

[Shri B. R. Bhagat]

committee which is acceptable to the people, both the Tamils and the Sinhalese, to the people of Sri Lanka, and not just as a white-washing committee. But what has happened is that a large number of innocent people, people who have nothing to do with this, who are working in their daily life, the poor people, they have, just without any rhyme or reason, been killed. You cannot give any other description. This fits in with the description of genocide, as accepted in any international forum or in a civilised way. This Sri Lankan Government have to assure, firstly, that there will be no more violence. Dealing with terrorists is one thing but in the name of terrorism, killing large number of civilian population is quite another. If this goes on, we have said it in the past that unless ceasefire violation stops, it is a negative factor in the political negotiations. But now it has gone much further. It is a climate of violence, and in a climate of violence you cannot negotiate, you cannot work for a political solution. The second point which I want to emphasise is that time is fast running out. We want action on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka on this matter. If they say that they are for a political solution, well, let them consider and there must be a time frame. We cannot give long time enough. The Prime Minister has already said that they have to say whether they want our mediation or not. If they want, well, they have to settle this question in a very small time frame—a week, or two weeks or not more than...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : You fix the time...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Have you informed them that it is not the desire of the Government...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : We have called the Ambassador...*(Interruption)*.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the House needs your protection. The Foreign Minister is telling categorically that the situation is so explosive now that they feel that within the time frame things should be discussed and sorted out. If that is the point of the Government, did the Government of India inform this particular aspects.

SHRI G. G. SWELL (Shillong) : I do not think they need to inform them. What the Minister has said in the House is itself an information.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : As I said, when we withdraw, we called back the Foreign Secretary from Madras saying that because of the negative response of the Sri Lankan Government, there was need for negotiations. Since then we were evaluating the position and now the Sri Lankan Government has emphasised again that they want a political solution and so we have called the High Commissioner. He will be coming here. He may have come this morning itself. We will discuss it and we will inform them these two things that this must be stopped. We have said it earlier that this should be enquired into. There should be an impartial inquiry into the nature of these killings. In future this must stop. The killings of civilians and innocent people must stop. This is number one precondition. The second thing is this. The various elements of a political solution, the land settlement, the devolution, the law and order problem and all these questions must be gone into and a settlement arrived at early. These are the two things. India shall communicate our firm views to the Sri Lankan Government. Thank you.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMAMURTY : After such a discussion, I thank that the position will be informed to the Lok Sabha here.

13.41 hrs.

MOTION *Re* : JOINT COMMITTEE
ON LOKPAL BILL

[*English*]

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT (Tehri Garhwal) : I beg to move the following :

“That this House do appoint Shri S. Jaipal Reddy to the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the appointment of Lokpal to inquire into allegations of corruption against Union Ministers and for matters connected therewith vice Prof. Madhu Dandavate resigned.”

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do appoint Shri S. Jaipal Reddy to the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the appointment of a Lokpal to inquire into allegations of corruption against Union Ministers and for matters connected therewith vice Prof. Madhu Dandavate resigned."

The motion was adopted.

13.42 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (i) **Damage Caused due to recent hailstorm in Vidarbha region in Maharashtra and need to provide necessary relief to the people**

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : It has been brought to the notice of the Central Government that due to recent hailstorm in many districts of Vidarbha region in Maharashtra State, the rabi crop has been severely affected. The whole of the orange crop has been badly destroyed in the affected areas. In Nagpur district along in 200 villages the loss to rabi crop and orange crop is 100 per cent. It will not be out of context to mention here that such disaster never took place in Vidarbha region during the last 70 years.

While visiting the villages one cannot see the miseries of the affected poor farmers. Present norms of help are completely inadequate. I welcome the gesture of Hon. Prime Minister who has shown sympathy to the poor sufferers by sending a cheque of Rs. 20 lakhs from the Prime Minister's relief fund. The area has not been covered under the Crop Insurance Scheme. Only a few who got the loan are covered and the rest have been left out. Orange which is a main source of economy in Vidarbha region is not covered under any Insurance Scheme.

I earnestly request the Central Government to send a team of experts to assess the damage caused due to recent hailstorm and provide all necessary help on war footing.

[Translation]

- (ii) **Reported reduction in sanctioned grant for Tanda Thermal Project, Faizabad, UP and urgent need to complete the project**

SHRI R. P. SUMAN (Akbarpur) : Sir, I want to raise a matter of urgent public importance under rule 377. A Thermal Power Project of 400 megawatt is under execution in tehsil Tanda in Akbarpur parliamentary constituency in district Faizabad of Uttar Pradesh. One unit was scheduled to be commissioned in 1982 but due to certain reasons that unit could not be commissioned within the scheduled time. On the occasion of foundation stone laying ceremony of that project it was announced that one of its units would be commissioned in 1984. But that target also could not be achieved. It is learnt from some sources that the amount allocated for the Tanda Thermal project is being diverted and it is quite likely that the work on the project might come to a standstill.

Sir, there is wide-spread resentment among the local people due to this cut in the allocation. The said project must be completed in public interest. So, I would make an impassioned appeal to the Government of India not to effect any cut in the allocation to the Tanda Thermal Project, Faizabad and get the work completed without delay so that generation of power is started and our state is benefited by it. Besides, the affected farmers and the educated employed of the area should be provided jobs, according to their qualification, on priority basis in the project so that resentment is removed.

- (iii) **Need to provide adequate financial assistance to Rajasthan for giving relief to farmers affected by heavy rainfall and hailstorm**

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Under rule 377 I would like to draw the attention of the House to the recent hailstorm that lashed a number of districts in Rajasthan.

The districts of Kota Bundi and Jhalawar have been severely affected by heavy rainfall and hailstorm this year. Thousands of cattle-heads have perished and standing crops have been damaged due to which the farmers are facing acute financial difficulty. If the Government get the damage to the crops assessed, it will come to crores of rupees.