

to carry out their plans than how can we succeed in combating terrorism in the country? A thorough investigation has to be made into this matter to find out who are the people in the higher echelons of the government who are conniving with the militants, giving them hideouts and allowing them to stay free and being at large in the country. The leader of the House is here. I draw his pointed attention to this matter and I request him to come out with an elaborate statement in the House on this subject as it concerns the security and integrity of the country.

[*Translation*]

SHRIDIGVIJAYASINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, seven years back in the night of December 2 and 3, poisonous gas from Union Carbide Factory at Bhopal leaked causing deaths of more than two thousand persons and injuries to thousands of others. Though, the Supreme Court has pronounced its verdict for granting compensation to the victims, yet the amount of the compensation is yet to be decided at the district level in Bhopal and it is causing too much delay. On account of this, the deserving victims are yet to get the amount of compensation.

12.25 hrs

[Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other point is that even after 7 years our medical experts are yet to identify that poisonous gas and suggest its actual line of treatment. Without it, the injured victims are suffering. Since their line of treatment is not specified, they undergo great sufferings.

On this occasion, I express my anguish for all who became victims of the tragedy and request the administration to request the Indian Council of Medical Research to find out the actual medical line of treatment. I would like to request the Minister of law to

take a decision for providing compensation to the victims immediately. This is a very important issue today.

[*English*]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: In support of what hon. Member has said, I would like to emphasize that the gas pollution is still continuing. People are dying and the actual compensation that is due to the people is not yet received by the bereaved people. That is the reason why such proposals have been coming up in the House time and again. We strongly support this proposal and expect that the Government will act immediately on this issue.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur): I want to draw the attention of the House to the international pressure under which the Indian Patents Act is at the moment. In answer to the Unstarred question No. 300, it had been pointed out by the Government that during the recent visit of Mrs. Carla Hills on the issue of patents no new point was raised and the two sides agreed to let the matter rest for the present. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Such an important issue is being raised and no Minister is paying attention. Will the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs listen?

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Now, Since that time, however, the Indo-US Joint Business Council completed its deliberations on November 20th and they recommended that India should sign the Paris Convention. I want to know how this recommendation is arrived at if no new point relating to patents Act had been raised at the meeting with Mrs. Carla Hills. If India signs the Paris Convention then the Indian patents Act would have to go back to the pre-1970 period and the patent then will be not on the product alone, but on the process as well.