

Assembly by the Congress Party, the State Government there has miserably failed to provide protection to the poor working class people in the State of Gujarat. Sir, it is not a problem of crime. My friend, Arun Jaitley, is a senior lawyer. He will appreciate that it is not only a law and order problem, but also, a socio-economic problem. Gujarat is a State where there is total prohibition, but liquor is available everywhere. Now, how to deal with this problem? There I want help from the Central Government Home Ministry and also the State Administration that if there is prohibition in Gujarat, why liquor is available at every nook and corner in the city of Ahmedabad. And as a result, every five or ten years, such tragedies are taking place, and mainly, the poor people are losing their lives. Thank you very much, Sir.

Demand to lower the prices of petrol and diesel

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, in the midnight of 1st July, 2009, the Government of India raised the prices of petrol and diesel on the plea that the price of crude oil has gone up to 70 dollars per barrel in the international market, and that was done on the eve of the Budget Session of the Parliament at 12 o' clock in the midnight, without caring even for 11 hours for the Parliament to discuss the issue. Now, Sir, though the price of petrol in India comes to Rs. 20/- a litre on the benchmark of 70 dollar per barrel, the Government turned down the demand of lowering down the prices of petrol and diesel.

Now, Sir, the price of crude oil in the international market has come down to 60-61 dollar a barrel. We therefore demand issuance of the Government order withdrawing earlier orders hiking the prices of petrol and diesel in India. The order should be issued forthwith. I would request the Minister to respond. This is a very serious issue concerning the lives of the common people, the ordinary people, the whole nation, Sir. The market price of the essential commodities of daily consumption is rising a lot. The potato price, even in Delhi, is rising a lot. So, this is urgently necessary to reduce the prices of petrol and diesel. Thank you.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with it.

Mr. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Most of the Members want to associate themselves with it.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal) : Sir, you kindly direct the Government to respond. ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No direction can be given to the Government in the Zero Hour. Now, Shri Bharatkumar Raut.

Delay in the arrival of monsoon

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT (Maharashtra): Thank you Sir, for giving me an opportunity to express the grave concern that all my colleagues in this august House share over the delayed monsoon all over the country, particularly on the Plateau of Deccan. I am receiving information that in many parts of the Western Maharashtra, Marathwada, kharif crop is in severe trouble. Those who