

your attention to this matter, would like that action should be taken against such Government officers and electricity should be supplied to entire Uttar Pradesh specially Taj Trapazium Area so as to avoid danger to Tajmahal besides controlling the environment.

11.14 hrs.

RE : INCIDENTS OF ETHNIC
VIOLENCE IN ASSAM

[English]

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE (Jorhat) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I wish to raise a matter of great public importance. It is ethnic clashes between Bodos and Santhals in Assam.

Sir, never in the history of Assam ethnic clashes or ethnic vilolence of such huge scale has ever happened...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please, it is a very serious matter.

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE : Sir, the fact that two lakhs to three lakhs of people have been sheltered in camps indicates the magnitude of the disaster in about 275 villages covering an area of 1600 square kilometers.

Sir, the reported involvement of the armed militant outfits intensifies the gravity of the situation. Most of the dead, which has now risen to about 200, are reportedly Santhals. Sir, Armed Forces and an All Party delegation which visited this area suspected that it was a pre-planned action.

Sir, I do welcome the decision of the Government of Assam to institute a judicial inquiry into these causes. But what surprises me, Sir, is the pathetic little action on the part of the Central Government at the outset of the trouble. We were expecting that the hon. Home Minister would visit Assam; we were expecting that the Home Secretary would visit Assam. Well people in hundreds die let people in lakhs suffer the miseries of living in camps. Why should that perturb Delhi?... (Interruptions) Sir, I do not want to be interrupted like this because I am raising a very important matter. ...(Interruptions) in order that a wrong signal may not go to the people of Assam, I suggest that a Parliamentary team visitars this area. And I further request that this team will also make assessment of the post-election scenario in Assam because violence has rocked many other places too. Killing of election candidates, killing of political workers, killing of Government officials and killing of journalists — all tell the distressing truth that things in Assam at the moment are in awfully bad shape.

Sir, Parliament is rightly seized of what is now happening in Assam and cannot afford to remain a dump spectator.

[Translation]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Assam is burning today. Only yesterday, Shri Nirmal Chand Jain was shot dead in broad day light in Fancy Market, Guwahati for not giving Rs. one lakh...(Interruptions) Terrorism in Assam is increasing on large scale. Sir, firstly ULFA was banned and they were pressurised to surrender their arms and ammunitions and they were engaged again by providing money but they again turned to militancy and started Committing atrocities as SULFA. Now, in Guwahati Specially in Fancy Market and at other places outsiders specially Rajasthanis are terrorised and crores of rupees are being realised from them at the gun point. I would like hon. Home Minister to give a statement in this regard and safeguard Rajasthanis there.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now the Home Minister will reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G. GILBERT SWELL (Shillong) : Have you visited that place? Why did you not find time immediately to visit Assam to find out what is going on there?... (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow me to speak regarding Assam before the Home Minister starts speaking. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No. I cannot allow you to speak now. If I allow you then I will have to allow others also.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : Sir, this problem of ethnic clashes in Assam has received the best of our attention. As soon as we came to know about it, the Ministry and myself both contacted the officers in Assam as well as the Chief Minister of Assam. The hon. Member should know... (Interruptions) I will tell you. Please listen to me. Please bear with me ...(Interruptions) Now the law and order ...(Interruptions) Hon. Members, please wait.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Howrah) : When the Prime Minister could go to the Golden Temple and Harmindir Sahib, why could he not go to Assam? That is the question...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Home Minister is responding to a very serious situation that is obtaining in Assam. I think we must have the patience to hear the Home Minister.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, it is this type of behaviour which is responsible for many problems even in Assam. Sir, This irresponsibility ...*(Interruptions)* Listen. Just listen...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already said. Please listen to me. Do not waste your time. I have said, it is a very serious matter. I would expect the Home Minister to reply it with seriousness and with responsibility. Do not make such comments.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I have never meant any disrespect to you or to the House but what I was referring to, was to the behaviour in Assam and not here...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Now, Sir, as the august House knows, the responsibility to maintain law and order squarely lies on the State Government. ...*(Interruptions)* Yes, it lies ...*(Interruptions)* Please bear with me. As soon as we came to know about this incident, we got in touch with the State Ministry as well as the Chief Minister and we discussed what help they needed and we immediately started sending them the para military forces. Today, there are 103 companies of Central para military forces operating in Assam ...*(Interruptions)* Just wait

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (Mangaldoi) : The Home Minister is misleading the House. The Centre has not sent any force to Assam, although there was a request from the State Government. Ultimately, our Chief Minister requested the Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav to send forces from Bihar. He accepted our request and sent 15 companies of forces from Bihar Rifles ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. GILBERT SWELL : *(Interruptions)* Have you identified those bodies? To which community those bodies belong?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, I think you have made your point.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Every point will be responded and I will share with the House whatever has been done by the Central Government ...*(Interruptions)*

Please bear with me. Most of the paramilitary forces, which were deployed in Kashmir because of the General Elections there, could not be sent back to Assam and Assam has already been declared as a disturbed area.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : That is not sufficient.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : There are sufficient number of Armed Forces. The Ministry has instructed the Armed forces; the State Government has to coordinate with the Armed Forces. The District Magistrates have to coordinate with the Armed Forces and as and when they appealed or requested the Armed Forces they came to the rescue of the District Administration, they began flag marches and whatever help possible was rendered. That is why the entire ethnic violence could be controlled in two or three days...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Two-and-a-half lakh people are on the road.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Just bear with me.

