

old rates. But regarding the twenty lakh tonnes of fertilisers with the whole sale traders, Government have issued telex orders to sell them at the new rates and I have proof in this regard. This matter needs to be clarified. The hon. Minister is not present here, but the leader of the House is present. The people of the country should not be misled on this issue. The farmers would have a burden of Rs. 200 crores on them. The farmers are already suffering because of drought and if they get this much fertilizer, it will be sufficient to meet their eighty per cent requirement. I would like the Government to make a statement on it clarifying its attitude towards farmers.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Bikramganj): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards my constituency, Bikramganj. Sir, my constituency is mainly an agricultural area which is irrigated through the Sone Canal system. But today the entire area is affected by drought. Eighty per cent of the labourers have no work. People say that they have not seen such a severe drought in their life time. Not only my constituency, but adjacent districts like Bhojpur and Aurangabad are also affected by the drought. I urge the Government to formulate some scheme to provide relief to the drought affected people and if Government fails to do so, the labourers will die of starvation, corruption will increase and the law and order situation will deteriorate. Sir, as such I urge that the relief work should be started on a war footing to save the people from starvation.

12.17 hrs.

RE: HOSTAGE CRISIS IN ASSAM AND JAMMU AND KASHMIR.

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): I rise to draw the attention of the hon. Home Minister to the hostage crisis in Assam and Jammu and Kashmir which appears to have taken a very serious and dangerous turn recently.

In so far as Assam is concerned it is reported that the State Government of Assam has clarified its position that the Government have not granted general amnesty to

the activists of ULFA, whereas the ULFA activists claim that the Government made that kind of an announcement on the 8th July. The ULFA demanded the release of its members, supporters and sympathisers by the 26th July in exchange of ONGC officers and other officers kept as hostages.

The State Government in a statement made only yesterday in the Legislative Assembly of Assam has stated that they have already released 432 ULFA activists detained under the TADA and only 290 detainees are there in different jails.

Two important issues arise here. The first is whether the general amnesty was at all declared as announced by the State Government of Assam. If so, why? This might have been announced after consultations with the Government of India because it relates to the fundamentalist activities, terrorist activities and secessionist activities and the State Government cannot take that kind of a decision of their own, unless they have got some kind of consent or some kind of green signal from the Government of India.

Secondly, another question that arises is, whether the Assam Government has sought for a dialogue with the ULFA. I want to know from the hon. Minister the basis of having a dialogue with ULFA. Have they indicated any basis?

These are two very important issues. Everybody is passing their days in great anxiety and anguish for the release of these ONGC officers and other officers. I want that the Minister should make a statement here and now.

I would only mention a word about Jammu and Kashmir. Today's *Indian Express* carries a news that a fresh threat to kill Mr. Doraiswamy has been issued and Mr. Doraiswamy would be killed if Mr. Shalla and others are not released by 3 p.m. today (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can speak only on one subject and not all subjects. Shri Asokaraj.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD (Salem-pur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, two officials of

Oil and Natural Gas Commission and one Commissioner-cum-Secretary of Assam Government; Shri Shiv Kishore Tewari, have not been released so far by ULFA extremists in Assam. They are in the custody of ULFA extremists for the last one month. . . . (Interruptions) The dead line set by ULFA extremists for accepting their demands to release these hostages had ended yesterday evening. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have got a full list prepared by the honourable Speaker. I will go according to that. I have allowed Shri Asokaraj to speak.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, the Home Minister is here. The Home Minister should tell us about the fate of Mr. Doraiswamy (Interruptions)

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur) : Sir, the country wants to know the fate of Mr. Doraiswamy (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the lives of these officials are in danger. Nobody knows as to where they have been kept. Owing to negligence on the part of the State Government, the situation is getting complicated further. I request the Central Government through this House to intervene immediately and save their lives. (Interruptions).

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the activities of extremists are a matter of concern for the entire country. The deadline set by the militants for releasing Mr. Doraiswamy in Jammu and Kashmir is going to end at 3.00 p.m. today, but the Government is silent.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : This is a very serious matter. The Home Minister is here. We would like to know the fate of Mr. Doraiswamy (Interruptions).

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Sir, only three hours are left now for the closure of the deadline. Can the Home Minister not react to this matter ? (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have expressed your concern about Mr. Doraiswamy. The Home Minister is here. I cannot compel him to make a statement.

