

and the high credibility enjoyed by the I.I.Ts. should be maintained.....(*Interruptions*) Sir, the hon. Minister is here. He should make a statement on this, it is a very serious issue.

Thank you.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Sir, this is a very serious thing. There should be a statement by the hon. Minister.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum) : Sir, I also gave notice. It is a very serious issue. The hon. Minister should make a statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You and Shri Samik Lahiri have given notices. You can only say that you are associating yourself with Shri Chavan.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, the hon. Minister is responding.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are two hon. Members associating with you.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, this is very shocking. There is a very bad nexus between the coaching institutions and the concerned authorities.....(*Interruptions*) I would urge upon the Government to hold a high level enquiry into the matter to check it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may say that you are supporting Shri Chavan. That will do.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Sir, strict punishment should be given to those found guilty.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you want to hear the hon. Minister or not ?

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Yes. We want to hear the hon. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAL) : Sir, for the first time, in the history of I.I.T. the Mathematics paper is reported to have been leaked. Immediately after the matter came to the notice, an urgent meeting was held and the Government has already taken a decision to hold re-examination in July. Not only that, the Government has already taken a decision and it has referred the matter to the C.B.I. for enquiry and I.B. also.....(*Interruptions*) These are very reputed institutions. The credibility and reputation of these institutions will be maintained. The first instance that was reported will not be repeated and we will take all precautions. In this I seek the cooperation of all the hon. Members.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, it has caused untold misery to the parents of the students.....(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of this House and the Government towards a very serious issue.

As all of you know that Andaman and Nicobar Islands are situated in the Bay of Bengal, about 1500 km. away from the main land. Wheat and rice is supplied to the Islands by the Government to be sold through PDS at the Fair Price Shops. During the year, 1996-97, the allocation of rice and wheat was 30 thousand tonne and nine thousand tonne respectively. This year the Government have decided to distribute 10 kg. of rice per unit for the people living below poverty line. Today population of these islands is more than 3.5 lakh. From this point of view, PDS quota of rice and wheat should be increased by the Government. But surprisingly this year 1997-98, the allocation of rice and wheat has been reduced from 30 thousand tonne to 12 thousand tonne and from nine thousand tonne to three thousand tonne respectively. Such a situation has been created. All of you know that the islands are situated amidst the sea and this is the monsoon time. During the rainy seasons, ships do not reach in time, thus delaying the delivery of the ration. It means that people of those islands have been virtually put on the verge of starvation.

The Chief Secretary, Secretary and the Deputy Governor of the islands, all of them, have apprised the Union Government of the situation and requested to supply maximum quantity of wheat and rice to islands but just now our Secretary, has told us that there seems no way out to the problem. The Union Government think that Andaman and Nicobar Islands are self sufficient in the matter of foodgrains. But this is not a fact because the rice which is produced there suffice only for local consumption and after which we will not get even one thousand tonne surplus. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that he should on behalf of the Government clarify the position on this matter and give us an assurance that now onwards there would be no reduction in the PDS allocation of rice and wheat for Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I can only assure the hon. Member that I would bring this issue to the notice of the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies and steps would be taken to see that there would be no problem in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (Outer Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw your attention towards the bomb blasts which took place recently on the fifth and sixth day of this month itself in East Delhi. The blasts took the lives of fourteen people. The day United Front Government took over the charge at the centre, law and order situation in the capital has started.....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

Law and order is with the centre.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Do not you have this much knowledge that law and order is with the centre ? Delhi Police is under the Central Government.