

[Shri K.D. Sultanpuri]

Committee on the Ministry of Agriculture  
(Department of Agriculture and Cooperation)  
—Benefits provided to Scheduled Castes and  
Scheduled Tribes in the Cooperative Sector.

STATEMENT RE-WITHDRAWAL OF  
AMOUNT FROM THE CONTINGENCY  
FUND OF INDIA FOR SETTING UP  
OF RAIL COACH FACTORY NEAR  
KAPURTHALA (PUNJAB)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI  
MADHAV RAO SCINDHIA) : Mr. Speaker

Sl. No.	Particulars of work	Anticipated cost	Expected outlay for 1985-86	Amount withdrawn from the Contingency Fund of India
1.	Setting up of factory — Kapurthala (Punjab).	Rs. Cap. 180 crores	Rs. 5.0 crores	Rs. 0.05 crore

The money so withdrawn from the Contingency Fund of India will be recouped through Supplementary Demands for Grants which I shall be submitting to the Parliament during the next Session.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER  
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[Translation]

**Reported seizure of a large quantity of spare parts of defence equipments in Jehanabad city of Bihar**

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH (Chapra) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Defence towards following matter of urgent public importance and request him to make a statement in regard thereto :

“Reported seizure of a large quantity of spare parts of defence equipments in Jehanabad City of Bihar and action taken by the Government, in regard thereto.”

Sir, In order to meet the shortage of coaching stock on the Indian Railway, it is proposed to set up a second coach factory in Punjab, at Hussainpur near Kapurthala with a capacity for manufacture of 1000 coaches per annum.

Keeping in view the urgency of this work and also to avail of the working season of the current year, this work is proposed to be taken up out of turn during the current year by withdrawing an amount from the Contingency Fund of India, as this constitutes ‘New Service’.

In terms of recommendation No. 1.10 of the Committee on Papers laid on the Table (4th Report of the Sixth Lok Sabha) the following details are furnished to the House.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : According to the information available, DIG, CID, Bihar intimated Headquarters, Bihar and Orissa Sub-Area, Danapur on telephone at 1745 hours on 31st July, 85 that police had recovered at Jehanabad, certain parts of one LMG, parts of two Sten Guns and parts of 27 pistols. He requested for an Army representative to be sent to Jehanabad to identify the seized items. On 1st August 85, an Army representative along with one Armourer was sent to the Jehanabad police Station to identify the seized parts/spares etc.

It has further been intimated by the State Government of Bihar that on the night of 28th and 29th July 85 local police in Jehanabad bazar, a Sub-Divisional HQrs. under Gaya District intercepted two rikshaw pullers carrying several wooden boxes. One rikshaw puller escaped but the second was nabbed by the police. The owner of an automobile spares shop in Jehanabad was also arrested because the wooden boxes were brought to his shop. Two suspects, how-

ever, escaped. In all, 11 wooden boxes were recovered. These boxes were issued and despatched by rail from Central Ordnance Depot Jabalpur to units located in Dimapur, Jorhat and Bagdogra. A detailed inspection of the boxes has revealed that these contained in all 256 spare parts of fire arms. These included 25 carbine barrels, one LMG barrel, two carbine stands, handle drivers, trigger guard, military pouches, etc. The Bihar State Government are of the opinion that these boxes were stolen either from Gaya railway junction or from Jehanabad railway station. Jehanabad Police have registered a criminal case in this regard and the investigations are in progress.

Army HQrs. have intimated that no complete weapon as such formed part of this consignment, nor could these spare parts, if combined, have been assembled into a complete weapon or weapons. This is so far as the factual information is concerned. The investigation is on, but at the same time I would like to take the House in confidence so that some clarifications are given in regard to the method allowed in transit of arms and ammunition by Indian Railways.

I may also inform the Hon. Members that the following practice is in vogue to ensure the safe custody of arms, ammunition and explosives in transit :

- (a) Explosive and fully assembled arms and ammunition are despatched, as a rule, in wagon loads ; the despatching agency waits for a reasonable period in order to make up a wagon load. In case the wagons are meant for destinations in, or have to pass through, sensitive areas, these are sent under Army escort.
- (b) Where full wagon loads cannot be made up within a reasonable time, explosives and fully assembled arms and ammunition are despatched in containers where container service is available.
- (c) When it is inevitable to despatch small consignments, these are sent, in passenger trains under army escort as in (a) above.

(d) For destinations upto 320 Kms, explosives, fully assembled arms and ammunition are sent by road under military escort.

