

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of our party and on my own behalf, I would like to express very grave concern over the situation which has been persistent for the last few months and which has been admitted by the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The issue is that almost all the metro cities of India including a few important cities are flooded with fake currency notes of Rs.500 and Rs.100. The most shameful thing is that before the British Embassy in Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, there is a board saying, 'do not come with Rs.500 note'. The board is very much there. I do not know whether the Government is aware of this fact or not. We do not want to score any political point on this matter. Our Party feels that it is a deliberate and designed plan of outside forces to destabilize our entire economy and put the country into the path of ruin. Therefore, I consider that this matter is of great national importance. Be it ISI or some other militant forces, it is a desperate attempt in the new millennium when the country is committed to take a new direction and greater height.

(y1/1250/kvj/rpm)

At this stage please look at their design. It is not in Thailand, it is not in Bangladesh, it is not in Pakistan or Malaysia. The whole target in the entire sub-continent is India. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, through you I would like to convey to the Government to take this matter with all seriousness. Whatever stringent steps the Government wants to take, the entire Parliament would stand by it. Please do not give any laxity or make any compromise with these forces. It is now in abundance.

Last week when I went to North Bengal, I found that even petrol pumps have started refusing to take Rs.100 and Rs.500 notes. It is a very big problem. They say, only a few petrol pumps have the checking machine to examine the note the way it has been demonstrated on the television. This panic is now at its height. When the British Embassy is displaying that kind of a board, it conveys a very bad message about our country.

Mr. Speaker, I convey through you to the Government to take very strong measures. Money has been detected in the Samjouta Express with somebody who came from Pakistan. He was caught and the old Muslim fellow said that for the minimum returns he had been doing this transaction for a few months. It has come to the newspapers also.

Our borders should also be vigilant. I do not know which is the main group behind this. But the fact remains that it is a deliberate attempt by certain forces to destroy India's economy and put India on a wrong map. The senior Cabinet Minister, hon. Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi is here. I know his concern is also the same as ours. The Cabinet should take a very strong step in this matter. Please do not think that it is merely a fake note. This is a design by some forces to destroy our economy.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): I fully share the concern expressed by the hon. Member on the other side. I may assure the House that the Government will take full measures to stop this infiltration of fake notes. Let us all join in this endeavour. I assure you that the Government is fully conscious of it, it has taken cognisance of the issue and will take full measures.