

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing you. Nothing will go no record.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have just returned from the area where crores of the jute producing farmers live. They are in hard trouble. Last year, cost of jute was Rs. 800-900 per quintal. Today, when the cost of the fertilizers and other things have gone up, and there is 40 percent inflation according to the Government, figures, jute is being sold for Rs. 200-250 per quintal. Though I have not exact figures of jute producers, yet in my opinion it must be in crores. Farmers of Purnia, Madhepura and Sahrasa are in hot water. There persons committed suicide. They have gone under heavy debt. The Government and J.C. I. which fixes rates of jute are not paying any attention towards it. Crores of the lives depend on it.

The sugarcane producers are also in the same condition. Farmers of Western Uttar Pradesh came to me yesterday. Though the rate is fixed for Rs. 41 and Rs. 45 per quintal, yet it is being sold for just Rs. 30 per quintal and people are burning their sugarcane in the fields. It means the rates of these two cash crops are very less. Specially sugarcane producers in Uttar Pradesh and jute producers in the whole country are passing an era of disaster. The Government should take action immediately. There is a great hue and cry in this regard, people are committing suicide. I, therefore, urge upon you to direct the Government to do something in this regard because it is a very serious matter.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, we have given Calling Attention notice on this subject. In the last Session also the Agriculture Minister had said that we are going to finalise

the support price. Till today the Government has not yet fixed the support price and the farmers are facing serious problems and the distress sale is being taken place. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Your party Member has highlighted it. You should be satisfied with it.

(Interruptions).

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, last year the price was Rs. 800/- and this year, the price is only Rs. 200/-. People are committing suicide. We brought this matter before the Agriculture Minister, but he has not taken any action in this regard. (Interruptions). J.C.I. is not purchasing jute. Since these three States are jute growing States, that is why they are not getting the attention of the Government of India in spite of our repeated request. I hope the Agriculture Minister will take immediate action in this regard for the benefit of the farmers. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: I am allowing Shri Jaswant Singh. I will allow you later on.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on Friday, the 13th December, while replying to debate on law and order, terrorism, secessionism etc., the hon. Home Minister stated amongst various other things...

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaswant Singhji, before your proceed, I must make it clear to you that the hon. Home Minister has written to me saying that he wants to make some corrections.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I appreciate that the Home Minister is coming forward with a clarification. But the fact is that he is coming forward with a clarification is in itself an issue that I wish to raise because the implications are far more than merely a clari-