

and the high credibility enjoyed by the I.I.Ts. should be maintained.....(*Interruptions*) Sir, the hon. Minister is here. He should make a statement on this, it is a very serious issue.

Thank you.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Sir, this is a very serious thing. There should be a statement by the hon. Minister.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum) : Sir, I also gave notice. It is a very serious issue. The hon. Minister should make a statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You and Shri Samik Lahiri have given notices. You can only say that you are associating yourself with Shri Chavan.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, the hon. Minister is responding.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are two hon. Members associating with you.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, this is very shocking. There is a very bad nexus between the coaching institutions and the concerned authorities.....(*Interruptions*) I would urge upon the Government to hold a high level enquiry into the matter to check it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may say that you are supporting Shri Chavan. That will do.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Sir, strict punishment should be given to those found guilty.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you want to hear the hon. Minister or not ?

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Yes. We want to hear the hon. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAL) : Sir, for the first time, in the history of I.I.T. the Mathematics paper is reported to have been leaked. Immediately after the matter came to the notice, an urgent meeting was held and the Government has already taken a decision to hold re-examination in July. Not only that, the Government has already taken a decision and it has referred the matter to the C.B.I. for enquiry and I.B. also.....(*Interruptions*) These are very reputed institutions. The credibility and reputation of these institutions will be maintained. The first instance that was reported will not be repeated and we will take all precautions. In this I seek the cooperation of all the hon. Members.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, it has caused untold misery to the parents of the students.....(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of this House and the Government towards a very serious issue.

As all of you know that Andaman and Nicobar Islands are situated in the Bay of Bengal, about 1500 km. away from the main land. Wheat and rice is supplied to the Islands by the Government to be sold through PDS at the Fair Price Shops. During the year, 1996-97, the allocation of rice and wheat was 30 thousand tonne and nine thousand tonne respectively. This year the Government have decided to distribute 10 kg. of rice per unit for the people living below poverty line. Today population of these islands is more than 3.5 lakh. From this point of view, PDS quota of rice and wheat should be increased by the Government. But surprisingly this year 1997-98, the allocation of rice and wheat has been reduced from 30 thousand tonne to 12 thousand tonne and from nine thousand tonne to three thousand tonne respectively. Such a situation has been created. All of you know that the islands are situated amidst the sea and this is the monsoon time. During the rainy seasons, ships do not reach in time, thus delaying the delivery of the ration. It means that people of those islands have been virtually put on the verge of starvation.

The Chief Secretary, Secretary and the Deputy Governor of the islands, all of them, have apprised the Union Government of the situation and requested to supply maximum quantity of wheat and rice to islands but just now our Secretary, has told us that there seems no way out to the problem. The Union Government think that Andaman and Nicobar Islands are self sufficient in the matter of foodgrains. But this is not a fact because the rice which is produced there suffice only for local consumption and after which we will not get even one thousand tonne surplus. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that he should on behalf of the Government clarify the position on this matter and give us an assurance that now onwards there would be no reduction in the PDS allocation of rice and wheat for Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I can only assure the hon. Member that I would bring this issue to the notice of the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies and steps would be taken to see that there would be no problem in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (Outer Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw your attention towards the bomb blasts which took place recently on the fifth and sixth day of this month itself in East Delhi. The blasts took the lives of fourteen people. The day United Front Government took over the charge at the centre, law and order situation in the capital has started.....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

Law and order is with the centre.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Do not you have this much knowledge that law and order is with the centre ? Delhi Police is under the Central Government.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : The datas made available indicate that in every 16 hours, a murder and a rape case is reported in Delhi. It has been reported in the Women Commision's report that

[English]

Delhi is facing worst crimes against women.

