

Demand for Checking Terrorist Activities in Uttar Pradesh

SHRI KAPIL VERMA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me the opportunity to arise a very very important issue.

Sir, the States of Punjab, Assam and Jammu and Kashmir have been affected by terrorism. Now some of the Punjab terrorists have entered the Terai area of Uttar Pradesh, and this must cause great concern to us. There have been increasing number of incidents in which people have been killed, innocent people have been killed, in Terai in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in the the districts of Shahjahanpur, Pilibhit, Lakhimpur Kheri etc.

Hon. Members of this House must have read the news item in Times of India today. This news item emanates from the office of the Director-General of Police of Uttar Pradesh. It is an authoritative information, and not a rumour.

It Says :

"Four bus passengers were killed and 12 injured seriously when six Punjab terrorists fired at them indiscriminately near Banda village on the Shahjahanpur, Pilibhit district border yesterday."

"Two constables were killed later when the police started combing operations in the area. A police jeep was ambushed by the fleeing terrorists near Bikasanda area in Pilibhit district. The jeep driver and a head constable were killed while a PAC jawan and two armed guards of the civil police were injured."

Sir, the basic point is that the terrorists of Punjab who are being chased by the police there, are now entering the Terai area of Uttar Pradesh where there are large farms where there are people of Punjabi origin living. The terrorists are taking refuge there, and they have made Terai a centre of their activity. Not only this, but there are five or six districts in Terai in which they have spread their tentacles.

The records of the House will show that over the last few years I have been drawing the attention of the Government, the previous Government and this Government also, to the increasing menace. I am very sorry to find that the activities of the

terrorists have not been controlled. The Uttar Pradesh Government has failed to keep track of them and to take strong action against them. Through this Special Mention I want to request the Government of India to pay special attention to this before this problem gets out of hand and Uttar Pradesh does not fall in line with Punjab, Assam and Jammu and Kashmir in the matter of terrorism. I earnestly request the Government of India and the Home Ministry to please look into this matter very very urgently. If possible send your top sleuths to his area. It is not a party question; it is a national question. The main point is that area should be combed and the terrorist people who are fleeing from Punjab, fugitives from law, should be caught so that this problem is contained well in time. I hope the Home Ministry will get in touch with the Uttar Pradesh Government and find out the facts and issue necessary directions and report to this House. I hope the Minister will say something on this in this House before the House adjourns tomorrow.

श्रीकपी सत्वा बहिन (उत्तर प्रदेश) . उप-सभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं भी अपने आप को इस स्पेशल मेंशन से संबद्ध करती हूँ । इस सारे क्षेत्र में आतंकवाद बहुत बढ़ गया है ।

Demand to Stop Decentralisation of "RLOs"

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu): The Dead Letter Office in the Postal Department came into existence in Calcutta about one hundred years ago. The Dead Letter Office in Bombay and Madras were organised in the beginning of the century. The name Dead Letter Office was subsequently changed to Returned Letter Office (RLO). It functions in two ways—(1) Enquiry Office and (2) Deposit Office.

In RLOs, the following kinds of articles are received :

1. Incompletely addressed and undecipherable articles and articles intended for foreign countries.
2. Articles posted without addresses.
3. Unclaimed and refused articles.
4. Articles intended for transcription i.e. articles with addresses written in different vernacular languages.

[SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI]

All these letters rejected or discarded by post offices reach one place i.e. RLO. Every attempt is being made to dispose of these articles. Approximately only five per cent of articles are deposited as "Dead" in RLOs. The nature of work in RLOs in such as cannot be properly performed if it is decentralised.

However, the RLO in Bangalore, one among the fifteen in India, has already been decentralised with effect from 1st June, 1990. If the information that I have received is correct, the RLO in Bangalore, has been closed once and for all. The RLOs in Jaipur, Bombay and Delhi are to be decentralised on an experimental basis shortly. I had sent a telegram from Madras to the hon. Minister of State for Communications on 3rd June, 1990, in which I requested to drop the proposal of decentralisation of RLOs. This proposal of decentralisation will affect not only the staff of RLOs, but also the public. In the first place, the decentralisation will affect the whole set-up and create confusion as the work will be going on in so many places instead of in a central place. The public will not have an idea as to where to make enquiries in order to trace their missing letters and the department will not be in a position to help them in any way.

It is not an isolated action. Even in 1984, the postal department abolished the running section of the Railway Mail Service at first on an experimental basis and then completely all over India, by which the practice of sorting of postal articles and closing of bags in running trains is given up. Now, due to the abolition of this work, all the postal articles are sorted and sent at the respective places themselves and this causes abnormal delay in despatch of letters for which the poor postal employees are blamed. This shows one by one like the abolition of RMS and refusal to departmentalise the ED employees, they are continuing anti-labour policies.

4.00 P.M.

Like that the decentralisation of RLO work will not in any way improve the efficiency of the Department. This would be considered as a disservice to the public, an onslaught on the workmen of Postal Department and a disservice to the entire nation. I, therefore, request Government

not to implement the decentralisation of RLOs and restore the function of other RLOs, if any, decentralised already. With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN (Tamil Nadu) : What happened to the discussion on Industrial Policy ?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) : It will be taken up after the Appropriation Bills.

Closure of Ashoka Paper Mills in Bihar

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (Bihar) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I get up to draw the attention of the Government to the continued closure of the Ashoka Paper Mills in Bihar. I know that it is not a matter of national importance but it is a matter of great importance to the State from which I come. Sir, the Ashoka Paper Mills is a joint sector company in the sense that the Government of Assam, the Government of Bihar and the IDBI were joint shareholders in this company. In Bihar the unit which is located in Darbhanga ceased production in September, 1982 and since then this unit has neither been officially closed, there is no lock-out, there is no lay-off but it is continuing without production. There are 875 workers who are employed in this unit. At times they receive some pittance. At times they don't. Their condition is pitiable. It was included as a part of the Assam Accord, the rehabilitation of the Ashoka Paper Mills. Now according to the latest information what the Government of India has done is that the Bihar portion, the Bihar unit of the Ashoka Paper Mills has been taken out of the Assam Accord and only the Assam unit is part of the Assam Accord and the Bihar Government has been told that while the Government of India will help the rehabilitation of the Assam unit under the Assam Accord, this unit in Bihar is not covered by it and the Bihar Government might do whatever it likes with it. This matter has been pending with the BIFR and with the IDBI and the Ministry of Industry for a long time. But the Government of India does not seem to reach any decision. Now, the point I would like to make is that this unit in Bihar is as important as the unit in Assam