

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the statement by Shri Rameshwar Thakur.

19.22 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(i) *Concession Under Income-Tax Act*

[English]

THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): I rise to make this statement in the House in order to announce an important concession under the Income-tax Act.

Hon'ble Members would recall that in the Budget speech of 24th July, 1991, the Finance Minister had announced the Government's decision to set up a Foundation for providing assistance to the children of families affected by communal riots. The National Foundation for Communal Harmony has now been set up as a registered society. Apart from grant-in-aid being given by the Government to the Foundation, the Foundation will have to rely heavily on contributions from individuals and other donors. Considering the importance of the Foundation in acting as a nation-level catalyst for communal harmony and also considering the nature of its activity in providing assistance to the children of families affected by communal riots, I have pleasure in announcing the Government's decision to grant 100 per cent deduction under section 80G of the Income-tax Act to donors contributing to the Foundation. It has also been decided to exempt the income of the Foundation from income-tax by including the name of the Foundation in section 10 (23C) of the Income-tax Act.

Necessary amendments in this regard will be made in the next Finance Bill.

(ii) *Rocket Attacks in Srinagar and Situation in Doda Town*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.N. JACOB): I rise to inform the House of incidents of rocket attacks on Jammu and Kashmir new State Secretariat and Assembly buildings in Srinagar on 20th July, 1992 and the situation in Do-da town of the Jammu region.

The situation in Jammu and Kashmir though difficult and challenging had definitely shown a qualitative change for the better in the past few months. However, there have been renewed efforts by Pakistan and the terrorist organisations to escalate the violence. The terrorist outfits have reportedly been directed to ensure selective elimination of political leaders working for a negotiated settlement and certain threats to political functionaries in the Valley have been issued. On the other hand positive signals have also continued to be discerned. Besides volunteering of information against the terrorists, inter-action between the people and the Administration has increased.

On 20th July, 1992 at 13.00 hours, a rocket was fired by the terrorists at Jammu and Kashmir Assembly building at Srinagar. It caused a very minor damage to the building. After half an hour, another rocket was fired at New State Secretariat, which missed the intended target and a portion of it fell on the house of a resident near the New State Secretariat. There was no casualty. Two employees suffered minor injuries caused by passing rocket splinters and glass panes broken by concussion effect. Since the rockets were fired from a distance, very minor damage to the buildings were caused.

An incident of terrorist attack on the Security Forces and subsequent cross firing in Doda town on 18th July, 1992 has been reported. According to the information received from the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, on 18th July, 1992 at 10.30 hours, based on reliable information that militants were hiding in a house in Doda town, local police accompanied by a section of CRPF, under the charge of one Deputy Superinten-

dent of Police each of Jammu and Kashmir Police and CRPF, raided the hide-out. The terrorists hurled a grenade at the raiding party in which one Sub-Inspector of Jammu and Kashmir Police, and one Head Constable of CRPF were killed on the spot. It was followed by firing by the terrorists from a few adjoining houses. The fire was returned by the Security Forces and reinforcements were mobilised. In exchange of fire, two residents of Doda died. Three CRPF personnel, and one probationary Sub-Inspector were injured. Two of the seriously injured CRPF personnel were sent to hospital at Jammu for treatment. During the exchange of fire and use of hand grenades fire also broke out affecting six houses and 28 shops in the area. Immediately thereafter help of Army already located nearby was requisitioned and curfew imposed as a precautionary measure. The situation was brought under control and continues to be so. On July 19th, Adviser to the Governor, accompanied by Director-General of Police and other officials also visited the town to take stock of the situation. Since then the curfew has been relaxed during the day time and no untoward incident has been reported.

The Government of Jammu and Kashmir have further informed that the reports about militants having captured or brought under their control any part of Doda town or any of the police stations and Government offices are factually incorrect and baseless.

19.29 hrs.

#### **MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

**(i) Need to Try Tea and Coffee Plantation in Amarkantak Region of Madhya Pradesh**

[*Translation*]

SHRIMOHAN RAM JHIKRAM (Mandla) : Tea and coffee which falls under the category of essential commodities and also play an important role in earning foreign exchange for the country. So, more foreign exchange can be earned by producing tea in Amar-

kantak region of Madhya Pradesh. This is tribal dominated area. There is a great problem of unemployment. The soil, rainfall, temperature and climate of this region are most appropriate for the plantation of tea and coffee. About four years back the dindori forest department had planted coffee plantations in five hectare land of Jagatpur and Chanda forest area and those plants are still there with the height of three to four feet and have been producing fruits for the last one year. Getting inspiration from the Calcutta Tea Management Cell, some members of Jabalpur tea Traders Association planted five tea plants by bringing them from Siliguri (Bengal) in 1988 and planted them in Jagatpur Coffee Plantation are with the assistance of the forest Deptt. These plants flourished there in a good condition for upto 2 1/2 years.

I would like to urge the government that it should issue suitable directives to the officers of the forest department, tea Board, Calcutta other institutions and individuals related with tea crops so that this region of Madhya Pradesh may be added to the other Coffee producing areas of the country. It would be a great achievement to only for this state but also for the entire country.

**(ii) Need to Enhance Supply of Rice to Kerala**

[*English*]

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (Ernakulam): Sir, the months of July, August, September and October - the monsoon period — are considered to be the difficult period for the day-to-day life of the common-men in Kerala. The price of essential commodities takes an increasing trend during this period.

Kerala is the only State in the country where informal rationing system exists and it is also a deficit State in rice production. The present monthly Central allocation of rice to the State is 1,50,000 M.T. (theoretical requirement is 1,83,000 M.T.) while the wheat allocation happens to be only 30,000 M.T.

The National Festival of Kerala - ONAM