

14.01 hrs.

[English]

(II) Ministry of Home Affairs

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 41 to 45 and 89 to 94 relating to the Ministry of Home Affairs for which 6 hours have been allotted.

Hon. Members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demands for Grants have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Those cut motions only will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial number of cut motions moved will be put up on the

Notice Board shortly. In case any member finds any discrepancy in the list he may kindly bring it to the notice of the Officer at the Table without delay.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1989, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 41 to 45 and 89 to 94 relating to the Ministry of Home Affairs.”

*Demands for Grants for 1988-89 in respect of Ministry of Home Affairs submitted to the vote of Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on Account voted by the House on 18th March 1988	Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the vote of the House
1	2	3	4
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
<b>MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS</b>			
41.	Ministry of Home Affairs	26,46,00,000	...
42.	Cabinet	2,88 00,000	...
43.	Police	187,86,00,000	17 54,00,000
44.	Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs	42,45,00,000	17,91,00,000
45.	Transfers to Union Territory Governments	9,08,00,000	4,73,00,000
<b>MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS—UNION TERRITORIES (Without Legislature)</b>			
89.	Delhi	115,72,00,000	83,93,00 000
		578,61,00,000	419,62,00,000

90.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	16,69,00,000	12,04,00,000	83,50,00,000	60,22,00,000
91.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3,08,00,000	95,00,000	15,40,00,000	4,76,00,000
92.	Lakshadweep	4,49,00,000	1,80,00,000	22,47,00,000	8,99,00,000
93.	Chandigarh	18,48,00,000	6,21,00,000	92,39,00,000	31,05,00,000
94.	Daman and Diu	2,07,00,000	1,93,00,000	10,36,00,000	9,67,00,000

**SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad)** : I rise to initiate the discussion on the Demands under the control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

These are 11 departments under the control of Ministry of Home Affairs. Out of 11 Departments there are 5 Departments in which there is only an expenditure while in the rest of the Departments there are corresponding receipts also which deal mainly with the territories centrally administered.

14.03 hrs.

[**SHRI SOMNATH RATH** *in the chair*]

Before I go into various aspects relating to the Ministry of Home Affairs and its activities during the last year I would like to make a few comments on the need for restructuring this whole Department.

This Ministry was, at one time, the most powerful Ministry having control of the total service which has been separated, and a separate Ministry has been formed as Ministry of Personnel and Administrative Reforms. Even though this Ministry has got 11 Demands under its control, yet it is today a truncated Ministry and allotted with certain activities and certain functions which are not of very much significance.

The estimated outlay proposed for the next year is of the order of only Rs. 1,700 crores, excluding the Demands relating to the Centrally administered Territories, but including the Departments which are not of much significance but which are under the control of the Ministry, such as, the Department of Official Languages, the Census Department, Departments dealing with Hindi Teaching, Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Freedom Fighters, Relief and Rehabilitation, Central Translation Bureau, etc., etc. These are the Departments which have no particular significance. Some of these Departments could be transferred to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, and the Home Ministry could concentrate more on the problems relating to internal security as well as the administration of

the Centrally administered Territories. I do not know why the Department of Personnel had been separated and why these insignificant subjects had been kept in the Ministry of Home Affairs. But there is a strong case for retransferring the Department of Personnel back to the Ministry of Home Affairs. I cannot understand the logic why the Ministry of Home Affairs is controlling the IPS and the Ministry of Personnel is controlling the IAS officers. Unless the Ministry of Home Affairs is in full control of all the All India Services, it will be difficult for this Ministry to administer, particularly in the matter of internal security.

Having said that, I would like to pass on to certain allocations proposed to be made this year for various departments. I find that under Demand No. 42, dealing with the Cabinet and the Prime Minister's Secretariat, there is 60 per cent increase over the last year's allocation. I do not know—the reason has not been given in the Annual Report—why there is such an enormous increase under the head 'Cabinet'. We have about 59 Ministers—I do not know the exact number but may be about 59. This includes Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of State and the Deputy Ministers. The productivity of some of the Ministers, as we are witnessing in this House, is questionable. Yet we are being asked today to pass a Demand which is enhanced to the tune of about 60 per cent. Now, what is the function of many of these Ministers? There are some Ministers who are in charge of certain States, having organisational responsibilities. They go very often to the States concerned where they have certain organisational responsibilities. They have dual responsibilities. They spend more time in the States, spend more money on the organisational work, draw TA and DA from the Government, but they do nothing with regard to Government work when they go to those States. I do not blame the Ministers. But it is well-known that many of these Ministers are going to their States, particularly, the States ruled by the non-Congress parties and then decry the State Government day-in and day-out, issue statements against the State Government, criticise the State Government.

They never inform the State Government about their activities, they seldom meet them and discuss with them and there is no end to this type of criticism which goes on uninterrupted for several months. Only recently one Minister went to Hyderabad and there wild allegations had been made against the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. I am aware that some of the Ministers who maintain a very high standard of behaviour when they go to States, whether it is ruled by the Opposition or whether it is ruled by the Congress, and their behaviour is very exemplary. They try to understand their difficulties and problems of these States. But in the case of some of the other Ministers, their activities in those States are highly objectionable and even then we are being asked to vote for a grant which is very much higher than the grant that we had voted last year. Why? when there is a need for economy because of the drought conditions in the country this year, when there is the case for reduction of expenditure on several accounts, now here is a case when the Ministry wants more. All these expenditures are non-plan revenue expenditure and there is a increase of 60% in this particular demand, Demand No 42, under Cabinet Secretariat, while there are certain other Demands where the expenditure is less or the expenditure is not very much commensurate with the needs such as the Demand under the Police. I found that there is a need for increasing the expenditure on various para-military forces—the CRPF, the B.S.F., the Assam Rifles and the Indo-Tibetan forces because it has been found that whenever the States ask for more forces, the Centre was not in a position to supply enough personnel to help the state in the maintenance of law and order, whenever there was an emergency situation in the States.

Sir, Tripura has been asking for the last two years for sufficient forces to be sent there, but the Central Government could never send adequate forces to Tripura with the result when the elections were held recently you had to take the army to Tripura. Andhra Pradesh wanted two battalions immediately only two months ago. But in spite of several

requests, the Centre could send only one battalion of CRPF for controlling the left-wing extremists. Similarly, from other States, from Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa, demands had been coming for sending CRPF, but the Centre was finding it impossible to send sufficient number of forces because you did not have enough forces. While you have all the infrastructure, you have all the training facilities, academies established, you have got all the laboratory facilities, several facilities you have created, but not sufficient force, there is a case for increasing the personnel and spending more on the recruitment of persons to the para-military forces so that sufficient strength is deputed to the States whenever there is a demand. Now, the question is that why you should send forces to the States. Why should there be a need for this? There should be no need as it is a state subject but because of certain policies, wrong policies being pursued by the Government of India, now it has become necessary for States to depend more and more on the Central Government for such forces, because the State Governments are starving for want of funds. You don't give them enough funds, they can't train their police officers, they can't recruit more people and alternatively it is necessary for the Central Government to come to the rescue of the State Governments whenever they have difficulties such as the communal disturbances, such as the left-wing extremists activities, or such as the other activities like the TNV activities, the activities of insurgents and the terrorists and so on and so forth. That being the case you cannot be content with the meagre forces that you have under your command. Unless you increase the para-military forces, it will be difficult for the Central Government to cope with the demands of the State Governments for help in maintaining law and order.

