

possibilities to invest in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b). An official delegation from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia visited India in November 1991 to participate in the Third Session of Indo-Saudi joint commission at which a number of issues including possibilities of Saudi investment in India were discussed.

Supply of Associated Gas to Rajasthan

4861. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal from the Government of Rajasthan asking for allocation of some quantity of the associated gas from the proposed gas grid of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government so far in this regard; and

(c) the quantity of this gas likely to be allocated by the Union Government to Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

12.00 hrs

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday, an agreement was reached that those who did not speak yesterday would be given a chance

today. So, today I am thinking to give a chance to those sitting on the back benches. Shrimati Chandra Prabha Urs..

RE: FIRE IN NAGARHOLE RESERVE FOREST AND SANCTUARY IN KARNATAKA

[*Translation*]

*SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA (Mysore): The deliberate burning of forest area at Nagarhole recently is one of the most inhuman, monstrous and atrocious acts of the mankind perpetrated against nature. This matter has not been properly dealt with either by the Centre or the State Govt.

Sir, Nagarhole in Hunsur Taluk is a serene place with beautiful flora and fauna. This forest area now looks like a grave yard because of the cruel act of the Anti Social elements and thieves. With great anguish and deep pain, I am reporting this here.

Hunsur is may Taluk and Nagarhole is just 30 Kms from Hunsur Mysore. Distt I had the opportunity to see and enjoy the Seren beauty of Nagarhole.

One Mr. Ullas Karanth has killed several Tigers and Leopards in the name of research during the last few years. Enmity is growing day after day between the Girijans, tribes and forest Officials. often I have written to the State Govt. about the prevailing situation in this area. I requested the Hon'ble Minister and concerned officials to stop Mr. Ullas from the so called Research activities. But that remained only a cry in the wilderness.

It is an irony that those who have to protect forests are begging for their own lives.

The unfortunate incident of firing that took place on 13th and 14th of March has taken life of one person. After this incident

anti social elements sprinkled Kerosene on a large area of the forest and set fire to it. Travelers Bungalows and a large chunk of 640 sq. K.M. forest area has been burnt completely. Toga, Honne, Sandalwood and other valuable trees and precious wild life have been burnt. The total loss exceeds several crores of rupees and in fact it is not possible to explain the destruction of nature. It may take 50-60 years for the forest to get its original shape. The fire fighting force is not adequate in this area. These people also are not allowed to enter the forest area by the anti social elements. The fire has spread upto Brahmagiri and it is burning even now. Sir, in my opinion man is a more selfish and cruel animal. A tiger can kill a prey. An elephant may kill a man to protect its own life. But man with his limitless selfishness and greed destroys the entire forest and forest wealth.

I had made an earnest appeal to the Hon'ble Home Minister to send immediate message and to send adequate reserve police force. Now, I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of environment and forest to visit the spot immediately to find out and analyse the actual loss to the Nation's wealth and to set up judicial probe. Culprits must be severally punished. More number forest officials should be deputed to that area. Through you, Sir, I urge the center to provide more Financial assistance and all other help immediately to restore the Natural beauty and original glory of Nagarahole.

SHRI RAM, SARANYADAV (Khagaria):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very important matter.

MR. SPEAKER: I am calling one by one. You please sit down. I have told you that I will call you later on.

[English]

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore): Sir, an alarming situation has arisen in the Nagarahole Reserve Forest and Sanctuary situated in Coorg District and part of Mysore District of the State of

Karnataka. Some miscreants have set fire to the reserve forest and more than 5,000 hectares of the forest is already burnt. The fire is not extinguished and still it is raging for the last more than a week. The situation is alarming. So much of the forest is already destroyed and thousands of animals have lost their lives. It is said that the people of that area are not allowing even the fire brigade to enter the place to extinguish the fire. It is also said that all this has happened on account of a gun-shot fired by one forest officer. It seems a boy has lost his life. People have taken law into their own hands in that area and for the last eight days, the forest is on fire.

