

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right. All are associating.

Killing of two women in police firing in 24 Parganas in West Bengal

SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA (Tripura): Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the august House a terrible incident of police firing at Magrahath in South 24 Parganas District of West Bengal on 1st December, 2011, which has resulted in the death of two women and bullet injuries to eight other residents of the village.

A conflict between the villagers and the Electricity Board arose because of lack of access to electricity. The villagers had been demanding electricity for several areas. They had applied for an electricity connection and had even made the initial payments six to eight months ago. The delay was causing discontent. Meanwhile, some 'hooking', that is, taking electricity connection from the existing wires illegally, was going on. The West Bengal State Electricity Board employees had gone to the village accompanied by the police to disconnect the 'hooked' electricity. Contrary to the usual practice of negotiation, persuasion and prior announcements regarding penalties for 'hooking', the police and the RAF, which appeared later, suddenly turned trigger-happy, allegedly in response to an attack from the villagers, who were, however, unarmed. 150 rounds of bullets were fired, killing two women, Saira Bibi, aged 30, and Rejina Khatun, a school-going girl of 12, and injuring at least eight others, many of whom had to be hospitalized in a critical condition.

Though the State Government has ordered a judicial inquiry and some compensation two days later under pressure, the response is completely inadequate. The Chief Minister has said that she was unaware of the decision to open fire, but the Home Secretary's statement to the press suggested the contrary. Hence, a full-fledged, unbiased inquiry must be launched into the incident and the culprits must be identified and punished.

I appeal to the Central Government through you, Sir, to take action in the matter.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (West Bengal): I associate myself with the issue, Sir.

Data on debt of farmers released by the National Sample Survey Organisation

श्री प्रभात झा (मध्य प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, आज़ादी के बाद से अब तक लगातार यह कहा जाता रहा है कि भारत एक कृषि प्रधान देश है और यह भी कहा जाता रहा है कि भारत की आर्थिक रीढ़ की हड्डी यदि मजबूत करनी है, तो कृषि को मजबूत करना होगा। इसी सदन में स्वयं कृषि मंत्रालय, खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय और