

[Shri Mohammed Imam]

arises or at an appropriate time. That appropriate time may come or it may not come. On the other hand, the Committee ought to have been appointed by this time, soon after these incidents and it should have been functioning by this time. There has been delay. So in the interest of the country, in the interest of the unity of the country, in the interest of the minorities I am of opinion and I agree with all my hon. friends that the high power committee should be appointed immediately which will go into all the questions that I have mentioned including the responsibility of the State Government and of the Central Government.

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): Mr. Chairman, I hesitated long before I decided to speak in the debate today. I hesitated, for membership of Government gives certain advantages but also imposes responsibilities and limits greatly one's freedom of speech and action. I finally decided to speak, not as a member of the Government but in my personal capacity, for I am from Bengal and I have loved the land and people and the language and literature from my first conscious days.

I have also known Assam for almost 40 years. I went, while yet a student in a school, as a volunteer to Kamarup in 1922 and since the days of my first acquaintance I have loved its beautiful landscape and warm-hearted....

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): May I raise a point of order? Is the hon. Minister speaking as a Minister or as an hon. Member of the House?

Shri Humayun Kabir: I have said so. I am speaking in my personal capacity.

Shri Raghunath Singh: He is speaking in his personal capacity.

Mr. Chairman: I must say that the hon. Minister cannot speak in his personal capacity. He is an hon. Minister and he is speaking as such.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Because if he is speaking in his personal capacity, he cannot participate in the debate in this House.

Shri Humayun Kabir: I am not speaking in my personal capacity. I accept the Chair's ruling.

Shri Ranga: He can speak in both capacities.

Mr. Chairman: I have said that he is an hon. Minister and he has a right to speak.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not understand why an hon. Minister cannot speak in his personal capacity. That does not mean that he gives up or ceases to be a Minister. It is a very common occurrence for a Minister, while speaking as a Minister, even then to say, "These are my personal views".

Shri Raghunath Singh: It is not the Government's view that he is stating.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): Is he a Member of this House?

Mr. Chairman: I am sorry to have to disagree with the Prime Minister. The hon. Member is not a Member of this House. He is a Member of the Rajya Sabha. He can speak here only in his capacity as a Minister and in no other capacity.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That fact had escaped me that he is a Member of the Rajya Sabha.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Minister may please continue his speech.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: As a Minister.

Shri Humayun Kabir: When the Prime Minister speaks, the official views of the Government can be