

[Shri Yalla Sesi Bhushana Rao]

Government repeatedly offered a site for location of the Directorate.

So, on these considerations, I request the Defence Minister to look into this. It has high security risks, and so the Defence Minister must take proper care of the security of the Indian Navy.

Thank you, Sir.

REFERENCE TO THE NON-PROVISION OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES BY D.D.A. IN TRANS-JAMUNA AREAS

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR (Madhya Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the widespread corruption and inefficiency in the DDA. The schemes launched by the DDA with much fanfare are never completely executed, causing great hardships to the people. They have become a means of fleecing innocent people. The DDA has drawn up plans to develop the trans-Jamuna areas to house more than one million people.

It is proposed to set up a District Centre at Laxmi Nagar for the benefit of the people to be settled in the trans-Jamuna areas. Though more than half a million people have already started living in these trans-Jamuna areas, there is no sign of the District centre coming up there, because of the inefficiency in the DDA working and its running disputes with the Delhi Urban Arts Commission. In February, 1982, the DDA auctioned commercial plots in the District Centre at Laxmi Nagar. Among the purchasers of these plots were Government undertakings as well as private parties. Even after having auctioned the plots and collected a huge sum from purchasers, DDA has failed to approve the building plans for these plots because it had not obtained the necessary permission from the Delhi Urban Arts Commission before organising the auction. I feel this is an act of gross negligence and inefficiency.

Delhi Development Authority has for the last four years consistently refused to do anything for the development and provision of any essential services at the District Centre in Laxmi Nagar. The result is that no water mains have been laid there and no sewage lines completed.

In spite of DDA's failure to approve building plans for plots at the District Centre and lay the essential services there, it has recently announced its policy to ask the purchasers of the auctioned plots to deposit the balance amount or else face penal action. This has completely demoralised several thousand plot holders at the Laxmi Nagar District Centre and in other trans-Jamuna areas who were to benefit from it.

I strongly urge the Hon. Minister for Urban Development to take immediate steps to ensure that no injustice is done to plot holders at the Laxmi Nagar District Centre and other trans-Jamuna Colonies. Moreover, DDA should be instructed to immediately approve the building plans under rules for construction at the District Centre and that penalties should be levied on the plot-holders till the building plans are approved. DDA should also be instructed to speed up the provision of essential services in several hundred new localities coming in these trans-Jamuna areas and around the Laxmi Nagar District Centre.

REFERENCE TO THE REPORTED DEATH OF EIGHT MEMBERS OF A FAMILY AFTER CONSUMING POISONOUS PRASAD

SHRI M. A. BABY (Kerala): Through this special mention I would like to draw the attention of the august House to a gruesome incident which took place on 9th August in North Delhi. Even though that incident took place a few weeks ago, its underlying issues are still relevant.

According to newspaper reports, eight members of a joint family consumed some supposedly divine prasād given by a tantrik with the foolish hope that they will get a male off spring. Since the report of this gruesome incident has appeared in almost all newspapers, I do not want to narrate the whole episode; but the fact remains that such incidents happen very frequently not only in remote villages but also in cities. In this particular case, it has happened in the very heart of the capital of India. I don't think it was an isolated incident that so many members of a family have fallen victims to a superstitious practice. In various parts of our country due to general backwardness and the prevalence of illiteracy very serious superstitions persist even today. People even sacrifice their children with the illusion that they can have certain super-natural faculties. So many reports of this nature have also appeared in the newspapers. So, what I would like to emphasise is that we should have a very concerted effort right from the Government itself to eradicate the superstitions beliefs. The only solution is to educate the masses, to eradicate illiteracy and to develop a scientific temper in our country. In this connection, I am pained to criticise the Union Government for not only not taking sufficient measures to eradicate superstitions and illiteracy, but also at times succumbing to certain measures which definitely encourage superstitions in our country. We find that even some of the Ministers prostrate before some fake Yogies or Maharishis in our country. This is a matter of shame.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE (Maharashtra): Even the Chief Minister also.

SHRI M. A. BABY: Yes, so many Chief Ministers. I do not want to hold any brief for superstitions people. My point is that on the one hand the whole approach of the Gov-

ernment should be to save our people from superstition practices and on the other by developing a scientific approach towards education for all those people who take birth in our country and eradicate illiteracy. Only then these practices can be put to an end. The Government's approach towards religion should be scientific. It should be secular. Even when we lay a foundation stone for a scientific institution or launch a rocket or satellite some poojas are performed. This is ridiculous. This is ignominious for a country like India. So my point is that this type of murder of eight members of a family cannot be viewed in isolation. So many incidents are happening all over the country. I hold the Government itself responsible for such happenings. I urge the Government to evolve a scientific approach towards secularism. I am having some photographs and other documents with me about Sadachari and Chandraswami who are fake yogies, but I do not want to show it to the House. These yogies are photographed along with Cabinet Ministers and ruling party leaders. So this is a shameful thing. If they want to practice such shameless things, they can do it privately, but not publicly. They should not use T.V. and other media to practice superstition under the leadership of the Government. This is my request. Thank you.

REFERENCE TO THE UNPROVOKED FIRING BY PAKISTAN IN POONCH AREA

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE (Maharashtra): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity of inviting the attention of this House, the Hon'ble Defence Minister and through this House the rest of the country to the very serious situation which is prevailing on the Western border. The occasion for making this special mention arises out of the unprovoked Pak firing in Poonch area on the 14th of August which