

by Mr. Bush of the United States and others, the defence scientists have shown to the world that the Indian scientists can do that without their help and cooperation.

In the background of what has happened yesterday a new threat has come from United States...

MR. SPEAKER: Please confine it to this thing. Why should we always seek to deprecate? We can seek to appreciate also.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: In the background of the threat, Sir, this House should congratulate the defence scientists that this House is very happy and the whole nation is proud about this achievement.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman & Nicobar Islands): From the Chair, you should mention something to encourage our scientists in the country who have done commendable job and through you the entire House should congratulate the scientists.

MR. SPEAKER: I know the scientists who are working and I know their standard and their capability and we all appreciate it. We all appreciate their efforts in fabricating and launching this Prithvi successfully and, on behalf of all of us here, we would like to congratulate them.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I want to raise an important question in the House. Today the Union Communications Minister has gone to Kashmir. His security personnel have killed seven innocent persons. An atmosphere is being built up in the entire country that the Communications Minister was assaulted (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: He is misleading the House. What he says is not correct.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: But it is true. The personnel providing him security cover opened fire in such a way that two ladies sitting in a mini bus, two men and the driver were killed half a kilometer away from that spot and today two more persons died in the hospital. Why does he go there, if he is not in a position to face the extremists? It is a case of murder in a way, so a case of murder should be registered. He had gone there to see the houses that had collapsed, but the security men of the Communications Minister have killed the people. He did not utter even a word of consolation. Where has vanished the sympathy of the people of this country?

I would like to say that such an attitude will worsen the situation there. Innocent citizens have been killed. The government should make a statement on the situation prevailing there. The House should know the fact. The Communications Minister was himself in a bullet proof car but the innocent people, who were standing on both the sides of the road and squalling at the crossing, were killed. Will the Ministers in India continue to be a cause of death of innocent people. Will this House keep silent on this issue? I demand a statement from the Government on this incident.

[*English*]

SHRI A CHARLES (Trivandrum): Sir, today in *The Hindu* it has been reported that the security force of Shri Rajesh Pilot was fired upon by the terrorist and in the counter-attack four dreaded terrorists have been killed. That is the information that has been reported in *The Hindu*. It is very unfortunate that the hon. Member on the other side has stated that innocent people have been killed. This only gives a wrong message to the nation (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali): The Home Minister should make a statement. (*Interruptions*) Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad says that he has nothing to do with Shri Pilot.

There has been indiscriminate firing and seven persons have been killed.
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats, I will take just one minute. If the lives are lost, we are all sorry and we send our condolences. We think that proper investigations should be done in the matter. But at the same time let us not, please, forget that one of your colleagues was reported to be fired at. Let us find out what are the actual facts. After the actual facts are before us, let us express our views. Without knowing the view, let us not allege against the colleague or against anyone else also.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A CHARLES: Sir, there was a heavy toll of life due to the collapse of that building there - in Srinagar. I understand the Prime Minister was concerned about it. So, he contacted Shri Rajesh Pilot and sent him as a representative of the Prime Minister. He went there, paid respects and conveyed condolences to the bereaved family. and, on his way back, this incident happened. So, it is very unfortunate. The fact is that one of our Ministers was attacked. Now, the hon. Member on the other side says that innocent people have been killed. That statement has just now come from him. The message is that we are supporting the terrorists. This is very wrong. this is very unfortunate. I think I have given the factual position. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (DELHI (SOUTH): Mr. Speaker, Sir I am happy that Shri Pilot has returned safely and an assault on him. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you are congratulating him, I will also join you.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I would like to congratulate him. This incident shows the situation existing in Kashmir. Today the Government is talking of holding elections

there. I have said earlier and I repeat it that since we can not hoist our national Flag even with the help of the forces, a Minister is assaulted when he goes to meet the people, what is the reasons behind Governments argument to hold elections there. The Government should reconsider it. When the caravan was going, it was assaulted from behind. A small girl was crusade to death by a truck. Innocent people were killed. So I would like that a statement should be made in the House. What were the circumstances that led to firing? Perhaps he had informed the administration beforehand about his visit. The security personnel would have made arrangements. The Home Minister should make a statement in the House about all these things. it is repeatedly being discussed that elections should be held in Kashmir. Is the Government thinking on these lines?
(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri); Mr, Speaker, Sir, I would like to mention about an incident which took place yesterday in Delhi. Two Arab Diplomats - the Charge-d' affairs of the Kuwait Embassy Mr. Muheb Othamn Al Rumaih and the Egyptian Counselor Mr. Mohammed Najeeb have been attacked by some unidentified people. They have somehow managed to escape unhurt. Sir There may be some sort of inter- rivalry among the Arabs in their respective countries. Had India has been maintaining very cordial relationship with all them Arab countries and especially with Kuwait where we have lakhs of people. So, this wanton attack on the Charge-d' Affairs, the Kuwait diplomat has really created a sense of anguish in the minds of lakhs of our people who are living in Kuwat. Therefore, I wish that the hon. Minister of State for external Affairs should come to this House and Explain the reason as to what actually happened and also the steps that the Government propose to take against such attack, in future.

And also, these diplomat are to be given sufficient and necessary security from such attacks in future. Thank you.