It is the responsibility of the State Government. This responsibility lies on the State Government. Law and order is their responsibility. We can only assist them...*(Interruptions)*

I had offered, Mr. Speaker, to visit Assam. The Assam Chief Minister said that because of the *bandh* I should not visit Assam.

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUÉ : When was that?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : The Chief Minister had clearly said and I cannot go like that. We had sent five officials of the Home Ministry and the Defence Ministry to go and coordinate. The situation came under control with the help of the paramilitary forces sent by us. I was in constant touch with the State Government and we are helping them. We have not received any complaint from the State Government. The State Government has not made any complaints at all. All their demands have been met.

Mr. Speaker, let us go to the origin of the ethnic violence. As soon as the election results came out in Assam in a particular constituency in Kokrajhar district there were two or three bodies — three bodies — which were possibly...*(Interruptions)* Just let me say, three bodies of women were found ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : When your Home Minister is replying why do you disturb him? You should support him.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Three bodies of women were found in the Police Station area of Kokrajhar district. The Police tried to identify those bodies. The police patrol parties went around two-three kilometres of the place of incident but nobody came forward to identify those ladies ...*(Interruptions)*. Nobody could tell to which village these bodies belonged or to which community or caste these bodies belonged. There was a complete ...*(Interruptions)*. Please listen to me... *(Interruptions)*. No identification could be made but in the meantime ...*(Interruptions)*.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : For your information, may I say something?

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARTI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, she is keeping on shouting. Please ask her to leave the House...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Why are they making a din?

MR. SPEAKER : What are you doing, Rawat ji? You are a senior member...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please Uma Ji, when the Speaker is on his legs, you are not supposed to stand up. Please understand that.

Look here, we are yet to come to the agenda of the House today and it is a very important agenda that the House is going to take up. Let us have time. Today's motion is such that even these matters can be brought in when the motion is discussed. You will have more chances to discuss about these matters. I have been a Minister and I know that after the Zero Hour it is very difficult for a Minister to quickly stand up and answer. I must be grateful to the Home Minister that he had responded to you. Please be brief and conclude it.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Now, Sir, after these bodies were not identified, they were handed over for burial. But, in the meantime, because of the election results, in which one party, that is, the AGP won against the expectations, and the other party, that is, the Congress Party lost, there was some political tension also...(Interruptions). There were wild rumours that some Santhals had killed the Bodo ladies, and the ethnic violence erupted. The Bodos came out with very strong arms...(Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS (Sitapur) : Mr. Home Minister, please tell us whether two people or 80 people have been killed there?

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silcha) : Sir, he is the Home Minister of the country...(Interruptions) I fully appreciate his difficulty. But the point is that there is an independent Inquiry Commission. He should not give judgement from his side. We are mainly concerned about deputing paramilitary forces. The Prime Minister, when he addressed the nation, himself expressed his worry about the North-East...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI (Chhapra) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, how can we expect the new members to behave when the old Members are resorting to breach of order.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Keeping that in view, our appeal to the Home Minister is to send sufficient number of paramilitary forces so that the situation can come back to normalcy. Kindly do not pass any remarks about this, which may affect the formal inquiry.

MR. SPEAKER : That is enough. Yes, Mr. Home Minister.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, I am not taking any side, I am just giving you the brief facts about this violence. The causes of the violence and the responsibility will be fixed by the judicial inquiry. There is no difference about it. I am just giving you the sequence of events that had happened there. Thereafter, it was the duty of the Government of Assam to see that the causes of this violence and checked up and they go to the people and explain to them that this sort of violence is not good. The ethnic violence in Assam is a very tragic one and we are all concerned about it. We have sent almost all para-military forces which we could physically send. But I tell you that we cannot deploy the forces from other parts of the country and particularly from Kashmir.

As far as the help which they have demanded from us is concerned, we have given them and therefore there is no reason to doubt about it. As far as my visit is concerned, as I said, I was in constant touch with them. I had asked the Chief Minister and I had planned my visit. But it was he who said: "Please do not come".

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we take up Matters under Rule 377. Shri Rasa Singh Rawat.

11.36 hrs.

• MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

(1) Need for an aerodrome at Ajmer

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am raising this matter under Rule 377.

Ajmer is a prominent city of Rajasthan from historical, cultural, social, religious and educational points of view. Due to its distinctiveness, Ajmer has maintained its own identity not only in Rajasthan but also throughout India, and the world over. It is the