(e) In addition to items mentioned in (a) above, vehicles and secret/sensitive equipments are also sent under escort.

(f) All other items are sent unescorted.

In so far as despatches of spare parts and other items are concerned, as indicated in (f) of para 4 above, sealed packages are handed over to the Railways and a receipt obtained. The Railways are thereafter responsible for transporting the packages to the consignee. The despatching Depot sends the Railway receipt and a copy of the issue voucher, listing the items despatched, to the consignee by registered post. If the consignment is not received within a reasonable period, the consignee checks with the nearest Railway station and lodges a complaint and also informs the despatching Depot of such non-receipt. The despatching Depot, in turn, takes similar action with the Railways.

The consignments from which the thefts have occurred were despatched from Jabalpur to the North-Eastern Sector during the months May to July, 1985. There have been instances in which piecemeal consignments from Jabalpur to the North-Eastern sector have taken more than 4 months to reach their destinations due to transshipment and movement bottlenecks enroute.

**SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH :** Sir, we have been hearing about such antinational activities quite frequently but it seems Government takes these incidents lightly. Sometimes files relating to Prime Minister's Secretariat are passed on to foreign countries in exchange for liquor. Sometimes fire arms are stolen from the ordinance factories and sometimes their parts are stolen and sold.

On the night of 29th July in Jehanabad city, 12 rickshaws.....

**MR. SPEAKER :** After stating this, please put your question.

**SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH :** I was stating that 13 boxes were being transported. The policeman on duty deposited them in the police station but the SHO neither inspected the boxes nor questioned the persons accompanying them. The Government's reply is that those persons had escaped. But actually they were let off by the SHO after taking Rs. 40 thousand from them \*\*\* This is also being said that he was in collusion with the Chief of the Police of Bihar. He had been transferred two months back to Ranchi.

[*English*]

**MR. SPEAKER :** I will not allow that. It will not go into the record.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH :** But even today he is in Jehanabad. Not only this, when the boxes were opened, 31 revolvers were found in them about whose whereabouts nothing is known now. The Government has replied that the DIG, CID went there and conducted the investigations and on that basis he informed the Danapur Military Cantonment that two stenguns and spare parts of 27 pistols were seized but in the latter part of the reply Government had stated that there were 256 spare parts which included 25 barrels of carbines, one light machinegun barrel, 2 carbine stands, handle drivers, trigger guards, military pouches etc. This proves that the Bihar Police did not make a detailed investigation in the incident. One reason stated in the reply for this is that these equipments were stolen on one of the railway stations between Jehanabad and Gaya.

It is more than one month since this incident occurred but so far even this has not been found out at which station—Gaya or Jehanabad—the articles were stolen. Government should have found this out.

Who were the persons who had escaped? What were their antecedents? Were they connected with some terrorist party who wants to spread panic in the country. Were

they criminal elements who indulged in crimes of this nature in other parts of the country? Have they any connection with incidents occurring in other parts of the country? Is any foreign agency involved with them? Information on all these points should have been given?

**MR. SPEAKER :** You may ask about all this.

**SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH :** Therefore, I want to know whether they had connections with some terrorist group or whether they were involved in similar incidents occurring in other parts of the country or they have links with some foreign agency? The equipments were stolen at Jehanabad or at Gaya? Is attempt being made to hush up the matter because the police officer \*\* is in collusion with the D.G. of Police, Bihar?

I would also like to know how the SHO is present in Gaya and in Jehanabad for the last two months? After taking into account all these points, will you order a CBI enquiry in this affair? This is what I want to know.

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO :** Sir, I have nothing further to say except the facts already stated by me. Investigation is in progress there and as it was the Bihar Police which had informed us, it does not look proper to charge them with such an offence. Firstly, they informed us and subsequently whatever facts came to our knowledge, I submitted them before the House. Investigation is in progress and we are extending them all cooperation. We are asking for the report periodically and on completion of the investigation, all the facts will come to light.

[*English*]

**SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA (Aurangabad) :** Sir, I would not take much time of the House in narrating to you the situation prevailing in that region. But this is perhaps known to the Government that Jehanabad is a very disturbed area in Gaya district and mini factories are found all over in the rural areas and these

\*\*\*Not recorded.

