

Title: Regarding extortion of money from the employees of Manabham Oil Fields by the underground insurgents and request for deployment of force in Arunachal Pradesh for protection of lives and property of the people living in the infected areas.

SHRI RAJMUKAR WANGCHA (ARUNACHAL EAST): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, to a matter which is of very urgent public importance. This is in regard to Manabham Oil Field in Arunachal Pradesh, which has stopped functioning for the last 10 days because of the extortion note received from the underground people.

The incident took place on 25th July, 2001 at about 2100 hours. Six underground extortionists visited the oilfield, Manabham, and demanded Rs. 10,000 from each of the employees. The employees had been threatened with dire consequences if the matter was reported to the Police or the Administration. On 26th July, the underground insurgents again visited the oilfield, met the Administrative Officer and advised him to inform the oil Management to arrange an amount of Rs. 60 lakh on or before 1st August, 2001.

Again on 27th July, a letter was dropped through a messenger to the Management repeating that the amount should be given to them on 1st August, 2001. It was written on the letter-pad of Government of the People's Republic of Nagaland. The Administration was not informed about what had happened. On getting the information from its sources, the Arunachal Police officers contacted the oil Administration and assured the employees full protection and also requested the employees to help them in organising a trap to nab these extortionists. But unfortunately, the oil employees declined to help the Administration. On 29th July, the Administrative Officer of that area, along with a platoon of Police personnel, went to that place to give protection to the oil employees. However, the oil personnel abandoned that place.

I would like to mention that all these matters have been brought to the notice of Home Minister's office telephonically.

I would like to bring it to the notice of the Government of India that we are totally helpless to give protection to the oilfields because this is not the only oilfield. We do have other oilfields. We are anticipating such kind of incidents in other oilfields also. So, we request the Government of India to give us sufficient force in order to prevent such type of incidents.

Prior to 1998, the Arunachal Police had been supplemented with five battalions of CRPF. But after 1998, we see that the Arunachal Police has been left with only two battalions of CRPF. So, as you are all aware, this is not at all adequate in such a disturbed area that is filled with the insurgent activists.

I would also request the Government of India to help the Government of Arunachal Pradesh by deploying more battalions in these areas in order to safeguard the lives and property of the people living in that area that is infested with insurgents.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Sir, the Government should respond to this since it is a serious matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Who will respond from the Government?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, the hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs is here. It is really concerning the security of people of Arunachal Pradesh and other people there. If I may also say that his life is also at stake and he has revealed this with a great difficulty.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): Sir, since you have directed me, I would like to say that I have taken note of the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Thank you.