

about these incidents of Punjab. The Government should immediately take steps.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are two other Members who have to speak on this matter. I am calling their names.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Delhi Sadar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given notices for two subjects.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : First speak on this matter only.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : I wanted to speak on Amarnath Yatra because Krishna Lal ji has put up this matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This should be taken up afterward.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Security measures were not taken despite the report of the Intelligence Department that such an incident can occur in the first week of December. I would like to ask from the Government as to why this warning was not taken seriously? Similar warning in regard to the BJP and Akali Dal Joint Rally was also given by the Intelligence Department that such incidents can take place there also. What steps the Government has taken? Not only in Ambala but bomb explosions have taken place in Delhi and other places also. The other agencies have mentioned in their reports that there is all the possibility of the use of RDX in those explosions. What I want to know is that the Government should give statement that why the Government did not take adequate security measures and what steps are being taken for the protection of life and property?

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government that more than one and half crore of rupees is being spent on the security of VIPs in one year but on the other hand no steps are being taken by the Government for the common people. This is a matter of great concern.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Acharia ji, do you also want to speak on this matter.

SHRI BASU DEV ACHARIYA (Bankura) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yes, the incident took place yesterday night...*(Interruptions)* hon. Minister will give Statement ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, This is not an isolated incident. Recently, a number of such incidents have taken place in Punjab and Haryana where it has been proved that the extremist activities are on the increase. We have been demanding a number of times on the floor of the House for permanent solution to the Punjab problem. In this regard, there was an Agreement known as 'Rajiv-Longowal

Agreement'. But that Agreement has not been implemented. We have an elected Government in Punjab. They have been given full Central Share and they have been given sufficient time to solve this problem. They also bought sufficient time to implement this agreement, but the Punjab problem has not been solved and because of that, these activities are on the increase.

I urge upon the Government to see that the Punjab problem is solved and the Rajiv-Longowal agreement is implemented in letter and spirit, so that these extremist activities do not take place.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have visited the site. Many things have come in the newspapers. Had the train not been late for 20 minutes the blast would have occurred in the area of Punjab. This indicates that this was meant for Punjab. It would have been a big tragedy had the train been moving. The doctor, Fire Brigade and other help was available in time. Had it been at a lonely place it would have been very difficult to provide timely help. Hon. Minister of Railways will give his statement. I would like to say that strict vigilance should be kept at Ambala and Delhi Railway Division which covers Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir a screening should also be done. The system of warning about unlifted items should be given as in the case of Aeroplane and Trains. Whatever he has to say he will say that.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw attention of the Government that there is acute shortage of Phosphatic and potassium fertilizers in Bihar. The black-marketing of DAP and other fertilizers is being done. The fertilizer producing companies are not supplying these fertilizers in adequate quantity. The concerned Minister of the Bihar Government has given the information that the State Government has fixed the prices of the fertilizers but fertilizer companies are not supplying the fertilizers. This directly relates to the policy of Central Government. Therefore, I am raising it here. This situation has arisen after the decontrolling of fertilizers. The Central Government does not either have control over the distribution of fertilizers or over the prices. The Central Government says that the State Government should negotiate with the Fertilizer companies at their own level. This is the reason that the prices are less in some states and more in other States. It is Rs.475 per 50 kg. bag of DAP in Rajasthan whereas Rs.410 in Bihar and with local taxes it is 435. Therefore, the fertilizer companies are not supplying it to Bihar. Prior to the decontrol-policy the fertilizer was being sold at Rs.190 per bag and today it is being sold at Rs.500 per bag and that too is not available. The Government of India raised the subsidy in Kharif seasons and provided a subsidy of Rs.3000 per tonne. As a result of that the

prices decreased from Rs.495 to Rs.395 in Uttar Pradesh. But today the prices have been fixed at Rs.458 in Uttar Pradesh and the farmers are not getting the benefit of subsidy provided by the Central Government. I would like to know from the Union Government that who are being benefited by this policy of decontrol. The farmers are not getting any benefit and prices have remained the same and the Government any benefit and prices have remained the same and the Government have to give subsidy of crores of rupees. We demand from the Central Government that it should reconsider its decontrol-policy and fix the prices of fertilizers at the factory gate or at the gate of agency of that factory whether it is IFFCO or other company. When the Different State Governments fix the prices separately there is a difference of Rs.1500 per tonne. There is a difference of Rs.1500 per tonne in the prices of fertilizes in Rajasthan and Pondicherry. The fertilizers are not reaching there where the prices are less and it is destroying the Rabi crops.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you also had been Minister of Agriculture, though it may be for 13 days only but you may be well aware of this problem and you may be getting information from your area. The Central Government should reconsider this and prices should be fixed at the gate of factory only. So that supply can be made as per the demand of the States. The old system of allocation done by the Agriculture Ministry should be revived to do justice with all the States. Injustice is being done with the State like Bihar. The Government should take it seriously and take appropriate decision in this regard.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH (Balua) (Bihar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the farmers in Bihar are not getting the fertilizers. The Government must say something here to remove the scarcity of fertilizers there.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : This is a burning problem there. The Government must react over this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Government will say anything about it or not?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Government have taken note of your point.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : The sentiments of the House should be respected. All the Members are concerned about it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Government will give reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please resume your seat. The hon. Minister is going to say something.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Agriculture was not aware of the fact that this allocation has not remained in their hands after decontrol. Therefore, this is not the question. This is a very serious matter. We all would request you that you please give directions to the Government that the Ministry of Fertilizers and Ministry of Agriculture should discuss this matter and give a comprehensive statement on it. It will not be proper for the Minister to respond in a casual manner. He is not aware of all the facts.