\*\*Not recorded.

mini factories manufacturing arms and ammunition are there. In view of the fact that there are a few local made guns, revolvers, pistols etc., I consider, it is a very serious thing that 256 spare parts have been stolen, out of which 25 carbine barrels are there. In the statement made by the hon. Minister, this has been, I should say, lightly mentioned, or the military has given a report in a very light manner that it was not possible to assemble them. But in view of the fact that there are mini factories and local artisans are making guns, revolvers, pistols etc, it is possible to assemble from carbine barrels rifles and pistols, and carbine rifles. Therefore, I should like to know why the ordnance factory of the Army has not taken care to send these items in a proper way, and if they were depending only on the Railways, then why is it that the Railway Protection Force was unable to prevent theft of these boxes from the station yard as has been reported here? Secondly, I would like to know why this consignment was being sent through Jehanabad to Dimapur in Assam? The proper route has been to send it through Patna, but it has been sent through Gaya and Jehanabad, and I know these two areas are quite sensitive that way and cases of wagon-breaking have occurred. Everybody knows it. So, these consignments should not have been sent through Jehanabad and Gaya, they should have been sent through Patna. I would like to know whether any investigation has been made on that or not.

Thirdly, it has been said that the consignments do not reached the places of destination within a reasonable time. May I know what is the reason for it, because in paragraph 6 it has been stated that it took about four months. It is a very long period and sensitive things like these should not be sent unguarded, and they should not have depended on the Railway Protection Force. May I ask the Government that in view of these facts and in view of the fact that there is sufficient know-how to assemble weapons from out of these spares whether the Government would like necessary steps to send these consignments with the army escort? This is what I want to know.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : Sir, my statement, by no stretch of imagination, can be construed as taking the matter lightly.

I have taken the House into confidence and placed all the facts that are with me before the House. The investigation is on, as I said, and therefore, more facts will come to light later. All the points that have been raised by the hon. Members would presumably form part of the investigation and I will be able to place those facts before the House, if needed, or convey them to the Members, if they so choose, after the investigation is complete.

I have also informed the House about the method that is followed at the moment in the Indian Army for sending arms, ammunitions and explosives from one part of the country to other, from the depots to the units where they are needed. I have done so precisely for this reason that it should be clear to the House that all possible care and caution are being taken not to send fully assembled arms and weapons in that condition. Yes, I know that those who are stealing barrels may also find the other parts or they may be stealing parts by turn and waiting for a whole year before assembling those parts. I know about Jehanabad and as the hon. Member has said, I take the information from him. I have no reason to doubt that Jehanabad must be full of "experts" of this kind. I agree with him. But the point here is, we do not generally send small consignments. As far as possible, there is an effort to avoid sending small consignments. But it cannot be avoided if there is a small unit where only a small consignment is needed. There are hundreds of places where we have to send it and the hon. Members know that it is not just possible to give an escort to each of the small consignments. One-third of the Indian Army may be needed for that. That is not practicable. However, I would like to submit to the House that taking advantage of this information, taking advantage of this incident that has unfortunately taken place, I have now given clear instructions that the entire system of dispatches will be gone into from 'a' to 'z' in consultation with the Railway authorities, whom I had called yesterday and closely questioned on the procedure they follow. Now, there have been some difficulties on the part of the Railways and I would not say, after hearing them, that the difficulties are not genuine. Therefore, they will sit and

[Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao]

put their heads together and after a few weeks, may-be they will be able to come up with proposals to improve the modality as we are following it at the moment.

[*Translation*]

**SHRIMATI MANORAMA SINGH (Banka)** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this incident occurred fifteen days back. The defence equipments like stenguns, rifles and pistols were being sent in boxes kept at different places by a goods train. 13 boxes were taken away from that goods train and two boxes were recovered and two alleged culprits were also apprehended in Tenibigha village of Jehanabad Station. In spite of an incident of this nature, the local police has not taken any further action in regard to the investigation. This is creating apprehensions in the minds of the people. The hon. Minister should know that the people there are feeling restive. The common man of the area feels that they are insecure. This problem cannot be solved by merely charges and counter-charges. Initiative to solve this problem should be taken by all the right thinking people and the situation should be dealt with strictly. But the maximum responsibility is of the administration. The administration should take strict action and should not allow the anti-social elements to flourish.

I would, therefore, like to know from the hon. Minister why the investigation in this matter is not being completed speedily? Do the Government intend to hand over the matter to some high level officer? Also, what action is being taken to check use of illegal arms in this area and also to seize those arms?

