

pressurising the doctors who noted down that the person died due to illness even though he had four fractures on his body. He was the President of All India Goldsmiths Association and there had never been any case against him, but a false case under Arms Act was registered against him and he was sent to jail. The local papers have reported that the police beat up a representative of M.P. so severely that he died. He had gone there with the orders of the Supreme Court.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir that police officer is violating the orders of the Supreme Court and he beat up the representative of a Member of Parliament so cruelly that he died. What kind of law and order is this? Uttar Pradesh is under President's Rule and, therefore, I request the Home Minister to make a statement in the matter and I also demand that the concerned police officer be suspended and an enquiry into the case be entrusted to CBI. So long as this demand of mine is not conceded, I will sit on an indefinite *dharna* in the House. If the life of my representative is not safe, there cannot be any safety to my life also. This police officer should be arrested immediately under section 302 and sent to jail. It is a very serious matter.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have made a mention, please resume your seat now

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: This matter relates to a place adjoining my constituency.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You should not start speaking without being called

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: It is a serious matter. The hon. Minister should make a Statement (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has already said that it is a serious matter. Why should the same thing be repeated.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have not called you to speak. Shri Bhagwan Shanker Rawat will make his points

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, the hon. Prime Minister has left the House, but I would like to draw the attention of his representatives who are here to the situation of floods. He has expressed concern over the floods....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Prime Minister has already made a statement on floods

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: But I want to add something to it. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent a project costing Rs. 300 crores for initiating immediate and

long-term measures to control floods. I want that this plan may be forwarded to the Planning Commission. So far, only Rs. 46 crores have been given which is causing great anxiety. Agra and Mathura are again in the grip of floods. The people of Bharatpur are determined to cut off the Govardhan Range. The people are in great distress due to floods and the farmers have been ruined.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Zero Hour is over.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down. Zero Hour is over. The Minister of External Affairs may please make his statement.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have received no notice. Let him speak first

.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Zero Hour is over. You can raise the matter on Monday

..... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, Parliament has passed the Delhi Rent Control Act. Why is the Government not implementing it? Let us be given an assurance that the Delhi Rent Control Act would be implemented by the Government

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let the Minister make his statement

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, it has been passed by Parliament. Why is the Government hesitating to implement it?.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Minister

12.56 hrs

[English]

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

U. S. ATTACKS IN IRAQ

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): Sir, I regret that when my hon. friends mentioned

about the situation in Iraq, I was in the other House on the same subject.

Sir, but may I with your permission take this opportunity to say that the views expressed by my hon. friends have been receiving my attention.

Members have expressed their strong feelings on the US cruise missiles attacks against Iraq on September 3 and 4, 1996. Their sentiments are in large measure shared by the Government. It would be recalled that we had issued an official statement immediately after we received the initial information regarding the US attacks on September 3, 1996. We had expressed our great concern at these attacks and their adverse effects on peace and security in the area. We also expressed our firm conviction that enforcement action under UN Security Council resolutions can only be undertaken by the Council itself.

As Members have noted, there has been widespread international opposition to the US action, which is not in consonance with accepted norms and conduct in international relations. There is a particular responsibility on all countries to respect the international law and not to take the law into their own hands, and to preserve and strengthen the available international institutions for the maintenance of peace and security, especially the UN Security Council.

Despite the widespread international sentiment against the US action, the United States again undertook cruise missiles attacks on Iraq on September 4, 1996. We do not know if more attacks are planned. This is highly regrettable. The Government of India is unable to accept the justification put forward for the bombing, on the grounds of alleged Iraq contravention of UN Security Council resolutions, or the protection of the interests of the US and its allies in the Gulf, has any basis. We call upon the United States to refrain from any further attacks on Iraq, and to respect its sovereignty and territorial integrity which has been reiterated in the same UN Security Council resolutions.

We are particularly distressed that the Security Council's relaxation on the embargo on Iraqi oil export to enable it to purchase medicines and food for the Iraqi people has been frozen. The Iraqi population, including the innocent women and children, have been subjected to great hardship and deprivation for many years by UN sanctions, and we believe that steps to provide them with relief are long overdue.

These developments have also had a direct impact on India. The price of oil has gone up. The adverse effect of the atmosphere of uncertainty in countries in the region, where we have important interest, including those flowing from the presence of large number of Indians living and working there, is naturally a worrying factor. There is also the possibility of these events leading to an upsurge of tension in the area.

We are watching the situation closely and we are in touch with friendly countries in this matter.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 o'Clock.

12.59 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.10 hrs.

At 1400 hours quorum bell was rung. No quorum was made. At 1403 hours quorum bell was rung again and no quorum was made. At 1406 hours once again quorum bell was rung and no quorum was made. Thereafter, the Secretary-General made the following announcement:

SECRETARY-GENERAL: There is no quorum. So, the House cannot meet. We cannot start the House till there is quorum. The hon. Speaker has directed that the House will meet 15 minutes later.

14.26 hrs

The Lok Sabha reassembled at Twenty Six Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(SHRI NITISH KUMAR *in the Chair*)

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

SITUATION ARISING OUT OF CLOSURE OF A NUMBER OF JUTE MILLS IN THE COUNTRY PARTICULARLY IN WEST BENGAL

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Textiles to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Situation arising out of closure of a number of jute mills in the country particularly in West Bengal and non-availability of funds for the purchase of raw jute from the market by the Jute Corporation of India and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) There was an abnormal increase in prices of raw jute during 1995-96 primarily because of a short crop and also smaller exportable surplus in Bangladesh. The consequent mis-match between supply and demand and increase in prices put a severe strain on the working of most jute mills. During July, 1996, the number of closed mills was 17, affecting 56,987 employees. This year there is likely to be a bumper crop. The