

of report from the Deputy Commissioner of the concerned districts, as called by the Government, assistance was provided to the 21 affected districts in the state. But Ranchi & Gumla districts, which are predominantly tribal districts, were not provided any assistance. These districts were also affected.

Therefore, through you I would like to request the Government to provide assistance to these two affected districts.

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane): Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the press conference at Lucknow the hon. Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Shri Madhavrao Scindia, branded leaders of B.J.P. as traitors.....(*Interruptions*)..... In a democratic set up hurling of such abuses as traitor repeatedly in the press conference and nonrefutation of such utterances afterwards, to my mind reflects lack of faith in democracy of Shri Madhavrao Scindia.

[*English*]

He should withdraw his words and that is my demand. He should withdraw his words .....

[*Translation*]

and tender an apology in the House. ....(*Interruptions*).....

[*English*]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sure that many of his own colleagues must have felt anguished by the statement of the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation. I am sure that many of my colleagues on this side who may disagree with me and my party's views very sharply would agree with me that in democratic politics, there are limits to criticism. Otherwise one has to bear with criticism; one has to bear even condemnation. Even very unflattering harsh epithets can be hurled

at each other. But I am sure every patriot who participates in democratic politics would regard this particular word which has been consciously and deliberately used and repeatedly used —'traitor'—is the vilest abuse that can be hurled at a patriot. On behalf of my party, I take very strong exception to this statement made at Lucknow by the Minister of Civil Aviation. I would say that here is a Government which has, from the very first day been saying that we would like to bring a consensus with the Opposition parties even when we disagree. There have been some attempts and sometimes we have meetings. Let them realise that this is a statement not made by any ordinary Minister. He is a Minister of the Union Cabinet. Therefore, my party is forced to say that unless Mr. Madhav Rao Scindia unqualifiedly apologises for this Lucknow statement, my party would have to reconsider its entire attitude to the Government itself as a whole.

I am sure that most of his colleagues in the Union Cabinet also must have been disturbed by this statement. The leader of the House is here. Therefore, through him, I would like to see that suitable amends are made for this statement.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): Sir, I fully agree that the kind of public statement which has been attributed to the Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism, should not have been made. But there should not be double standards. We are frequently reading in the Press public statements made by prominent leaders of Mr. Advani's party, who are using the same expression. (*Interruptions*) They have been saying that Communists are traitors. (*Interruptions*) We have been continually called traitors. We have never raised it here. But there should not be double standards.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: I entirely agree with Mr. Indrajit Gupta (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY** (Katwa): Sir, we are called traitors. We do not take it seriously because we are not traitors. *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:** I entirely agree with what Mr. Indrajit Gupta has said that there should be no double standards.

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH:** Sir, I am glad that the honourable Leader of the Opposition has agreed to this that there should never be double standards on what we think is correct. I think, anybody saying that any other Indian is not a patriot is not a very light-hearted comment or remark unless one has something substantial to go by. What has been alleged to have been said by my colleague, I think, it would be fair that the House and you, Sir, allow me the opportunity to bring this to his knowledge. I am sure, he will make suitable amends, if necessary. If he has not said it or he has been wrongly reported, he will say accordingly.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not so....*(Interruptions)*...I cannot be cowed down. I will not sit before making my point ...*(Interruptions)*.....not at least like this. See, he said...*(Interruptions)*...

*[English]*

**MR. SPEAKER:** I am not allowing you to quote from the newspaper. *(Interruptions)\**

**MR. SPEAKER:** This will not go on record. *(Interruptions)\**

**MR. SPEAKER:** You know, it was handled very properly. Please do not prolong it. What you wanted, you got it.

*(Interruptions)*

**MR. SPEAKER:** Now, it is not necessary.

*(Interruptions)*

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Khurana, please understand the nicety and the subtlety involved in it.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:** You are explaining nicety to us, please explain nicety to them also.....*(Interruptions)*.....

**MR. SPEAKER:** Now it is all nicely over.

*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES** (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Civil Supplies of Bihar is in Delhi today for consultations with many Central Ministries. Bihar is in the grip of drought and many representations have been submitted to the Centre during the last few days requesting release of essential commodities for distribution in the affected areas, by the State Government. They are demanding increase in the quota of wheat, rice, edible oils, sugar, kerosene oil, cooking gas, coal and diesel to the State. I do not want to say anything more but would only like to draw the attention of the Central Government through you regarding the demands of the State Government. The Central Government should take urgent steps to fulfil the demands of Bihar.

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN** (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue raised by Shri George Fernandes is very serious. The House is well aware of the dichotomous situation prevailing in Bihar, where on the one hand it is a flood and drought prone state and on the other hand minerals in plenty are found in the State. Minerals come under the purview of the Centre, quite reasonable so, but the people of Bihar are left to face the furies of floods and drought. Therefore, I request the Government to meet the requirements of Bihar Government and reduction in quota be