

reclamation of land;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b). There is no separate programme for providing special assistance to the Government of Bihar for the reclamation of land. However, under the centrally sponsored schemes of Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects, and Integrated Watershed Management in the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers, funds are provided for treatment of degraded priority areas. During the year 1992-93 an allocation of Rs. 360 lakhs has been made to the Government of Bihar for treatment of 12, 000 ha.

(c) Does not arise.

12.00 hrs.

RE BAN ON POLITICAL RALLIES IN THE COUNTRY

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention to an issue of very urgent public importance. A farmer's rally was organised on the 14th in Jalandhar. Shri V. P. Singh, Shri George Fernandes, Shri Chandra Shekhar and all of us were to attend the rally the. It was a farmer's rally. On the one hand, the Government says that it wants to combat communal forces, on the other hand, it is continuously taking steps to oppress secular forces in the name of communal forces. Before the 25th and even after that it was told that there is a ban on holding rallies in Varanasi. The day before yesterday, the former Chief Minister Shri Prakash Singh Badal was also subjected to highhandedness and excesses of police as a result he became unconscious. Even

the rally on the occasion of birth centenary of Baba Saheb Ambedkar at Boat Club on the coming 14th April has not been permitted.

It is correct that after the incident of 6th December, we had no moral right of such rallies. We could have publicly condemned the rally of the 25th. But the efforts, are being made by the Government of India and the Congress ruled states to oppress the secular forces in the name of communalism and we vehemently condemn all such efforts. Through you, I would like to urge upon the Government of India to come out with a categorical statement in the House in respect of their policy of fighting against communalism or to state in clear terms that it has hatched a conspiracy against secular forces. If the Government asserts on the one hand that it will fight communal forces and on the other hand, it has the intention to fight secular forces. I think that the duality is not at all desirable.

We, therefore, urge upon the Government to make their stand on Jullandhar rally clear.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: (Muzzaffarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit two or three points on this issue. When the issue of rally of BJP on 25th February was raised here and the Government had made it clear that it would not allow that rally there we had told the Government that it was taking a wrong step. Today the Government wants to ban the BJP rally in consultation with people of all other political parties, tomorrow they may go ahead to take away all the civil rights. Therefore, in view of all these things we have publicly opposed the ban on the proposed BJP rally. I knew that these things do not come to an end so easily. I had told all those hon. Ministers who came to talk to me that we cannot forget those days of emergency in this country and the situations leading to that step of imposing emergency here.

It is merely the case of stopping the morcha of Akali Dal, Assaueting Shri Parkash

Singh Badal and his partymen and stopping and forcing those persons to get down from the buses who had gone there from Delhi to support a policy or to participate in some other programmes, but it is the question of infringement of civil liberties.

We would like to have clear-cut reply from the Government on the point as to why it resorted to an excuse. Many persons have been led astray by that excuse. But today the Government is using that excuse everywhere. I had already warned the Government in this regard. (*Interruptions*) The second aspect of this thing can be seen in Punjab where Shri Prakash Singh Badal was put into the jail and subjected to different kinds of torture. Now when he wants to hold a meeting the Government does not come out to withhold their permission for it, but it is obstructed at the very moment it is going to be held and people arriving there to participate in it are beaten up and nobody is allowed to attend the rally. In fact today this Government is trying to convey the people of Punjab and other parts of the country that the Government is not going to allow the people to ventilate their grievances in a Constitutional and peaceful manner. In this way this Government is abetting violence and terrorism in this country. I am making a specific charge against this Government. Today I would like to recall it here that the ban imposed on the BJP rally by the Government has come to cover the state of Punjab today. One should not forget it that now it is government which is abetting terrorism in that state. This trend which has been started by the Government should be brought to an end. The Central Government should ask Shri Beant Singh to tender apology for the mal-treatment meted out to Shri Prakash Singh Badal and others.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (Sheohar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the incident that took place in Jalandhar on the 14 is highly condemnable. It seems that there is no rule of law in Punjab. The proposed rally at Jalandhar was going to be attended by former Prime Ministers Shri V.P. Singh, Shri Chandra Shekhar and Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Shri George Fernandes etc. That

rally was banned and obstructed in various ways. It was also announced on the electronic media that the rally had not been banned. The place where the meeting was being held was cordoned off and the entire area outside was put under Section 144. The atmosphere of Punjab is being vitiated. The legislators of the ruling party and the hon. Ministers beat up the members of opposition in the Assembly itself. It also happened with one of the members of the Akali Dal (Barnala). This incident deserves condemnation. It should be condemned. Prompt action should be taken on it. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs should make a statement on it.

