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Title: Regarding incidents of police firing in Punjab.

SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA (GURDASPUR): Sir, the number of incidents of police resorting to firing in which innocent people have either lost their lives or were injured is, unfortunately, on the rise in the State of Punjab. Some of our colleagues were sitting here and they have run away now.

Two such incidents are of recent origin. One incident occurred in Mansa and the other occurred in Gurdaspur, the Parliamentary Constituency that I represent in the State of Punjab. While in the former case, nearly a dozen farmers were injured in Gobindpura Village, who were agitating against the acquisition of their land for setting up a thermal power plant in the later incident in Gurdaspur, one young person was killed and another was seriously injured. From the video footage and other reports, it appears that the police personnel, who were responsible for these killings, were the new recruits.

When tempers run high, the police officers could easily tackle the situation by peaceful means rather than resorting to use of force. I am given to understand that very often the young officers resort to unnecessary use of force, which could have been avoided by experienced and capable officers.

I would, therefore, urge upon the hon. Home Minister to undertake suitable police reforms, one which must aim at inculcating sensitivity among the police officers in matters of this nature. Besides, the Ministry should draw up effective guidelines on how to deal with the public in such situations and also provide for harsher penalties for we know that no amount of compensation can fill the void created by the loss of precious human lives.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you very much.