

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing you. Nothing will go no record.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have just returned from the area where crores of the jute producing farmers live. They are in hard trouble. Last year, cost of jute was Rs. 800-900 per quintal. Today, when the cost of the fertilizers and other things have gone up, and there is 40 percent inflation according to the Government, figures, jute is being sold for Rs. 200-250 per quintal. Though I have not exact figures of jute producers, yet in my opinion it must be in crores. Farmers of Purnia, Madhepura and Sahrasa are in hot water. There persons committed suicide. They have gone under heavy debt. The Government and J.C. I. which fixes rates of jute are not paying any attention towards it. Crores of the lives depend on it.

The sugarcane producers are also in the same condition. Farmers of Western Uttar Pradesh came to me yesterday. Though the rate is fixed for Rs. 41 and Rs. 45 per quintal, yet it is being sold for just Rs. 30 per quintal and people are burning their sugarcane in the fields. It means the rates of these two cash crops are very less. Specially sugarcane producers in Uttar Pradesh and jute producers in the whole country are passing an era of disaster. The Government should take action immediately. There is a great hue and cry in this regard, people are committing suicide. I, therefore, urge upon you to direct the Government to do something in this regard because it is a very serious matter.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, we have given Calling Attention notice on this subject. In the last Session also the Agriculture Minister had said that we are going to finalise

the support price. Till today the Government has not yet fixed the support price and the farmers are facing serious problems and the distress sale is being taken place. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Your party Member has highlighted it. You should be satisfied with it.

(Interruptions).

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, last year the price was Rs. 800/- and this year, the price is only Rs. 200/-. People are committing suicide. We brought this matter before the Agriculture Minister, but he has not taken any action in this regard. (Interruptions). J.C.I. is not purchasing jute. Since these three States are jute growing States, that is why they are not getting the attention of the Government of India in spite of our repeated request. I hope the Agriculture Minister will take immediate action in this regard for the benefit of the farmers. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: I am allowing Shri Jaswant Singh. I will allow you later on.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on Friday, the 13th December, while replying to debate on law and order, terrorism, secessionism etc., the hon. Home Minister stated amongst various other things...

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaswant Singhji, before your proceed, I must make it clear to you that the hon. Home Minister has written to me saying that he wants to make some corrections.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I appreciate that the Home Minister is coming forward with a clarification. But the fact is that he is coming forward with a clarification is in itself an issue that I wish to raise because the implications are far more than merely a clari-

fication by the hon. Home Minister. The Home Minister stated, if the quote be correct:-

"Fortunately this morning I got the news that they have freed all the hostages. There were six people who had been held as hostages. Unilaterally they have freed all these six people".

Now, whether there are six or twenty four, as I have been informed by my senior colleague, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji, it is a different question altogether. He further stated:

"They have also conveyed to the Government that they are unilaterally prepared to the ceasefire. This is the promise which has been given by the top leadership of the ULFA".

Now, there are some very serious implications of this statement of the Home Minister because he had earlier in the context of the assassination of the late Prime Minister averred that in that Prime Minister's assassination, the CIA had a hand. Now, the implications of the Home Minister's statement - I am not suggesting that he has been deliberately misleading....

**THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN):** I have not said 'CIA', I have said 'foreign powers'. Why are you trying to put words into my mouth?

**SHRI JASWANT SINGH:** I am not trying to put anything into the Union Home Minister's mouth. He does it himself.

**MR. SPEAKER:** He is objecting to your statement that he said that 'CIA' is involved.

**SHRI JASWANT SINGH:** But, he said, 'foreign powers'. I retract 'CIA' and replace it with 'foreign powers'. Certainly so far as putting something into the Home Minister's

mouth is concerned, I do not do it. He puts it himself. I am not suggesting that the Home Minister has been deliberately misleading. Of course, I am seriously alarmed at the implications of all this. In the first instance, there is this obvious incompetence of unacceptable proportion somewhere with very damaging consequences. I am not suggesting where that incompetence is. But, obviously there is some incompetence of totally unacceptable proportion. If this was a misstatement and as the Home Minister has said that he was misadvised, if this was a misstatement on a misadvice, then who misadvised? It raises three further questions, if there was any misadvice.

**MR. SPEAKER:** You do not know what his statement is going to be?

**SHRI JASWANT SINGH:** No, Sir. Yet these are all questions that do arise. Will he answer to in his statement because if there was no misadvice, then on what basis, did the Home Minister makes such a categorical statement? I request you then to please examine some of the possible consequences. No one has been released, not a single soul. The release of the detenus is, therefore, now placed in jeopardy. Their lives have been further endangered. Suddenly the expectations of their families were raised. They are being released, the Union Home Minister has said so in Parliament. Consider the agony of those families. I submit that the efficacy of the army's action today in the State of Assam is also compromised by this.

I will also submit that the efficacy and the effectiveness of the law and order machinery in Assam is blunted by the Union Home Minister's statement. I further submit that the statement that has been made in the Parliament was subsequently retracted by implication in Press. It was not retracted here, it was retracted by implication in Press. Suggestions were given to the Press that there has been some kind of misreporting.

So, this has retarded the process of normalisation in Assam and that process of normalisation has received a set back. That is why I submit that a simple correction of the statement is not sufficient. An apology not to Parliament would be an empty-gesture. An inquiry now as to who misadvised the Union Home Minister or who did not misadvise is not a corrective. Let the Government itself reflect very deeply on the competence with which the Union Home Ministry is conducting its affairs when on such an important issue as Assam, it is said: the release has been made of ULFA detenus. This is what the Union Home Minister stated in the Parliament. Had the weekend not intervened, this kind of hiatus, gap would not have taken place for us to raise this issue. So, a simple corrective will not do. The Government has to come forward with a much more comprehensive explanation.

MR. SPEAKER: It seems that there are many a hand raised. So, before anything happened, I would rather ask the Minister to make his statement so that there is no further discussion....

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): I Will raise a very important issue, Sir. Let him reply to both of us. This is regarding the incident that has taken place in Palghat in Kerala connected with this *Ekta Yatra*... *(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: No, that is a different issue.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : No, Sir, a young girl has been killed, belonging to the minority community. And this is connected with the *Ekta Yatra* that is taking place. The communal tension is building up. Already violent incidents are taking place. A young girl in Kerala has been killed because of the communal incident that has taken

place. And all this is connected with the *Ekta Yatra*. The saner sections of the people have made an appeal to stop it because it is bound to arouse communal tension as it did in the case of the other *Rath Yatra*. Therefore, I want the Home Minister to tell the House as to what is the position with regard to that and to make a statement because if it is allowed to accelerate or to enlarge the area, then serious consequences will take place. The Home Minister must take serious note of this matter and given full protection to the minority communities and should make a statement immediately.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Panigrahi.....

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: One after the other. I am allowing Mr. Panigrahi...

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Not like this. Allow me to conduct the House in my own fashion. I have called Mr. Panigrahi....

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): I seek your indulgence, Sir....

*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: Not always indulgence. I cannot conduct the House with indulgence, I have to conduct the House within the rules, I will allow you later on but not now. You cannot force me like this all the time.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise a matter of most immediate public importance. There is a serious situation arising in my constituency over the reported decision of the Orissa Government to sell a thermal plant which is