

The Hindu Editor

HWS
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DRMSW

ROLE OF INDIA IN A TROUBLED NEIGHBOURHOOD

Need for timely action

Sir. — There is disturbing news from Afghanistan, which has come under the control of the Taliban, the fundamentalist agent of Pakistan. The patronised drug production and trafficking of the Taliban is bound to affect India in a big way. The driving away of Indian settlers from Afghanistan is another strong indication of what is in store for us.

In the long-term interest of the country, India should quickly act to support and help the neutral forces of Afghanistan to take over and rule the country with stability and peace. If we fail to do this we would have to pay heavily for the blunder.

Likewise, this is also the time for some surgical measures in Jammu and Kashmir. Having restored the popular Government, India should go all out to totally eliminate the terrorist elements, which are at present lying low.

In Sri Lanka, the LTTE leader, Prabhakaran and his leftover Tigers have been cornered to a small forest area, and very soon they have to either perish or escape. Having known the psyche of Prabhakaran all these years, it is likely that he and his clan may escape into Tamil Nadu, where the ground is still fertile and supportive to them. Prabhakaran may find it easier and safer to operate and enlarge from there. To prevent such a thing from happening, we should have strategic presence of our armed and Naval forces in the Southern corridors and keep an eye on the movement and plans of the LTTE.

Further, no refugee should be allowed into the Indian shores, but made to settle only in a nearby island of ours specially prepared for this cause

ed. Ev ody knows that the law and order situation, both under the SP rule and under the BSP was not up to the mark.

— P. G. Harikumar, Kaiga, (Karnataka)

'Breaking the deadlock'

Sir. — This refers to your Editorial, "Breaking the deadlock" (Oct. 15) and the re-imposition of President's rule in U.P. Along with the general elections in April and May 1996, the U.P. Assembly poll also should have been held. Purposely, they were deferred. As soon as Mr. Romesh Bhandari became the U.P. Governor, he indulged in mass-scale transfers of officials to engineer this kind of a fractured electoral verdict. Unfortunately none of the papers thought it fit to comment on Mr. Bhandari's postings and his official actions. On the other hand, Mr. Kanshi Ram's stand for making Ms. Mayawati the Chief Minister is being faulted. Also when the Leftists, both the CPI and the CPI(M), are irrelevant in U.P. politics, they are dictating terms to others, demanding a declaration from Mr. Kanshi Ram that he will not have any contact with the Leftists. In U.P. these Leftists have to beg Mr. Mulayam Singh for a few seats. So their overbearing attitude deserves all condemnation. Mr. Kanshi Ram deserves appreciation for his stand in showing the Leftists their proper place.

K. Ramani, Chennai

after making sure that they have no links with the LTTE. If proper preventive measures are not taken in time, we may be trying to capture the lion by its tail.

One does not expect India to act like Israel in these situations, but at least it should act like India itself, the way it responded to the crisis in the erstwhile East Pakistan when the situation demanded it in the past.

Do our leaders, concerned with their own safety and security, have time to spare to think about such major events happening around us, which concern our nation's security?

N. Harihara Subramanyam, Chennai

Inflation control

Sir. — It is unfortunate that Mr. Madhu Dandavate, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, has cautioned the Government against its zeal to control inflation lest such control should affect industrial growth (*The Hindu*, Oct 12). This could lull the Government into neglecting inflation control. Inflation hurts most those people who are the least able to bear the increase in the cost of living, particularly the fixed income groups, which are neither protected by a D.A. mechanism nor blessed by a "transfer" mechanism by which they could transfer their increased cost burden to others. The impact of inflation on such people is far more than what is indicated by the official index of prices. A six per cent increase in the index of prices would have at least a 12 per cent impact on the real cost of living for most people. Let the authorities control Government expenditure and reduce the budgetary deficits, maintain the infrastructure

Hindu file