

have been discussed here and it has submitted its report in favour of setting up a Water Commission. Does the Government propose to set up a high level committee in connection with setting up of a Water Commission and construction of hydel dam and other projects and initiate Indo-Nepal talks in order to implement these projects immediately.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has very rightly pointed out that the happiness and sorrow of the crores of people of the North Bihar largely depend on these rivers because in the event of floods in these rivers their fields are submerged and their life is affected, they face immense hardships and losses every year. Hence this issue has been discussed at all levels including technical and political levels and as I have already said, in order to expedite the same we will take political initiative so that this work may progress as early as possible (*Interruptions*).

[*English*]

Security Cover for Tourists Visiting Kashmir

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*83 **SHRI M. V CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:**
SHRI V SREENIVASA PRASAD.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the militants in Kashmir kidnapped and opened fire on a group of foreign-tourists at Dal Lake recently:

(b) if so, the details of the casualties in the incident:

(c) whether the Government propose to probe into the incident; and

(d) the steps taken to provide security to tourists visiting Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Eight foreign tourists were abducted from a house boat in the Dal Lake on 26th June, 1991.

(b) One abducted Israeli snatched one AK-56 rifle from one of the terrorists. In the consequent shoot-out, one Israeli tourist was killed and three were injured, while two terrorists are also reported to have been killed and one injured.

(c) The criminal case is under investigation.

(d) Security to tourists is a part of the overall efforts of the Administration to contain terrorism and bring back normalcy in the Valley. The Government of Jammu & Kashmir has identified vulnerable pockets and active gangs for gearing up anti-terrorist operations, organising Nuka ambushes and effective deployment of para military forces in the affected/sensitive pockets. Day and night patrolling in vulnerable areas, raids on hideouts of terrorists have been intensified. Many top leaders of the terrorist outfits have been detained and a large quantity of arms and ammunition have been seized. Intelligence has also been strengthened

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the attack on foreign tourists is the first incident of this kind since the eruption of militancy in Kashmir in 1988 and also in view of the Centre's role in Kashmir, I want to know from the hon. Minister in this regard whether the Government is prepared to create a Special Task Force to give security cover to the foreign tourists.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): The hon. Member may read Para 'd' of the reply. The reply is very clear. This is the part of the overall security arrangement and we cannot make special security arrangement for the tourists.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: I am asking you whether it can be done only in respect of the tourists.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: That is the reply.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: What about the action taken in this regard? I want a specific reply whether you are creating Special Task Force to give security cover to the foreign tourists. You say 'Yes' or 'No.'

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: No.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the growing militancy in the Valley, whether the Government is aware of the existence of training camps in occupied areas and also whether it is a fact that some people were taken over by the Pakistan Army to their Intelligence Service. If so, what steps the Government had taken so far in this regard?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Sir, what the hon. Member is saying is a fact that the Pakistan Army is training some people who are forcibly taken out of Jammu and Kashmir, sometimes with their consent and sometimes even without their consent. They are training them, they are financing them; they are recruiting them knowing full well that we have taken up this matter at the diplomatic level. The Prime Minister of Pakistan made a public statement that he will not try to encourage any kind of terrorism in India. But, in spite of that, I do think that it has an impact on the terrorist activities in Jammu & Kashmir.

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: It is a fact that there is an upsurge of militant activities in Kashmir. The militants are targetting foreign tourists to embarrass our country abroad. This will affect tourism in other parts of the country also. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is a proposal to ban or regulate entry of foreigners into Kashmir to reduce such incidents and avoid adverse publicity abroad.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: It is a fact that there has been a lot of propaganda going on that the human rights are not preserved in Jammu & Kashmir. In fact, we would like to encourage a number of not only tourists but even journalists also going over to Jammu & Kashmir so that they could see things for themselves; if possible, let them also publish their independent opinions.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RATILAL VARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to when they are going to restore normalcy in Kashmir because the tourists do not visit Kashmir due to atmosphere of terrorism. The valley is known as heaven on earth as well as the crown of Mother India. But the conditions are not normal there; so again I ask him as to when the conditions would be normalized there.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Hon. Member I could not understand the first part of your question, please repeat the same. . . (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: He has asked as to when the tourists would be able to go there.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that the terrorists' activities have adversely affected the main business i.e. tourist business and all the economy of the valley is based on this business. To bring it on the track, efforts are being made at

diplomatic level. Simultaneously, we are making raids on different places such as terrorist hide-outs and other places wherever it is necessary. We are keeping a close watch on the border also in order to lessen the intensity of terrorist activities. We grant acquittal whenever it is necessary

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: I am sure, this must have come to the notice of the Minister that even the European Parliament has to pass a resolution in this regard. They made an appeal also to the terrorists to release people who were kidnapped and kept in bondage. When the Israeli group was touring, one person was killed and others were taken into custody at Dal Lake. At least in a well known place like Dal Lake, which is in the heart of Srinagar City, which is an attraction for the tourists, national as well as international, the Minister should take necessary action—this is an important tourist spot—so that such incident should not happen in future. Otherwise, your approach to Embassies to increase tourism will have no meaning, if tourists feel insecure in the heart of the city. Will you take special measures at least to provide security at such places?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: I am in full agreement with the hon. Member. But at the same time while all efforts are being made, still the infiltrators have entered this area in such a big way that it is becoming rather difficult to tackle the situation and that is why we are trying to ease the conditions in that area so that a large number of tourists are attracted. Actually these people had been abducted and unfortunately for them from their passports they could get the information that they were Israelis; after it was known fully well that they were Israelis the situation accentuated further. Thereafter, I do not think that even the terrorists themselves were interested in kidnapping all the tourists from that area but after their coming to know that they were Israelis it took a different turn altogether.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Has the Minister's attention been drawn to some other news items, that in view of the extraordinary situation prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir and particularly in the Valley, it has attracted the attention of various international secret agencies and also that there has been a sudden unexplainable spurt in the visits or Israelis themselves to the Valley one of whom was involved in the incident, and has this aspect of security been gone into by our security agencies?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: For the first part of the question, the situation prevailing in Kashmir is known to all the international intelligence agencies and there is no denying the fact. But for the other part, we ourselves are trying to examine the implications of what result it will have on the entire situation as it is prevailing there.

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the steps that have been taken to strengthen our border areas and have some areas been properly identified to check infiltration? Effective steps should be taken to prevent the militants from entering our country and also to see that powerful and sophisticated weapons are not brought in because otherwise Kashmir being a big tourist attraction, the presence of the militants will have a very bad effect on the tourists coming there.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in fact the Government is making all out efforts to see that they are not able to cross the border. But in spite of that, I cannot deny the fact, that a large number of people have been coming from different areas and if they have already infiltrated I cannot deny it.

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the measures taken by the Government to control the terrorists in the Kashmir

valley, have failed. Now, I would like to know whether there is any plan either to bombard or to remove the training camp set up close to our border in Kashmir?

SHRI S B CHAVAN We have already banned their organisation and it is obvious that they are trained across the border. There is no proposal to bombard that camp.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA The Home Minister of the Government of India in his reply has stated that they are facing a lot of difficulties in checking the terrorism because a number of terrorist groups have infiltrated into Kashmir.

MR SPEAKER Please put your question as there are many members in the queue.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA It is a matter of despair for the country if its Home Minister expresses his helplessness over the entry of terrorists into Kashmir. I want to know from you whether you will assure the country that you will drive the terrorists out from Jammu and Kashmir within a definite time-frame?

[English]

MR SPEAKER I am not allowing this question. It was already asked.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK It is considered inviting trouble by the foreign tourists to go there. They will not like to visit the valley unless the Indian tourists start going there and the domestic tourists will not go there until and unless the migrant local citizens, who have come to Delhi or gone to other places in the country, return to their own native place. So, what steps are being taken by the Government in order to bring back those to Kashmir, who have migrated elsewhere from there and to restore normalcy there?

SHRI S B CHAVAN I am agree with the hon Members that it is the Government's responsibility to make an earnest effort to bring back and rehabilitate those in their native places, who have migrated to Delhi or elsewhere after leaving Jammu and Kashmir, especially those who have come to Jammu and elsewhere from the Valley. Your suggestion in this regard would be considered properly. Do not worry. I would like to tell you that they do not want to go back to the Valley. Despite the incident that took place with the Israeli tourists there several journalists as well as others have gone there to collect information and details about the incident, because the propaganda is being carried on that human rights are being trampled and people are being massacred there and this sort of propaganda is being carried on by some interested Agencies on a large scale. We have provided full security to the journalists etc., who went there to gather information regarding this matter. There is no problem in regard to

SHRI RAM NAIK Would the hon Home Minister rehabilitate the displaced persons there?

SHRI S B CHAVAN This is true that a man after having a fear psychosis takes every step very cautiously even if he is provided full security. We wish that they should go back as early as possible. Efforts are being made to create such an atmosphere.

[English]

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH It is disturbing that more than one hundred Israeli students were in a disturbed area like Kashmir. It is more disturbing that they were not ordinary tourists and they were highly trained in handling sophisticated weapons which the terrorist had and also they could untie themselves when their hands were tied. What were the tourists, from a country with whom we do not have diplomatic relations, doing at that period of time? And did

they have any connection with the secret service agency?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: The number which the hon. Member has given is not correct. They form a part of the party which had gone purely for tourist purposes. The Government does not have any other information. But it is a fact that the Israeli gentlemen showed exemplary courage by snatching the gun from the terrorists and killed two of them

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Sir, my question has not been answered. Would the hon. Minister explore the possibility of involvement of any Israeli secret service agency in this incident?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: No please

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think it futile to discuss about Tourism in Kashmir until the Government succeeds in restoring normalcy there. For the last 25 days, we have been reading in newspapers about certain steps taken by the Government in order to restore normalcy in Kashmir at political level. In this context, it is being said that Dr. Farooq Abdullah went to Srinagar and stayed there for three days. After his return, some more talks were held. In this context, he invited the Prime Minister and others to his house for a dinner and discussed this issue. As it is said that some concrete steps have been taken in order to resolve the Kashmir problem. So, I would like to know the concrete steps taken by the Government during the last 25 days to restore normalcy there so that the economy of Kashmir may be brought back on the track.

[*English*]

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: This question will have to be tackled on both the levels. One is to take stringent measures against the terrorists who are involved. Do not allow them to cross. If they are able to cross, ne-

cessary action should be taken to find out where their hide-outs are and raid them. That is one part of it. Another will be to start the political dialogue. Whether it is Farooq Abdullah or anybody else, certainly the political discussion will have to be started. I think, the hon. Member himself had done the same thing when he was Incharge of Kashmir Affairs.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will it have to be started or have you started it after assuming the office?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: It has been started already.

Sharing of Yamuna Waters

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state.

(a) whether the issue regarding sharing of Yamuna waters amongst the concerned States was considered in a meeting of the Standing Committee on inter-State issues in Water Resources held in September, 1990.

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) whether the Union Government recently held discussions with the representatives of the concerned States on this regard, and

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It was decided in the meeting of the Standing Committee that the Chairman, Central Water Commission would convene meetings with the representatives of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh,