

PROF. MADHUR DANDAVATE : We have sacrificed lives and are also paying money.

MR SPEAKER : How can we say whether money has been paid or not ?

[English]

That is something else which has to be found out.

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12.03 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. INCIDENTS AT
AIZAWL ON 29TH AND 30TH
MARCH, 1988

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram was affected on the 29th and 30th March by two unfortunate incidents involving the personnel of 22nd Battalion of Assam Rifles and local civilians resulting in the loss of ten lives. These were sparked off by misbehaviour of an Assam Rifles jawan under influence of liquor with the Superintendent of Police, Aizawl. The situation is returning to normal. Reinforcements of para-military forces were provided to assist the State Government in restoring normalcy. A magisterial enquiry has been ordered into the incidents by the State Government. The Army authorities have also ordered a court of Inquiry. The concerned Assam Rifles jawan has been placed under arrest. I would like to inform the Honourable Members about the details of the incidents,

On the evening of March 29, 1988 around 7 p.m. Superintendent of Police, Aizawl who was proceeding in his vehicle found an Assam Rifles jawan misbehaving in a drunken state in front of Assam Rifles Battalion Headquarters located in Aizawl. There was an altercation between the bodyguard of the S.P. and the Assam Rifles jawan. Meanwhile more Assam Rifles jawans came from the nearby Battalion Headquarters and in the scuffle that ensued, the S.P. was manhandled as a result of which he was hospitalised. The S.P. bodyguard who was seriously

injured was also removed to the hospital where he later succumbed to the injuries. Local people rushed to the spot soon after the incident and surrounded the Assam camp area. The mob indulged in heavy stone throwing, damaged a portion of the compound wall and the Unit temple. The mob also tried to set fire to JCO's club and the temple. Reputedly, there were attempts at snatching weapons from the sentries and rushing in the camp area. At about 10 p.m. the Assam Rifles personnel opened fire. They again resorted to firing late at night. In the firing, 34 civilians injured, 13 of them seriously, 21 persons were discharged after first aid. Orders under Section 144 Cr. P.C. were clamped in the area thereafter. However, defying ban orders, a mob surrounded and tried to storm the camp area again on the morning of March 30, 1988. As a result thereof, the Assam Rifles personnel had to resort again to firing in which 3 persons were killed and 14 injured. The total number of persons who died in these incidents is now ten. These include 3 Mizoram Armed Police personnel. Two personnel of Assam Rifles have also received head injuries. Curfew was imposed by the State Government in Central Aizawl. Additional reinforcements of para-military forces were moved in and placed at the disposal of the State Government of Mizoram. Director General, Assam Rifles reached Aizawl around noon on the 30th March. He visited the Assam Rifles camps and ordered that the troops would be confined to the Unit lines and would not move out. The Assam Rifles jawan who misbehaved on the 19th has been placed under arrest. Director General, Assam Rifles met the Chief Secretary, IGP and other officers. He also called on the Chief Minister of Mizoram and explained to him the action taken by him including ordering of a Court of Inquiry. He assured the Chief Minister that the 22nd Battalion of Assam Rifles now located in Aizawl would be replaced. He held detailed discussion with civilian authorities to work out the modalities for defusing the situation. The Corps commander, 3 Corps also arrived at Aizawl on 31st March, 1988. He called on the Chief Minister and assured him that 22nd Assam Rifles would be replaced

by another Battalion in phases. The situation, improved on 31st March when schools were functioning, shops were open, vehicles were plying and Government Offices were functioning normally.

We are in touch with the State Government of Mizoram and are closely monitoring the situation. The night curfew is continuing as a precautionary measure and no untoward incident has been reported after 30th March. The State Government of Mizoram have announced ex-gratia grant of Rs. 50,000/- each for the kith & kin of those killed and Rs. 20,000/- each for those injured in the incidents

I express my heartfelt sympathies to the unfortunate victims. While the enquiries ordered by the State Government and the Army will bring out the circumstances leading to the incidents resulting in loss of lives and fix the responsibility, the need of the hour is that the State Government and the Assam Rifles authorities should make all possible efforts to defuse the situation. The State Government and the Assam Rifles authorities are working in close coordination and the situation has shown considerable and steady improvement.

PROF. G.G. SWELL : There should be a discussion on the Statement, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri H.K.L. Bhagat.

12.08 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

Fifty-first Report

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
(SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : I beg to
move :

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-first Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 30th March, 1988."

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE
(Rajapur) : Sir, we could not hear what he
said.

Could you hear, Sir ? (Interruptions).

From his lip movement, you could imagine what he had said.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

That this House do agree with the Fifty-first Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 30th March, 1988."

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay,
North Central) : Sir, I want one clarification. According to this Business Advisory Committee Report, Friday the 15th is going to be a holiday, no sitting of the House and for that day Private Members Resolutions are already balloted. My Resolution has also come in the ballot. Therefore, I would seek a clarification from you. I request that they may be carried over to the next Private Members Resolutions day. Subject to that, this may be passed. I have written a letter also to this effect.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: (Mavelikara) : Sir, questions were also balloted and my question has come in the ballot.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : The Private Members Resolutions may please be carried over to the next Friday.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : It can be done only if the House agrees to do so. Mr. Bhagat, they are asking that if 15th is going to be a holiday, when would the Private Members' Resolutions be taken up ?

[English]

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : My Resolution has already come in the ballot. Let it be carried over to the next Friday fixed for Resolutions.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your view, Shri Bhagat ?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : If the House wants it, I am in your hands. No problem.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the House agree to this ?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.