Sir, what is the position with regard to the internal security, overseeing the maintenance of law and order in the country? The Report says that the law and order situation was quite under control except this, this, this and this. What is 'this'? Except Punjab, except certain areas where there is an insurgency

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activity, except certain areas where there were communal disturbances such as in Meerut, in U.P., in Gujarat and in Delhi. What is this? How can you say that you are satisfied with the law and order situation in the country? Today the law and order situation in the country is very very serious. We do not see peace anywhere and we are surrounded by certain hostile forces all round. Today there is a talk of Islamic Republic in Bangladesh. We know what is happening in Pakistan. And the other neighbours are not very friendly also. This being the case, we have got to live with these conditions for a very long time to come and the nation will not grudge if you increase the para-military forces and see that the internal peace is maintained because it is the internal disorder not the external aggression which is the threat to the country today. External aggression we can meet, we are going on increasing the Budget on Defence and we are well equipped with and organised. But then as far as the internal peace is concerned, I am afraid every State is facing today difficulties in maintaining law and order.

Coming to the question of Punjab, this morning, my friend, Mr. Gupta and other friends were raising the question of what is happening in Punjab, what is the State Government doing there. The other day, only a few days ago, on Friday, replying to the debate on Punjab, the hon. Minister for Home Affairs spoke something which was very disappointing to us. For 75 minutes he spoke, but he tried to create more heat than light. We did not know what he was going to do. He was only trying to reply to certain other Members who were very angry with the Minister. But among the several good suggestions made by Mr. Indrajit Gupta and Mr. Ayyapu Reddy, not a single suggestion was commented upon and accepted by the Government, no reaction of the government was known to us.

On that very day, on Friday, we understand that there was a Meeting going on in the office of the Prime Minister and some high level discussions were taking place in which the Governor of Punjab

was also present. It was reported that certain decisions had been taken and those decisions are now being implemented. We do not know what those decisions are, we have not been taken into confidence in spite of the fact that we have offered that 'Opposition is ready to sit with you, you should hence taken us into confidence.' But you were harping only on one point that the Opposition was not cooperating earlier, one meeting was boycotted. That means, you are only trying to take it as an excuse to see that no meeting is called and the Opposition is not taken into confidence. There were some reasons for not participating in that Meeting, but not withstanding the fact that we had been coming to the earlier meetings, there had been meetings of the Opposition parties with the Prime Minister in which discussions were taking place and we were cooperating. Simply because we have not participated in one Meeting because the Agenda was not circulated to us and we objected to the Meeting being convened in such a hurry we could not come and that is being taken as an excuse saying that 'no further Meeting should be called because you boycotted the Meeting.' It looks to be that you were not very sincere about calling a Meeting because you were only trying to find out an excuse to see that no Meeting should take place.

Now, Sir, that apart, we do not bother whether we are being called or being consulted. But the nation would like to know what you are doing. This morning, Mr. Gupta was telling that there was a meeting yesterday in the Golden Temple Panthic Committee meeting in which they said: We have declared a war against India and there is no question of any talk unless it is based on this Khalistan demand. If that is correct, then I would like to know what is the meaning of the Sikh National conference meeting which is being held with the patronage of the Government tomorrow somewhere in Punjab, which is being called by Mr. Rode?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH): There is no meeting under the patronage of the Government. Let me say here and now

that this is wrong and this is the propaganda which the antinational forces are doing. Therefore, I request you not to attribute that kind of thing,

**SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI :** If the meeting is not with the patronage, support of connivance of the Government of India, I am very happy. But the point is, such a meeting is going to be held tomorrow.

**S. BUTA SINGH :** It is an annual fair, festival.

**SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI :** But in the panthic committee, it has been declared that a National Sikh Convention meeting is going to be held. Anyway, the point is, today they have declared that in any meeting, no decision should be taken which falls short of the decision to have Khalistan, which is their demand. That being so, what action is being taken by the Government? Certain forces, your para military forces have been going around the Golden Temple, guarding the gates of the Golden Temple. If that is the only decision you have taken, that will not take you too far. If you want to give good weapons, if you want to upgrade the weaponry with the para military forces, it is very good. But I do not know whether such a decision has been taken. It is reported in the Press that the Government is against sealing the border, whatever it means. I do not want to use the words "sealing the border" but policing the border which must be there definitely. But there are doubts about it; because doubts have been created by several people that it is impractical. You cannot seal or you cannot police the border. That means, you cannot prevent people coming from Pakistan. Then, what else can you do? The nation will not grudge your spending even a thousand crore of rupees on sealing or fencing the border. Mr. Buta Singh Ji I can tell you that we are all very much agitated; the whole nation is agitated and we will not grudge if a new tax is imposed on the Indians to see that sufficient funds are collected for completely fencing the border on the Western side because that is the crux of the whole problem. About the expenditure, there is no problem at all. After all, what is expenditure? We are

going to face a great trouble not only now but also in future because you cannot befriend Pakistan. It is a historical fact. Several times, we tried to improve relations, but what happened? Could we improve our relations? Will they forget that we have the responsible for dismemberment of Pakistan? They will never forget, at least another two generations are not going to forget or for give us for what has happened in 1971. Whenever an opportunity comes, Pakistan is certainly going to create problems for you, that is being a case, and they cannot wage war against us because they know our strength. But the point is it is very easy for them to instigate insurgents, arm them and send them inside to create problems for us. Then, why are you waiting for? You have wasted 5 years. We should have taken up the issue of sealing the border, fencing the border, some 3 or 5 years ago. We should have had sufficient funds mobilised by imposing new taxes. The nation would not have grudged this. But that has not happened.

Mr. Gupta that day suggested that there is something like the doctrine of hot chase that you should go into the territory of Pakistan in pursuit of the terrorists. Are you going to do that? You have not said anything about that. You have been only telling that we have to see where is the centre of mischief. As you have just [Translation] said that you are engaged on the job of locating the centre of terrorism. It is known to all of us. There is no need to locate the centre of terrorism. It appears as if with increase of every dose of the medicine, the disease aggravated. As we go on changing new medicines, the disease turned from bad to worse.

