

al unity and integrity. It is a serious matter. There is serious political and social unrest in the State of Manipur. Alienation of people is taking place. Law and order is not being maintained or cannot be maintained. As everybody knows, there are serious clashes between Kukis and Nagas and Meiteis and others. Insurgency has become the order of the day. The recent development is that the merger of Manipur into the Indian Union is being questioned by various forces. Secessionist trends are emerging and certain demands are being made. Recently, on 15th October, a black day was observed. The Prime Minister's visit was greeted with bandh, etc. National highways are being blocked. Extortion of money is taking place. AIDS, a serious deadly disease, is spreading. All these things are taking place. A serious trend is that the RPF- a military wing of People's Liberation Army, has issued a circular that non-immigrant residents will be issued permits from next year. It means that they will not allow anybody to enter there. Perhaps, there may be a serious problem of • unemployment. All these things are there. I think the Government has committed some mistakes. The Governor, who has been sent there recently, is not being liked by them. As far as that State is concerned, he is a controversial person. There is a demand to swap the Governors of Nagaland and Manipur. The Government should consider that. The Assam Rifles are stationed in a place called Kangla, which is a historical place. People are demanding that the Assam Rifles should be shifted from that place. The Government is unable to do that. This has possibly hurt their sentiments also. I would request the Government to shift the Assam Rifles from Kangla. There is also another demand.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): I think you need not enumerate all the demands. You have mentioned them.

SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: You please allow me one minute. There are two or

three other demands which are to be considered. They want to set up a Manipur Regiment to solve the unemployment problem. National Highways 39 and S3 are to be broadened. The rail link to Imphal has to be extended. Air fare concessions should be granted to the people. All these things should be done. This is a serious matter of national integrity and unity. The Government must come forward and take certain measures to create confidence among the people of Manipur so that their alienation is stopped and national integrity is maintained.

DR. B.B. DUTTA (Nominated): Sir, the problem which he has referred to.....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): You only associate yourself with the problem.

DR. B.B. DUTTA: Sir

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOK NATH CHATURVEDI): That is enough. You have associated yourself with this issue.

DR. B.B. DUTTA: Sir, the problem which he has referred to does not pertain only to Manipur.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOK NATH CHATURVEDI): We cannot go into different aspects of it. That is all. Dr. Dutta, you have associated yourself with it. Thank you.

RE: ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT OF SENIOR IB OFFICIAL IN ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Karnataka): Sir, I wish to express great concern at the reports which have appeared in the Press. The report is that a senior officer of the IB has been found to be indulging in counter-spying activities with senior American diplomats posted in Delhi and he has been having meetings even with the so-called CIA Chief in Delhi. What is surprising is the report—I hope it is wrong—which says that he was allowed to go on leave. In order not to embarrass any foreign-friendly Government, it has been decided that he would

be allowed to resign and take premature retirement and go without any action or inquiry. Sir, the Foreign Minister is here.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOK NATH CHATURVEDI): It is a very serious matter.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, it is a matter of national concern. He is supposed to be at number four in seniority in the IB. According to newspapers, he has had detailed sessions with the Chief of the IB. He has been asked to go quietly. I demand that if the facts are true, he should be arrested. We want to know to what extent this wing has been operating.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOK NATH CHATURVEDI): Mrs. Alva, your subject was about the need of airlinking Allahabad with the rest of the country.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I am sorry. I took permission of the Chair. The Deputy Chairman has gone. I took permission to mention this and to ask the Government to make a statement. It is a question of security of the country.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir,

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOK NATH CHATURVEDI): Mr. Narayanasamy, I don't think there is any difference of opinion on this subject which Shrimati Margaret Alva has mentioned. It is a serious matter of national security. It should be taken up with all seriousness that it deserves. The entire House associates itself with the concern as is articulated in regard to the reports which have appeared in the Press.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: What about that statement?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Sir, it is a very serious matter.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOK NATH CHATURVEDI): No more associations please. Mrs. Alva has

taken permission. Now I have to adjourn the House for lunch.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: We would like to have the response of the Government. It is a very serious matter.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOK NATH CHATURVEDI): No more associations please. Now Special Mentions and the rest of the business will be taken up after lunch. At 2 o'clock, the Minister would make a statement on the rise in prices of wheat and after that Special Mentions and the rest of the business will be taken up. I adjourn the House till 2 O'clock for lunch.

The House then adjourned for lunch at three minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at four minutes past two of the clock,

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN): in the Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (Shri G. Swaminathan) Now, a Statement will be made by the Minister.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER RISE IN PRICES OF WHEAT

खाद्य मंत्री तथा नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव): पिछले कुछ दिनों में सदन में कई माननीय सदस्यों ने गेहूँ की कमी तथा उसके बाजार मूल्य में वृद्धि की ओर सरकार का ध्यान आकृष्ट किया। मैं उनका आभारी हूँ कि उन्होंने इस महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दे पर चर्चा की। संयुक्त भोक्ता सरकार पारदर्शिता (ट्रांसपैरेंसी) में विश्वास रखती है। इसीलिए मैं सदन में एक वक्तव्य देना चाहता हूँ ताकि वस्तुस्थिति स्पष्ट हो सके।

सर्वप्रथम वर्ष 95-96 के रबी मौसम में गेहूँ के उत्पादन पर हम दृष्टि डालें। वर्ष 95-96 के खरीफ मौसम, जिसके वसूली अप्रैल, 1996 से शुरू हुई, गेहूँ का उत्पादन 622 लाख टन से हुआ। यह पिछले वर्ष 94-95 के गेहूँ के उत्पादन 653 लाख टन से लगभग 31 लाख टन कम है। इसका सर्वाधिक प्रभाव सरकारी एजेंसियों द्वारा की जाने वाली वसूली (प्रोक्योरमेंट) पर पड़ा। वर्ष 95-96 में वसूली 123 लाख टन थी। वर्ष