[*English*]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, during an agonisingly long period of 12 years, when the people of Punjab were engaged in a grim battle against terrorism, some of our friends from here went to attend meetings of the Opposition and their rallies there. What they said was only strong words, which gave encouragement to the terrorists. To-day, as the Congress Government there has resolutely and with firm determination fought the terrorism, I am sorry to say that those people who were then being presented *saropas* by the representatives of the terrorist outfits and who were then attending *whog* ceremonies of the terrorists are today again making noise in the name of democracy.

Sir, after 12 years, people of Punjab heaved a sigh of relief there. You have to go and meet a Punjabi there to know. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : You want to make Prakash Singh Badal a terrorist. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : To-day they are saying all these things here but actually they are trying to mislead the people. (*Interruptions*). Nobody can deny.

the achievements of the Congress Government in that state. Punjab problem is a national problem. Therefore what is required to be done in that every body should support Beant Singh Government. Shri Beant Singh is not fighting his on battle. He is moving freely in terrorist areas in his own car. Today the people have mustered up their courage because the situation has improved there. However, the opposition people are trying to viliate the situation there. We should take care of this situation. *(Interruptions)*

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to know Shri Ram Vilas Paswan's definition of the secular and non-secular or to discuss his anti-terrorism but I would like to narrate what happened with me on the 14th March.

I had gone to my constituency to attend a meeting there. On my return journey I had to catch the train. When my car reached near the bypass at Jalandhar at 5 a.m. a large number of police deployed there, stopped my car to check my identity card and I was told that I had attended the rally at Delhi and there also I was going to attend another rally. When I asked them to allow me to go to attend the rally which was going to be addressed by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and Shri Chandra Shekhar, I was not allowed to attend the same and the police asked me to go back to Delhi by my own car or by some train from Beas station. Moreover the P.A.P. personnel made certain filthy remarks about the Hon. Prime Minister and Shri Rajesh Pilot. They also told that even if they happened to come here, they won't allow them go there. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it did not end here but when the two officers of the Punjab police...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: How does this help?

[Translation]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : I cannot repeat what they said there. Sir, they told me that even if they (the hon. Minister)

wished to come there, they won't allow them to do so. You will be surprised to know that two police officers were asked to sit with me in my car and ensure that I got on the train not to come back to that place. This is the situation there.

What I mean to say is that even an M.P. who was not going to attend the rally was meted out that sort of treatment. I know Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal. I have always been going to Punjab without any body-guards. Even now I go there.. But the maltreatment that is being meted out by the police in Punjab in the name of terrorism should not be justified. It can happen with you also I have nothing more to say on it. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR (Faridkot) : The leaders from the opposition Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji and Shri Fernandes Sahib have raised an important issue. I have specially given a notice in this context. Hon. Speaker, Sir.

[English]

I have all praise for my Chief Minister.

[Translation]

Being a Member of Parliament of my party

I can always differ.

[Translation]

This House is a temple of democracy, which reflects the emotions and feelings of the people of our country. The intention behind the rally at Jalandhar in Punjab was not to shift the venue but to ban a democratic rally by putting police barricades at different places. This is not good for the country and for the democracy...*(Interruptions)* I would like to submit one thing to my colleagues that a great poet of Germany, at the time of the Nazi's attack on the Communists, he said that he was not a communist and when they killed the leaders of the trade unions...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have to be very brief. There are other members who want to speak on other issues.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR : So, someone said that he was not the leader of the trade union. Now when my own house is on fire, and when I am crying for help, there is none to rescue me. After the restoration of normalcy in Punjab, the extra powers of 1983 and 1985, given to the Police will ruin the State. Therefore, I would like to say that

[English]

I had contested an election against Prakash Singh Badal. I have no sympathy for Akali Party. But I want to say in this House.

[Translation]

The brutal lathi charge by Punjab Police on the former Chief Minister, who had been the President of Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee for 15 years is highly condemnable. The Policemen were saying that even if the hon. Home Minister or Shri Pilot Sahib would come, we will not hear them. For the sake of the democracy and for the sake of Punjab, I would like to support the hon. Members in this regard. I was shocked to learn about yesterday's incident in the Punjab Legislative Assembly. In such a big House, if the hon. Minister beats the M.L.A.'s of the opposition in the House... second time (Interruptions)

[English]

Rapid growth of.... (Interruptions) I would like to say this thing through you.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No reference of that.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speaker Sir, whatever Shri Brarji has said is not relevant to Jalandhar only. There are so many incidents on which the whole of the country is worried and all of us would like to find out a proper solution to them. The hon. Members of the House might be knowing that once a rally was organised here at Delhi by the Delhi unit of Bharatiya Janata Party in the month of December which was to be addressed by Vajpayeeji. All of a sudden, the local officers banned this rally on the plea of prevailing tension. Later on Vajpayeeji had to go on a hunger strike and the matter reached to this extent that the hon. Home Minister had to come to the House to assure that the Government has no intention to impose a ban on the legal political activities. This assurance was accepted by the House. The House praised this decision and then the hunger strike was called off.

