

to this year when the disturbances have taken place. I want to make a point that the Centre perhaps want to establish a Police Raj in Gujarat by asking for Rs. 2.12 Crores in the Supplementary Demand for Police. The people of the State would have lived in amity and peace if the Government had formulated and implemented schemes which would enable the people to get their minimum needs at reasonable prices. It is reported in the Press that the Centre rushed 15000 tonnes of foodgrains to Gujarat after the fall of Chimanbhai Patel Ministry, though the demand was made by Shri Chimanbhai Patel when he was the Chief Minister. If the foodgrains had been sent to the State at the proper time, would the situation have worsened? The ruling party may find some satisfaction by blaming the Opposition Parties for this state of affairs. But I would say that the ruling party by this has shown only an escapist mentality. Now this situation has spread to Bihar and Orissa and it might spread to other States. I would appeal to the Central Government that adequate Steps must be taken to redress the genuine grievances of the people of the country before the entire country is enveloped in chaos and conflict.

My party, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, has immense faith in the forms of democracy and in the elected Government. The D.M.K. is committed unequivocally to foster democracy for posterity in our country. The D.M.K. is equally committed to the removal of genuine grievances of the people. In Gujarat, the people were infuriated because even in a year with bumper crop of groundnuts the price of groundnut oil did not come down; in fact the price was soaring. This was because of the mismanagement of the ruling Congress Party there. It does not behave of the ruling Congress Party to blame the Opposition Parties, though the blame squarely rests on the shoulders of the ruling party for all the mismanagement.

In the end, I would say that unless the ruling party formulates constructive and

meaningful schemes to redress the genuine grievances of the people, democracy in our country will continue to remain only on quicksand; democracy will not bloom in all its splendours till then.

17.10 hrs.

#### STATEMENT RE PRICE OF NAPHTHA

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Minister of State for Petroleum and Chemicals has sent a request for permission to make a statement on government decision with regard to the price of Naphtha. Normally these things are permitted at the end of one item and before taking up another. But he made the submission that the other Minister may have made a statement in the other House. So in order to achieve a certain measure of simultaneity, as a very special case, I shall depart from the procedure and allow him to make the statement before I call upon the next speaker.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) With effect from 2nd March 1974, the price of Naphtha used for industries other than fertilisers manufacture was raised from Rs. 446/- tonnes to Rs. 2,320/- tonne. This was necessitated for covering, in part, the burden arising out of the increase in the crude oil prices. In view of the far-reaching and very wide implications of the increase in Naphtha prices to the chemical industry, employment, production and exports, Government have reconsidered the matter very carefully and have decided that the price of Naphtha or use in industries other than fertilisers manufacture may be fixed at Rs. 1000/- tonne with effect from 26th March 1974.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : One clarification

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No. Clarification means a question. I have already