It is said that the Government of Karnataka have ordered a COD inquiry. But the first priority is to see that the fire is extinguished. For this purpose, first the fire brigade had to reach that place. My request is that the Central Reserve Police may be sent there and the fire brigade be allowed to go to that place and extinguish the fire.

I also request that a judicial inquiry will have to be instituted because the COD will not be in a position to conduct a fair inquiry. Immediate steps should be taken to extinguish the fire and to institute a judicial inquiry (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH (Arrah):
Mr. Speaker, Sir he wants to move a privilege motion. That should be taken up after Question Hour..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not helping him, you are working against him. You please sit down calmly. It will not help him. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM SARANYADAV (Khagaria):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a question of breach of privilege. I want to raise this question in this House against the Health Commissioner of Bihar, Dr. Ramanujam under rule 222 of the Rules of procedure and conduct of business in Lok Sabha. The facts related to the matter are as follows.

On 24.2.92 at about 5 P.M. I along with Shri Praduman Kumar, Shri Ajay Kumar and Shri Ram Swaroop Yadav went to the office of the Health Commissioner of Bihar to have some information regarding an important pending matter. When I enquired from him politely about the matter, he reacted rudely and disrespectfully saying that the M.P.s and the M.L.A.s went to the office anytime as if it was their parent's zamindari and he asked us to get out of his room immediately. From his behaviour it seemed that he was drunk. When I came out of his room, some of the employees told me that Dr. Ramanujam generally comes to the office drunk. I had informed you telegraphically about this incident on the very same day. Dr. Ramanujam's character and his insulting behaviour is compelling me to move a privilege motion.

Today, the officers do not give us respect. They think themselves to be reincarnation of God. An officer, from the day of joining service to the day of retirement gets Rs. 25-30 lakhs. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want tell you that the dogs of these people eat biscuits and take milk and sleep on the mattresses of silk while in Bihar even the human beings do not have enough to eat to their fill. Their dogs travel by cars and you might be knowing very well as to where their children or sons study. I do not want to go into details.

My submission is that these officers, during their service period spend crores of rupees on building their houses. It should be inquired into thoroughly as to how have they earned this much money. If necessary, they should be called before the House and charge should be framed against them. With these words, I request you once again that this matter should be handed over to the Privilege Committee for necessary action.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roseria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please do not reject it as this concerns the honour of the member. The hon. Member is himself saying that he had been ill treated. The officer has misbehaved with him in this way. Either you yourself think over the matter or you refer it to the Privilege Committee, this has been the practice in the House. My submission is that

on the basis of the facts put forth by the hon. Member you take some decision, call for the facts and examine them

MR. SPEAKER: I have called for facts of the case. I am receiving many similar application I will request the hon. Members that they should also go through these and enlighten me whether these come under privileges or not.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL DUTT (Bombay North West): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to bring to the notice of the august House and to our Government the hardship and difficulties which our Indian students studying in the erstwhile USSR universities are facing. They are mostly the students of medicine and engineering. Because of the disturbgration of the Soviet Union are now studying in the universities of different republics. Their parents are worried because as there is no way to contact them and feel that the future of their children is not secure there. From the State of Jammu and Kashmir alone there are about 250 to 300 students, studying in different universities of the Soviet republics from the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

These students are facing difficulties because of the devaluation of Ruble. The Air fare which was used to be 600 Ruble from Moscow to Delhi has now gone up to 1,04,000 Rubles. It is very difficult for the students to come to India and then go back for their studies. In certain republics they are being asked to pay 300 dollars per months as tuition fee. Under the Indo-Soviet treaty certain concessions were given to the students. The parents find it difficult to pay 300 dollars as the tuition fee. The Indian embassy in Moscow has stopped paying the annual education allowance of 150 dollars which every student used to get earlier. It is very difficult for the parents to support their children.

