

(Shri Somnath Chatterjee)

frame and thrust them upon employees then there will be resistance.

Secondly I want to say something about industrial relations. This federation is representing 90% of the officers and staff. We are not even being taken notice of. Our letters are not acknowledged by the management. They say we can talk to you Mr. Chatterjee as a Member of Parliament but not as the President of the Federation. This is the attitude of the management. They say that. I do not understand. Is this the way Government Undertakings, Central Public Undertakings or any public sector undertaking will behave ?

15.00 hrs.

Will they not take note of the existence of the association which is representing the majority of the employees ? (*Interruptions.*) There is another thing which I want to mention here. Unfortunately, this corporation continues to be full of corruption. I am sure, Mr. Sangma will bear me out. Many times, I have brought to the notice of the Ministry such instances and I want to know what action has been taken in this regard ?

Mr. Chairman, I am obliged to you for giving me this time and opportunity.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the Home Minister to make a statement.

15.00 hrs.

STATEMENT RE INCIDENT AT AMRITSAR ON 25th APRIL, 1983

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.C. SETHI) : Sir, It is with great sense of sorrow and anguish I have to inform this House the murder of Shri A.S. Atwal, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Jullundar at 11.10 A.M. yesterday while he was visiting Darbar Saheb, Amritsar for offering prayers. According to information received from the Government of Punjab, he was shot dead just outside the main entrance of Darbar Saheb towards Chowk Ghanta

Ghar at Amritsar. He was reportedly fired upon by one unidentified Sikh youngman while he was coming outside from Darbar Saheb after paying homage to Sri Guru Granth Sahib. The assailant had reportedly come from inside the Darbar Saheb complex with rifle and reportedly ran back to the Darbar Saheb after committing the crime. Varinderjit Singh, a young boy of about eleven years and Kulwinder Singh, resident of Amritsar were also injured and removed to Hospital. While the former succumbed to his injury, the latter is lying in serious condition. The information regarding wanted criminals, including Dal Khalsa activists, taking shelter in places of worship, that the Government have been receiving from time to time is confirmed by the dastardly crime near the Darbar Saheb itself. All Senior Superintendents of Police in Punjab have been alerted and Director General of Police has rushed to the spot. The request of State authorities to the SGPC to handover the accused person has not been heeded to so far.

Government has decided to entrust investigation of this case to the C.B.I. and Director, C.B.I. himself is proceeding to Punjab.

As the House is aware, I had appealed to all concerned to shun violence and ensure that the places of worship are not used for inciting violence. Honourable Members have also expressed similar sentiments. It is unfortunate that this appeal has gone unheeded.

The Government has been making earnest efforts to sort out various issues. Honourable Members will agree that such incidents and violent activities do not help in finding out a solution.

I am confident that the House will join me in appealing to all concerned particularly the leadership of Shiromani Akali Dal and SGPC to see that such violent incidents involving loss of innocent lives do not recur.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : Sir, may I request that we all condole the death of this brave and valiant officer and condemn the manner in which the above officer was

done to death just as he was communing himself with God he conceived of Him ?

श्राचार्य भगवान देव (अजमेर): हम इससे सहमत हैं। मैं समर्थन करता हूँ रंगा जी की बात का।

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is being discussed in the House.

Now, Shri P.A. Sangma, Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce.

15.04 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1983-84—
Contd. MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND
DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY—*Contd.*

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will be very very brief in my observations since we are hard-pressed for time. I will briefly touch upon the points relating to handloom sector, handicrafts sector and sericulture sector. I will try to answer some of the points which have been raised by the hon. Members on the other day as well as today.

The handloom industry is a very important sector in our country. It has a long tradition of excellent craftsmanship and in terms of employment, it is next only to agriculture. It gives employment to about 10 million people particularly in the rural areas.

(SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE in the Chair)

The Government of India, in the Textile Policy of 1981, has given a place of pride and named it the main clothes industry in the country. I am very happy that all the hon. Members who have participated in the Debate with the exception of one or two Members have expressed concern about the problems of the weavers and craftsmen and

they have taken so much of interest for this sector—handloom and handicraft. Since time is not there, I will only react to a few points which have been raised by the hon. Members.

Sharimati Gopalan has raised quite a good number of points and she expressed her concern about the prices of yarn that are going up. I may inform the House that the situation as it appears now compared to last year, seems to be much better and prices have stabilised. And since December, 1982, the prices have started coming down. (*Interruptions*). Regarding carpets, I will come later. It comes under the Handicrafts. I will just deal with the Handloom sector first.

The hon. Member also raised the question that the export of handloom products from Kerala a falling down. Unfortunately, we do not maintain the figures State-wise. We have the figures of the whole country. Well, I can assure the hon. Members that the export of handloom has not come down taking the country as a whole and we have been maintaining the upward trend of our export performance in the field of handloom products.

Then, Mr. Kuchan has referred to a number of points. He has said that out of 37 lakh looms that are existing in our country, only 20 lakhs are active and the rest are inactive. I cannot claim that all the 37 lakh looms are very active and it is quite possible that some looms may not be active. But I can only say that as far as the production is concerned, it has been always going up. Therefore, we can safely assume that our looms are active. Otherwise, the production would not have gone up.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN (Allepey) : That is not correct. At least in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, almost all the handloom weavers are suffering and there is no work.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Well madam, if you have any specific area where it has not been active, you can always inform us and we can enquire into it. What I am saying is, as far as the condition of the