

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (AHMADABAD) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the memory of Amarnath tragedy is still haunting the whole country. Hundreds of pilgrims are missing as yet. Their relatives are running from pillar to post to know their whereabouts. An uncertainty is prevailing about the missing pilgrims as to whether they are alive or died. I visited Srinagar and Pahalgam and at that time I told this House that dead bodies of some pilgrims had been cremated by the state authorities there after taking their photographs and identification. Central Government and hon. Prime Minister has made an announcement to make an *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 2 lakh to the families of each deceased Jammu and Kashmir Government has also announced an *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 50,000 to the families of each deceased. But so far all the dead bodies have not yet been identified.

Sir, through you I would like to know from the Government as to how the members of families of pilgrims, who died in this tragedy could get this money, as they have not yet been given death certificates. This tragedy took place at Pahaigam as near Srinagar and people from various parts of the country cannot go there personally. They will not be able to get government's assistance till they get death certificate after identifying the dead bodies of their relatives.

I request the Union Government to set up a cell under the supervision of an I.A.S. officer to consider the applications for issuance of death certificates in respect of dead pilgrims so that their relatives could get the money, if the Government is actually sincere in this matter. The Central Government should make necessary arrangements in this regard.

Yesterday I met the hon. Minister of Home Affairs in this regard. He said that he was not aware of any such announcement made by the hon. Prime Minister. Announcements are made but how these are to be implemented? The Minister of Home Affairs says that he is not aware of it. But announcement has been made. Many other issues are involved in this matter like the issuance of death certificates, identification of death certificates, identification of dead bodies, just as in Gujarat 25 dead bodies were identified with the help of photographs only who were cremated. Now who will issue death certificates for them. These are serious problems. Hon. Minister, Shri Srikanta Jena and Ram Vilas Paswanji are also sitting here. I request them to evolve some procedure or to set up some cell to solve the problems of people so that relatives of those pilgrims could get the amount of compensation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There should be some co-ordination in this matter.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (QUATER DELHI) : What arrangements have been made for providing grants etc.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : How those people would be able to get that. There is no mechanism for this and even Home Minister does not know about it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Who will issue death certificates. How the whole system would be coordinated?

[English]

Where and whom should they contact?

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, after ascertaining the facts, I will convey to the hon. Member how this is being disposed of.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There should be a statement on this.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : At the moment, I have no information, but I will collect the information.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : You make a statement tomorrow because the hon. Prime Minister has already announced an *ex-gratia* of Rs. 2 lakh to each relative of the deceased. How do they get the *ex-gratia* amount from the Government? There should be some machinery through which one can know about this.

SHRI VEERABHADRAM THAMMINENI (KHAMMAM) : Sir, I want to speak in my mother-tongue, that is, Telugu. I have already given the notice.

[Translation]

*Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to bring an important issue to your notice and through you to the notice of Government.

The Radical Group in Andhra Pradesh is now indulging in a Spate of brutal murders. Radical group is a terrorist organisation operating in Andhra Pradesh for many years in the past and especially in the recent years the brutal killings by this terrorist organisation have gone up considerably. Very recently, a popular farmers' leader and a well known leader of CPI(M) in the district, Shri Shyamala Venkata Reddy was brutally axed to death on September 6 at 5.30 P.M. The murder took place in broad day light when he was working in his farm. Law and Order is a State subject. No doubt. But the Centre too has its share of responsibility. The terrorist activities are not restricted only to Andhra Pradesh. We all are aware of the fact that these activities are taking place in the States of North East, Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir. Though the nature of these activities differ from State to State, their motto remains the same. Hence the Government of India should at once initiate action for curbing the terrorist activities in the country. The Andhra Pradesh Government has already initiated several steps in this regard. The State Government is imposing ban on terrorist outfits. On certain occasions, this ban is being lifted on a trial basis. But the State Government has not been successful in curbing the terrorist activities.

Sir, there are certain vital issues which are helping in keeping alive the terrorism. There are certain fundamental issues and problems concerning people which have to be tackled without any further loss of time. Those problem have to be tackled first.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu