

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have called Shri Chandumajra.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Virendra Kumar Singh, will you please sit.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of Government to the fact that Punjab is being discriminated with regard to the price of paddy against other States. Rs. 20/- per quintal was reduced last year and this year. Hon. Agriculture Minister as well as the Prime Minister had assured that the farmers of Punjab will not be discriminated but this year also they have been discriminated.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have given two items. One has been taken up under Rule 377. Now you, speak only on "Discrimination against Punjab farmers on price of paddy".

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : I am speaking on the same matters Mr. Deputy Speaker, P.R. 106 quality of paddy is considered super fine throughout the country. But it is considered fine in Punjab. When RP-106 quality of paddy is exported it is considered super fine. In reply to my unstarred question on 27th, the Food Minister admitted that RP-106 is considered superfine quality. The Government have replied that the moisture content is much in Punjab variety. It is a well known fact that the fields of Punjab are adjacent to the fields of Haryana. In Haryana this quality has been considered super fine whereas in Punjab it is considered fine and they have been paid Rs. 20 per quintal less. In this way they have been paid Rs. 40 crore less this year and Rs. 40 crore last year. Thus the farmers of Punjab have been plundered.

We want that bonus should be given to the farmers of Punjab. The assurance given by the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister during the last session, that the farmers of Punjab would given proper price of their produce has not been fulfilled. Whatever the Prime Minister had said has not been fulfilled. I want to know whether Government are prepared to give bonus. The

Not Recorded.

wheat which was purchased from the farmers of Punjab at the rate of Rs. 300 per quintal is selling at Rs. 800 or 900 per quintal. Same is the case of cotton. The farmers of Punjab are being paid not more than Rs. 1500 per quintal. The Food Minister has given false figures here. The farmers are staging a 'Dharna' to get adequate price of their produce. Government are not taking any action in this regard. I request the Government that there should be no discrimination with the farmers of Punjab. The farmers who contribute 70 per cent of wheat and rice in the Central pool should be encouraged but on the contrary they are being discouraged. Therefore, I would like to know from the Minister whether Government are prepared to give them bonus.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, through you I want to raise a matter of national importance. For the last some day a debate is going on that the Chief Justice of India would be superseded. But our Law Minister has given a statement on a T.V. channel that there shall be no supersession and Justice J.S. Verma will be made Chief Justice immediately after the superannuation of Justice Shri Ahmedi I would like to request as it is an important policy decision and the House is in session, this statement should have been given in the House. The entire nation is looking towards this statement. Therefore, I would like to request the Hon'ble Law Minister that whatever he has said on the Private channel should clarify in the House that immediately after the superannuation of the present incumbent Justice Ahmedi, the next senior most Justice J.S. Verma would be declared the Chief Justice of India. Previously, also at the time of the retirement of the Chief Justice of India, orders for the next Chief Justice were issued well in time to stop any speculations in this regard. Therefore, I would like to thank the hon. Law Minister that he has clarified this on a private T.V. channel. But I would like him to authenticate whether he has given this clarification on a Private T.V. channel and whether Government have taken a decision that Justice J.S. Verma would be made the Chief Justice. I would like him to give this statement on the floor of the House. This would enable judiciary to function freely and would create confidence in the 90 crore people of the country.

13.00 hrs.

I would like the Law Minister to repeat the Statement given on a Private T.V. channel, in the House itself just now. If he does so, I would congratulate him. Law Minister is present in the House. It is an important point and he should clarify it for the entire nation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Santosh Mohan Dev.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : If the hon. Minister does not do so, we shall have to bring a matter of Privilege and Priority. He should give a clarification here...*(Interruptions)*

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : The statement which he has given on a T.V. channel has appeared in newspapers...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : When the House is in Session, he should have given clarification here. It is not a good tradition to keep the House in dark.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This is not a policy statement...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please allow him to speak. Now, Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Then, everything will come to the House...*(Interruptions)* That will also be announced in the House. This is not a policy decision.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : The hon. Law Minister is very much here. The whole country wants to know whether he confirms it or not. He has given it on a private channel...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please allow Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev to speak. I have already called him.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : I am on this point.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : We want your ruling to the effect that whether House is in Session, the statement on some important matters should be given first in the House or outside.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your view point has been taken, now you please sit down.

[English]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : The Chief Justice of India and the Prime Minister met...*(Interruptions)* The speculation and the misgivings were there...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please allow him to speak. Please sit down Mr. Lodha.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : If he does not speak anything, it gives a wrong signal that whatever he has said on the T.V. channel is not authentic...*(Interruptions)* You are the custodian of the House.

SHRI ABDUL REHMAN ANTULAY (Kulaba) : Sir, in all humility, whatever little knowledge I have of parliamentary procedure and practices, I believe and I am convinced and can therefore say and submit that if

what the Minister say was the reverse of what the hon. Minister is reported to have said, it would have been then only construed a statement of policy. But continuation of a routine matter of what has been going on. This practice by way of implementation is not a policy matter; Change of that, is.

What the hon. Minister has said is so obvious. This practice has been there. It is going on for decades; namely appointment of Senior most judge as Chief Justice. We will recall that when Supersession had taken place and Senior most judge was not appointed but Justice Ray was appointed; That was departure from the past practice or policy; hence a chance. When it happened, there was a furore. There was a lot of noise. Therefore, what the hon. Minister has now said is not at-all a matter of policy. When the House is in Session, to make a statement of policy outside the House may amount to breach of privilege; but this statement is no statement of Policy.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on 29th November, at 5 a.m., two explosions were there in a place called, Binjuli Ghat in Ulabari village of Nalbari district. The 1,400-Km. pipelines, running from the refinery of Assam to Bongaigon as well as Barauni, was disrupted.

It was owned by ULFA extremists that they had done it. They had mentioned why they had done that. This is the day when Army operation was first started against ULFA in Assam. They have said that this has been done in order to lodge our protest against the exploitation of the resources of the State by the Indian Government. This stretch of 1,400 kilometers oil Pipeline is supposed to be guarded by the security forces of the Indian Oil and Oil India and supplemented by the forces of the State and Central Governments. I do not intend to blame anybody here. Many hon. Members here have mentioned that the extremist activities which were happening in Punjab are spreading to various parts of the country and they are trying to create a law and order problems and spread panic among the people.

The distribution of an oil refinery pipeline is a very dangerous thing. According to the Government of India spokesman at Guwahati, the loss incurred on account of blast and fire, till yesterday, was to the tune of Rs. 20 crore. Apart from this they are threatening that other Central Government installations would also be blown off. When I spoke in this House on the IMDT Act, I said that the law and order situation is likely to deteriorate. I would like to humbly request the Home Minister and the Leader of the House, who are present here, to take some positive steps by calling the representatives of the State Government here and by discussing the issue with them so that such things do not recur. If extremists do such things and go scot free, then...