I, therefore, request that the Government should come to the rescue of these students. The Minister of Civil Aviation should provide those students with concessional

tickets so that they can at least travel freely. Secondly, our Indian embassy abroad should render them all the help they need. May be through the diplomatic bag they may be allowed to communicate and write letters to their parents.

Lastly, Sir, I request this august House to take note of the plight of the Indian students in Soviet Russia and the Government must render all help to the students which at the moment they are deprived of.

Thank you, Sir.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Boipur): Sir, I have also written to the hon. Prime Minister on this subject and also to the Health Minister because there are many girl students who are facing the gravest of the problems. We are receiving representations from them. They inform us that their parents are greatly distressed. One can appreciate this as their daughters are facing such problems. Government must react to it. At least some step should be taken and they should be informed of it. They say that they are not even told as to what the Government is thinking on this matter. The Minister of External Affairs is sitting here. I request that the Government should seriously take up the matter. It is not the fault of the students at all. Students are not at fault, nor their parents are at fault. Therefore, the government should respond very favourably in this case.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Krishanganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given you in writing on this subject.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Fortunately today the Foreign Minister is in the House, he must be noting it.

SHRI BJHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): He is the Indian Minister and not the Foreign Minister, He is our External Affairs Minister.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): With your permission I would like to raise an important matter relating to my constituency. There has been a severe crisis of petrol in my constituency for one month. Indore was to get 15 rakes last month but it got only 7. This month it has got only 3. In the coming days in Ujjain, near Indore Singhasth. Kumbh is going to be held and people from all over the country will come in lakhs to take part in it. If the crisis goes on like this, anything can happen there. Therefore, I request you here that some attention should be paid to the crisis of petrol there.

[English]

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN (Mukundapuram): Mr. Speaker, Sir, usually our Railway Department has given a facility to our passengers for reserving their tickets, if they wish to do so well in advance, that is even beyond sixty days. According to the existing rules, beyond that limit, it is practically impossible for anybody to reserve the seats.

But, Sir I am getting complaints from so many Malayalees that they are unable to reserve their seats even if they are first in the queue on the very first day when the reservation starts for beyond sixty days. The reservation starts exactly at 7. 45 a.m. in all the five Computer Reservation Centres at Delhi. There are above four hundred Second Class Reservation berths in Kerala Express daily beyond all other quotas. But, Sir, I do not know by what miracle, in all the Centres, even the first man in the queue is getting RAC tickets or his name is wait-listed. Normally, to complete the formalities for purchasing one ticket may take at least to minutes. Then, how Sir, is it possible to sell nearly five hundred tickets in a few minutes? Even the people who are standing in the queue in all the Computer Centres are all Malayalees even then, it is impossible to believe that within a few minutes, all the tickets are sold. People come from distant places at 5. 30 a. m. for reserving their seats and they return with disappointment that

they are unable to reserve their seats, not even one, on the 61st day.

Sir, I urge upon the Government to find out the lobby behind these mal-practices I suspect this and punish those found guilty in order to save the ordinary passengers of Kerala for whom Kerala Express is the only train for taking them to their destination.

Thank you.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha); Sir, a Very serious racket is working in Delhi. Around Delhi, there are five Computer Reservation Centres. We have brought this to the notice of the Railway Minister.

Sir, you give direction to the government to act on this. Summer vacation is in vogue (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH (Adoor): Sir, it is a serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed because the lady Member wanted it. You cannot discuss reservation matters in Parliament. Please take your seat. It is not correct. You meet the Minister. Please do not go beyond a limit. You go and meet the Railway Minister.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHUBANSESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazaribagh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Government knows that an agitation is being launched in many districts of Bihar by the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha. Due to the impact of this agitation Bihar is facing disorder and economic blockade is being imposed since 22nd March due to which the transportation of all minerals like coal has been stopped. We drew the attention of the Government to this on the 16th March, 1992 that the leaders of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and the leaders of every party should call people and ponder over the demand for a separate Jharkhand State because almost all the parties support the formation of the Jharkhand State in one way or the other.

