

MR. CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I am bound by what the hon. Speaker has given to me.

[*Translation*]

Those who have given their names, their list is with me here.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: He had promised. We have also given notice on the issue of terrorism in Terai region.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You would talk to him in this regard.

[*English*]

Kindly, do not shout at me. You discuss that thing with him. I am bound by what the Speaker has given to me and I will call out the names according to that. I would also request you to kindly keep the order and listen to whichever Member is speaking.

Shri Chennithala was on his legs.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: In November 1986, the price of one Kg of pepper was Rs. 61.75. One-and-a-half per cent of cess was recommended, and 3 1/2 per cent of cess, 1/2 per cent of agricultural cess and 5 per cent of duty was introduced. The cess and duty on Coffee amounting to Rs. 500 crores were withdrawn. But the cess and duty on pepper, which amount to only Rs. 18 crores, were not withdrawn. Instead, the Sales Tax and Purchase Tax was levied on 1 per cent of the agricultural produce and export development cess was also levied in addition to the 4 per cent cess on raw pepper.

In 1987, there was an international conference on pepper. It recommended that the export price of pepper should be Rs. 48. But it was not agreed to. So, my humble request to the Government is to include agriculturists in the Spices Board. The pepper must be taken up by the Government directly so that the farmers can get a reason-

able price. All the cess and duties should be withdrawn.

I would like to urge upon the Government to take urgent measures to redress the grievances of the pepper growers in our country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shrimati Vasundhara Raje. Kindly make it brief.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE (Jhalawar): Sir, it is a very important subject. I want to highlight through you, the story of Vineet Oberoi which was reported in the *Indian Express* two days ago. This is a story which is known to a lot of people. Vineet and his brother Rohit are AIDS patients. They were not born with AIDS but contracted AIDS from a blood transfusion. they were bond Haemophilias. (*Interruptions*)

This is a very important subject. I do not want to be disturbed. It is a heart-rending story and everybody must listen. The father of these boys was handicapped in 1979 with polio. The mother, who is old, is caring for them. She is a teacher. She earns Rs. 1500 a month. the father draws Rs. 1400 as his pension. The money is not enough for them survive because AIDS is a very expensive disease. A monthly dose of medicine costs Dollars 475 the medicine should be made available free of cost but it is normally out of stock in the Government dispensaries. The Government and the World Health Organisation give economic assistance to social organisations who have been working on AIDS but nothing to the patients who are suffering from AIDS.

As everybody knows Haemophilia patients have to be given blood transfusion, and during one of those transfusions both these brothers contracted this AIDS infection. As they got it when they were very young, they were unable to study beyond the primary level and they were taught at home by their mother.

Sir, at this moment, they are in a very difficult situation because they cannot travel

by any other mode of transport but taxi. Because any jerky movement is harmful to Haemophilias. The Taxi Stand people near their house know about their disease and as a result, they do not allow them to sit in a taxi and even if an emergency situation arises due to of Haemophilia and they need to be rushed to the hospital, no taxi is available.

I want to point out that we in India are going about our business as usual and hoping that if we bury our heads in the sands, this terrible problem of AIDS will go away. It is not going to go away but it is going to turn into a hydra-headed monster which is going to be the Nemesis of our country. Like people all over the world, today, we must recognise this scourge and face the problem with determination and sympathy. Here, we have a totally ambivalent attitude. The truth is that AIDS is increasing in this country. That has come out in an article in the country. That has come out in an article in the *Observer*. It says:

"By the turn of the century, the number of persons carrying AIDS virus in India will be more than the total number of their counterparts in the rest of the world and in less than a decade, AIDS victims in India will go up from one million at present to ten million is according to a study by the World Health Organisation."

It also says and I quote: "At least 10 million people would die by 2001 AD due chiefly to absence of initiative in facing up to the AIDS menace."

It further says and I quote: "The Government ought to be active before this final phase comes."

Sir, in conclusion, I would like to say that it is vital that the patients be treated and rehabilitated with affection and allowed to die with dignity. Medicines should be made available at Government dispensaries and financial aid should be given to them. At the blood donation camps, blood should be checked and there should be compulsory

AIDS diagnostic test. People should be educated about this disease and should get to know that it is not a disease which is untouchable. It is not a disease which would be insulting. It is a disease which needs to be treated with sympathy like cancer or any other disease.

I request, through you, that in this House, an immediate discussion be taken up on this subject. There should also be another discussion on population control because of the latter, all gains-economic and otherwise-made by our country are wiped out. And until priority is given to these subjects, progress for us in the long run is absolutely impossible.

I request you to give a directive to the Government that this discussions should take place in this House immediately. Many people have told me that I should not up this subject of population and AID. A nice woman like you should not take this they said up. This has also happened in the Rajya Sabha.

I would like to point out to everybody in this House that unless this subject is treated immediately and looked at it immediately, I think. This country particularly will suffer.

[*Translation*]

DR. P.R.GANGWAR (Pilibhit): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the trained militants from Pakistan are frequently coming and going in Pilibhit and Nainital and Khiri districts of Uttar Pradesh. Nainital and Khiri districts are located at the Indo-Nepal border. These people kill Hindus, Sikhs and Police-men with a view to divide Hindus and Sikhs and this is all due to Pakistan which has increased its activities in these areas. If this Government wants to safeguard the country, it should seal the Indo-Nepal border. The security forces should be made alert to check the Pakishtani intruders. Sophisticated weapons, and which should be provided to the police. Police politics of votes should not be allowed to make the B.J.P. Government in Uttar Pradesh afarrne if it is done. The centre Government may cause serious threat to the security of