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY** (Katwa): Medicine itself is a carrier of disease.

**SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI :** What more one could expect, if the medicine itself is a carrier of disease, as stated by him.

My point is, nothing is being done which is very convincing, which is very tangible to see that we get the results. It is because still we are tinkering with the

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problem. If something tangible is being done, we would like to be told. Though you have not told us the other day, you can tell us now, you can tell us what actions has been taken. What are the decisions taken in the meeting with the Prime Minister. Maybe you wanted to consult the Prime Minister. You were not in a position to tell anything on that day. But then, having taken certain decision, we would like to be told, what are those decisions. How are you going about solving this, so that the nation which is agitated could know what is happening. They should be satisfied.

Sir, coming to the question of communal problem and other issues relating to the Ministry, I find that the annual report of 1987-88 says: "The communal situation was very peaceful in the country". It has not made any mention of the massacre in Meerut. Generally they referred to UP, but not to Meerut particularly.

I am not going into those things because there is no need. Already we have discussed that communal problem. We have discussed those incidents. I do not want to go into them.

My point is that certain guidelines had been formulated in consultation with the Opposition parties. Two month before the Meerut riots broke, there was a meeting, rather any emergency meeting of the National Integration Council. In that Council, certain guidelines had been reiterated; nothing new. Because from 1980 onwards, we are making efforts to formulate certain guidelines so that these guidelines may be passed on the States for implementation. Then they were upgraded in 1983. Then again in 1987, they were further upgraded and they said that these are the guidelines, I need not enunciate all those guidelines because they are known to all of us and you discussed with us. You had agreed that such guidelines should exist. You said good and honest officers should be sent to those areas which are riot-prone areas and the officers who do good work should be rewarded. The officers who do not follow the guidelines should be punished. Now what happened

to those guidelines? Who is monitoring these guidelines? Have you ever called a meeting and have you ever reviewed as to what has happened? Have you amended the service rules? Have you included these guidelines in the rules? Have you included any violation of these guidelines in their personal records so that you may keep in mind while giving promotions? Nothing has been done and instead of that, there are reports that many States have not accepted these guidelines including your State, Mr. Professor.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Bara-mulla) : We stand for reform resolutely.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Well, you feel that in your state there is no problem. It is not a question of an existing problem. You may not have problem today. But when there is going to be a problem, what are you going to do? You must have all those guidelines observed so that you may prevent the communal problem. Instead of pursuing an approach of fire brigades, as is generally discussed here, what we should do is we should see that such things do not recur. They do not happen. Whenever there is any possibility immediately it should be curbed; it should be nipped in the bud. That was the main object why these guidelines have been framed. But these guidelines, as it generally happens, are drafted by us, they are sent to the States, they are underlined in the Secretariat, filed and are forgotten. That is the fate of these guidelines today. I would like to know why is it that you have not mentioned about it in the Report itself, in the Home Ministry? I don't think that the Annual Report should consist of only a few pages. It is such a small booklet. I have been seeing the Annual Report of many Ministries. So much is to be reported; so much is to be told to the House about various things.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): It is the biggest Ministry.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Yes, it is the biggest Ministry. There is no mention anywhere in this report about

the guidelines and also about the need for separating religion from politics.

[Translation]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Bara-mulla) : Just possible that the hon. Minister might have put the river in a pitcher.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : He is expert in that.

[English]

My point is that there was a proposal to separate religion from politics. You wanted to have a Bill. The Home Minister on the floor of this House announced "We are going to bring a Bill." Where is the Bill ? Is there any difficulty in implementing such an Act of passed ? People may talk of Article 19. But how will Article 19 come in the way of separating religion from politics. Whatever may be the consequence but unless you take action on certain basic things, it will be difficult for you to control the situation.

Sir, the point is that the review meetings have not been held. Guidelines have not been followed. In the States, nobody is monitoring. There is no monitoring system existing in the Home Ministry. No meeting was held and no special report has been prepared by the Ministry so far about the situation. Even though, after the Meerut incident for the last six to seven months there is a lull, you cannot say for ever. It can erupt any time. So, we must be very careful and we must guard against ourselves as far as this is concerned. In this connection, I would suggest that atleast you must have a separate Department dealing with the social tensions. We do not have that now. Having experienced for the last 40 years, today we know that the social tensions are such which are likely to create lot of problems for us. They will halt the progress of this country. They will come in the way of several developmental activities of the nation. So, you must have a Department of Social Tension which goes on monitoring this; which

goes on studying this and then action is taken so that the trouble is nipped in the bud. That type of proposal was there earlier but nobody bothered about that. Instead of having several minor Departments, this Department should be equipped well. You have an Intelligence Department. But the Intelligence Department deals with several things. I want this Department should only deal with all types of Social Tensions, which are likely to lead to violence.

Coming to the point of Sarkaria Commission and the Centre-State relations, I would like to say that it is a very important subject for the Ministry of Home Affairs. But it never bothered about this aspect. It never bothered to discharge this responsibility and because of this today the Centre-State relations are worse. Today, the position is that several States, particularly the States ruled by the Opposition Parties, do not have any confidence in the Central Government. They think that you are partial, even when you are not. That is the position today. What are you doing ? As Home Minister in charge of this, what are you doing to see that there is harmonious relation between the Centre and the States ?

Small issues, issues on which there should be no difference of opinion between the Centre and the States, are becoming big issues, and this is presenting a situation where it looks as if there is a confrontation between the Centre and the States. How are you going to contribute to the progress of this country, how are you going to solve the problems of this country, with such types of strained relations ?

In the matter of the Report of the Sarkaria Commission, it is said that the Commission's Report has been sent to the State Governments for their comments. It has taken five years to produce the Report, and now it has taken another six months—the Report was submitted six months ago. Now the Report has been sent to the State Governments for their comments. What comments do you require from the State Governments ? Already every State Government has sent

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its comments. Because some State Governments delayed sending their comments, the production of the Report of the Sarkaria Commission was also delayed. Again, today, for implementation you are having the same process of sending the Report to the States. And if you have to wait till the comments of every State Government, including Mizoram, Meghalaya and all other States, are received, it will take another five years. When are you going to implement the recommendations? And where is the necessity for having to wait for the comments of the State Governments? I strongly feel that there is no need for you to ask for the comments of the State Governments. This will unduly delay the implementation. Many of these recommendations are good; they have been given after a very careful consideration; after five years' deliberation, the Sarkaria Commission has produced the Report; and these recommendations will have to be accepted by the Central Government and action has to follow. But why are you delaying? If you delay this, it is likely to create further troubles, further suspicions, in the minds of the States that you are not likely to accept these recommendations as you have not accepted many other recommendations, including the Police Commission's Report.

