

I also request you to kindly direct the hon. Minister for Information and Broadcasting to sanction the posts immediately and start the TV centre as early as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government specifically towards this matter. We have been a witness to worse conditions and terrorist activities in Punjab in the last ten years. We have also witnessed the rising terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir for the last ten years and the manner in which the focus of terrorists is shifting towards the states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh which are adjacent to the border of Nepal, is alarming and I feel that the Government should pay attention towards it. Due to increase in the Activities of I.S.I. across the borders of Bihar adjoining Nepal a situation worse than Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir is likely to emerge in the coming three to five years. We have been receiving reports from the people living in that border area, especially from M.P.s hailing from that area, that foreign intruders are trying to increase terrorist activities in the whole country by entering through that area alongwith sophisticated weapons.

I urge upon the Government to keep a vigil over the areas of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar adjoining Nepal and the Govt. of Bihar may, especially be directed to keep a close watch on the activities of these people. I also urge upon the Central Government to keep a vigil over their activities.

[English]

SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY (Tripura West) : Sir, Tripura has been facing problems due to extremist activities with the resources at its command. The insurgent activities of the extremists have recently been stepped up. The extremists have also acquired and have been using sophisticated weapons, such as AK-47, AK-56 and LMGs. Some of the serious incidents include ambush and killing of two TSF personnel near Barkathal under Sidhai Police Station on November 6, 1996; kidnapping of five persons and subsequent recovery of their dead bodies on November 11, 1996 in Burburia under Birgang Police Station; attack on the vehicle of Forest Minister, Tripura on November 23, 1996, and ambush and killing of three CISF personnel at Bagbari under Jirania Police Station on November 25, 1996.

In the recent past few days, several incidents have taken place in the interior areas which indicate killing, injuring or kidnapping of non-tribals by the extremists. During the period of three weeks from November 6 1996, more than 20 persons have been kidnapped. This has led to localised ethnic tension and apprehension in the minds of general population. This prevailing situation cannot be ignored in view of the possibility of ethnic violence in different parts of the State, specially those having mixed population.

The Assam Rifles are well versed with the terrain of the State and have been handling the situation effectively. It may be pointed out that three Battalions of Assam Rifles have their permanent headquarters in the State of Tripura as follows: 22 Battalion with headquarters at Ambassa; 23 Battalion with headquarters at Udaiped; and 26 Battalion with headquarters at Agartala.

It is understood that these forces are now posted at Manipur, Jammu and Kashmir and Nagaland, respectively. Therefore, these three Battalions of Assam Rifles having their permanent headquarters in Tripura but deployed elsewhere should be restored immediately in the State.

Sixty companies of CRPF had been deployed in the State. On the eve of election in Uttar Pradesh, 15 companies had been withdrawn. Of them, 10 companies are yet to be returned to the State. This has created a gap in the security cover in the State which has resulted in the recent spate of extremist violence in the State. Hence, 10 companies of CRPF should be returned to the State immediately.

There are only seven BSF Battalion in Tripura against the sanctioned strength of 11 Battalions which is most inadequate for the long border area of Tripura. So, there should be immediate restoration of the authorised strength of BSF on Tripura-Bangladesh border and setting up of more BOPs at identified stretches of the border which are frequently used by extremists to sneak into Bangladesh.

So, my humble request to the Government of India is about the urgent need for redeployment of three Battalions of BSF, three Battalions of Assam Rifles and ten companies of CRPF - withdrawn for Assembly Election in Uttar Pradesh and to maintain the law and order situation in Manipur, Nagaland and Jammu and Kashmir.

[Translation]

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the entry of vehicles having Indian registration number into Veerganj city of Nepal located along the Indo-Nepal border has been restricted after a new traffic rule enacted by the Nepal Government. As per this rule, the Indian vehicles would be required to get a temporary Nepali registration number to enter the Nepal. Indian vehicles without Nepali registration number be seized and strict action would be taken against them. Nepali custom officers used to collect tax from Indian Vehicles in an arbitrary manner before entering Nepal, due to which Indian vehicles had to face difficulty in entering Nepal. The entry of Indian vehicles has almost been restricted by enacting this new traffic rule.

It was decided in the Indo-Nepal Friendship Treaty that the citizens of both the countries would be able to run their vehicles freely within the radius of 3 kilometers

from the railway stations, Bus stands, airports and hospitals located in the cities near the border. There will be no restriction on the entry of vehicles in the prescribed areas. Besides this, no tax will be levied on them. Under this Friendship Treaty, hundreds of Nepali vehicles run every day in Raksol and other cities of India without paying any tax but Nepali officials have been charging tax from Indian vehicles dauntlessly after filling up form, in the name of entering Nepal. More than two hundred rupees are charged from Indian vehicles in the name of entry tax by the Nepali officials in Veerganj city which is only one and a half kilometer away from Raksol (India).

I therefore, urge upon the Government to ask the Government of Nepal to abide by the provisions of the Friendship Treaty.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to raise a very important matter. Since two Cabinet colleagues of our hon. Prime Minister are here and also the leader of the House Shri Ram Vilas Paswan is present, I am drawing the attention of both the Ministers.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, all the Union Ministers took oath from the President of India and after they took oath, respective Ministries/Departments on behalf of the people of India and they would also be accountable to the Parliament. There is a House of the People here.

Now, the Ministry of Water Resources, which is a key Ministry, is headed by, I understand, Shri Janeshwar Mishra who has to negotiate matters of river water disputes within the country and also matters of river water disputes with other countries. With all due respect to the hon. Minister, I would like to submit that I read in the newspapers that the Chief Minister of West Bengal, Shri Jyoti Basu is negotiating the matter of water dispute of Farakka with the Government of Bangladesh.

I would like to know: In what capacity is he representing the Government of India? Why was the Parliament not taken into confidence? I would like to know whether this is an official delegation that is being headed by Shri Jyoti Basu and has been approved by the Union Cabinet. If so, I would like to know: Why was the Minister of Water Resources kept away from the scene?

Sir, this matter cannot be treated lightly. It is not a matter between West Bengal and Bangladesh. West Bengal is very much a part and parcel of India. We represent India as a whole, as a nation. A matter like this, a matter which involves two nations, cannot be dealt without the presence of a Union Minister who is supposed to represent the President of India. It is a very important matter. The Leader of the House who is a senior Cabinet colleague of the Prime Minister must take the House into confidence and come out with an appropriate reply on this issue. The Prime Minister must also take the House into confidence and say as to what

has happened in the matter. This has never happened in this country in the past. It is an international matter. I wonder how it is being conducted. There is no constitutional propriety of Shri Jyoti Basu to represent the Union Government and negotiate the matter of Farakka river water dispute with Bangladesh. This is what I wanted to raise. I hope the Government would give an appropriate reply to this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let me say a few words.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sir, it is on record now that this is a matter of constitutional propriety and not a matter of politics. So, I would like to request you to take this as a serious matter. This would have implications tomorrow also for various parties in various States. Our Constitution being as it is, I would like to know, if this trespass is silently being allowed by the Central Government how it is going to end up tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No debate on this please.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : Sir two Cabinet Ministers are present here and they should react to this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sir, these are not powers which could be used by anybody...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, please sit down. Let me say a few words.

Mr. Minister, what Shri Dasmunsi has said is correct. It is a serious matter. Please take note of it. The House should be informed as to the exact position.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Can Shri Farooq Abdullah negotiate with Pakistan about Kashmir issue?

13.29 hrs.

## INCOME-TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Income-Tax Act, 1961.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Income-Tax Act, 1961."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I introduce the Bill.\*\*

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\*\* Introduced with the recommendation of the President.