

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, once you have entered zero hour, there is no question of any privilege. I know that when I sought to raise this matter yesterday you had not said any such thing. But a load has gone round in the country that you rejected it but I know that you had not done so. Sir, certain things have surfaced today wherein the Karnataka Chief Minister stated that the Central Electricity Authority... (Interruptions)

Sir, I request that my motion be accepted and taken up for discussion without delay

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have asked him to speak. I will let you know of it Shri Chandra Shekhar

[Translation]

MR. GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, what happened to my motion?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will let you know later.

MR. GEORGE FERNANDES : Before taking up anything else, you please let me know as to what would happen to my privilege motion. (Interruptions)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a privilege motion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. I too have read morning newspapers of today. Some newspapers have reported that the privilege motion has been rejected. It has not been rejected.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Documents have not reached me till now.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, I had sent the documents to your secretaries there and then.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : These have not reached me so far. [English] I will go through them. That is all.

RE: KILLING OF LABOURERS IN JAMMU & AND KASHMIR

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to draw your attention to a very tragic incident. Twelve poor people of Bansdih town of Balia district had gone to Kashmir for joins labour work. On the night of 6th July, they were reported killed by terrorists. Today is 19th but the Kashmir Government not sent any information about them their kill and kin till today. Yesterday, one of them who managed to revive,

reached Balia and he informed the family members of the persons concerned about the unfortunate incident. Then they sent me a fax message informing me of the sad incident. They also informed the District Magistrate on fax about it. The District Magistrate tried his best to establish contact with the authorities in Kashmir but in vain.

Sir, I had received the fax message at about 3 O' Clock and from that time till 11 O' Clock at night, I kept on trying to contact the Governor of Kashmir on phone but to no effect and every time I was informed that he was busy in some meeting. The people of my office also tried to establish contact but in vain. I phoned personally and the two man at the other end asked me my phone number which I told him. But till 11 O' clock at night, I could not speak to the Governor. When my secretary asked the secretary of the Governor, the latter informed that the Governor was very busy and despite all efforts, he could not be contacted.

Sir, I am not a very important person. But during 15-20 years of my parliamentary life it has been my first experience when I tried to establish contact with a Governor on phone and he could not be available on phone to speak to me for as long as 12 hours. Till today, it is not known whether those 12 persons have been done to death or some of them have survived and in which hospital they are? The Kashmir Government did not feel it necessary to inform the family members of the persons killed through the District Magistrate. I do not want to read here the latter that I have received from the family members of the persons concerned as it is full of anguish. In that latter they would perform the last rites of the persons killed as per the vedic system. They have asked for any this information in their latter. Sir, I would like to know from you whether Governor can be so busy that he is unable to telephone for as long as 12 hours. I would not utter a word against his dignity because all except the M.Ps., have dignity and if I say anything about to his dignity, it would be against his dignity. I wish no desire to hear him on phone. I would like to know whether it was not necessary for the government to send the necessary information to the family members after the last rites of these persons killed had been performed. I do not know whether the last rites have been performed or not. Twelve poor persons, who used to go to Kashmir every year for making bricks, died. I do not know as to what a person like me should do. People think that I am running the government or I have a say in the government.

I kept on trying to contact the governor on phone for 12 long hours but the governor would not talk. How long should we have to put up with such a state of affairs? (Interruptions)

Sir, the Hon'ble Home Minister is present here. If a policeman is indisciplined, you displace him. But can you impose any discipline on the Governor? Need he have no human feelings? Will the people be allowed to

be killed and thrown on the roads like dogs? Is it not the responsibility of the Government to inform the family members concerned?

Sir, I am raising this matter out of sheer helplessness. I do not know which the government would do in this regard but I would request that on such an issue involving human lives this august House should take some decision in such matters...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to me.

[Translation]

Hon'ble Chandra Shekharji said that he is not an important person. But the fact is that for this House and for this country, he is very important and such a treatment should not have been voted out to him.

[English]

It is a reflection on the administration.

[Translation]

I request the government to take serious note of it.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today Shri Chandra Shekhar fortunately raised this matter and I too got an opportunity to speak. I have been raising this matter since the beginning. In Kashmir, particularly in Doda district, people are being killed like cats and dogs and the government is taking no notice of it. There is no government worth the name in Kashmir. Yesterday also, about 1200 families were standing on roads with their cows, buffaloes, goats and their other belongings. Doda city has been totally paralysed for the last two days. I informed this government and also whole Hon. Home Minister, informing him of the tragic situation there. I have also informed the Prime Minister about it. But no action is being taken. Forces have been withdrawn from there. People have been compelled to leave their healths and homes. As for the police, you will be surprised to know that in 'Thathri' which is a terrorist-infested area, only seven policemen with '303 rifles' have been posted. The police have no means to tackle the situation there. The forces being deployed there say, "our duty is only during operations." They would not fight with the terrorists and would set up no posts there. Please tell us as to how people would stay there in such a sorry state of affairs.