Coming to the Police Commission's Report, we have eight Reports submitted to us. It is a different matter that the Commission was appointed when the Janata Government was in power. But that should not make any difference. It is a voluminous and a first class Report. It contains so many useful recommendations. All the recommendations, you say, have been accepted. No. The ultimate recommendation, which is the life of the whole recommendations, the final Report, the Eighth Report, which deals with the accountability of the police officers, you have not accepted

Coming to the question of upgradation of standards of revenue and district administration, under the recommendations of the Eighth Finance Commission,

an allocation of Rs. 23.71 lakhs was made to see that certain parts of States where the administration is to be upgraded were assisted. This amount was to be spent in a period of five years, that is, from 1985 to 1989 or so. But, so far, how much money has been spent? Out of Rs. 23.71 lakhs, you have spent only Rs. 6.38 lakhs in four years. An amount of about Rs. 17.33 lakhs still remains with you unspent. And you have only one year. Can you spend that in one year? You cannot say that you have no money. We have voted that money. The money is with you, with the Ministry of Home Affairs. Why have you not spent this? I know, some States have sent their proposals, but those proposals are under process in the Ministry of Home Affairs for the last one year

Coming to the question of the Scheduled Areas which are being administered by the States under the directions of the Home Ministry, under the Constitutional provision, under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution, the administration of the Scheduled Areas is partly in the hands of the Central Government, the Home Ministry. How are you administering the Scheduled Areas? I will not go into various details. I am only suggesting that the Ministry has failed to bring about a sort of coordination, uniformity, in the matter of policy for the administration of Scheduled Areas. While you are striving for uniformity in all the departments, this is something where uniformity is so very essential. It is essential because if a particular tribe in Andhra Pradesh is a Scheduled Tribe, if a particular caste or class of people in Maharashtra is not a Scheduled Tribe and if there is no uniformity, what will happen? The entire Maharashtra non-tribes are coming to Andhra Pradesh because here once they cross the border, they become tribals. How many difficulties are being created because of this?

Under the Fifth Schedule, the Governor has to make the regulation. That has got the force of an Act of legislature. It need not come to the Assembly or Parliament and under that regulation, several acts with regard to land reforms, land

transfer etc., are being made by all the States not uniformly but in a different manner. I am not talking of the tribals of the North-Eastern Agency because this is excluded from 5th schedule. This is excluded for which there is another chapter. I am talking of those tribal areas which are in the Central India, Southern India, Western India where there is no concentration of population such as 60 per cent, 70 per cent or 80 per cent are all tribes like in Nagaland, Mizoram etc. In Bihar, in U.P., in every State, there are tribal areas and these tribal areas have been declared as Scheduled Areas under Scheduled Area Order. And while making regulations several irregularities have been committed by the State Governments themselves. It is the duty of the Ministry to see that there is uniformity as far as laws and regulations are concerned, regulations which have to be made by the Governors, by the State Government and the Ministry has to suggest that there should be no diversity in the actual implementation of these laws so that difficulties may not come in the way of implementation or administration of these tribal areas.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN :  
(Kishanganj) : I beg to move :

“That the demand under the head Ministry of Home Affairs be reduced to Re. 1.”

[Failure to enact a law for payment of due compensation to the victims of social violence and State atrocities.] (1)

“That the demands under the head Ministry of Home Affairs be reduced to Re. 1.”

[Failure to prevent atrocities against Harijans, Adivasis and religious and ethnic minorities in the country.] (2)

“That the demand under the head Ministry of Home Affairs be reduced to Re. 1.”

[Failure to prevent crimes and atrocities against women.] (3)

“That the demand under the head Ministry of Home Affairs be reduced to Re. 1.”

[Failure to restructure the Central para-military forces in accordance with the directions of the National Integrity Council and to establish composite forces reflecting the democratic structure of the country.] (4)

“That the demand under the head Ministry of Home Affairs be reduced to Re. 1.”

[Failure to punish persons who incite violence and spread hatred through provocative writings and offensive speeches which hurt religious susceptibilities and caste aspersions on a community as a whole.] (5)

“That the demand under the head Ministry of Home Affairs be reduced to Re. 1.”

[Failure to instill a sense of security among minorities at all levels.] (6)

“That the demand under the head Ministry of Home Affairs be reduced to Re. 1.”

[Failure to make any progress towards the fulfilment of the assurance for a just and expeditious settlement of the Ayodhya dispute.] (7)

(Nominated Anglo-Indian)

SHRI FRANK ANTHONY : I beg to move

“That the demand under the head Ministry of Home Affairs be reduced to Re. 100.”

[Failure of the Government to discharge the duty imposed on it by article 46 of the Constitution to promote the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections.] (14)

“That the demand under the head Ministry of Home Affairs be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to check backwardisation of the Nation.] (15)

**SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY**  
(Hindupur) : I beg to move :

“That the demand under the head Ministry of Home Affairs be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need for effective steps to implement the three language formula.] (23)

“That the demand under the head Ministry of Home Affairs be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to check over-zealousness for imposition of Hindi in the country.] (24)

“That the demand under the head Ministry of Home Affairs be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Neglect for development of regional languages other than Telugu.] (25)

“That the demand under the head Ministry of Home Affairs be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to understand the rationale behind the attitude of non-Hindi speaking State towards the imposition of Hindi.] (26)

“That the demand under the head Police be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to ensure that the burden of proving innocence is shifted to police in case of death, torture, and rape in police custody.] (27)

“That the demand under the head Police be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to deal effectively with police personnel who violate civil rights of citizens.] (28)

“That the demand under the head Police be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need for effective steps to punish police officials responsible for incidents of rape in police custody] (29)

“That the demand under the head Police be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to provide highly sophisticated weapons to police personnel working in terrorists and extremists infested areas.] (30)

“That the demand under the head Police be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to provide modern sophisticated communication facilities to all police stations in Punjab.] (31)

“That the demand under the head Police be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to pay adequate compensation to the families of police personnel killed by extremists and terrorists.] (32)

“That the demand under the head Police be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to check harassment of lawyers in New Delhi by Police officials.] (33)

"That the demand under the head Delhi be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Non-registration of cases in police stations.] (34)

"That the demand under the head Delhi be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to check large scale fabrication and concoction resorted to in investigation by police.] (35)

"That the demand under the head Delhi be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to look into the cases of criminals tortured to death in policy custody.] (36)

"That the demand under the head Delhi be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to put an end to the harassment of journalists by police.] (37)

"That the demand under the head Delhi be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to put an end to the illegal arrests made by police.] (38)

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : I beg to move :