THE MINISTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Members have expressed their concern about shortage of fertilizers and its blackmarketing. We will ponder over this problem and make efforts to provide fertilizers to the farmers at reasonable prices, in sufficient quantity and in time so that the Rabi crops are not affected.

Hon. Member Nitish Kumar ji has suggested that the Fertilizer Ministry and Agriculture Ministry should sit together to discuss this problem so that the farmers should not face any problem and to stop black-marketing and also to remove the shortage and timely supply of fertilizers. The Government will make all efforts to do the needful.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have written a D.O. letter to the hon. Minister with regard to the reaction received in this regard. I have received a reply that your D.O. letter has been forwarded to the Chief Minister. I have personally received this reaction from Government side. This indicates as to what extent Government is concerned in this regard.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have to make a submission that there may not be any shortage of fertilizers. But sometimes, the rumours create shortage. Today wheat flour is selling Rs.10 per kg. in the market. Yesterday I was coming back from Meerut after attending a marriage. I was asked at many places that whether Government was exporting wheat. The whole wheat has been exported and therefor, the traders have increased the prices. If the Government has given a statement well in time to the effect that there is no shortage of wheat and the Government would release wheat from its godown, the traders would not have exploited the situation. There is no dearth of wheat and if the Government gives a statement that it is not exporting and if at all it is exporting, it is not in much quantity.

It is the same feeling in the minds of public with regard to fertilizers.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, this situation has arisen due to the faulty policy of de-control. The Government should have considered this fact.

Whatever Shri Pilot has said is the creation of these Congress People...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have called Mr. Rupchand Pal to Speak.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as you know, the jute industry is a very important industry in our country which provides employment to several lakhs of people. Currently, this industry is afflicted by an unprecedented demand recession, particularly in the domestic market. There is no buying of B-Twill bags by the Indian Government from November this year.

On the other hand, the cement and fertilizer industries continue to flout the mandatory order, I mean the revised mandatory order of the Government of India, 1995. Sir, the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 which was passed by the Parliament unanimously, is following more in violation than in compliance, particularly by the cement and the fertilizer industries.

The sugar industry because of the several other factors is also not buying the jute bags. As a result of these factors, there is huge loss of rightful share of business by the jute industry, particularly in the domestic market. I would like to draw the attention of this Governments' mandatory order with impunity.

Several times in the past also the attention of the Government had been drawn to the flouting of rules by these industries. currently, we find that the Government of India has discontinued buying B-Twill bags from its November account which has further contributed to the process of recession being suffered by the jute industry.

I would like the Government to respond to this very very urgently and serious matter...(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, jute is considered to be environment-friendly product.

[Translation]

SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE (Mandala) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that hand-pumps in 337 villages have been closed in Mandala district of Madhya Pradesh due to complaint of fluoride in water. People are suffering due to non-availability of water. I would like to know from the Government whether any scheme has been chalked out to solved this problem. So far no funds have been made available for this purpose. A Rs. 10 crore schme has been sent by Madhya Pradesh Government to the Central Government. This scheme is under consideration of the Government. I would like to convey through you that a scheme should be

prepared to provide drinking water for the people of these 337 villages. I would like to request the Government to provide funds so that drinking water could be provided.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) : Mr Deputy Speaker, today I want to raise a matter in this House which is in our own interest. No body raises this matter for the Members of Parliament. Members do not raise this issue because tomorrow the news papers and other media would blame that we are not worried about the poor people. They are worried about themselves and they have raised the issue of increasing the wages and allowances of members but I want to place some facts before the House. Members of Parliament get Rs. 1500 as salary. Members of Parliament stand at 21st position as per the protocol. We are the citizen of India and when as per the protocol we come on 21st position, why our wages are so low. It is the basic reasons of corruption, When our wages will not be revised and it will not be increased as per the requirements of Members of Parliament, the problem shall continue. Therefore, there should be an increase in their wages. We go to our constituency and the people of our constituency come to us. When some one comes to us from one thousand or two thousand kilometres, we are not in a position to offer them a cup of tea. The D.M. and IAS officers of our area are provided vehicles and PAs. Against this the Members of the supreme institution of the country are not provided with any steno, typewriter and vehicle. I do not know how can we look into the problems of the people. All these matters should be considered seriously.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to raise one more point. Members are talking here about Hawala scandal...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Prof. Chandumajra.
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Virendra Kumar, please sit down. I have called out the name of another hon. Member.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.
(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is the use of speaking? Nothing will go on record.

* Not Recorded.