

श्री राम नरेश यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : श्रीमान्, गृह मंत्री महोदय सदन में मौजूद हैं। दिल्ली जोकि राजधानी है, दिल्ली में घटनाएं हुई हैं, उस संबंध में मंत्री जी को बयान देना चाहिए। . . . . .

श्री मुफ्ती मोहम्मद सईद: यह स्पेशल मेशन है, स्टेटमेंट जब दूंगा तो मैं डिटेल् बताना दूंगा।

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: The Home Minister does not understand the seriousness of the situation.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: I will give the details. (Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. R. K. PODDAR): Hon. Members, the Minister has said that after the special mentions are over, he will make statement and he will take tire questions you have raised into consideration. (Interruptions). Let us finish the special mentions.

Yes, Mr. Reddy.

Need to bring a Suitable Legislation for helping Restoration of Eyesight of blind people

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman Sir, there are nearly 40 million blind people in our country. Out of these 40 million blind people, 20 million are due to cataract for which there is the facility of operation. Then there are 15 million people who suffer blindness due to corneal causes. The corneal cause may be due to vitamin 'A' deficiency which leads to keratomalacia or injuries to cornea, especially in Children, in workers and in agriculturists. The causes may be due to the degenerative condition of cornea or post-operative causes. The remaining five million suffer due to other ophthalmologic diseases. My special mention is related to the 15 million blind people who have lost eyesight because of corneal causes.

Sir, in fact, these 15 million blind people can get back their eyesight by keratoplasty operation, i. e., removal of the damaged cornea and arrange-

ment of healthy cornea in its place. This is called keratoplasty. By keratoplasty operation these 15 million blind people who have lost eyesight because of corneal causes, they can get back their eyesight. But unfortunately in our country most of these blind people are not getting this facility. There are very few hospitals in our country which are doing this keratoplasty operation. For example, in Andhra Pradesh there are only two hospitals which are doing this keratoplasty operation. These two hospitals are also located in the city of Hyderabad. So, the blind people living in the suburban and rural sector of the State are not in a position to avail of this facility.

Actually, this operation requires a corneal surgeon and an eye bank. Setting up of an eye bank is not a costly affair. With Rs. 50, 000—Rs. 75, 000 an eye bank can be set up in each and every hospital. In some of these hospitals where there is facility for the keratoplasty operation, there is shortage of eyes. In fact, there is no proper awareness among the public regarding eye donation. In the case of the Hyderabad eye bank for example, only the Gujarati people residing in Hyderabad are the main donors. Without them, the eye bank cannot function; it would have been closed. This is the situation.

How to solve this problem? As I said, there is shortage of eyes. There are not sufficient number of hospitals having the facility for undertaking keratoplasty operation. Even the hospitals which have the facility for this operation are faced with the problem of shortage of eyes. Daily, many patients die in hospitals because of many diseases other than eye diseases, other than ophthalmic diseases. Therefore, if a proper legislation is made for the enucleation of eyes from the dead bodies in hospitals, this problem of shortage of eyes can be solved. A panel of three doctors can be constituted to certify

[Shri Narreddy Thulasi Reddy]

the death Of a person in the hospital. After getting the certificate of death, within six hours, the eye can be enucleated from the dead body and placed in the eye bank. Within 72 hours, it can be arranged in the place of the damaged cornea. By this operation, these 15 million people can get back their eyesight.

In this connection, I would request the Government to take the following measures immediately: Firstly, we should enact a uniform legislation, Central legislation, for the enucleation of eyes from the dead bodies in hospitals. Secondly, eye banks with corneal surgeons should be set up in each and every district headquarters hospital. Thirdly, awareness should be created among the public regarding eye donation through the radio, the TV, film shows, posters etc. Fourthly, just like the universal immunisation programme, an universal eye donation programme should be launched immediately. **Situation arising out of 'Telangana Bandh'** and the Rise of Naxalite Activities in Andhra Pradesh DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice -Chairman, Sir, today, in nine districts in the Telangana area of Andhra Pradesh, the people have given a call for a 'bandh' and the *bandh* is on now. This is intended to draw the attention of the Government as well as the public to the erratic power supply and lack of irrigation facilities to the farming community.

As you know, this *bandh* call has 'been given by a section of naxalities, namely, the People's War Group, and this group believes in violence. Sir, for the last two decades, the menace of naxalism has been growing in Andhra Pradesh, in addition to the other neighbouring parts in the country. But precious little has been done by the Government to contain naxalism. It appears that the Government is adopting repressive, harsh and illegal measures and, at the same time, they are talking

much about open politics, this and that. Thereby, the Government is losing credibility both among the naxalites and among the public, by adopting this double standard, the Government themselves prove that- they do not have any pucca programme or policy in regard to the problem of naxalism, or, in regard to the violence the naxalites are resorting to.

In this connection, I would suggest to the Union Government that they should convene a meeting of Chief Ministers wherein the problem of naxalism prevailing in several parts of the country like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, etc., should be gone into and effective steps formulated to contain the problem. These naxalites belonging to the People's War Group and other groups are using AK-47 rifles and other smuggled weapons. Therefore, it is the duty of the Union Government to see that these weapons are not smuggled into our country from across the border.

So, the Union Home Minister should convene a meeting of all the Chief Ministers and see that effective steps are taken to contain Naxalism, to stop this violent activity taking place in the country.

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): I fully associate myself with the hon. Member. There is no Government in 10 districts in Andhra Pradesh. These are not my words, these are the words of the Congress MPs from Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, please allow me to associate myself with what my friends have said. The Congress MPs themselves have represented before their President, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, when he came to Hyderabad, that there is no law and order in 7 districts of Telangana because of the Naxalites' activity. It has appeared in the Press. Why are they ignoring it?