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Home Affairs be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to take effective steps to control inter-State extremist violence in several States.] (44)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Home Affairs be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to ensure adequate protection to the weaker sections.] (45)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Home Affairs be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to extend adequate assistance to the States to curb the violence of the left wing extremists.] (46)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Home Affairs be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to take effective preventive steps against atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.] (47)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Home Affairs be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to establish harmonious relations between Centre and States for effective implementation of the development programmes.] (48)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Home Affairs be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to re-organise the Ministry by transferring several departments of lesser importance to other Ministries.] (49)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Home Affairs be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to strengthen the para-military forces for effectively maintaining the internal security.] (50)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Home Affairs be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to have a separate department to study and to take effective steps to curb the social tensions.] (51)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Home Affairs be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for effectively sealing the border between India and Pakistan.] (52)

“That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Home Affairs be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need for the acceptance in toto and early implementation of the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission.] (53)

“That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Home Affairs be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need for the early holding of the elections to the Metropolitan Council, Delhi ] (54)

**PROF. K.V. THOMAS (Ernakulam) :** Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Home Affairs. I congratulate Buta Singhji and his colleagues who have handled this Ministry very effectively at a time when the integrity and unity of the country is questioned.

There are certain forces which are working for the division of the country. The first force is terrorism. The terrorism is a new type of cancer that has crept into our political system. It is unbelievable that a nation which is blessed by the birth and preachings of Shri Buddha, Shri Shankara and Mahatmaji is tormented by the blood-shed caused by handful of terrorists who have no faith in the development of man and the prosperity of the nation.

Terrorism is a new political event in our soil. We have never dreamt about it. There are other countries like Great Britain which is fighting against terrorist forces for a very long period without any creditable success. It has been proved that terrorism cannot be contained easily. It requires new tactics and a will to fight to the end.

There is a complaint that Congress Party and the leadership of the Congress Party have failed to tackle terrorism effectively. But I am proud to say that it is the Congress Party and the Congress Party

alone that has fought terrorism. We have fought terrorism at any cost and we are prepared to fight terrorism to the last.

Terrorism in Punjab has got two characters; firstly fundamentalist terrorism in all its destructive and anti-national manifestation and secondly ordinary terrorism that is both dangerous and anti-national.

When Mr. Rajiv Gandhi took the leadership of the nation on the last day of October 1984, he had a very difficult period to face. As we remember, when Indiraji was shot dead on the last day of October 1984, the entire nation was weeping. There were two reasons; firstly the nation had lost the mother and secondly the nation needed a new leadership. I have no doubt to say that Rajivji rose to the occasion and gave a new dynamic leadership to the shocked and mourning nation. He has taken two strategies to fight terrorism; the first one is to strike a political settlement and the second one is to deal with terrorism with an iron hand.

This august House has seen a number of legislations being passed to face terrorism. And the last legislation was the 59th Constitution Amendment. As all of us are aware, it is not an easy task to finish terrorism within a day. It needs will, it needs courage and I have no doubt that Rajivji and the Congress Government will be able to contain terrorism in the nearest future.

This House is very often shocked at the killings taking place in Punjab and many other places. But at the same time has anyone thought seriously about the law and order situation which is deteriorating in many other States which are ruled by the Opposition parties and mainly by the Marxist Party? Very often we are shocked at the killings taking place in Punjab; but have we thought of what is taking place in West Bengal, in Kerala, in Karnataka and in Andhra Pradesh?

In Kerala, the Marxist Government came to power one year back. Within the last one year what has taken place in

Kerala? This is what I am putting before this House. In the statement given by the Nayanar Ministry it is found that within the shortest period of one year in Kerala, the total number of murders and killings taken place is 407. Out of this 407 murders 24 are political murders and the women killed are 99. The number of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes killed is 23. The cases registered in Kerala for the last one year alone is 71881. The thefts that have taken place in my State are 5936. This is the situation.

In this House many friends from the Opposition have criticised the Government for releasing the high priests but have they ever thought that in my State more than 400 people who are connected with criminal cases of murder, etc. have been released from jail. For what purpose? Is it for containing terrorist activities in Kerala? There is no terrorism in Kerala. Then why the Kerala Government which came to power last year have released more than 400 criminals? I am asking this question because the Opposition is saying that Congress party is not serious to settle terrorism in Punjab and are not dealing seriously with the communal problem. Everybody is aware that terrorism cannot be contained through weapons alone. There should be a political solution. This problem can be settled by political discussion and it is as a part of this political settlement and political negotiation that certain detenus are being released and certain actions are being taken. When such actions are taken and some people are released then you question the integrity of the action that has been taken. On the other side when Punjab police with better weapons takes strong action you say Punjab police is going in the wrong way and they are killing innocent people. Opposition parties cannot take both ways. When the Government is strong enough to handle terrorists with their own weapons you say innocent people are being killed. When Government starts political negotiations, & on that basis some people are released you say Government is lenient. My question is what you are doing in the States ruled by the Opposition parties.

What is happening in West Bengal? Everyday how many innocent people are being killed?

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :  
How many!

PROF. K. V. THOMAS : You find it out. I can give the number in respect of Kerala State. Similarly you can find out from your Government the number of such victims. Many political opponents are being killed in my State. The number of women who have been raped in one year alone is 174. (Interruptions) \*\* says the rapes are of two types. The rapes which are very sweet and the rapes which are very hard. Have you ever heard of it? When CITU people are making those rapes are very sweet.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) :  
Mr. Chairman, are you going to allow this to go on record?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It will not go on record.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : You should not allow it to go on record that CITU people are raping women.

You have to give your ruling.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS : I am not yielding.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will examine it.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : No no. What \*\* he is talking? Have you given him a licence to say? (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will examine it.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS : When the Government of India is seriously dealing with the law and order situation, my friends from the Opposition question the integrity of the Government. They should find out what they are doing in the States

\*\* Not recorded.

[Prof. K. V. Thomas]

which are controlled by the Marxist party. (*Interruptions*) It is your duty to find out. Why are you angry about it.

This is what you are doing in your State. The Government of India and the Congress Party are dealing with terrorism. Terrorism is not a political event which has been in this country for a long time. It is a new event. It is a new cancer that has crept into our political system. So, it has to be handled. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : He says, in Karala, CITU people are raping women. What \*\* is he saying ?

PROF. K. V. THOMAS : I am not yielding. He can put the proofs. What have you done during the *Bharat Bandh* ? In Kerala, a very large number of workers were beaten. More than 36 buses owned by the ISRO were smashed while these were going from Trivandrum to ISRO. In HMT also, 18 buses were smashed. The workers were beaten with the full protection of the police. Why it has been done ? Can you deny it ? During the last 15 months, it is the *Bandh* sponsored by the State Government in Kerala. It is the *Bandh* sponsored by the Government of West Bengal. It is the *Bandh* sponsored by the Karnataka Government. Can you deny it ?

