

(Shri S. B. Chavan)

unfortunately took a communal turn. Anti-social elements indulged in arson and looting which suddenly spread to other parts of the walled city. The rapid spread of the riots also witnessed the use of kerosene, petrol and burning rags and incidents of arson. This continued during the day time of 19th March, 1985 as well.

On the break out of rioting on 18th March, the police took quick and effective action including resort to firing. Indefinite curfew was imposed throughout the walled city from 22.30 hrs. Considering the gravity of the situation, the State Government called Army in aid of civil authorities. Instructions were also issued for effective use of force against attempt of arson and looting. The State Government strengthened the police re-inforcements in the city by assigning sensitive areas to senior officers from outside. Additional armed reserve police forces were called from Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. The State Government also deployed three CRPF Coys which were already available at their disposal in Ahmedabad. On 19th March, additional six companies of Central para-military forces were deployed.

The unfortunate incidents since 18th March, 1985 till this morning have resulted in 7 deaths out of which 6 were due to police firing. About 42 persons were injured due to police firing and stabbing. 122 cases of arson and 27 cases of looting and shop-breaking have been reported during this period. The extent of damage is being assessed.

As the House is aware, I visited Ahmedabad yesterday afternoon. I visited the affected area within the walled city in which rioting had taken place. I also visited hospitals and met injured persons. I met a number of members of opposition parties as also deputationists belonging to both the communities. After discussing the situation with the Chief

Minister, Home Minister and officials of the State Government I found that the State Government had acted with considerable promptness and dealt the situation with right degree of firmness. This State Government have taken all possible measures to restore normalcy.

The State Government are extending relief to the families which have been affected and these dishoused due to riots. Ex-gratia payment is being made to these killed and injured during the course of the rioting.

This forenoon we have been informed that the situation now is fully under control although some sporadic incidents have taken place in isolated places outside the curfew area. Unfortunately, three incidents of burning of buses have been reported elsewhere in Gujarat by anti-reservationists. I hope and trust that taking into account the present situation and the fact that the State Government have already announced their decision concerning the reservation, the student community of Gujarat would call off the agitation and contribute to the restoration of normalcy in Ahmedabad and also to ensure that there is no breach of peace elsewhere in the State. I am confident that all political parties will join me in this appeal.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No question will be allowed. Nothing will go on record. If you want any further action, you give notice.

16.06 hrs

STATEMENT RE PROCUREMENT PRICE FOR WHEAT AND SUPPORT PRICE FOR BARLEY 1985-86 MARKETING SEASON

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHIRBUTA SINGH) : Sir, I would like to

would like to make the following statement :

Government have fixed the procurement price for the 1984-85 wheat crop to be marketed in 1985-86 season at Rs. 157/- per quintal for fair average quality.

Government have also fixed the minimum support price for the 1984-85 crop of barley at Rs. 130 per quintal for fair average quality.

The procurement price mentioned above would be adopted by all the public procurement agencies in all the States and Union Territories.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is a discussion at 6 p.m. regarding this.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record. There is no subject before the House. Off-hand you are speaking.

16.10 hrs

GENERAL BUDGET, 1985-86,  
 GENERAL DISCUSSION AND  
 SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS  
 FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)  
 1984-85—Contd.

[Translation]

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to speak on one or two points more. The Opposition has been continuously saying that it is a pro-rich-man Budget. Members have not seen paragraph 20 at page 7 of the Budget Speech wherein it has been stated that the Government is formulating a Social Security Scheme which is intended—

[English]

—to cover the risk of death by accident in respect of earning members of poor families comprising landless labourers, small and marginal farmers, traditional craftsmen and others not covered by any insurance scheme or workmen's compensation arrangements.

[Translation]

This is a scheme under which today we have taken steps to implement those Directive Principles of our Constitution which we could not give effect to for so many years. Is it not a step towards Socialism ? I want to ask the Members sitting on the other side whether it is not a revolutionary step I hope that every section of the House will welcome it.

As the Hon. Finance Minister had also said, in the Budget due attention has been paid to the poorest of the poor of every section of the society. The Government has said that landless labourers whose wages could not be fixed would be covered under the Social Security Scheme. The scheme is meant for the poor, for their future and old age. This scheme can be of great help to those children who become orphans on the death of their parents in accidents. We should understand it. I welcome it.

It is a good thing that the pension of the retiring employees has been increased.

This is the Centenary Year of our Freedom Struggle which resulted in the attainment of independence. This is the Centenary Year of the Congress also. The pension being received by the freedom fighters from the Central as well as the State Governments should have been increased in this Budget. I would urge Central Government, the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister to increase