Sir, I wish to bring to your kind notice that as many as 4 lakh people have been displaced and they are in a very desperate state. Doda district is a very sensitive area. People have lost their lives there but, they have not lost that place. Keeping in view the treatment meted out to them by the Central Government after the elections, people would be compelled to leave Doda district and as many as 4 lakh people would be seen looming in the streets of Jammu and Delhi. The hon. Home Minister is present here. He should make a

statement in this regard. Elections to State Assembly are proposed to be held in Kashmir but the precious lives are being lost in this manner. It is only yesterday that six tourists were killed. Today, Chandra Shekharji has raised this matter in Doda, at least 50 persons have been done to death till now. I would request the hon'ble Home Minister do make a statement in this regard, and assure us that the forces in Doda would be revamped so that people may be able to stay there. Till now, about 10,000 families have migrated from Doda and Udhampur Districts. I request you to ask the Home Minister to make a statement on this prevailing situation ...*(Interruptions)*

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : The Home Minister should reply to it...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN (Kangra): What Shri Chandra Shekhar has said is not the question of Ballia constituency alone. He is the former Prime Minister and has been a sitting MP. If he is not heard, how are we going to face the people who ask what these MPs are doing? We must take exemplary action. A privilege motion should be brought against him. He refused to listen to the hon. former Prime Minister and an MP. So, I suggest that a privilege motion should be moved and he should be censured for his action.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : While participating in the discussion on the Statutory Resolution in respect of the State of Jammu and Kashmir I pointed out this particular aspect that human beings are being killed over there and the Government is not taking cognizance of it. Everyday we have been listening that innocent persons in Jammu and Kashmir have been killed. Now Shri Chandra Shekhar has narrated a carnage story. Just a couple of days back six tourists were killed.

My only worry is whether a government is in existence over there. The Governor of J&K does not have time to talk to the respected former Prime Minister of the country. What is this state of affairs? Luckily the Minister of State for Home is from Kashmir. My question to him is, what is the present situation in J&K and what is the condition of human beings. I wish to know whether all these extremists have been arrested, whether military or the BSF are taking action against them, whether the police is taking cognizance of all the crimes committed by the extremists or whether our Government is going to have a dialogue with these extremists when everyday innocent persons are getting killed in the Kashmir area. So, my humble submission to the Government is that they should come out with full facts. For the last one week what are the developments that have taken place in J&K? They should place before this august body the factual data about what action has been taken by this Government against those people. Not only that, how many extremists have been arrested, against how many trial has been conducted, how many extremists have been punished and how many ran away

from police custody for all these inhuman activities? The Government should place before this august body that information also.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : I think no Member is left out in this regard. We all join with the statement of Shri Chandra Shekhar in regard to situation prevailing in Kashmir. I am confident that the responsible Home Minister will react immediately as regards his stand and the stand of the Government. Similar incidents have been reported many times about the arrogance of the Governor and steps should be taken against him.

But I am on a different footing today for which I gave the notice... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will give you a chance separately.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. I will give you a chance.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I stand by your direction that you asked me only to contribute on this matter. I fully support the contributions made by several Members to share the concern of Shri Chandra Shekhar. I demand from the Home Minister instant reaction. I will be too happy if the Governor is immediately removed.

This is not the concern of Chandra Shekhar alone. I have got similar reports from several friends of mine, who have been badly treated by him, who were made to stand in queues for hours together and the Governor did not meet them even.

With these words I conclude. But I hope you will give me a chance again... (Interruptions)

COL. RAO RAM SINGH (Mahendergarh) : When the previous Government was there, in the Valley, there was a well-known saying, 'Welcome to the valley of fear where the Governor speaks only to the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister speaks only to God'. I mean, in the previous Government, even if the Home Minister rang up the Governor, the Governor would never come on the line.

If as Members of Parliament, we are going to be isolated in this manner, I think, unless we establish our own position in a proper manner, then, the position of Parliament would go down day by day. In the papers, in the media, in TV and everywhere, the position of the politician is going down and unless these things are taken up in a serious manner... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is all, please

COL. RAO RAM SINGH : I hope, the Home Minister is one of the best Home Minister that we have got after a long time. I hope that he will take some action and would not be bulldozed by the Governor of Kashmir like the previous Home Minister was.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Bangarappa, do you want to speak on this issue?