On the one side, you are telling that the law and order situation is deteriorating in the country. On the other hand, you are making the things worse in the States controlled by you—leftist parties.

(*Interruptions*)

Another point which I have is about the communal forces. The communal forces are those which should be left out. We should not have them. Again, I tell you that it is the Marxist Party which is having an alliance with the communal forces. When V. P. Singh came to Trivandrum, who was with him ? It was Shri E. M. S. Namboodiripad. When V. P. Singh came to Kerala, who gave support to him ? On one side, the Marxist Party

says : We don't have any connection with the communal forces. On the other side, you say that we will have alliance with V. P. Singh and V. P. Singh will have alliance with the communal forces.

In Kerala, during the Assembly elections. You played with the majority of the communal forces. Now, you are playing with the minority communal forces. This is the trick you are doing in the entire country. Wherever it suits you, according to your convenience, you have an alliance with the communal parties, whether it is Christianity or Islam. The Opposition parties in the country are helping the communal forces to come up and to create problems. So, it is you who have to decide.

Here very often, it is said that the Government is not taking the Opposition parties into confidence. How can the Government take these people into confidence ? Has any one single political party or the Opposition party got a single opinion about any single problem within the country ? What is your attitude towards Sri Lanka ? Is the attitude of the Marxist Party the same as that of the Janata Party ? On any problem that this nation faces, there are as many opinions as there are Opposition parties. Under such circumstances, how can the Government take them into confidence ? It is practically impossible. What is your attitude towards terrorism in Pnnjab ? What is your attitude in Tamil Nadu ? You don't have any single opinion about any problem facing this country. That's why, I am telling that the Congress is the only Party and Shri Rajiv Gandhi is the only leader who can save this nation.

Sir, I, once again, support this demand.

15.00 hrs.

SHRI T. BASHEER (Chirayinkil) : Sir, the responsibility of this Ministry is very big. I quote from the Annual Report of 1987-88 :

"The Ministry of Home Affairs is entrusted with the responsibility

of a regulatory nature in areas like maintenance of law and order, communal harmony and Centre-State relations in the country as a whole. The Ministry's role in the area of law and order (including communal harmony) is that of overseeing the trends and developments and closely monitoring the situation from time to time as also rendering advice and assistance to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations."

From these words, we can understand the importance of this Ministry's role and its responsibility towards our nation.

When I participate in the discussion, the most important thing which comes to my mind and to everybody's mind is naturally the situation in Punjab. Mr. Madhav Reddi spoke about it. It is a great concern for all of us. Last week we had discussed this issue, the situation in Punjab in this House. We had been discussing the time and again. There is a news item today. It says: "No talks except Khalistan". This is a statement made by Giani Jagir Singh a spokesman of the Panthic Committee and the tone was that they are going to declare a war against the Government. So, this is a new turn which is a serious one. I would like to know the reaction of the Government in this regard. I do not want to go into the details. I know the magnitude of the problem. I know the complexity of the problem. I know that the Government is trying its best to settle the matter but only one thing I would like to tell the Minister. People must think that Government is taking such strong measures that some results are there. Otherwise, people will get frustrated. Government should be able to tell them, 'Of course, we will defeat the terrorist forces'. I do not want to go any further. This much I want to tell the Minister that there should be tangible results.

The other point which I would like to make is about the naxalite activities. During the last year, we have witnessed increasing naxalite activities in

various parts of the country, especially in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and also West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Orissa. These States are affected by these leftist extremist activities.

According to Government report, during 1987 196 persons were killed and the incidents of attack on police station and Government officials were 84. I read a news item in the newspaper that in Madhya Pradesh, some districts are under the control of the Naxalites. I do not know whether it is true or not. They have succeeded in putting the administration in a tight corner. It is for the Minister to tell us whether it is correct or not. I would like to know what steps the Government propose to take to overcome this problem. The Naxalites are usually concentrated in tribal areas and they are armed with sophisticated weapons and their leaders have sufficient proficiency for indoctrination as well as subversion. This would give you an indication of the magnitude of the problem. What steps the Government propose to take to face this menace.

Another problem to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister is the drug trafficking. This is a serious problem in our country, especially so far as youngsters are concerned. There is a nexus between the drug trafficking and terrorism. India has become the main transit route for smuggling narcotics. This issue was the subject matter of discussion at the recently concluded inter-regional meet on drug trafficking with participants from the European and South Asian nations. In that conference, the reports say that India was under pressure that it should take more stringent measures against drug trafficking.

At the same time, we have to fight in a big way the monster of drug abuse in the country. The police have miserably failed to control the drug trade in the capital. The trade is increasing alarmingly in the capital. It is not only in the capital, but it is there in all the metropolitan cities, & even in small towns in our country. It is a serious problem and I would not hesitate to state that this is done with the

[Shri T. Basheer]

connivance of the police. You must look into this.

Then, I would like to draw your attention to the barbaric practices prevalent in our country. We all know about the Sati incident in village Deorala some months ago. While we are proud that India is now one of the five countries who have their own remote sensing satellite in the orbit and we have made much advances in science and technology, but the other side of the picture is very grim. We are so superstitious and such barbaric practices are going on in our country. We should hang our heads in shame. This is happening in this country. Sir, one case of sati is enough to illustrate what is happening in this country. This is not the first or the last incident. There have been a lot of cases of sati during the last 40 years. I do not know the exact number. Some reports say that it is more than 40 and some other report says it is 28 or 30. But so many such incidents are taking place.

There is another report, may be you have read it. It appeared a few days back in the paper. An innocent 7 years old girl was killed at the Adi Mata Shakthi Temple in the Thane city. The murder was carried out with the tantrik rituals, i.e. luring the child into seclusion, throttling her to death, cutting her artery to draw blood and offering the blood to the Goddess. That is what is happening in this country when the country is heading towards the close of 20th century. It appears that the murder of young Nandita is not the first case. The pity of it is that nothing had been done to investigate the matter and take suitable deterrent action. I would like to bring it to our Hon. Minister's attention. The sati in Rajasthan, the sacrifice of small girl shows the ugly face of a sick society. We should see to it that something is done in this regard.

Incidentally I also would like to bring to your attention one incident happened in my State, Kerala. I think Mr. Saifuddin will listen to me. Yesterday, my colleagues from Kerala raised that issue

in this House. There one Harijan boy by the name Babu was forced, was made to eat human excreta and made to drink urine. This was done by the CPM workers there. It has come in all the papers.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :  
Mr. Chidambaram does not believe it.

