

Recent surge in communal violence in the country

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE (West Bengal): Sir, the last few months have lent themselves to a resistible rise in communal clashes. The incidents of violence in the national capital in the last few months are a continuation of the patterns witnessed in western U.P., Assam, Pune, Meerut and Vadodara. These incidents reported from across the country are not isolated and unconnected, but are representative of a larger communal stirring. The patterns of violence are familiar, with some fringe outfits deploying small local disputes to give rise to rage and suspicion. It is essential for the Rajya Sabha to occupy itself with this issue and to articulate itself in a clear, decisive manner. The role of politics in fuelling communal tension needs to be explored and met with a coherent response. The people of this country have painfully suffered at the hands of divisive politics in the past and it is our duty to arrest this recent communal trend before it gains further momentum. May I urge the Government and my fellow Parliamentarians to make possible a serious discussion on this issue so that we can present a strong and lasting response to undesirable communal elements and preserve public order, tranquillity and the moral fabric of the nation? Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy.

Inclusion of certain cancer drugs in the list of essential drugs

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal): Sir, through you, I would like to invite the kind attention of the hon. Health Minister to an issue which is having a human angle. According to reports, the country's premier oncology treatment institute, *i.e.*, Tata Memorial Centre, has reportedly written to the Government and the drug price regulator seeking inclusion of 12 key cancer medicines in the National List of Essential Medicines. Prices of the drugs on the list are regulated by the Government. Now, Sir, what happens, there are 12 medicines particularly, which are very essential for the treatment of cancer patients such as the brain tumor, colorectal cancer, cervical and ovarian cancer as well as those used in treatment of breast, lung, kidney and prostate cancers. Most of the medicines are used in multiple therapies. The cost of the medicines is so high and are sky-rocketing daybyday that unless the regulatory authority and the Government intervenes in the matter to check the price rise or to decrease the price, it will be impossible on the part of cancer patients to go for the treatment. Therefore, my humble request to the hon. Health Minister, through you, Sir, is that this matter should be taken up and looked into seriously.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the point raised by Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with it.

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with it.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue.

SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with it.

श्री के.सी. त्यागी (बिहार) : महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य के वक्तव्य से स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री सतीश चन्द्र मिश्रा (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य के वक्तव्य से स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the Health Minister. Okay, those who associated, their names will be added ...*(Interruptions)*... The Health Minister will reply, please ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): Sir, I have taken note of this matter.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, it is a very serious matter.

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: I will examine it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, the incidence of cancer is increasing in the country because of the life-style change ...*(Interruptions)*... But, he will take it up. Now, Shri K. N. Balagopal. It is not a political issue.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT; THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION; AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Sir, it is a political issue. It is a very serious matter. I have seen in the media also and now cancer is spreading day by day.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: The Chemicals and Fertilizers Ministry and Health and Family Welfare Ministry, both will discuss among themselves this issue and try to find out some solution.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, I have already written to the hon. Minister Shri Anant kumar.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, they will sit together and try to address this issue.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: See, over-usage of insecticides in vegetables and other crops which we produce, is one of the reasons. Now , Shri K.N. Balagopal.

SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Sir, milk also.

Outbreak of bird flu in some districts of Kerala

SHRI K. N. BALAGOPAL (Kerala): Sir. This is a matter which I think the House will totally agree. This is a serious issue of the outbreak of bird flu in Kerala recently in the last two-three days. Sir, near about three lakh birds especially, ducks and other poultry stock is suffocated by this. The newspapers are showing about the burning of ducks and chicken. Around two lakhs have already been burnt. This is a very serious issue. It may not affect the human body. But some diseases like H5N1, H7N7 have a serious infectious effect on human body. So, the situation is very serious. This may happen through the eggs, which are coming from Namakkal, a big poultry area of Tamil Nadu. Around 500 to 1000 crore poultry items are coming to Kerala every year. The experts are saying that it may be happening because of migratory birds also. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Sir, I object to it ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. Why are you worried about this?

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: It is an epidemic only in Kerala.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Tamil Nadu is totally free. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Sir, I am not part of a political debate between two parties. I am saying ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Beware of your time. Come to the point.