Later on, many people expressed their concern at the incident of 25th February, to which Shri George Fernandes Sahib has just now made a reference and remarked that gradually it appears that in the name of crisis, political and legitimate activities are going to be banned. It is a dangerous intention and one must refrain from it. There are so many statements of Shri Prakash Singh Badal which have been condemned by me during the last few days. But, if anyone puts Shri Prakash Singh Badal in the category of terrorist or if anyone speaks like that, then I think he is not doing justice with him, the country and Punjab. It is not farsightedness. Using such a language... (Interruptions) Mr. Speaker Sir, I have not said that you have said so but in the context of what has been said by you... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Please do not misinterpret. (Interruptions)

SHRI LAL KRISHNA ADVANI: He has

not said it and I do not propose even to go into the inception of terrorism in Punjab. (Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Shri Advani you have wrongly interpreted it. I did not attribute that even remotely to Shri Badal, I did say that by action or deed of his an impression should be given that goes against the Government's present fight against terrorism. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: He has talked about you only.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: What has been said by you in that reference is meaningful. If any Bhog ceremony used to be held, we used to condemn it. But today, if such things are said in that context, when the political activities are being carried out there, then it will simply mean that the Government wants to ban the political activities also. Therefore I would like to say that gradually the Government is creating the situation of 1975, to which George Fernandes Sahib has made a reference. At that time Communist Party was supporting the Congress Party. In this context I have to say that today if my party is to hold a meeting of National executive at Calcutta, we are said that we cannot hold the meeting. I think that when I go to Madras, the Congress Party asks for a ban on our rally. So, the Government should decide that henceforth, no party other than Congress will be allowed to hold its rally in the country. Decide it and make a declaration. Pass a Bill. But to ban the rallies of opposition, whether by Advani, George Fernandes or Prakash Singh Badal, is totally wrong. Already there are so many problems in the country and unless it is accepted and the Government continues with the politics of confrontation like this, the crisis will become more grave. None will be benefited out of that. Therefore, I publicly demand that there should be a consistent policy of the Government regarding the political rallies. If that consistent policy adopted by the Central Government the

I hope that your friend, the Government of West Bengal will also have to adopt it.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): We are not against any political activity or political rally. That has been made clear by the Home Minister. And I would like to explain on behalf of the Government that we would like to allow every legitimate political activity..(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: I am saying a specific thing. When it was announced on 21st that there will be a meeting of Advani at Madras, then some prominent Congressmen at Madras and here in the House had asked for a ban on it. Had it been upto this extent only, then I would not have said anything. But your Hon. Home Minister has said that he would ask the Chief Minister to reconsider this matter. So, what should I make out of it except that it is the intention of the Government that there will be no rally of Bhartiya Janta Party throughout the country or no political party other than congress will be allowed to hold its rally. There should be a clear cut policy in this regard. Otherwise, it will not do. What will be the result of that? There will be confrontation time and again and in the present circumstances, such confrontation of the political parties is no good.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I was saying that neither we are in favour of any confrontation, nor we want to stop any political activity. Neither it is our intention nor it is our policy..(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: The Government did not allow the Kisan rally and the Anganwadi women were also not allowed to hold their rally. The Government said that even that will not be allowed. There is a difference between the policy and man-

ner of implementation of the Government. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : Let me speak. I would like to submit that the situation in the country is critical and the cooperation of all is the need of the hour. We take the opinion of the local administration, give our own opinion and only then we decide to take any step. No decision is taken against the concerned State Governments.

The decision taken in Madras has been done in consultation with the State Government there. We all know about the situation in Punjab and if at all we have to say anything about Punjab, we say it with a sense of responsibility.. *(Interruptions)* You want that the situation there should not deteriorate. The situation there is improving constantly and the Government there has been taking steps for continuance of this process. The Central Government does not want to interfere in the decision, if any, taken by the State Government. The Government there knows best about the situation that prevails there. Since we do not know that much, I would like to submit with all earnestness that when a particular State Government is trying to improve the situation being faced by it, then we should not say that the Government might have a wrong design or it had a wrong motivation... *(Interruptions)* Moreover, we should see that the improving law and order situation should not get any set back.. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Give a chance to others to speak. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: We want to do everything by seeking consensus in the country. We should work with a consensus and without any clash. Our efforts may be ridiculed, but we have to keep up with the policy of avoiding confrontation and we have to improve the situation in the country by following the policy of consensus. We believe in playing pure politics which we will keep following undeterred.

