

available to the people of that country. The party Anug San Su belonged to turned victorious of the hustings but she was prevented from occupying the office of the Prime Minister. Alongwith congratulating her on her release from detention, I would also like the Government of India to apprise the House of the present situation prevailing in Burma and also tell us whether it is taking steps in the direction of making fundamental rights available to the common Burmese citizen and for strengthening the Parliamentary democracy there. Alongwith these words, through you, I would like to say, thank you.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (AZAMGARH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the situation of Jammu and Kashmir is deteriorating day by day. The activities of Pakistan from across the border above increased in that terrorism infested area during the past few days the situation is becoming very serious. Yesterday, 20 rockets were fired at three villages in Rajouri and Poonch area which left a child and many cattles dead. This is not the first incident of this kind but rockets are being fired for many months from across the border. The exercise is being undertaken in the background of Pakistan's attempt of acquiring nuclear missiles and rockets from other countries in order to increase its military power. Recently, as a result of an agreement with China, Pakistan has been able to acquire M-11 nuclear missiles and the way rockets are being fired in this area it seems that it is a part of Pakistan's military exercise. The situation in Rajouri, Poonch and Doda districts is grim today. Doda seems to be in the grip of Afghan mercenaries and the local people are awfully frightened with a sense of insecurity engulfing their minds. The situation becomes more serious when such incidents are being encouraged and abetted by Pakistan in particular. The deplorable part of it is that countries championing the cause of peace and tranquility in the world are determined to lift the ban on arming Pakistan imposed by America instead of mounting pressure on it. Its implication is that a situation of confrontation is raising its ugly head at Indo-Pak border, a deliberate impetus is being given to the arms race in the subcontinent and this kind of a situation can take a serious turn.

Therefore, I would like to know from the Hon. Home Minister whether he is going to fulfil his assurances given twice in this House that an all party Consultative Committee on Jammu and Kashmir will be constituted and work will be done in consultation with the local people after taking them into confidence. It is not the problem of a particular party but it is a national problem. The whole country is concerned about it and it has a bearing on the national security.

Yesterday, the President of the Panthers Party, Shri Bhim Singh was forced to sit on a dharna. He has a concern for improvement in the situation of Jammu and Kashmir. He

has drawn attention to the fact that the local administration is turning a blind eye to the feelings of the local people. The people's representatives are not involved in finding solutions to the problems. As a result, the situation is deterioration day by day. Announcements are made to the effect of holding elections there but words are not translated into action. It is being said in the international circles that we are not able to implement what we announce.

It loses our credibility I will request the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs to make a statement before the House about the situation emerged in the region after the rockets fired by Pakistan and person killed in this incident.

12.27 hrs

DELHI RENT CONTROL BILL

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS (KAROL BAGH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the whole Delhi has observed a 'Bund' today to protest against the Delhi Rent Control Bill. This Bill was introduced on 30th June, at that time I suggested that this Bill relates to Delhi and it will be proper to refer this to Delhi Legislative Assembly for discussion. But this bill was passed in a haste. Even Hon. Minister Shrimati Shiela Kaul could not make her comments on the people's views in the regard. Hon. President has not signed it yet. 90 per cent traders of, Delhi are tenants. The written clauses of this Act will create problems for tenants in Delhi and business in the city will come to a standstill. Today traders of Delhi proposed to march towards the Parliament but they are stopped on the way. They have staged a dharna at Jantar Mantar we are going there. I request you that before passing this Bill, it should be referred to Delhi Legislative Assembly, which has the elected representatives of the city, to get their opinion on this. Business in Delhi will vanish if it is not done. Several colleagues of mine including Shri Rupchand Pal and other have supported my point. My submission is that it will really be a great in justice to people of Delhi if this Bill is passed. The Business in Delhi will vanished and the higher number of litigations will affect the Delhites. I therefore request you that it should not be passed here unless it is passed in the Delhi Assembly.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (LUCKNOW) Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a proverb in English that

[English]

Legislate in haste, then repent at leisure.

[Translation]

Atleast it has happened in the case of Delhi Rent Control

Bill. We all are responsible for it. We have forced the Government to introduce Rent Control Bill. We have said that it will be passed without any comprehensive discussion. This matter was lying pending for years and the Bill was passed unanimously and now it is with the President for his assent. But it is also a fact that has created a widespread resentment among the people. Under the leadership of Shri Khurnaji representatives of all the political parties of Delhi, met the Hon. Prime Minister. Hon. Prime Minister has given assurance that he is looking into this matter that how it can be amended. I do not know how it can be amended but it should be done as per the demand of the people. The Bill has not included the provisions to protect the interest of tenants. It was essential to maintain balance. I would like to say that the Government as well as the opposition should think over the issue collectively to solve the problem. This matter does not relate to only one political party. Do not think that we have been trapped in Delhi and you are escaped. There are some crucial matter on which no political party, ruling for opposition could escape criticism. This Bill has been passed unanimously.

I would like to say that the Government should take some decision after consulting all the political parties to make some provision for amending this Bill.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (MADHEPURA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem of tenants and landlord is quite prominent in Delhi. Perhaps you have not read the report submitted by standing committee on this Bill. I do not know the complications involved therein. But the fact is that whenever we go to market. Shopkeepers stop us to discuss this matter. They do not leaves us.... (*Interruptions*) They also say that Members, for whom we sacrifice our lives, do not discuss our problems. In am saying it because a group of traders came to my house. They do not consider as good persons because we are not aware of their problems. You are well acquainted with their problems. These political parties have won the seats in Delhi several times. These both the linked with them so this problem also relates to them. I am speaking on this issue because people are coming to me for this problem. I told them that you do not vote for us. They told us that our elected representatives do not care for us. I told them that their problems will be solved if they elect members from our party.

Tenants are supposed to be under the landlords and we belongs to poor community. Landlords, who have built big houses in high handed manner. I hesitate and stopped speaking, when saw Shri Chandra Shekhar's angry face as if I have said something wrong. It will be better if you correct me. We are in a dilemma. The markets in Delhi have been closed for the last four days. All the political parties unanimously opposed it. I and several other people also approached in this regard. I have also been a tenant

and well acquainted with the excesses committed by landlords. It seems that they earn money without work simply by building house. This situation would not have arisen if you had taken seriously the report submitted by the standing committee set up for this Bill and would have consulted Legislative Assembly of Delhi. You should make amendments in this Bill in manner that it should not affect anyone in any way.

The Bill provides that in case of death of a tenant whose son is a minor or his widow is unable to pay the rent, the premises has to be vacated. It would have been better if you have given some time to them and the premises is get vacated when the son becomes adult. You should have provided something like this. A person who is running his shop or self-employed and has no other earning member in his family, then his widow should be given the right of tenancy. I do not have much knowledge about it and do not want to go into details. As per my knowledge and whatever heard from them through you, and I would like to submit that this Bill was passed in haste for paucity of time therefore it should be given serious thought. Our BJP colleagues supposed to be alert on this issue but they were not. It is not right, that people who sacrifice their lives for them.

SHRI KALKA DAS : We expressed our opinion but not attention was paid to it.

SHRI RAM NAIK : We expressed our views in Rajya Sabha also.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (MADHEPURA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have forgotten, he must have expressed his views. I am sorry, I was saying that this Bill has been sent to the President for his assent. The Government can withheld it if desires. The views of Shri Chandra Shekhar can also be included. Nothing will happen if the Government withhold this Bill for one or two more days.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (GANDHINAGAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not in the List of Business.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : It is alright I stop it if Advani ji says so. But I would like to say that tenants are supposed to be poor than the landlords and they are facing great difficulties. This Rent Control Bill...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Sharadji, You have made your point.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is only this that the Bill should be given a second thought and a comprehensive Bill should be brought in place of it so that no one face any problem.

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA (NAGPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the manner in which this question is being raised by BJP and Mr. Sharad Yadav is totally wrong. The country will be totally ruined and this will become a practice if any party is permitted to hold strike for stopping the Hon. President from signing a Bill which has already been unanimously passed by the Parliament. It should not be allowed at all. It must have sent of the Hon. President. I would like to say that.

[English]

Mr. Sharad has not understood the point .

[Translation]

Delhi has a rural base. Villages have their properties in Delhi and are facing hardship since long. Their houses and property are taken on rent and these tenants create problems and do not increase the rent at all. Thus this law was enacted. It is right and proper law. The tenants who have taken houses or shops on rent do not pay a single paise and intend to extract money from landlords . . . (Interruptions)**

SHRI KALKA DAS : The owners of shops in Karol Bagh and Chandni Chowk are not villagers. Perhaps he does not know it.

MR. SPEAKER : What have been said just now will not go on record.

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA : You have interrupted me six times. (Interruptions)**.... They will hold strike.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: No allegations. This is not going on record.

[Translation]

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA : What will not go on record? I have not made any unparliamentary remark. I have said that (interruptions)....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Allegations against each other.

[Translation]

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA: I was saying that . . . (Interruptions)**

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (JAIPUR) : No, you are wrong.

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA : I would not go by what you are saying. My submission is that the law has since been enacted. There is no question of reopening or referring it to the Delhi Legislative Assembly. This is a good law that has been enacted after putting mounting pressure on the Parliament. The people are happy with it. Some people with them vested interests are annoyed and are resorting to strikes. Let them to do. In keeping with the Parliamentary practice, this law should not be revoked. It is very unfortunate that the Bill has been pending for the Presidential assent for so many days. The President should give his assent to it and give it the shape of a law.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (BALLIA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would not have spoken on this issue and Sharadji not spoken on it. I would like to tell Sharadji that it is the new landlords who are minting money form the rent. There is no check on people who construct new houses and charge exorbitant rent, in the earlier Rent Control Law as well. The rent of the big old houses constructed in good old times varies between a mere Rs. 50-150 though I do not say that they all belong to the farmers. The landlord fetches a paltry sum of Rs. 150 or Rs. 200 per month whereas the shopkeepers earns. Rs. 1.5 to 2 lakh. There are number of such example In Connaught place, Delhi, the landlord goes to collect his rent on a bicycle and the Manager of the shop refuses to see him. He has to wait for two to three hours to receive his rent of Rs. 150. This is total exploitation. This bill was not passed all of a sudden here in this House. There was this agony for many years and this bill was brought after feeling the pinch of that agony. I have no knowledge of the articles of law as to what has been passed but basically, it was a step forward and fight against exploitation. Suggestions with regard to removing the anomalies or lacunae in the Bill are welcome but it is not proper to talk of withdrawing the entire Bill. I am not agreeable to Mirdhaji's language but it is like nourishing the vested interest for which the Parliament cannot change its ideology.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is nothing wrong in Mirdhaji's using the term 'Khopari' in this speech.

MR. SPEAKER : You are repeating the remark that I have expunged.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : "Khopari" means head in rural dialect. It is not a bad word. Secondly, i do not have thorough knowledge of this Bill and this problem and Chandra Shekharji also said that everything people told him was not true. My submission is that a comprehensive and judicious. Bill should be brought in view of all this. This rural people might have some problem as revealed by Mirdhaji. I am not in touch with the rural folk. Therefore, I did not do only indepth study about what I have said. I had requested you also that it should be a comprehensive Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not good to create such confusions in the House at this point of time.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is no doubt that this is rather usual for us. After having passed the Bill, now we requested for its reconsideration. But because of the sentiments that have been raised on both sides – I mean by both sides not only in this House but outside also – some are supporting and some are objecting to certain provisions of the Bill. And what is being submitted is, since it has not yet become a law, what is being requested is that some of the provisions which are creating misunderstanding as to the correct interpretation may be looked into because so many people are involved. Many of the people are middle class people, working class people. They are coming to us and they have made certain representations. We know, we have already passed this Bill. We are aware of this situation. Therefore, our request is that some of the provisions may be looked into a little more depth. All parties can sit together and Government can take an initiative. Certainly, all different points of view can always be considered. Nobody should stand here on a prestige issue because everybody says that it was really done without that much study with which it should have been done. I am not exonerating myself also. We should have been a little more careful. We should have been a little more alert. Though we should not do this, since the people of Delhi are agitated over it, why do you not arrange for a meeting? It can be done within a very short time. Now, people have made their study. We can make our submissions and a decision can be taken with regard to some of the provisions. The Hon. Rashtrapatiiji can send it back to us for its reconsideration.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (AZAMGARH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is wrong to say that all the Delhites are very agitated due to the passage of the Delhi Rent Control Bill which has become an Act now. A delegation of Shopkeepers met Sharadji. As he is seated close to BJP benches, there might have been some effect on him. Farmers representative who visited me from the villages urged that no amendment should be made in this Act. The reason is that when the farmers came to Delhi 50 to 100 years ago and constructed small houses and shops, they were removed and they settled in remote villages. They are being divested for their lands there and given a rent of Rs. 5, 10 or 25. Chandra Shekharji has rightly said that other earn Rs. 50,000 Rs. to one lakh from these people sell out their shops to others at a 'Pagan' of Rs. 5 to 10 lakh. The farmers do not get even a single paisa from that money. They get a fixed paltry rent. A 10,000 strong contingent of

farmers staged a demonstration in front of the residence of the Minister of Urban Affairs and Employment demanding that no amendment should be made in the Act and their interest should be safeguarded.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Government not to make any change in it under pressure or in hurry. The farmers who are the landlords are not a affluent lot. One who constructs a house gives it on rent because others cannot construct a house. Letting out one's house on rent is not an offence. All are not making a lot of money out of that. The Government should fix the rent in the Rent Control Act but making amendments in it would tantamount to exploitation for the farmers.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (GANDHI NAGAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have only one point to make. As such Vajpayeeji and Somnathji have stated that this Bill should be reconsidered and there should be objection to that. The significant part of it is that the parliament legislated on matters when there was no legislative Assembly in Delhi but when the latter has come into being, I would urge upon the Government that much of attention cannot be paid to a legislation in the Parliament with regard to a matter concerning Delhi as can be done by the representatives of the people of Delhi in the Legislative Assembly.

