

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Vikram-gang): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government have made an effort to remove the stigma on the country by introducing National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Bill.

I would like to say that as has been apprehended during the course of discussion held on this Bill, I fear that after passing the Bill, it will remain in the list of Bills pending implementation. Such mentality has been inspired by the politics of attracting votes.

The Government have provided Rs. 905 crores and have given the number of Safai Karamcharis as five lakh. This amount is not enough. I would request the Government to increase it to Rs. 1200 crores. The Government should make arrangements to provide free education to the children of Safai Karamcharis upto the college level, to provide shelter and make bank loans available at simple rates to ensure economic development. The Government should conduct a survey in respect of people who carry night soil on their heads and chalk out schemes to do away with this practice.

17.00 hrs.

All the old urinals should be converted into 'Sulabh Shauchalayas'. I urge upon the Government to provide free medication, shelter and free education to their children upto the college level and this amount be increased from Rs. 900 crores to Rs. 1200 crores. I conclude by thanking you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

17.0½ hrs.

#### STATEMENT BY MINISTER

*Incident of Killing of Bus Passengers in Kishtwar,  
District Doda, Jammu and Kashmir on  
14 August, 1993*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I regret to inform this august House that in an

unfortunate incident, which took place in Kishtwar, District Doda, Jammu & Kashmir, on 14th August 1993, 16 persons lost their lives. These persons, alongwith other passengers, were travelling in a bus which left Kishtwar for Jammu at 6 A.M. on 14th August 1993. After travelling 7 Kms. from Kishtwar, the bus was intercepted by three masked terrorists and the driver was forced to take the bus towards a link road for Sarthal. The bus was taken near a nallah about one kilometre from the main road. The terrorists made the passengers get down and asked the women and children to stand on one side and segregated the rest of the passengers on communal basis. 16 persons of one community were fired upon by the militants in cold blood with AK-56 rifles. The other passengers were ordered by them to run away. Some of them managed to reach the main road from where they boarded a bus and returned to Kishtwar and informed the Police and para Military Forces. The security forces, led by a Commandant of BSF, proceeded to the spot immediately alongwith contingents from the Army and the J&K Police. On reaching the spot, they found 14 persons dead and 2 injured. The injured persons were immediately shifted to Kishtwar, where one of them succumbed to his injuries in the hospital. The other injured person was air lifted to Jammu. He also expired in the hospital in Jammu. The deceased included the driver and the conductor of the ill fated bus. Amongst those killed, three belonged to Udhampur, four to Jammu and eight to Kishtwar and surrounding areas. One person is yet to be identified.

The security forces are making all possible efforts to apprehend the militants and combing operations have been launched in the thick jungles in the areas of Sarthal, into which the militants are suspected to have escaped. The Inspector General of Police and Divisional Commissioner, Jammu visited Kishtwar and Doda to review the security and other arrangements. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has announced ex-gratia relief of rupees one lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased persons.

As a precautionary measure, curfew was imposed in Kishtwar and Bhandarwah. The district authorities in all districts of the Jammu Region have been alerted and asked to maintain the utmost vigilance to prevent untoward

incidents. The DIG BSF, DIG Doda and Deputy Commissioner Doda are camping at Kishtwar to supervise the operations by the security forces. The State Government is maintaining a close watch over the situation.

On 15th August, some miscreants intercepted a truck and roughed up two persons of the other community at Udhampur. An attempt was also made to set a truck on fire but the situation was controlled through timely intervention by the Police. In Chinani, in Doda District, some miscreants pelted stones on a few trucks carrying fruits and damaged their glass panes, following the cremation of some of the deceased persons.

In the recent months continued efforts have been made by the militants to spread violence to the Jammu region in general and Doda District in particular. Their aim is not only to divert the attention of security forces from Kashmir Valley, where they have been under great pressure for the last few months, but to also communalise the situation. The dastardly and cowardly act of cold blooded killing of innocent passengers of one community on 14th August exposes the designs of the terrorists and their supporters across the border. This act needs to be unequivocally condemned.

I would like to assure the House that we are alive to the situation and are determined to frustrate the designs of the terrorists and those who are supporting them. We have already augmented the presence of the security forces in Doda District and will further strengthen the force levels, as necessary, to effectively deal with the terrorists in the area. At this juncture, I would like to appeal, through this House, to all citizens of the State to exercise restraint, and refrain from doing anything that would help to further the blatant and nefarious designs of the terrorists. I also appeal to all members of this august House to support the ongoing effort of the State Government so that peace can be maintained in spite of the attempt of the terrorists and their mentors across the border to unleash communal violence in the State.

**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SAFAI KARAMCHARIS BILL—Contd.**

[Translation]

**SHRI SUBRAT MUKHERJEE (Raiganj):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on

this Bill. Much discussion has been held on National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Bill, yet I would like to say a few things. Whenever a furore is created in the House on some matter, the Government announces the formation of a Commission to escape the arraignment: though the Bills introduced are not according to the requirements.

We have been told about the Safai Karamcharis here. I won't repeat whatever has already been said on it. The time is limited, so I am only putting the specific points before you. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they are going to make arrangements only for those four lakh Safai Karamcharis mentioned in the Bill or do they propose to consider all those people who are engaged in the sanitation work in the country?

Secondly, what type of alternative work has been considered for Safai Karamcharis? Because according to your new economic policy, you are going to remove these people from their work. I would like to have a clear answer as to how are you going to make arrangements to induct the 4 lakh Safai Karamcharis in the country in new jobs. I am hopeful that hon. Minister would provide information to the House in clear terms.

Thirdly, as you have mentioned in this Bill, the State Governments would be responsible for implementing the recommendations of the Commission and to make it successful. I would like to know as to what would be the relation, the economic relation, between the Commission and the State Governments and the Central Government. Nothing has been mentioned in this Bill in this respect. I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister, through you, to give clear replies to the points I have raised. I conclude with these words and thank you for giving me time to speak.

**SHRI RAMASHIRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to repeat anything that has been said in respect of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Bill, 1993 on which discussion has been going on. I welcome the Bill introduced by the Government. First of all, I would like to ask as to why did the Government not do anything about this problem earlier, for, this problem has been raised time and again for years. I am of the view that the Government would not have reacted even today and introduced this Bill in the House if a demand had not been made