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : Yes, Sir. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Sir, I have also been giving notice for the last four days but I am not getting an opportunity to speak. What will happen to my notice?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will take up to the notice later.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : I want you protection. Our people are in trouble... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall take up those notices separately. Why do you not listen to me? We are discussing some serious issues. I will give you a chance separately. Now, please sit down.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is not a small matter. I hope you have understood the concern and the feeling of the entire House.

Actually, if this were to be the case in respect of the head of Government there, as Governor of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, then, think of the common man. The details were now narrated by the hon. Member, who is the former Prime Minister of the country. I think, with all the responsibility at his command, he had put across the issue in the right perspective and in the right manner.

As far as this aspect is concerned, we should join him. We should not, in future also, allow these incidents to happen at all. If this were to be case in respect of a person, who is the former Prime Minister and presently an hon. Member of this august House, then, I do not think that the common man is safe in the hands of such persons. It is up to the Government now. We expect from the side of the Government a categorical statement taking into consideration the sense and the concern across this august House as to what kind of a sternest action possible under the law could be initiated against such a person, who is heading the Government there.

It is a different thing if a popular Government is there. Yes, we will have to wait till a popular Government is installed in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Till then, we have to hold the Governor responsible for all these incidents.

If this were to be the case, if at 11 o' clock or 12 o' clock he is not prepared to even say something over the phone, when the former Prime Minister is trying to locate him, I think, this is a matter of grave concern for this august House. I hope, the Government also will join with us as far as this serious matter is concerned and initiate action.

Moreover, as has been suggested by my friends sitting here. I think such matters have to be brought in under a Privilege Motion. Unless we do that, I do not think, these matters will see the light of the day and get the attention of the public. Also, such persons should understand what is it that we are meant for here in this august House. Therefore, I support what Chandra Shekharji has said and what the other hon. Members have said...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : People of Rajasthan have also been killed in Kashmir ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad) : Such a thing has happened with me as well. I also want to make my submission in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to me.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : Deputy Speaker, Sir, the statement made here on the floor of the House by our respected former Prime Minister, Shri Chandra Shekhar, regarding the behaviour and the attitude of the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir at a time when Chandra Shekharji was frantically trying to get in touch with him over telephone, Fax etc. to get to know the position regarding the fate of these poor labourers, workers from Balia of Uttar Pradesh who had gone there to earn their livelihood. The failure of the Governor to communicate or respond at all is certainly, I should say, a very extremely serious matter. Of course, as you know, in the past also there have been complaints, different types of complaints about the attitude and behaviour of this particular Governor.

I do not want to enter into a discussion on that. But as far as this complaint goes, Chandra Shekharji's complaint, we will, on behalf of the Government, certainly take up the matter very seriously with the Governor and make no pretends of the fact that we thoroughly disapprove of his conduct and we are very much displeased with the way he has behaved which amounts to a sort of, I should say, an insult to one of the top leaders of our country. It can happen to anybody. As hon. Members here have rightly said, if it can happen to Chandra Shekharji, it can happen to anybody. Several things have happened in the last few days, it is true. One is the killing of twelve labourers and another is the killing of group of tourists. Indian tourists and not foreign tourists.

I have received Shri Chamanlal Gupta's letter a few days back in which he has also alleged that our security forces had been withdrawn from that area, that is Doda, where firing was going on across the border from the

Pakistani side creating a lot of panic and terror on our side of the border, compelling many innocent people to run away with their belongings and livestock. I checked up on that matter immediately. Of course, firing is going on across the border. There is no doubt about it. It is increasing recently. It is an exchange of fire. It is not that the firing is only from the Pakistani side and our people are passive and quiet and do not do anything. It is not that.

I was informed by the authorities concerned that it is not correct to say that our security forces have been withdrawn from that sector. They have not been withdrawn at all. But there is heavy firing going on and some people have been evacuated from their villages and homes. There is no doubt about it. All these incidents taken together have to be reviewed in their proper context in the sense that - I have a feeling or rather I have an apprehension that with the proximity of the State Assembly elections coming closer, there are bound to be, in our opinion, some renewed attempts, more intensive attempts from across the border to create disturbances and violent incidents so that the whole election process and the mood of the people may be upset and disturbed.

I do not know whether all these incidents can be said to be interconnected. But it is not unlikely, it is not impossible, and we should expect some more things like this to happen in the days which are leading up to the elections. So, the Government has to, now as part of our own preparations, take some new steps, some firm steps to see that we do not allow anybody, particularly the external forces, in any way, to disturb the peace and normalcy here on our side because we are interested - all parties have agreed - that the elections must be held. It should be held and everybody is prepared to cooperate in participating in those elections. It is a very very important political issue as far as India is concerned.