SHRI T. BASHEER : The Minister is here and I hope he will listen to it. We talk about the Act and about the atrocities against the Harijans. Especially, our Marxist friends always say like that. Their slogans are like that and we appreciate their slogans. But they are not very sincere. Anyway, I am not going into the details of it. But I would like to request the Minister that there should be a CBI enquiry into that. Such an incident was reported from Karnataka also where Shri Hegde is the Chief Minister who is a glamorous hero of the Opposition.  
(Interruptions)

So, there should be a CBI enquiry. Our country is a federal country. I am proud to say democracy and the federal character of our country stood the test of time. I am also proud that in the last parliamentary elections, people voted for the Congress Party and its leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi. This Government came into power with a massive mandate.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Accidents do happen in history.

SHRI T. BASHEER : It is not an accident. It is democracy. Now, some of these opposition parties talk about principled politics with high democratic consciousness and so on. But what do they want to do? They want to oust the government of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. What logic is this? How can they oust a duly elected government? Rajiv Gandhi has got two-thirds majority in the House. And you want to oust a Government which has been duly elected by the people. Sometimes these people speak about the brute majority of the Congress in the House. I do not understand as to what that means. This majority is given by the people. It is the peoples' verdict.

Sir, I want to tell one thing. I want to say that CPM is not just opposition only. It is ruling party in some States. CPI (M) is a ruling party in West Bengal. It is ruling party in Kerala

**SHRI SURESH KURUP :** You are throwing bombs into the Assembly !

**SHRI T. BASHEER :** Janata Party is ruling in Karnataka. If the Opposition in those States starts an agitation demanding the resignation of the ruling Governments, what will be your reaction ?

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :** They can mobilise people. What is there ?

**SHRI T. BASHEER :** Please do not make unnecessary comments. Try to understand my point. This is a very dangerous proposition. My friend Prof. Thomas just now spoke about the Marxists' rule in Kerala. I am not going to repeat all that. But, I want to tell one thing. You are not a mere Opposition Party only. You have governments in some States and Government has a responsibility towards its people. You came to rule under an oath. And you must discharge your responsibilities. You should maintain law and order. Sir, on the 15th, the Government in Kerala did not discharge that constitutional responsibility. Even Ministers also said that they would not work. This is very serious. I would like to bring one more point to the attention of the Minister. In Kerala Assembly, Shri Oommen Chandy, raised a question on the law and order situation on the Bandh day through a submission.

15.20 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair.*]

Replying to submission in Kerala Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister Shri E. K. Nayanar said about 15th March Bandh incident in Delhi and I quote : "Hundreds of women were raped in the lock ups in Delhi. Buta Singh, the Home Minister in Delhi did not even say a word of protest against this or did not bother to enquire about it. In Delhi even after women were beaten up and injured, and the

police raped women in the lock ups, your leader is not making any enquiries."

This is an irresponsible statement made by the Chief Minister. He was misleading the House. He was misleading the people.

Again he repeated the statement and I quote "Hundreds of women were beaten up in the lock ups till they vomited blood and then raped." I would pass on a copy of this paper to you. You must enquire into it. I do not know why he says such types of blunders in the House.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI) :** People of Kerala should not believe that.

**SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) :** They believe everything.

**SHRI T. BASHEER :** My last point is, we always talk about danger of mixing politics with religion. Our Prime Minister said many times that this should be stopped. We all welcome it. I think, it is high time that we should do something in that direction.

Yesterday, here, one issue was raised. This is an example, how the people exploit religion for their political purposes. It is a news item. Shahi Imam says and I quote : "Shahi Imam seeks referendum in J & K : He demanded a referendum to enable the people to decide whether to remain with India or to be independent." This is against the unit of this country. This is against the integrity of this country. Such statements should not be allowed. Stringent action should be taken against the people who make such statements.

With these few words, I support the Demand.

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the year under review, the affairs of our Home remain awfully disturbed. Communal, caste, linguistic, inter-State Border dispute insurgency, terrorism, separatism

[Shri Saifuddin Chowdhary]

and all that harm the unity and integrity of the country continued to disturb us very much.

Now, if we see the available figures with us—which are there in the Report of the Home Ministry we find that regarding Border dispute you have said, “pending claims and counter claims—Maharashtra and Karnataka, Karnataka and Kerala, Assam and Nagaland, Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh,”

You have commented in your Report that these disputes can be resolved only with the willing co-operation of the State Governments. No doubt about it. Towards the end you have said “the Central Government will extend all possible assistance to the State Governments.” For so long it is pending. You are saying, “we will extend the co-operation.” So no urgency has been reflected in your announcement that you are going to take this issue very seriously. Now, if you take the incidents of atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, from the Unstarred Question relied on 18.11.1987 we find that from January 1986 to September 1987, 22,717 atrocities on Scheduled Castes took place. Regarding atrocities on women, this is the percentage increase from 1983 to 1985—again from the reply to Unstarred Question given on 25.8.1987—rape increased by 20%, molestation by 28.3%, eve-teasing by 14.6%, dowry deaths by 31.2%.

In 1986 the number of incidents of rape all over the country was 7213; of molestation 16 238, of eve-teasing 8329, of kidnapping 4446 and of dowry deaths 1255.

You will find everywhere that things are really very bad, and there is no room for complacency. If you go through the Report, you will find that the claims made are such that they paint a very unreal picture. Regarding the communal situation, you have said that it has “remained comparatively peaceful throughout the country, except for the riots in U.P., Gujarat and Delhi...” Regarding

Punjab, what you have said is most astonishing, I must say. You have said that since the imposition of President’s rule...:

“...anti-terrorist measures have been intensified... The fundamentalists have ebbed out. Unlawful activities of those elements who wanted to disrupt smooth functioning of educational institutions have been effectively checked.”

Should I say anything about this ? The hon. Minister should give a reply as to how he can give this kind of a Report. I have no intention to say that things are very bad everywhere. But you must take note of what the reality is. Otherwise there will be mishaps we cannot be reluctant. We cannot relax our vigil. The situation does not demand it.

These are the things which are happening. Many things have been said by the previous speakers from the ruling party. But what do we see ? The Home Ministry and the Government want to curb terrorism in Punjab, check communalism effectively and also check separatist and secessionist type of movements. But this gallant Government has failed to check atrocities on women by their Police. What are they doing ? On the day of the Bandh, inside the police station, they beat innocent, unarmed women, i.e. the men Police did it. They should get a gallantry award, I must say. If you have courage, and bravery, show it in Punjab. Who were those women whom you beat in the police station ? The police is now gang-raping women in our country. This year, inside the police station near Patana a woman was raped by the Police. There was a gang-rape near Deogarh, Pararia. If policemen are allowed, in Delhi, to beat women, what do you expect from the anti-social elements in other parts of the country ? Will there not be increase in atrocities on women ? You have to give a reply.

