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12.03 hrs.

Title: Regarding Law and order situation in the state of Jharkhand following the state Government's domicile policy.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): Sir, since 18th of July, 2002, there have been disturbances in different parts of Jharkhand for and against the so-called "Domicile policy" of the Government. While organisations like Jharkhand Dishom Party, Adiwasi Chhatra Sangh, Adiwasi Janadhikar Manch, Sadaan Chhatra Sangh have supported the Government's policy, other organisations like Chhatra Yuva Sangarsh Samiti, Jharkhand Upekshit Yuva Manch, Jharkhand Youth Association, etc. have strongly opposed it.

The opponents of the Policy organised *bandhs* on 18th and 26th July, while the supporters organised *bandh* on 20th and 24th July, 2002 leading to clashes between pro and anti-policy agitationists. This resulted in damage to Government property including some of the Government of India undertakings like MECON, SAIL and office of the Principal Accountant General.

Five persons have been killed in the disturbances. Curfew was imposed in three police stations of Ranchi city on 25th July, 2002 which was extended to five police stations on 26th July, 2002. A number of persons allegedly involved in the incidents have been arrested.

As per the information received from the Government of Jharkhand, no new "Domicile policy" has been issued by the Government. However, Government of Bihar had defined "local persons" by an order of Labour and Employment Department dated 3rd March, 1982, according to which, with a district as unit, those persons whose names or whose ancestors' names were recorded in the last survey of record of rights, were to be considered as 'locals'. These 'locals' were to be given preference in the matter of employment in certain categories of jobs. Government of Jharkhand have further informed that this order of Bihar Government was adopted by them under Section 85 of the Bihar Reorganisation Act, 2000 *vide* Government order dated 22nd September, 2001.

The Government of Jharkhand has clarified through press notes that no new 'domicile policy' has been framed, only the policy followed by the Government of Bihar since 1982 has been adopted by the newly created State. The Chief Minister has also clarified that this provision relates to recruitments to Group 'C' and 'D' categories of posts in public employment including the Police Constables for which the recruitment process is now on. He has also clarified that the provision is only to give "preference" to the locals and applications are being accepted from all candidates and there is no restriction on anybody's participating in the selection process.

The Union Government has expressed its concern over the law and order situation and damage caused to the lives and property of the people in the State and has directed the State Government to maintain law and order at all cost. Nobody should be permitted to take law in his own hands and disrupt peace and tranquility in the State.

The State Government has now made elaborate arrangements to maintain peace and law and order. A large number of civil and armed police as well as Central Para-Military Forces have been deployed in sensitive areas. Curfew is being relaxed gradually as the situation is returning to normal. The Chief Minister reviews the law and order situation himself every day with the senior officials of the State Government. The Chief Minister has also called a meeting of leaders of all the Political Parties on 1st of August, 2002 to sort out the issue. Three writ petitions on the issue are pending in the Jharkhand High Court.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I am turning to 'Zero Hour'. Please cooperate with me. Let me speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: On this, there are no questions to be asked and you understand the rules very well. No questions

can be asked on the statement as per the rules.

I am now going to 'Zero Hour'. I have received 55 notices for 'Zero Hour'. Some of them are really of great importance and, therefore, let me take them up one after another. I will take up the issues which are of important nature first and thereafter, if the time permits I will allow others.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH (CHHINDWARA): Sir, please allow me first. I am waiting since yesterday. ...(Interruptions) It should get some precedence.

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to take up your issue, no doubt. Shri Kamal Nath, there is one notice which requires more attention. Immediately after that, the second position is yours.

SHRI KAMAL NATH : Sir, why do we not take my issue first? I will just take one or two minutes. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (TIRUNELVELI): Sir, I also have a very urgent matter to raise here. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Okay; I am giving one minute to Shri Kamal Nath because he wants to conclude it in one minute.

...(Interruptions)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : हमारे रूल्स में नहीं है। मुझे इजाजत देना मुश्किल है। आप इस विषय को फिर उठा सकते हैं। लेकिन इस विषय पर नहीं।

श्री मुलायम सिंह यादव (सम्मल) : भूख गम्भीर मामला है। भूख के मामले पर क्या इन्तजार किया जा सकता है?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं इसके बाद मौका दे रहा हूँ।