

12.59 hrs.

Title: Need to provide adequate security to the Members of Parliament.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR): Thank you, Sir. I raise an issue which has been brought to our notice by many hon. Members of this House. Unfortunately, we lost one of the Members of this House. She was shot dead. Shri Haren Pandya also lost his life. Shri Janardhana Reddy was the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. When he was touring his Constituency, he was asked not to go to certain areas.

13.00 hrs.

When those areas were examined by the police, it was found that the mines were put on the road.

So, this question of providing security to the hon. members is coming up every now and then, on the floor of the House. The security is provided by the Union Government when the Members are in Delhi. It is provided by the State Governments when they are touring or living in the State. This issue of providing security has not been fully examined at this level in order to see that the proper security is provided in Delhi as well as in the States.

As far as security in Delhi is concerned, I do think that the Home Ministry is doing its best -- and at least, I do not have any objection to what the Home Ministry is doing to provide security to the hon. Members.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : But we have problems....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Yes, other Members may have objections.

But when they go to the States, the problem is arising every now and then.

May I, therefore, request your goodself and the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister also, that let us sit together, let us consult the Home Ministry here and then consult the other State Governments also to see that a proper security cover is provided to MPs. It is not that the lives of MPs are more important. The lives of other citizens are also important. About the lives of the citizens and the lives of the MPs, there should not be any distinction between the two. But when an elected Member is assaulted and he loses his life, the confidence in the governance of the country is lost. This is one of the important aspects which has also to be considered.

So, my simple request, Sir, is that at your level, at any time convenient to your goodself and others, if this matter is properly looked into, it would be better.

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्री (श्रीमती सुमा स्वराज) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, सरकार को कोई आपत्ति नहीं है। माननीय श्री शिवराज पाटिल जी ने बहुत ही गम्भीर विषय सदन में उठाया है। आप अपनी सुविधा से समय निश्चित कर लें और मैं इस बात से माननीय गृह मंत्री जी को भी अवगत करा दूंगी।
