

Sir, some days back the former Minister Shri Sharda Prasad Rawat was murdered. Now the security arrangements for ex-MPs of the State are being withdrawn and lesser security is being provided to ex-MLAs. The Government's attitude towards U.P. seems to be vengeful. The Government must clarify as to what steps it proposes to take for providing security to Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav. We need a specific assurance from the Government. *(Interruptions)*

We want to know the Government's reaction.

MR. SPEAKER: You have been given time to speak. Now please let others also speak.

SHRI RAM SANGAR: Sir, this matter was raised earlier also. How shall we know about the Government's reaction now that the Session is going to end day after tomorrow. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have been given a chance to speak. Now you are not letting others speak.

SHRI RAM SAGAR: Sir, Shri Uday Pratap Singh, Shri Chhotey Singh Yadav and myself are also getting the threatening letters. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are misusing the opportunity given to you for speaking. You should not do this.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let others speak. You can discuss this matter with the Home Minister.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad): Sir, I want to draw attention towards the flood situation in West Bengal. Five district os West Bengal, particularly Murshidabad, Malda and West Dinajpur are in the grip of floods. Nearly 40 lakh people are affected. The loss to crops is inestimable. Some lives also been lost. Wheat is

required to be distributed as a relief, but the stocks of wheat are so low What it is hampering the relief operations. Day before yesterday a discussion was held with the hon. Agriculture Minister to request him to take special steps for the supply of wheat to the area. The hon. Minister is present here. He is requested to explain what steps are being taken. Assistance would be needed for the reconstruction of houses after the flood waters have receded.

Sir, maximum problems are being caused by the soil erosion that is taking place on the banks of rivers, particularly on the western side. Most of the erosion has taken place between Farakka and Jalangi in Murshidabad while the maximum erosion has taken place in Aakhiriganj. This is a very dangerous development. Central assistance is needed in this situation and I request the Central Government to send a team over there.

Sir, some reports have appeared in newspapers although I am too sure as to the authenticity of these reports. I have high regard for the hon. Prime Minister. The newspaper reports say that Kumari Mamata Banerjee has gone there with some funds on behalf of the Prime Minister. If the reports are true, then this is not the proper way. The financial assistance should be directed through the State Government so that it can be used judiciously. Such a method would be more beneficial. *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

It is not aspersion against any Member or any Minister.

*[Translation]*

Sir, Central assistance should be directed through the State Government. A Central team should be sent there for an immediate on-the-spot assessment of the extent of damage and the type of relief required. Financial assistance should be given immediately for relief and rehabilitation purposes, for rebuilding and repairing damaged houses

and sowing of crops etc.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, Food Minister is here. (*Interruptions*) He should assure this House that there will not be any scarcity of food in West Bengal.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): I will discuss with you. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRES AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT ) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): Sir, I am the first MP - not as a Minister but as an MP -, to speak to the Prime Minister. I told him that in West Bengal, some districts are totally out off because of floods. Many people did not get even food. Due to scarcity of food, medical assistance and other things, the people are suffering like anything. More than 50 people have died. When I got the information, I passed it on immediately to the Prime Minister. I told him to kindly give some assistance. Then I met him. He has given some money for the victims. But I have handed over this money to the District Magistrates and not to any party men. A District Magistrate is a part of the Government.

I personally went to the district and handed it over to the District Magistrate so that people could get it from the District Magistrate. They should get it immediately. If we hand it over to the Chief Secretary or to the Chief Minister, it will take more time. Moreover, he is not here. He has gone abroad. Should I go abroad to hand it over to the Chief Minister? He should have come back. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): We understand the concern of our energetic Minister from West Bengal.

But she should remember just two things. This is a request to her. She is quite right that she has not behaved in a partisan manner because she handed it over to the District Magistrate.

But the point is that in West Bengal, there is a panchayati system. And we are trying to function through such elected representatives.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee, you please allow the backbenchers to speak.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You have been speaking in Zero Hour, Question Hour, everywhere. So, it is not necessary now

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not just a social distribution of time. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Pease take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: When I am standing , Mr. Pal, you should sit down.

(*Interruptions*)

Please sit down now. Mr. Basu Deb Acharia, you promised to me that you will allow only one Member.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way. There are many others who want to speak.

If the condition is serious, well, certainly the Food Minister has said that he would like to talk to you and he will certainly talk to you.

Kumari Mamata Banerjee has done well in giving the money. Probably she remembers her tenure as an MP in the House and, so , she spoke. It should be welcome also.