

SHRI M.M. JACOB (Kerala) : Madam Deputy Chairman, actually it is the right of the Members to ask for statements.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I have no objection. I am going to suspend the special mention and you can then ask for statements. You were sitting on this side of the House and do you remember what was your role then?

Now, Mr. Vishwa Bandhu Gupta. You have to go and take your flight. I hope he comes back alive.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Need to take steps to curb cultivation of opium in the North-Eastern States

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA (Delhi) : Madam Deputy Chairman, I would like to mention a matter of very serious concern and for that I would like to draw your attention and through you the attention of the House to the news item captioned "Opium Cultivation in Arunachal" published in the North-East Sun, a section of the Weekly Sun, dated the 10th March, 1990.

Madam, the magazine has reported that more than five lakh poppies of illicit opium are being harvested in Yemani valleys in Arunachal Pradesh, which is the base for production of drugs. I would like the Government to make a statement on this serious matter. I would also further like to know what steps have been taken by the Government to curb illicit cultivation of opium in Manipur and Mizoram bordering Burma where large-scale cultivation took place last year. Has the Government carried out any survey on this matter and have they made a plan for making sure that this cultivation is stopped? I would like to know what steps the Government have taken in this connection.

Madam, I would like to support Mr. Suresh Kalmadi on the question of brake failure of the Dornier aircraft. Yesterday we had a discussion on the air crash of airbus A-320 and eyt Dornier..

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Your special mention does not concern Dornier aircraft. Confine yourself to the subject-matter of the special mention.

Concern over Smuggling of Cardamom from Nepal to India

SHRI M.M. JACOB (Kerala).. Madam, I would like to draw your attention and through you the attention of the Government to the reported news item appearing in various papers regarding cardamom smuggling.

Madam, cardamom is a commodity grown in India and we are exporting cardamom to other foreign countries. It is one of our foreign exchange earners. It is an agricultural produce where more than a lakh of workers are employed.

Madam, the *modus operandi* of cardamom smuggling is something like this: Import licence holders in Nepal unload their goods in Calcutta and despatch from there by trucks to their country. During transit most of the goods are clandestinely disposed of at Delhi Ghaziabad, Kanpur and some other places in Bihar. These goods are then sent to the terminal markets in Bombay, Ahmedabad and Nagpur where they fetch handsome price.

Madam, Nepal imported, in 1988, 60 tonnes of cardamom. Next year, i.e., in 1989, the import figure rose to 442 tonnes. The report is very alarming now. That is why I am bringing this to your notice. Nepal is importing 1,100 tonnes of cardamom. Nepal cannot consume the entire quantity, i.e. 1,100 tonnes. Evidently, this

is meant for sale in India. This means, cardamom cultivators in India will perish and the workers will be ruined. Not only that. It will also run the evergreen forests where, under the trees, cardamom is grown.

This is a serious situation. The Finance Minister, Prof. Madhu Dandavate, is here. He is aware of it. He is also the one who uses cardamom. Cardamom is a precious spice of India. Guatemala is our competitor. Guatemala used to produce 2,000 tonnes of cardamom. Now, Guatemala is producing 11,000 tonnes. In a way, they are prepared to change their cultivation, from cardamom to coffee, so that they can get more price. But now, they have found a clandestine method of spoiling the Indian market and usurping India's place in the international market. Therefore, they are taking recourse to this method. I would request the Government to kindly see that any clandestine smuggling of cardamom into India is stopped. At the time when you negotiate a trade protocol with Nepal, you can tell them that India can supply the necessary quantity of cardamom required by Nepal at a reasonable price. This also can be thought of when you conduct negotiations with Nepal for signing a trade protocol.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think, after a long time, Mr. Jacob has spoken. He has made Special Mention. We welcome him.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA (Uttar Pradesh): It is his maiden Special Mention.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a very Special Mention. I know more about the value of cardamom than anybody else these days because when I have to raise my voice I take cardamom. Please take care of it.

SHRI T. R. BALU (Tamil Nadu): This is a recommendation from the Chair.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): I will take care of it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Have sympathy for my throat. Shri Kapil Verma.

Pakistan's Advertisement for Recruitment of youth for subversion in Kashmir

SHRI KAPIL VERMA (Uttar Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, I rise to draw the attention of the House to an issue which must cause great concern to the whole nation.

The Pakistani Army has openly advertised in the Pakistani daily 'Nawa-e-Waqt', calling for recruits from the occupied Kashmir for the so-called Mujahideen force, with a provision for training of six weeks. Obviously, this is for subversive activities in Jammu and Kashmir. This is a clear evidence of Pakistan's assistance to subversion in Jammu and Kashmir. This is nothing but a direct intervention by the Pakistani Army in our internal affairs.

Sofar, they were secretly conducting camps and giving them arms. But now, they are doing it openly. This is no wonder. Only the other day, the Pakistan Prime Minister, Mrs. Benazir Bhutto, while speaking at Muzaffarabad in occupied Kashmir, said that Pakistan would support all the 'struggle' said to be going on in the name of right of self-determination. Mrs. Bhutto also declared that she would not compromise at any cost—I am using her words "not compromise at any cost"—on the demand for plebiscite. Madam, so far, everything was behind the scene. Now it is all open.