

decline in the availability of wood as fuel and the difficulties being experienced by the people in procuring kerosene oil requirement for cooking purposes excepting rationed quantity from the retailers, are causing great hardship in the absence of the adequate availability of fuel for cooking. Besides, Etah is a backward district.

The cooking gas agency in Etah cannot meet the requirement of the entire district comprising of Aliganj, Patiali, Rajaka Rampur, Ganj Dundwara, Sakeet, Bhargain, Sahawar, Sidhpura, Amapur, etc., having a population of about thirty thousand, each. A great need of setting up a cooking gas agency in each of these areas is being felt to overcome the fuel shortage.

I would, therefore, urge the Government to kindly conduct a survey of these areas to explore the possibility of setting up cooking gas agencies and thereafter take necessary steps to appoint the dealers in the selected areas.

(viii) Need to increase the support price of Cotton

SHRI KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli) : There has been poor yield of cotton crop this year, i. e. 1986-87 in States like Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. In order to protect the interests of the cotton growers, support price of cotton should be reconsidered and increased at least by 25 per cent so that using the yarn market sluggishness, the speculating cotton traders may not exploit the poor farmers.

12.16 hrs.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER
ON THE VISIT OF H. E. MR.
MIKHAIL GORBACHOV,
GENERAL SECRETARY
OF THE CENTRAL
COMMITTEE OF
THE CPSU

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : The General Secretary

of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, visited India from the 25th to the 28th of November at my invitation. The visit was in keeping with the established tradition of exchanges at the highest level between India and the Soviet Union. It was an important milestone in our bilateral relationship. It contributed significantly to stability in the region and peace in the world.

I held long and intensive discussions with General Secretary Gorbachev on a wide spectrum of issues, bilateral, regional and international. Talks were held simultaneously at the senior Ministerial level. These exchanges took place in a very warm and friendly atmosphere, characterized by mutual confidence and trust.

We discussed the broad outlines of our future cooperation in a longer term perspective. The rich experience of our past cooperation enabled us to explore new avenues to raise our bilateral cooperation to a qualitatively higher level. Several bilateral agreements were signed. Statements have been laid on the table of the House. The Agreement on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation encompasses the Tehri hydro-electric complex, the modernization of the Bokaro steel plant, the setting up of new coking coal mines and oil exploration in West Bengal. One important element of this agreement is the provision of local cost financing by the Soviet Union. The agreements in the economic, commercial, consular and cultural areas reflect the growing strength and dynamism of our relationship.

General Secretary Gorbachev and I agreed to restructure the pattern of our commercial and economic exchanges to realise the vast untapped potential for economic collaboration. Our Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Kamentsov are working out the details. We also decided to give a major thrust to our cooperation in science and technology. Large research and development projects are being identified in frontier technologies. A Soviet team led by Academician Marchuk, President of the USSR Academy of Sciences, will visit India shortly to discuss with our scientists the specific projects to be undertaken.

I had a very useful exchange of views with Mr. Gorbachev on the security environment in our region. We reaffirmed the continuing validity of our Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation. The Joint Statement issued at the conclusion of the visit reflects the close proximity or identity of perceptions of the two countries on international issues. Above all, the visit demonstrated the firm commitment of our peoples to world peace.

India has always stood for non-violence. India, in the United Nations, in the Non-aligned Movement, and through the Six-Nation Five-Continent Initiative, has consistently worked for disarmament and peace. During Mr. Gorbachev's visit, the Soviet Union joined India in a common vision of a nuclear weapon free and non-violent world. The ideals of Gandhiji and Lenin have found expression in the Delhi Declaration. The Delhi Declaration is a vitally important initiative. It sets forth principles which must find universal acceptance if there is to be a peaceful future. The Declaration is being circulated as an official document by the United Nations. We commend the Declaration to the world community for acceptance.

The visit of General Secretary Gorbachev to India was memorable. It will have enduring significance for the further development of Indo-Soviet relations and the contribution of our two countries to peace and stability.

12.20 hrs.

**DISCUSSION ON THE STATEMENT
MADE BY THE MINISTER OF HOME
AFFAIRS REGARDING THE
SITUATION ARISING OUT
OF THE KILLINGS BY
TERRORISTS IN PUNJAB**

—Contd.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar) : The Hon. Minister has said that he would give a detailed statement by 5.30 p. m. yesterday. He should at least come out with the statement now. Are we to discuss in vacuum ?

MR. SPEAKER : He will do it.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : Since there are Hon. Members yet to speak, I thought at the end of the discussion I would make the statement.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Your statement will help.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What will you say at the end then ?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : The Minister is not ready with the statement even now.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let us have some say and then...

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa) : Why ?

S BUTA SINGH : Let me inform the august House that the actions are on in Punjab. Therefore, it will give me some time so that the whole exercise is complete.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : How much time do you require ?

S. BUTA SINGH : After the discussion. At the end of the discussion.

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : That is better.

MR. SPEAKER : We will give it to you.

SHRI R. S. SPARROW (Jullundur) : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, if one is facing a complex and difficult situation whether in the field of hard-fought battle or outside it