Therefore, this may be provoking some people from the other side of the border to create more disturbances and this pattern of events may have something to do with that.

I am really sorry that innocent people of this type have been killed. They are labourers who earn their living by making bricks or something like that, they are poor people, they do not belong to Kashmir, but for running a living, they had to go there from outside.

About the tourists, of course, I think, they would be well-advised, in my opinion, not to take the risk of going there during these troubled times. It is not essential that the tourists must go there, just now. Perhaps it would be better to avoid an area which is prone to this kind of danger and risk...*(Interruptions)* But anyway, regarding the fate of these 12 labourers, the condition of their families and their dependents and what more is required to be done to help them, we will go into this matter immediately...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Vijayawada) : Sir, it is not correct to advise the tourists not to go there...*(Interruptions)* It is not correct for the Government to say like this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Sir, it is not correct for the Government to say like this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I am giving my opinion. You can give your opinion...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. UPENDRA : On the one side, you are holding the elections and on the other side, you are advising the tourists not to go there. What is this? ...*(Interruptions)* It is not correct for the Government to say like this...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the morale of the terrorist is high...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please speak one by one.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him complete his reply

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has not completed his reply. Let him complete his reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Can the Home Minister say like this?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Please tell us whether people should go on Amarnath Yatra or not and how this Yatra will take place...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Sir, it is a serious matter. The Home Minister should amend his statement. On the one side, you are holding the elections and on the other side, you are advising the tourists not to go there. We are preparing for the elections now, and he is saying like this! What is this?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : How will the people vote in the elections now?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You please speak one by one.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him complete his reply

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will allow you. Please sit down. One by one, you can make your points. But let him complete his reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI B.K. GADHVI (Banaskantha) : How can the Government of India abdicate its responsibility of protecting the tourists?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : We have to provide succor to the people...*(Interruptions)* We are going to hold the elections and how can he say like this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him complete the reply first. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBAY (Buxar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, these dead bodies should be handed over to us so that we can perform their last rites. The question is whether the dead bodies are there or they have been disposed of? We are demanding the dead bodies. The hon. Home Minister should apprise us of action proposed to be taken by government in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have made your point. That is all. Let him complete the reply, please.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him complete the reply

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Sir, it will send a wrong message to the world. On the one side we are talking about holding elections and on the other side you are creating an impression that normalcy is not there and you are advising the tourists not to go there. What signal is he giving to the world? Let him amend his statement, please...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : It is a challenge for you. I want to know as to how people will go on the Amarnath Yatra.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : In this way, nothing will be heard. You may ask whatever you like after the Home Minister has completed his reply

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will allow one by one.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him complete the reply first.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, hon. Members can ask their questions and make their submissions after I have finished. But if there is any kind of move to prevent me from speaking, that is a different matter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, no.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : They are welcome to do that. There can be some people who do not like to hear me speak at all.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : They have an anxiety. They want to ask something.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I know what is going on.

[English]

About this request of the families of these 12 labourers, who had been killed, for dead bodies and all that, I cannot give any reply just now because the whole matter is to be gone into. It has to be seen what arrangements can be made. Of course, their requests should be respected and honored. I am sure that some arrangements will be made by the Government as soon as possible.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please try to find out whether dead bodies are there or not.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You please sit down. You please try to listen to the Home Minister.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I expressed my opinion which some hon. Members did not like. They may feel that, of course, this is a good time to encourage tourists to go there. I do not agree with it. That is all; whatever message it may send or not send.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : In August, more than one lakh people would go on Amarnath Yatra. You are not able to appreciate the message that would go down the country after your statement. You please tell us whether Amarnath Yatra would take place or not?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : It will positively take place. Last year also, people had gone on Amarnath Yatra amidst terror spread by the terrorists. People doubted that Amarnath Yatra would not take place as there was great danger. But Amarnath Yatra did take place last year as well.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will you be able to protect the pilgrims?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : The Government had protected the pilgrims last year also. This year too, we will provide all protection last year a good number of people had gathered the cow age to participate in it. These people are not tourists. They go on Amarnath Yatra every year as pilgrims tourists are different people. They go only for sight seeing etc. I was mentioning about them only. It should want to go, they may go. We are not preventing anybody from going on the yatra.

