. When they were enjoying boating they were made hostages. Ladies and children were released. A man was beheaded. Five persons were thrown into the Dul lake after killing. The way they were killed indicates that the police did not take timely action. I, therefore, request that homage should be paid to the deceased.