

**Title:** Urged upon the Government to issue a statement on the brutal killing of BSF personnel by the Bangla Desh Rifles (BDR) men at Boraiberi village and other developments on the Indo-Bangladesh border affecting the security aspect in the border areas.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): Sir, the situation is volatile and grave in Kashmir Valley. It deserves the highest attention of this country. On the same analogy, we cannot remain self-content with the recent developments along the Indo-Bangladesh border. As you know, India shares a long and porous border with Bangladesh as per the Radcliffe dispensation. It has become a safe conduit for arms smuggling, drug trafficking and a safe route for infiltration of militant elements.

Given the geo-static and geo-political perspective of the border, we have to be very sincere and serious about the recent happenings along the border. The Pakistani elements in Bangladesh's Army are rearing their ugly faces threatening to long standing Indo-Bangladesh friendship. On 15<sup>th</sup> April, the hostile posture of the Bangladesh's Army was demonstrated at village Pyrdiah in Meghalaya. The BDR men outnumbered the Indian BSF personnel and asked them to evacuate that village. In a quick succession, on 18<sup>th</sup> April, the BDR personnel overpowered our BSF personnel in Boraibori village and sixteen BSF personnel were captured and brutally butchered in a deliberate and cold blooded way. It is astonishing to note that this Government only paid lip service to these happenings. The Chief of BDR, Mr. Faztur Rehman, dared to say in Dhaka that, "We have completed mission of restoring territory and sovereignty and did not have to fire a single shot in achieving it.

I would request the nationalist elements in the treasury benches to share my concern because those sixteen BSF personnel are our brothers and friends. They have lost their lives in order to protect the borders of India. But this Government has not even come out with a statement. Therefore, I would urge upon the Minister concerned to issue a statement because the situation is becoming more grave. We cannot let the 4,000 kilometres of border between India and Bangladesh unprotected. It went unnoticed by you. If these perpetrators again indulge in this kind of activities, then such incidents will take place again. This is a serious matter. Nationalist elements in treasury benches must take note of it. I urge upon the Government to issue a statement because it concerns our security and it also concerns the Army and BSF personnel. If we are not sincere to them, then it would affect their morale.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA): Sir, I fully share the concern expressed by our hon. colleague on the problem of Indo-Bangladesh border. I fully support whatever he has stated. I would like to add a point to what he has stated. To protect such a long border, we need 34 battalions of BSF. But only 21 battalions of BSF personnel are doing the job now. Due to that a large part of the border remain unprotected. As the hon. Member has stated, it is being used by smugglers, terrorists etc.

So, if we want to effectively protect that, we need 34 battalions of BSF in the entire border area. So, at least 14 more battalions of BSF should be sanctioned. I would request the Government that it should give adequate number of Border Security Force personnel to protect the border properly....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have received notices for 'Zero Hour' from Shri Prabhunath Singh, Shri Arun Kumar and Shri Raghunath Jha, Members of Parliament, regarding the assault on Shrimati Renu Kumari on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2001 in Khagaria of Bihar. I am calling for a factual report from the Ministry of Home Affairs in the matter.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have received a notice of question of privilege from Shri Prahlad Singh Patel. I have called for a factual note in the matter from the Ministry of Home Affairs. I will take a decision in the matter after considering the facts furnished by the Home Ministry.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Sir, let us know the contents of the notice. Otherwise, we do not know what

is your announcement.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have already read it out. It is about the assault on an hon. Member Shrimati Renu Kumari.