

and as a matter of fact there is wide gap between the wholesale prices and the retail prices. Only a person who goes to the market to purchase consumer items, can know about real prices in the retail market. We should give serious thought to the increasing prices and its impact on the housewife

With regard to sugar, I would like to submit that despite its import, the prices of sugar are rising day by day and its prices have gone up to Rs. 8 or 9 per Kg. I would like to submit that although the sugar industry has been receiving protection since the British days, yet I fail to understand why a balance could not be established between its demand and supply even in a period of 75 years. The prices of sugar in our country are very high in comparison with those prevailing in the international market. I would like to quote certain figures pertaining to the last few months. The wholesale price of sugar in Bombay was Rs. 509 per quintal, whereas its price in London was Rs. 167 per quintal. Efforts should be made to bridge such a huge gap. At present you are importing sugar at the rate of Rs. 160 per quintal. I would like to suggest that a buffer stock should be created with that so that whenever there is shortage of sugar, the prices could be controlled.

Sir, I would like to make one more submission, you should have no hesitation in issuing licences to the new entrepreneurs who want to set up sugar factories. They should be allowed to set up sugar factories in co-operative sector or in any other sector so that an improvement could be brought about in the condition of sugar industry and prices could also be brought down. Similarly, the prices of oilseeds and pulses are also causing concern. Today, when a housewife goes to the market to purchase pulses, she has to pay as much as Rs. 10 per Kg. *Toohar Dal* is being sold at Rs. 10 per Kg. Go to the market and see for yourselves the situation prevailing there. I would like to submit that steps will have to be taken to hold the price line. You are importing oilseeds. In order to encourage farmers to grow more pulses they should be given subsidy and improved varieties of fertilizers and seeds. The traders indulge in blackmarketing by hoarding the stock and creating artificial shortage. Arrangements should be made to open Super Bazars in other cities also on the

pattern of Super Bazars opened in Delhi in order to ensure supply of commodities at fair prices to the consumers. Fair Price Shops in villages never function. We have seen in our area that sugar, cloth, etc. are never made available to people through these Shops. It should be looked into.

Besides, I would like to point out that black money has increased to enormously. You will have to adopt special measures to check it. Inflation is a cause of concern for the economy of any country. We shall have to check it. Only taken can we keep our economy balanced. We would have to implement our national plans properly. We would have to pay special attention to checking inflation and price rise in order to achieve the aforesaid objective.

The hon. Finance Minister is an able and intelligent person. He has presented this year's Budget with great sagacity. I hope he will make special efforts to check inflation and price rise in order to provide relief to the oppressed common man. With these words, I conclude.

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STATEMENT RE : THE TRAGIC  
 DEATH OF SHRI LALIT  
 MAKEN, M. P.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS  
 (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : Sir, The House was informed Yesterday about the shooting incident in Delhi leading to the unfortunate demise of Shri Lalit Maken, Member of Parliament, his wife Smt. Geetanjali Maken and a visitor Shri Bal Krishan Khanna.

I take this opportunity to inform the House about further details of this tragic incident. On 31.7.1985 at about 10.28 hours, information about an incident of firing at L/106 Kirti Nagar, was received at Police Control Room from an unknown caller. The Police Control Room Van on being directed reached the spot at 10.36 hours. Meanwhile one Shri Roshan Lal had also informed the Police about this incident at 10.32 hours. The local police which had also been informed about this incident reached

Shri S. B. Chavan]

the spot immediately. Meanwhile the injured persons had been rushed to Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital.

Briefly, the facts of the incident are that on 31.7.1985 at about 1000 hours, while Mr. Lalit Maken had come out of the house (L/106 Kirti Nagar) to get into his car, two persons standing outside the gate started firing at him. Meanwhile his wife, who had gone inside the house to fetch some household goods for the new resident at AB—15 Tilak Marg, reached the main gate. The assailants also fired at her. Another person, one Shri Bal Krishan Khanna, who had come to see Shri Lalit Maken, also suffered bullet injuries. Shri Suresh Malik, one of his associates was also injured by the assailants.

After committing the crime, the two assailants rushed to a scooter No. DEH-8546 Bajaj Super (light green) which had been kept with its engine running by a third accomplice. All the three persons managed to speed away on this scooter. A case vide FIR No. 315 dated 31.7.85 u/s 307/302/34 IPC and 27/54/59 Arms Act has been registered at Police Station Moti Nagar. The investigation of the case is being carried out by the Crime Branch of Delhi Police.

During the course of investigation, 16 empties (fired cartridges) were found from the site. A team of the Central Forensic Science Laboratory had visited the spot and examined it. From the site inspection and the fired cartridges, it appears that the weapons used were, 303 Mauser and 9. M.M. pistol. Six eye witnesses have been examined. The owner of the Scooter (DEH-8546) from whom the Scooter had been snatched away on the preceding evening has also been examined to ascertain the description of the assailants.

On being rushed to the Hospital, Shri Lalit Maken was declared dead. Smt. Maken and Shri Bal Krishan Khanna later succumbed to their injuries in the hospital. Postmortem of the dead bodies was carried out, at all India Institute of Medical Sciences.

Shri Lalit Maken had shifted to his official residence at AB—15, Tilak Marg where an armed guard of 1 Head Constables and 4 Constables was posted for his protection. He used to visit his old residence in Kirti Nagar occasionally to meet his constituents and workers.

Immediately after the incident, an alert was sounded and all incoming and outgoing passengers at railway stations, bus stands, borders check-posts and airport are being screened. As a precautionary steps, the Commissioner of Police has imposed Section 144 Cr.P.C. in Delhi. The Commissioner of Police has also announced a reward of Rs. 1 lakh for anyone giving information leading to the arrest of the culprits.

Further investigations in the case are in progress and all out efforts are being made to trace the culprits. I would request the Hon'ble Members to bear with us till the investigations are concluded and request the public not to give credence to any rumours.

**SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI :** I would like to know how many have been arrested. At least something the hon. Minister can tell to the House. Has anybody been arrested ?

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :** When the investigation is going on, he cannot say anything more.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** Mr. Home Minister, can you tell us whether anyone has been arrested. You don't tell us the details of the investigations.

**SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN :** There are newspaper reports about the arrests, do you deny them ?

**SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY :** Is it that the police does not arrest before the investigation is completed ?

*(Interruptions)*

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :** Now, Shri Mahalingam.