[English]

But in view of the risk to which they are likely to be exposed, I had said that it would be better if they refrained from going there. If they want to go, they can go. Nobody can prevent them.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Delhi Sadar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this would send a wrong message outside the country. You are thus discouraging the tourists and encouraging the terrorists. You should think over the matter before making such a statement in Parliament. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : When people are killed by bullets, what message does it send? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You may ask anything after the Home Minister has replied you please listen to him.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Deputy Speaker sir, the law and order situation there is bad. Should people confine themselves to their homes? Does the hon'ble Home Minister want to send this message to the people of the country?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chapra) : Sir, if the Minister gives the correct answer, then what is the difficulty? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please sit down. You can seek clarification later. Let him reply first. Let him complete his reply.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, I think it is nobody's contention that the law and order situation in Kashmir - I am talking not about the whole Valley but only certain parts of the Valley - is normal or is under control or has been under control for quite a long time past. I do not think that anybody makes that contention. Whatever the message may be, the whole world knows about it, we also know about it.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Then, how can you go in for elections?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : That is different question. All the parties have agreed to it. You please do not ask me only about it. This is a party decision including your party. A meeting was held and in that meeting, topmost leaders of your party were present and everybody unanimously agreed and welcomed the fact that elections were going to be held and appealed to all parties to cooperate in making the elections successful. So, why are you raking up that question again? If something happens which you think may require the whole position to be reviewed again, that can be done but we do not think such a situation has developed yet and we hope that it will not develop. We are also taking necessary measures. So, Sir, this is the position.

As regards labourers, their families, dependents, their bodies and all that, I can assure the House that we will find out the full facts very soon and see what can be done so that their families can recover their bodies.

[Translation]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr Home Minister, I would like to ask a question from you. Mr Chaman Lal Gupta has raised the question you yourself said that law and order situation there is not good. Despite this, forces are being withdrawn from there. What have you to say about it?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I said that forces have not been withdrawn. It is a wrong information.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Sir I wish to bring it to the notice of the hon'ble Home Minister that he has perhaps not been able to go to Kashmir in the recent past. My submission is that these are two altogether different matters. The border incident, referred to, has taken place on the Pakistan border and as for withdrawing the forces, these have been withdrawn from Doda district which is about 400 kms. away from the border. The forces deployed at the posts have been withdrawn from the interior. This has triggered off migration from there. Thus, these are two different matters. At the Pakistan borders, our forces have been facing the situation quite creditably. It is a matter of great satisfaction for us but we are not able to cultivate thousands of acres of our land. You will have to pay attention to this aspect.

Sir, the other thing I wish to state is that the forces have been withdrawn some the interior of Doda district. As a result of withdrawal of forces from the post of Mahor in Udhampur and that of Chanar in Doda, 3-4 thousand families have come on the roads. That is why I say that these two issues are altogether different. If you give me time, I shall clarify further our forces say that they are not there to protect the posts and it is for the local police to protect these posts. But the local police have no means to do so. Therefore, do not mix up these two issues. You will have to give a categorical order not to withdraw the forces deployed there.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, I have taken full and serious note of what Shri Chaman Lal Gupta is saying regarding certain parts of Doda district and what is happening there. He has repeated his allegations that the security forces have been withdrawn from some areas. That was not my information. I will look into it again and if you want further detailed discussion on this matter, it cannot be done in this way. Sir, I would invite him to please come to my Chamber and I will invite some other senior officials also there who are keeping constant touch with the Jammu and Kashmir situation.

Let him repeat all his detailed information there. It would immediately be checked up and we would go into the whole matter. It cannot be done just by raising a question. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, The hon. Railway Minister is present here. People have been sitting on a peaceful dhama since 7.00 A.M. today G R P F opened fire. Two persons were killed in Sonepur. More than 15 persons have been injured. The movement of trains under the N.E. Railway has been suspended. The hon. Minister has made an announcement on the question of Railway bridge. The Bihar Chief Minister had said that the railway bridge would be constructed at Sonepur between Pahaleja and Digha. Saran district was agitated over this issue. In Sonepur, people were staying a peaceful dhama on the railway tracks. Today morning, Government Railway Protection Force opened fire there. The persons have been killed. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will allow all of you. Please sit down now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Many persons have been seriously injured. They have been admitted in P.M.C.H. Dead bodies are still lying on the railway tracks. The movement of tracing in N.E. Railways has been suspended. The hon. Minister is sitting here. After killing people the police have tried to remove their dead bodies from the tracks. More than 10,000 people are standing on the railway lines. More than twenty persons are admitted in the railway hospital or in P.M.C.H. The condition of all of them is very serious. I would like to know the circumstances under which the Government Railway Protection Force opened fire today at 7 A.M. on the people demonstrating peacefully and why the entire district is agitated. I would request the hon. Railway Minister to visit Sonepur where a railway bridge is to be constructed, without delay and arrange to pay