

have gone constituting these commissions are no ordinary people. This is a very serious matter deserving the highest attention. And I appeal to the Government to clarify its thinking and to institute a high level inquiry, headed at least by a Justice of the Supreme Court, an official inquiry, to go into those incidents. I conclude with just two or three other recommendations. One is that the scale of compensation which is being paid to the riot victims is found to be inadequate. The Government must clarify its thinking on compensation to these riot victims.

The commission—more particularly the three commissions constituted by the private citizens—have found out that in some areas .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Be precise; there are ten others.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am concluding. The commissions have found out that in some areas, women had been abducted. I would appeal to you that Government be instructed to take vigorous steps to recover and re-unite those women with their families.

Finally, Delhi is the capital of the country; it is a microcosm, and what happens in Delhi, does not happen every where. We convey a message not just to the rest of the country but to the whole world as such and it is very necessary for the sake of civilized living in our country that note be taken of these three commissions which have given their reports and an official commission be appointed.

**REFERENCE TO THE BLOCKADE OF
 NATIONAL HIGHWAY NO. 1A AND
 CANCELLATION OF FLIGHTS AND
 FROM SRINAGAR RECENTLY DUE
 TO HEAVY SNOW**

SHRI GULAM MOHI-UD-DIN-
 SHAWL (Jammu and Kashmir):
 Madam Deputy Chairperson, once
 again, I draw the attention of the

Central Government to the adverse effects on the trade, commerce and industry in Kashmir caused often by the blockade of National Highway No. 1A and cancellation of flights to and from Srinagar. Ours is a long table of sorrow and sufferings and the apathy of the powers that be adds manifold dimension to them. The National Highway 1A, the only life-line linking the valley to the rest of the country, is directly maintained by the Border Roads Organisation under the Ministry of Shipping and Transport. Time without number it gets blocked mainly from Udhampur to Qazigund for days together especially during winter due to landslides, heavy snowfall, rain and avalanches. This road, I have a number of times explained, lacks proper and adequate maintenance so that snow clearing machines are either not in working condition or are not available in substantial number. The landslide at Nashri has won its own notoriety so much so that there is no road there whenever there is continuous rain even in summer and the bypass—a very narrow road too steep and full of risks is very long-consuming about five hours for a heavy vehicle to ply on. Imagine the fate of passengers whose vehicle is abruptly stopped on this road due to blockade. The passengers shiver in unbearable cold with no food and other eatables, absolutely cut off from all sorts of communication system, helplessly and hopelessly. The fate of the sheep and poultry in stranded trucks is worse as they die of hunger and thirst on this road. The common man in Kashmir faces acute shortage, even total non-availability, of essential commodities, giving a chance to the blackmarketeers to hoard and exploit the situation. Fruit, the main export of Kashmir, gets damaged due to frost, snow and rain. This sorry state of affairs gets worse when Indian Airlines cancels its flights to and from Srinagar. The reason given is that the Srinagar Airport lacks proper equipment for snow clearance and landing facilities to the planes in

[Shri Gulam Mohi-ud-din]

low visibility. The people in the valley mostly depend on tourism industry and the bad maintenance of National Highway 1A and frequent cancellations of flights to and from Srinagar have caused irreparable loss to this industry. Trade and commerce are in a shambles. A defectors' government is least concerned with the welfare of the people and its unwarranted use of force and repressive measures have created a scare for tourists to spend their holiday in the valley... (Interruptions). This is against a defectors' government; his government is not a defectors' government.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You continue with your observations.

SHRI GULAM MOHI-UD-DIN SHAWL: Let him understand it. So, Madam, millions of people solely depend on tourism industry for their livelihood. The recent abolition of District Recruitment Boards and appointment of people on otherwise than merit basis to services has accentuated the problems of educated unemployed. The people of Kashmir crave for justice and speedy and effective measures for the redressal of the genuine grievances of the common man.

Madam, I would earnestly plead that the Central Government should see to it that the National Highway No. 1-A is properly maintained and it is open to vehicular traffic throughout the year and that the Srinagar Airport gets all scientific and modern equipment in adequate number to facilitate the landing of aircraft in inclement weather or snowfall. Thank you.

REFERENCE TO THE DELAY IN THE FORMATION OF A NEW MINISTRY IN TAMIL NADU

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya. He is not here. Shri Mohanan.

SHRI K. MOHANAN (Kerala): Madam, I am thankful to you for giv-

ing me a chance to raise an important issue on the floor of this House, through this Special Mention. Through this Special Mention, my intention is to draw the attention of the Government and the House to the need for preserving the well-established democratic norms in this country, in the background of the present situation in Tamil Nadu. An unprecedented and a rather awkward situation is prevailing in the political and administrative scene of Tamil Nadu due to the non-formation of a new Ministry after the recent elections to the State Legislature. It is unfortunate to note that nearly four weeks have elapsed after the elections. But still, a care-taker Ministry is continuing in power. The ruling party in Tamil Nadu got a massive majority with the support of the ruling party at the Centre in the recent elections. Even in this background, the majority party has failed to form a new Government, within a reasonable time. The members of the All-India Anna DMK have elected Mr. M. G. Ramachandran as their leader again. We are all aware that he is convalescing at present in a New York hospital. There are contradictory statements and reports appearing in the Press every day in regard to his present condition. An All-India Anna DMK Member in this House herself raised some doubts in public regarding the authenticity of the letters and messages coming from New York... (Interruptions)

SHRI ALADI ARUNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM: When we have no doubts about it, why should you... (Interruptions)

SHRI K. MOHANAN: Even a Member of your own Party had contradicted this. (Interruptions). I am asking for an authentic statement from the Government. That is why, I am raising this question here. (Interruptions)

SHRI ALADI ARUNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM: The Government have accepted the letters.