

faced by truck operators and truck drivers and their harassment should immediately be stopped.

[English]

SHRI S.P. UDAYAPPAN (Ramanathapuram) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, on 17.7.1997 five fishermen of Pamban were fishing near Vedaranyam well inside the Indian territory. All of a sudden, at about 5 p.m., the Sri Lankan Army personnel came there in a helicopter and started firing at their boat. As a result of this firing, two fishermen labaraj and Francis, belonging to Pamban, died on the spot and three others were seriously injured.

Sir, a large number of fishermen of Pamban and Rameswaram have been brutally attacked and mercilessly killed by the Sri Lankan Army and Navy in the recent months. The Sri Lankan Government have no right to kill them. If our fisherman had done anything wrong, they should have been arrested and an inquiry held but they should not have been killed on the spot. It is a strongly condemnable action.

I would, therefore, request the Government of India and the hon. Prime Minister to kindly convey our strong objections to the Government of Sri Lanka and save our poor fishermen from being killed. I would also request the hon. Prime Minister to consider this case sympathetically and sanction Rupees One lakh each to the members of the bereaved families.

[Translation]

PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR (Jalesar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir our country is eacking in the existing tourist facilities in our country, the tourism policy and rules pertaining to tourism. The Government also is not paying any special attention towards this aspect. Such officers are there in the Tourism Department against whom the cases of corruptions have been initiated and against whom the C.B.I. inquiry has been completed and whose names figure in the list of persons of doubtful integrity. He is holding the top most office and his substitute is being found. He is the only person who has been called for interview. I want to submit that the tourism industry is such a source of foreign exchange through which the economic condition of the entire country could be improved. Therefore, the high officials who are in the agreed list and against whom cases are pending in the court and who have blatantly been indulging in corruption atleast such people should be removed and the most qualified and bonafide persons should be brought in their place who can think of the interest of the country instead of their own interest. This is what I wanted to request the Government and the Minister of Tourism.

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI (Mirzapur) : The hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 50 years have elapsed since our country became independent. I would like to say something about myself here. I request my fellow

members not to object to it. I will not say anything about court's observation about me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please speak in brief.

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI : I want to speak about myself. Sir, I had surrendered in 1983. What was I, what happened to me and in the past, I will not speak anything on these things. But I did surrender in 1983 with preconditions. The Madhya Pradesh Government had promised me that likewise the dacoits surrendered in 1972 which included Madho Singh, Mohar Singh, Tehsildar Singh and many others and that Surrender was made possible at the instance of Acharya Binobha Bhawe. He was facing litigations in three states viz Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and all these cases were heard at the same place i.e. inside the Madhya Pradesh Central Jail. In the same way it had been promised to me also that my all cases may be in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and wherever they are, will be heard in Madhya Pradesh and in the same way as Dacoits had been liberated in 1972, similiary after 8 years 8 months, I will also be released. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I tolerated atrocities for 11 years and passed every single day with the hope that some day I will also get justice. I was put behind the bars for 11 years without any trial. I was not well and it was doubted that it may not convert into cancer. Then I was shifted from Gwalior Jail to Tihar Jail. At that time the popular Government came in power in Uttar Pradesh and decided that the cases against Phoolan Devi may be withdrawn and in the year 1984 the cases were withdrawn. So many years have passed after withdrawing the cases. Now the Government of Dalits and backwards have come in power and its Chief Minister is a woman, she has decided that the cases against Phoolan Devi may be started again. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not a puppet. If all of you have granted me pardon then excuse me, otherwise I will not live alive.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Self immolation should not be mentioned here.

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI : I am facing a grave injustice where shall I go. To whom I may ask for justice. I was in jail for 11 years without trial. Today, this Government is starting the cases against me once again. It is not the injustice with me only but it is the injustice with 16 lakh people. I am unable to go to Mirzapur Bhadoi. Whenever I go there, people ask me, what happened to those which I made. I say that I am not well. I am unable to tell them that I am busy due to court. I am unable to say that to-day the Uttar Pradesh Police is searching me, that where is Phoolan Devi. The Police is searching me in trains that where I am. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, justice should be done to me. I am facing the gravest injustice. otherwise, I will self immolate on the occasion of 50th Anniversary of our independence.