What Shri Chandra Shekharji said has inspired the people there to seek amendments in the Delhi Rent Control Act. In earlier situation in tenant earns lakhs of rupees from the accommodation acquired some 50 years back on rent fixed at say Rs. 50 per month at that time. That is not proper. However, while amending that it has been provided that in case the owner of commercial house constructed some 50 years back dies it cannot be transferred in the name of his wife or son after his death. There are some anomalies which have created problems. Therefore, a second look has become very necessary in this matter.

My second submission to the Government is that a matter related to Delhi should be taken up in the legislative Assembly first so that the people's representatives can consider it there (Interruptions).

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : Sir, on the issue of Delhi Rent Control Bill, a deputation led by the Chief Minister of Delhi had gone to the Prime Minister: and the Prime Minister has passed on that case to me. I am supposed to look into the matter and try to find out as to how we can bring about any kind of change which in fact will serve the interest of both. A number of deputation had also come to me. Some Hon. Members from BJP had also come to me. An all party delegation was

also there. There was another deputation which represented the land holders. They had also come to me and they had pleaded with the saying that the Bill had been passed and there should not be any change in the Bill. These are the contradictory views we have in this matter.

I do not know whether it will be a good precedent to ask the President not to sign the Bill which has been unanimously passed by this House. I will have to consult the Law Ministry to find out as to what can be done if at all any change is to be brought about and if, in fact, agreed to by both the sections. I cannot possibly agree specially with the point made by Shri Advani that on all matters, Delhi Administration needs to be consulted. I cannot possibly agree to this point of view to all. We will go by the Delhi Capital Region Act. We are strictly following whatever provisions are there in it and we are giving more concessions to Delhi Administration but I certainly cannot agree when you say that we will have to go to the Delhi Assembly on every aspect which touches Delhi. But on this Rent Bill, I will again discuss with some of the people and try to find out as to how best the interests of both the parties can be incorporated and in what shape and form can it be done. This is a point on which the Government will have to apply its mind and find out a solution.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA (PATNA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, late Mr. Mohammad Rafi Sahib was famous and great singer of India, who sang more than 46,000 songs. Many of his songs are based on classical music and have got devotional appeal and some bhajans (devotional songs) have also been sung by him. Most of his songs will be remembered for ever in India. Similarly, late Mukesh Sahib has sung thousands of songs. Evergreen voices of both the singers are still alive in India but unfortunately they were not suitably awarded. I request through you to the Government of India to release postal stamps in commemoration of both the aforesaid singers - Late Shri Mohammad Rafi and Late Shri Mukesh.

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (FAIZABAD) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our senior member Shri Chandra jeet ji has raised a very burning issue with regard to Jammu and Kashmir and I, too, had given one notice with regard to this issue only. Yesterday also, this subject was discussed. The situation in Jammu and Kashmir in war seeing day by day and proper war is being waged there. I do not want to reiterate what Mr. Chandarjeet ji has said here but the way terrorism getting momentum there, not only minority Hindu but also majority community, i.e. Muslim, is also badly affected due to it. The entire Kashmir and people thereof are badly affected due to terrorism there.

The State Government earns good revenue from the Pilgrimage to Vaishno Devi Sharine and Amarnath Yatra. Perhaps, it would not be improper to mention that the entire Jammu and Kashmir Government's expenditure and expenditure on its employees two months salary is met from the revenue earned from pilgrimage to Vaishno Devi and the Government of India must be having report to this effect. But today, due to terrorism the situation in Doda has worsened. People from there are being driven out and being killed in an indiscriminate way. In view of this, proper law and order arrangement should be made. It seems that the Government of India is not serious about this, yesterday when Hon. Minister was saying that he would give all the facilities to Haj pilgrims and they will not be stopped, at that time I was expecting that the Hon. Home Minister would give similar assurance to all the Pilgrims going for Amarnath Yatra assuring that he would make similar kind of security arrangement for them as well, but nothing to that effect was said by Hon. Minister.

Today, I received a phone call in the morning from Jammu and got the information that the shops usually opened during Amarnath Yatra every year are not being allowed this year. Para-military forces have been deployed there; due to which no eating arrangement would be made. You know that very old persons go on this pilgrimage but there is no medical facility for them and no boarding and lodging facility will be provided. No facility is being given on behalf of the Government of India.

I would like to request him through you that the Hon. Minister must give his assurance to this effect and the pilgrims must get special facility and proper security arrangements should be made for them.

[English]

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN : Sir, we have made all the arrangements which are necessary for giving the kind of protection to all those yatis who would like to go to Amarnath. Everything has been arranged for them. If there has been anything which, in fact, is falling short of the expectation of the yatis who were going there, please bring it to my notice and I will immediately look into it. But it is the Jammu & Kashmir Government which is supposed to execute the plan which we have agreed.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, papers to be laid on the Table of the House.