

[Mr. Speaker]

in compliance with the provisions of Article 356(3) of the Constitution.

As regards other issues, these could be raised when the Demands for the Ministry of Home Affairs come up for discussion on 22nd March, 1982.

(At this stage some Hon'ble Members left the House).

RE-NEED FOR REPORTING BY PRESS AFTER VERIFYING FACTS

MR. SPEAKER : Yesterday, a report was published in the press about the killing of seven army jawans by Assam Rifles personnel in Ukhrul area of Manipur East district on 9th March, 1982. This gave rise to considerable agitation in the minds of the public and Members. This matter was also sought to be raised through notices of Adjournment Motion to which I had withheld my consent.

A news report has been published in today's newspapers that Defence authorities have denied the killing of army jawans by Assam Rifles personnel and the press release issued in this regard has termed the report as 'malicious and a figment of imagination'.

It is rather unfortunate that such baseless and sensational reports are published in the press without proper verification of facts, which agitate the minds of the Members and the public alike. I need hardly emphasise that the news agencies and papers are expected to exercise every check about the veracity of such serious incidents before giving them currency.

12.52 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

DELAY IN PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO FARMERS FOR LAND ACQUIRED NEAR HINDON IN GHAZIABAD, U.P.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Defence to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Inordinate delay in payment of compensation to farmers whose land was acquired for the construction of an airstrip near Hindon in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh".

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, an area of land measuring 2221.73 acres of land in some villages near Ghaziabad was first requisitioned under Section 29 of the Defence of India Act, 1962 on 2-11-1963 for construction of Hindon Air Field. The same was subsequently acquired under the said Act on 30-3-1965, excluding an area of 119.24 acres which was de-requisitioned.

The Special Land Acquisition Officer (Defence Projects) divided the land into three parts for the purpose of assessment of compensation. The total compensation assessed by the Land Acquisition Officer was about Rs. 1 crores 30 lakhs which was disbursed to the land owners in 1968-1969.

Some of the farmers, who were dissatisfied with the amount of compensation awarded by the Special Land Acquisition Officer, requested for the appointment of an Arbitrator. The Government of Uttar Pradesh which is the Competent Authority accordingly, appointed the Arbitrator in 1977. Out of 840 cases referred to him, the Arbitrator has so far given his award in respect of 350 cases only. The remaining 490 cases are yet to be decided by him.

Against the total compensation of around Rs. 1.30 crores paid under the award given by the Special Land Acquisition Officer, the additional compensation payable as per the award of the Arbitrator would be Rs. 4.12 crores. The Government considered the compensation awarded by the Arbitrator on the high side apart from the awards suffering from certain legal infirmities and, therefore, decided to contest the awards. A number of cases are now pending decision in the various Courts of Law. Thus, it would be observed that among other things the quantum of compensation is pending adjudication by Courts and