Due to the blockade by the Morcha, public life is continuing to be disturbed and the problem is assuming alarming proportions. Jharkhand Mukti Morcha leader Shri Suraj Mandal has given a warning that if the government did not listen to them and did not allow formation of separate Jharkhand State, then another Punjab and Kashmir like situation will emerge there. That is why I would like to tell the Central Government to combine Chhota Nagpur and Santhal paragna and form a separate State. This is a question of their right. We demand that the leaders of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and the leaders of all other parties should be called and the Central Government should find out a solution through negotiations and announce the formation of separate Jharkhand by combining Chhota Nagpur and Santhal Pargana.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I would like to say one thing on the question just raised about Jharkhand. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You ask the question as also raise the matter under rule 377. Allow some other Member to speak. They come to me in my chamber and complain..

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The agitation going on for the formation of the Jharkhand State by combining Chhota Nagpur and Santhal Pargana of Bihar and some districts of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Bengal and the consequent 13 day programme of economic blockade has adversely affected the production of coal. Violence and many kind of untoward incidents are taking place there. The Bihar Government is losing royalty worth more than one and a half crore every day. The law and order situation is also deteriorating. If the situation continued, the Jharkhand region may assume the form of another Punjab and Kashmir. The Central Government has constituted a committee on Jharkhand matters earlier but the report of that committee was neither implemented nor was there any further talk on it.

A few days back the Home Minister had called a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the concerned States and two Chief Ministers had come and two had not come. That

problem has not been solved. After that they have adopted this method which is assuming alarming proportions. Through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the happenings in Bihar and the Bihar Government had announced the constitution of the Jharkhand Council but despite that this is going on.

Since the matter relates to the Centre as it concerns the formation of a new State the issue should be settled as early as possible. You may recall that the leaders of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha have threatened to take up A.K. 47. This should not be taken lightly. Such trends are emerging there. The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha people are in politics through elections but another group has emerged there which absolutely believes in violence. In such a situation, keeping in view the unity and integrity of the nations as well as keeping in view the security of the country and in order to improve the situation, we demand that this question should be taken seriously and a meeting of the Chief Ministers of all the States should be immediately called as also a meeting of the agitating people should also be called so that a solution to the problem can be found out.

SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI (Robertsganj). The Nav Bharat Times of 23rd March reports how the Harijan pasis and Chamars have been fired at by the high caste people and many people have sustained bullet injury. I would like to draw your attention to the people being victimised by the high caste people in Lahuria village under Thana Mill Area of Raibareilly district of Uttar Pradesh. This incident happened on the 20th of December. After that on the 6th of March the high caste people beat with lathis Sarvashree chhote Pasi, Babu pasl, Sheetala Chamer, Prem Lal Chamar and Ramkumar and Mani Lal of their family as they refused to do forced labour. The Government land allotted to Pasis and Chamars on lease is being used by high caste people as they have installed a pumping set there and force them to do unremunerative work. The F.I. R. which has been lodged was incorrect. The low caste people were fired at and people have been injured. The BJP government in Uttar Pradesh

commits such atrocities on Harijans, then it will have serious consequences. What has taken place in Bara in Bihar can occur in Raibareilly in Uttar Pradesh. (Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, their families and their children are starving. It should be ensured that atrocities are not committed on these Pasis and Chamars in future. Those who are responsible for this incident should be arrested. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: One after the other, not at the same time.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Katikeshwarji, your hand is up every day, today I will allow you.

[English]

I will allow you, Shri Singh Deo

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not want to pass the Budget, I can allow every body. That is your outlook.

12.27 hrs.

RE. BFORS ISSUE

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am rising yet again to make a reference to what I hold is the largest, possibly the most momentous and certainly the most consequential arms scandal that this country has witnessed since independence.

There is, I hope that there is a consequential factor of this scandal and I have had occasion to say it earlier and I respect it with respect to all those that disagreed with me in