(Interruptions)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar) : Sir, I would like to recall that when this Session commenced, at the very outset many Members from all parties of the House had expressed concern about Mr. Doraiswamy's well being and the Prime Minister himself had assured the House that he would come to the House and inform the House as to what is happening in that regard. Today several weeks have passed since then. The news that appeared in the press this morning naturally disturbed everybody and you can see the anxiety from all sections of the House. I would expect the Home Minister to react to this atleast and let us know as to what is exactly the position, what is happening in respect of securing the release of Mr. Doraiswamy, who has been in the custody of these militants for over one month now.

Therefore, the minimum that is expected after this kind of concern has been expressed by all sections of this house is that the Home Minister takes the House into confidence as to where we stand (Interruptions).

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Shiv Kumar Tiwari was abducted by ULFA extremists. He has not been released so far. His family members are meeting Ministers and Members of Parliament in Delhi in this connection. Sir, I would like to demand through you that the honourable Minister for Home Affairs should make a statement on the situation in Assam alongwith Jammu and Kashmir. (Interruptions).

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a very serious issue. Statements on such subject are made in Rajya Sabha, but here nothing has been said in this regard by hon. Minister. I request the hon. Minister to say something on this issue. (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sir, Home Minister should respond. (Interruptions).

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the deadline will expire at 3 p.m. today after that he will be killed according to the reports received. The whole country is worried about the life of Mr. Doraiswamy. I urge upon the hon. Home Minister to make a statement on this matter in the House (Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This matter was raised in the House a number of times.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is for the Home Minister to make a statement or not. I cannot compel him. (Interruptions).

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : Normally the Government is not expected to react to the questions raised during the Zero Hour. . . . (Interruptions) Since both sides of the House are expressing their anxiety because of the news item which has appeared in a section of the press, I can merely say that I am expecting a positive response by this afternoon.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will you come and inform the House ?

SHRI A. ASHOKARAJ (Perambalur) : The reference made by the President of India under Article 143 of the Constitution of India to the Supreme Court does not automatically operate as stay of the order passed by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal dated 25-6-1991 directing Karnataka (i) to release 205 TMC of water to Tamil Nadu's Mettur reservoir and (ii) not to extend its area under irrigation beyond the existing 11.2 lakh acres in Karnataka.

SHRI S. B. SIDNAL (Belgaum) : Since this matter has been referred to the Supreme Court it has become *sub judice*.

SHRI A. ASHOKARAJ : it is not *sub judice*. I am entitled to talk about my State, Tamil Nadu.

It is, therefore, clear that there is no legal impediment for the Central Government to notify the order passed by the Tribunal as contemplated under section 6 of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act,

1956. Hence I demand the implementation of the Tribunal's interim order.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention to the miserable plight of these Bhopal Gas victims. As you know, this accident occurred six years back in which 3828 people lost their lives, over 5 lakhs residing in 36 wards of Bhopal were exposed to toxic gases and over 1.5 lakhs are partially or wholly disabled.

The toxic gases affected the organs including skin, eyes, lungs, kidneys and gastro-intestinal tracts and damaging the immune, gastric and reproductive systems and leading further to impairment of ability to work, especially amongst children, 90% of whom were affected.

An arbitrary settlement denied the rights of some 6 lakhs victims entitling only one lakh to some compensation. Even the criminal proceedings against Carbide was quashed and all questions of environmental and punitive damages were dropped and even any prosecutions by future generation of gas victims were banned. At least articles 14, 19, 21, 39A, 41, 47 and 48A of Indian Constitution were violated.

The victims are suffering for six long years and are running from pillar to post for help. Recently, a large number of their houses near Hamidia Hospital have been demolished illegally and two thousand poor gas victims are homeless. No advancement is made in solving their problems.

They are demanding of the Central Government to set up a National Commission on Bhopal and to convene a medical committee to put together all data on the nature and extent of injury, its evaluation and evolving guidelines for proper treatment and rehabilitation of the victims. . (Interruptions). They are also demanding for laying down adequate standards for protection from industrial hazards in this country and to push for the speedy establishment and implementation of an international code of conduct for transnational corporations.

I urge upon the Government to come forward and reaffirm its commitment to establishing the corporate and continuing