You may forget the situation of 1975. That will not be repeated.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: As many as two Prime Ministers were supposed to visit Punjab. They have, however, not visited the state. It is a serious matter. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should apprise the Members of the House of the facts.

(English)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is bound to be raised in the House and in the country, because we find that this Government is acting in a manner which is creating very serious apprehensions in the minds of the people and the political parties as to the real objective of this Government in banning these rallies. There are rallies and rallies ! *(Interruptions)*

You have understood that a guilty conscience needs no excuse, A reference was made by the Leader of the Opposition to the rally in Calcutta recently, which has not been permitted. Shri Kalyan Singh held a rally in Calcutta. I shall make a gift of the video cassette, what he had said in Calcutta. In the name of a rally, he justified an incident, the demolition of a mosque, which we consider is a national shame. A responsible leader of a political party justified it and said that it was under a divine inspiration that mosque was demolished. Therefore, one of the things which we cherish in this country - and I am sure every right thinking person in this country will cherish and try to maintain it - a secular structure of this country. *(Interruptions)*. Therefore, I want to tell the Government that they cannot paint everybody with the same brush. As a result of this, even trade unions are not allowed to hold rallies; secular parties and organisations are not allowed to hold rallies at different places. Then, where is the question of anybody trying to divide the country? If any rally is being held, you cannot stifle political activity as such. Therefore, we demand that this Government must reconsider its policy, allow all the rallies to be held which is

an ordinary political activity. Where in a given situation when there is a risk of trouble, certainly one has to consider, and the State Government will have to decide. Such decisions have been taken earlier also. But the impression is going round in this country that you want to stop everybody from having normal political activity, trade unions from having their trade union activity, secular organisations from campaigning against communalism in this country. This cannot be permitted. (*Interruptions*). I had said earlier also that in regard to the BJP rally, we opposed the ban. Here, I would request Shri Advani, Shri Vajpayee and everybody why they are creating a situation which is dividing the people in this country. They have to think also. Therefore, they should not force anybody. Let us try to find out a method by which the country can be united. But it is harping on divisive issues. Naturally, we are getting concerned.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla) : The Government should take a decision that rallies by all the parties except the Communist Party and the Congress Party will be banned. The Communist Party has always been committing the murder of democracy.

MR. SPEAKER: You may please sit down; if you behave like that, your colleagues will not get a chance to express their views.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Therefore, we have been against a blanket ban on rallies. I have said that on the floor of the House earlier also. We opposed that ban on 25th February. (*Interruptions*) We said that this was not the way to function. We demanded that the Government should not have taken such action.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the

attention of the House to the incident occurred on 15th March, 1993 in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh when I was forcibly removed from participating in a public meeting and was humiliated by the police force. At 3.10 P.M. on 15.3.93, his excellency Governor of that State had to inaugurate and dedicate the Dr. Ambedkar Mangal Bhawan which has been built for the people of Scheduled Castes. I had to go there to participate in that ceremony and thereafter, I had planned to come to Delhi to attend the Session of Parliament; but as soon as I reached the site of Ceremony, I was publicly humiliated and was forcibly prevented from attending the ceremony by the additional Superintendent of police on duty there. When I asked the reasons for that, he told me that he was instructed by the higher authorities to do so. I said that I was an elected representative of this parliamentary constituency and since I had presented a bouquet to the hon. Governor when the latter paid a visit there, that was why I was staying at Ujjain to participate in the said ceremony. I further said that I had soon to go to Delhi to attend the Session of Parliament, so why I was being detained without valid reasons. I was, however, neither told the reasons nor was I arrested. I have been hurt in my left arm caused by a forceful pushing. I was scolded, terrorised and was publicly pushed into the police van. I was forcibly put under police control for two hours.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I belong to a Scheduled-Caste-Community and the ceremony which I wanted to attend was the inauguration of Mangal Bhawan named after Dr. Ambedkar. This Bhawan is meant for the members of the Scheduled Castes. I had never imagined that an elected representative of that area could be publicly humiliated in that manner. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am a Member of this House of which you are the protector. The agony and pain that I had to suffer for reaching here is beyond description. The incident that I have narrated in the cause of my pain and agony. I hope that besides giving protection and safety to me and my family will you kindly order inquiry in this case. This is clear violation of