**MR. SPEAKER** : He has already replied to these points. Clarify them further.

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO** : Sir, the investigations are in progress and the incident took place only a month ago which to my mind is not a long period. But that does not mean that we will go on waiting. As I have already stated, we are periodically enquiring about the progress. If some other

step is deemed necessary or if help of some other agency is required, we will not hesitate to do the needful. Presently, we do not feel any such necessity.

The other question was about the steps being taken to prevent such incidents. I have submitted in this regard that we have asked both the railway authorities and the Army HQs. to give suggestions, after joint consultation, about making the present system more effective and foolproof.

**SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jehanabad)** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter and in addition to what the Government has said in the matter, I would like to submit some more facts. This is my area and I, after being informed of the matter, immediately went there. Whatever facts I have gathered, I am submitting before the Government. As the hon. Minister has stated, the incident took place a month ago and it cannot be said that it is a long period but so far it has not been found out as to where from the equipments were stolen, i.e., from Gaya, Jehanabad or Jagdalpur? Even after a period of one month they have not succeeded in finding out the place from which these articles were stolen. If the Government in spite of lapse of so much period has not been able to reach any conclusion in such an important matter, which is directly connected with the defence of the country, it clearly proves that the internal dangers to our country are increasing and are becoming more dangerous than the external ones being faced by the nation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir you may be reading in the newspapers and or hearing about the situation prevailing in our area. Sometimes a news appears that the police posts have been set up in 200 villages of the area. I would like to know from the Government that in case the equipments had not been apprehended who would have received it, who was carrying it and where it would have been used? The Government should give us full details of the matter. In case the equipment was despatched from Gaya by the Ganga-Damodar train and was unloaded at 3.0 clock in the night at Jehanabad station when four policemen on duty apprehended the offenders and recovered the

equipment from them and then handed them over to the SHO and an influential Government official who was accompanying the equipment and whose name I do not want to mention here was let off. On the basis of the information gathered by me from the area, I can say that the above mentioned engaged two boys from the station and asked them to carry the equipment. On the way he was apprehended by a patrolling police party. The policemen, also, did not stop them on the suspicion that the goods were stolen but because there was no light on the rickshaw. The moment they stopped the rickshaw, one of the boys ran away but the other one who was strong and sturdy kept sitting on the rickshaw. One of the policemen informed the police outpost and the police station was also informed and reinforcements were sent there. Later on, the officer-in-charge of the police station reached the spot and took into custody the persons alongwith the equipment but subsequently that man was let off because with his arrest the entire gang would have been exposed and the destination of the arms would also have been revealed. Not only that, the officer incharge of the police station himself was made the plaintiff. The most important thing is that the four policemen who had apprehended these men were not made plaintiff because had the policemen been made plaintiff they would have named the person who had been let off. It was stated in the F.I.R. that he was with the patrol party whereas he was sleeping at that time. When the policemen admitted in the presence of the Superintendent of police that they had apprehended the thieves, the matter was hushed up so that the identity of the person involved in it was not revealed. He is an influential and resourceful person. Government has tried their best to conceal the facts. I, therefore, request that the matter should be referred to CBI so that the actual offenders are identified.

If the matter is referred to CBI, they will get the facts and will come to know who was connected with Ramashray and who was their man because these equipments would have been passed on for the private 'Brahamini Sena', which was raised there and which would have used them to ruin the villages and that area.

The officer Incharge of the police station says that he apprehended the culprits at a shopkeeper's shop while going to the shop. He arrested the shopkeeper. This is all being done to conceal the facts. Where was he going? I want to know from the Government that the officer who is saying that he was among the police officers who apprehended the culprits was not there at that time and this proves that there is a conspiracy behind it and to expose this conspiracy, Government should enquire the case through CBI. Only then real facts will come to light. I, therefore, demand that the entire matter should be investigated by CBI.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : Sir, I can neither deny nor admit the aspect which has been brought to light by the hon. Member, I have noted it down. We will consider this also and consider it very early.

12.36 hrs.

[English]

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PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE  
[CONTD.]

A copy of : Challenge of Education-A  
Policy perspective (together with the  
appendices)

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION  
(SHRI K. C. PANT) : I beg to lay on the  
Table a copy of "Challenge of Education-A  
Policy Perspective (together with the  
appendices)". [Placed in Library. See No.  
L.T.—1350/85].

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STATEMENT RE : SIGNIFICANT OIL  
STRIKE IN RAJGARH STRUCTURE  
OF UPPER ASSAM

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI  
NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : Sir, I am  
happy to make this statement about a  
significant oil discovery in the Rajgarh  
structure of Upper Assam.