

The thefts are not small; it goes into crores of rupees. There is one positive step the government can take in this direction. The steps already taken are to "make-believe" the people or throw dust in their eyes. This is clear from the manner in which Mr. Wadhwa, the Chairman and M.D. of the Central Coalfields Ltd. was summarily dismissed. Will the government explain the reasons why he was dismissed, who occupied his place, what are the potentials of this new man, what was lacking in Mr. Wadhwa, which political influence was working at that time? They should unravel the entire secret lying behind this coal Mafia which is operating openly under the very eyes of the government. The established link of the Mafia has to be broken. May I suggest to the Hon. Minister that, if he wants coal say 5000 tonnes as a first order given to me, I can give him amount of coal at Dhanbad or at Mogalsarai or anywhere he wants; and if he wants it by railway, I will see that it will be despatched under railway receipt also? This is going on openly, under the eyes of the government. Something has to be done about it instead of catching a truck or a truck driver or the man who receives it or the retailer who cannot explain. That is not the sources where the action should be originated. Therefore, I would ask the government and request them to be more strict in this case.

The thermal power capacity utilization in the country has gone down from 48 per cent to 43 per cent. I hope that the government's attention has been drawn to the report by the FICCI which says that thermal power capacity utilization is at the lowest, all time low in the country. We have to revive the rural economy and power is required there. Thousands of villages are yet to be energized. Many thousands of wells are still to be energized and the traditional source of energy would be very costly to reach to the villages. Therefore, instead of having a paper programme about solar energy and other new sources of energy, let us have a crash programme which can reach the people. There has been now a new technology about which the Department is aware where solar energy disc can be done in the village on clay; it can become a village industry; it is

covered with the ionised aluminium foil. Even otherwise, you have advertised a solar cooker for Rs. 25 and Rs. 100. For a biogas crash programme, it has to be a crash programme so that at least to some extent we can make energy and power reach the villages, which would, for the time being, at least, solve the peripheral problems of shortages of energy. Thank you, I have done.

STATEMENT RE : PUNJAB

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.C. SETHI) : Sir, the Hon'ble Members had appealed to Akali Leadership in this House on 31.3.1983 to call off their agitation and condemn violence. But their Morcha continues and pursuant to their decision on March, 12, 1983, senior Akali Leaders addressed congregations throughout the State to mobilise support. Despite protestations of the Akali Leaders that the agitation would be non-violent, the agitators resorted to unprovoked violence and arson at a number of places in the State in which they used words, spears, fire-arms and caused considerable damage to property. They indulged in heavy brick-battings on the police and also fired upon them at some places. For example, in District Sangrur, the agitators set fire to one bus, one police jeep, one water tanker of municipality and police bus. On Jullundur-Ferozepur section of the Northern Railway, rails were found uprooted between Mehlan and Talli Saidan Railway Stations. As many as 2 Executive Magistrates and 175 police men including 2 Superintendents of Police, 1 Commandant CRPF, 2 Deputy Superintendents of Police, 4 Inspectors and other ranks were injured. The Police had exercised restraint and patience but in order to control the situation created by the violence and arson, they had to use force including resort to firing.

As reported by the Government of Punjab, 15 persons died and about 30 received injuries in police firing in different places in the State. 5 persons died and 25 persons received injuries in the stampede at Malerkotla where agitators indulged in severe

brick-batting. The Police had to resort to lathi-charge and tear smoke firing. There was a stampede among the agitators and five persons died as a consequence thereof. The post-mortem of these five persons has shown that none of them sustained any bullet injury.

The normal traffic has been resumed and the situation in the State is, reported to be coming back to normalcy.

Government has repeatedly appealed to the leadership of Shiromani Akali Dal to shun violence and not to do anything which may precipitate the situation. Government has always held the view that issues should be resolved through negotiations and in the spirit of accommodating each other's point of view. We have been talking and have been perusing the issues. Our doors are still open for talks. Hon'ble Members of this House have expressed similar views and sentiments. It is unfortunate that the Shiromani Akali Dal Leadership have chosen the methods of agitation which lead to violence. We have seen its results.

I trust, the Hon'ble House will join me in appealing to the Leaders of Shiromani Akali Dal to give up the path of confrontation which not only gives rise to violence and suffering but also makes the task of finding out solution more difficult.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : (Basirhat) : There is one thing. I find that the Minister himself has...

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAM : No, If this goes on, there will be no end.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : It is not a question of going on. It is a question of people being killed. People are being killed in the streets.

MR CHAIRMAN : You can give notice of a motion to discuss this and the Hon Speaker will consider.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I want to know whether his statement means that he is, on behalf of the Government, willing to invite these people back for talks along with the leaders of the other Party.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do it on some other occasion. Not now.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : You are only being...

MR CHAIRMAN : If this is allowed, there will be no end.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY (Calcutta South) : This is a serious matter. We raised it during Zero Hour and the Hon. Speaker said that the Minister will make a statement and we...

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : The whole of the Punjab is...

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can have some other occasion to discuss these issues. I would not allow anything now.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would not allow.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Do you want the Punjab to become another Assam