[Translation]

the number of cases of crimes against women are increasing. These are the official figures which tell that 64 cases of murder took place only between two months i.e. January and February of this year and after February almost everyday some or other incident is taking place in the capital. The incidents have increased to such an extent that police have become helpless. On 1st May, the workers were staging a demonstration. Police were also with them but inspite of their presence, a worker set himself afire and they remained a silent onlooker of the scene and did nothing to stop the worker. These incidents are taking place in such a way which indicates or if the police and the Ministry of Home Affairs have become virtually helpless. If law and order situation is like this in the capital then I would like the Home Minister to give a statement on this issue and let us know as to what action is proposed to be taken to keep a check on such incidents. And if the centre fails to maintain the law and order situation in the capital then it should hand over this charge to the Delhi Government so that the Government may hold the State Government responsible for such incidents.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Vijay Goelji, you yourself and Sharmaji have got the same issue you may please say that you to associate yourself with him.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Sadar-Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, when I was raising my hands up to say that I had got an important matter to raise, I was told by an hon. Member that the matter of a bomb blast in Delhi did not assume much significance, for bomb blasts were very usual incidents in Delhi. On the 5th at 9.30 P.M. a bomb blast took place in a Maruti Van in Kailash Nagar which claimed the lives of many people. Instead of Kailash Nagar, it could be any other place and any other time because bomb blasts are taking place even in the broad day light. It could be any other vehicle in place of Maruti Van. It was such a powerful bomb that two brothers and three employees were killed on the spot. A girl who was sitting at the neighbour's shop was also killed on the spot. The blast also killed on the spot a woman passing through the site. How many people were injured in the blasts, I am not in a position to give their number. The explosion was so loud that it was heard by the people several kilometers away from the incident site. The window pans were smashed in the surrounding 200 meter area of the incident. Now our Home Minister may say that it was such a big explosion then how it killed only 11 people ? The police suspects the hands of terrorists in the blast. Yesterday this issue was not discussed in the House. The Home Minister or any other Minister did not feel the need to visit the site, not to speak of the Prime Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have got the same issue. It is enough now. So, please sit down.

[English]

He has already explained it. Now you will have to say. "I support his contention."

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Kindly, listen to me. In reply to USQ No. 498, dated 26 February, 1997, it was said that three bomb blasts had taken place in Delhi. When the same USQ was asked as SQ by the Member of my party, Shri Drona on 6.5.97, the member of thos blasts were stated as five. This indicates as to how much serious the Government is about these bomb blasts.

Be it Janta Dal, D.M.K. or other party, since they do not have any representative in this Govt., so nothing is being contemplated in regard to bomb blasts in Delhi.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : I am concluding. It's a very serious matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I know that please tell what you want from the Govt. of India.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : I want to say that the Delhi Govt. have announced to pay twenty thousand rupees to each victim as a compensation. The Prime Minister as well as Home Minister must visit there and announce compensation of Rs. one lakh for each victim. In addition to this a white paper on this entire episode, he also published so that one must know about the action taken after the bomb blasts during the last year. Whether there were chemical bombs or other bombs, these should he explained ? How the Govt. are going to face the terrorists, these things should he discussed. Please allow half an hour discussion to cover all these aspects. You yourself have said that you are agreed to me so please allow half-an-hour discussion.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Hon. Chairman, Sir, a struggle under the auspices of the Joint Action Council representing the entire employees in the Office of the Accountant General of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram is going on. They are demanding improvement in the deplorable services conditions. They have resorted to computer boycott from 1.4.1997 and work to rule from 7.4.1997. The agitation has entered into a new phase as all the employees' organisations in the AG's Office are now on a hunger strike.

Sir, this is a very serious issue. All the regional offices of the AG's Office are paralysed. All the employees are on a hunger strike. Several representations were made by the employees' organisations to the Government of India and the Ministry of Finance as well as to the Accountant General to solve their problems. The main issue which they are projecting is the deplorable service conditions. There are no avenues for promotion. There is stagnation. The stagnation in the service is some causing heart burning to the employees of the AG's Office. As a result of the ban on recruitment and creation of posts imposed in 1984 and due to various other unscientific measures adopted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, the workload of the employees has been increasing manifold. The promotion prospects have been dwindled to zero during these years.

Sir, this is a very serious issue. I urge upon the hon. Finance Minister and the Government of India to take urgent steps so that the problems faced by the employees could be