Many things are said about training of the Police. What kind of training do

you impart? We have to go into it. How can this kind of a thing happen in Aizawl—that which was done by Assam Rifles? They beat the people. What kind of training is there?

I am not saying bad things about all the men in the Assam Rifles or about everybody. Really, incidents like these are shameful for all of us? What is the training that they receive, and what kind of an attitude is being inculcated in them? How can Police take part in communal riots in Meerut? Which side they took, I need not say that. Everybody knows that. I do not have to mention it. But the Police is there to curb communal riots, and not to take sides and kill innocent people.

But what are they doing in practice?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: (Mahbubnagar). They are not taking notes.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: We are taking notes.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar): Mr. Chidambaram is listening with impassive face.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: So many suggestions have been made by the National Integration Council and their committee and all that about the composition of the PAC or the demand is there to disband PAC and all that. But I am not going into that. I am asking what kind of training is given to them? Why do they behave like inhuman way? What is their living condition? Are they getting proper housing? If you keep them in a situation like animal, they will behave like animals. So, it is your responsibility to see that their conditions are changed. I believe the Minister is taking note of it and will do something about it.

Now the most disturbing thing that has come to my mind is—it has been referred to here—the growing trend of communalism in our country. Many attempts were made, many pronouncements were made to see that religion and

politics should not be mixed up. What are you going to do about it? Why in the last 3-4 years communal forces have been emboldened in our country? I have told you about this hundred times; I am again telling you about it today. After the enactment of Muslim Women Bill, there has come a change in the situation, a new change. After that you had to open Babri Mosque and Ram Janam Bhoomi controversy. How are you going to settle that? What attempts have you made in this regard? Nothing. As political parties, we do not know anything about it.

In the National Integration Council in 1980 a certain code of ethics were drafted to be followed. What are all these? Political parties should not patronise communal organisations; political parties should not hold meetings at religious places and educational institutions; political leaders should refrain from making incriminatory speeches; by visiting communally disturbed areas, they should weed out communally minded persons from their ranks; no Minister should participate in such functions, meetings or processions as give rise to communal controversies. Now what is happening? Members of many ruling political parties, particularly this party at the Centre are taking part in this and that kind of communal organisations, caste organisations. One Minister is going to Yadav Committee; the other Minister is going to some other committee and so on. Why do they go? What are you doing to weed out communally minded people from your rank you do meetig because you take advantage of this communal situation? In the Assenbly election, you align with the Muslim League; in the panchayat election, you align with some other Hindu organisation. During the bandh, which are the parties which were in the opposite?

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: The Kerala Chief Minister Mr. Nayanar had lunch with the Bishop.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: It is very bad, I will tell him not to go. I do not know if he agrees to it.

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA** (Bankura) : Lunch is non-communal.

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY** : On the 15th March, who were opposed to the bandh ? These great secular parties—Cong (I), BJP and Shiv Sena—these are the parties who opposed the bandh. What great credentials are you getting ?

Now I want that this government take all effective measures that will really make a change in the situation, that will effectively curb communalists, terrorists in the Punjab. I am not going into detail about it because we have already discussed about it a lot. But if there is a failure on your part and that is responsible for deterioration in the situation, then we have to point it out. Different kinds of fissiparous tendencies are growing and they are being taken advantage of by imperialist conspirators, those who are the enemies of our country. We all have to be united to defeat them. But then there are certain other things, economic, political, and sociological reasons that we have to take note of. And about this, what has the Sarkaria Commission report to say ? It says :

“In analysing the origins of these tendencies, several causes can be identified, both legitimate and pernicious. Among the more legitimate origins of sub-nationalist groupings can be included a search for identity, a need for security and the demands for a fair share in the national cake in terms of education, employment and industrial opportunities.”

It also says,—

“Frustration of the deprived communities had of ten led them to give up constitutional path in favour of violent agitation.”

We have to take note of this seriously. I do not know when the Sarkaria Commission report will be discussed. That will have to be discussed.

There are certain other things. Now

in Manipur the problem on insurgency is there. The people from Manipur have come up with their demands, that their language, the Manipuri language should be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, that Manipur should be industrialised. That has not been done. Why ? Why has it not been done by this Government ? Are they to remain perpetual backwardness ?

Even in Darjeeling they have a genuine demand. The people living there have been voicing their genuine demands we have all along been espousing their demand. They want their language to be included in the Eighth Schedule, and they want an autonomous council. That is a long standing demand. But now that perpetual denial has created a situation when they are being exploited by other forces and secular, democratic forces are discouraged there. That is the situation we have to take note of.

I am not going into the other things. But then, this Government has to answer in this House. In these peripheral critical areas, in the backward areas, in Scheduled Caste/Tribe dominated areas a different kind of voluntary organisations, which are getting money from abroad, they are working and they are working for providing the primarily basic amenities like education, health and so on. A welfare state has failed to provide the benefits of human living to them. And these foreign agencies have been allowed to go there and they are not only constructing hospitals and schools, but they are also teaching alienation. They teach anti-nationalism in many aspects. What checks have you undertaken to see that this money is not mis-utilised ? I do not find anything. The names of many organisations have come. Action has to be taken on that behalf.

Another point, a bone of contention that comes from time to time even in this House, whether Hindi should be the language or English. We have a love for all the language. But the question is how are we going to settle the language question. It is a very sentimental question. We have a three-language formula in the

country. I do not support it. I think there should be one language formula, the mother tongue! I should not say this language should be the national language and the other one is a regional language. For me all the languages are national languages. For the convenience of running the Government you may have Hindi as a link language. I have no objection. Hindi can be that and Hindi should be that. That I know. But then the mother tongue should be encouraged. And here also the Sarkaria Commission has said :

"The work of the Government, both Union and States, which involves or affects the local people must be carried on in the local languages. This is even more important in a welfare state. It is necessary that all forms, applications, letters, bills, notices, etc. are available in the local language as well as the official language." This is a new recommendation.

I now go to another vital question of Centre-State relations on which the Sarkaria Commission has been appointed. They have made certain very important recommendations. Not that all that we wanted has been fulfilled. No. But there are certain things and they should have urgent attention. It may be that when my friends from the ruling party claim much for their own party and try to discredit our party, I want to refer something for their party from the Sarkaria Commission.

It says :

"As the old guard of the pre-independence days began to vanish from the political scene by sheer efflux of time, the composition of the Congress party under went a change particularly in the States... Political life was not seen as a sacrifice for the nation, rather it became of political career and means of reaching far of reaching for power and pelf in varying proportions ... It was the local leader commanding money, muscle

power and caste or communal loyalty who came to the forefront of state politics"

Now, the Sarkaria Commission is saying that the ruling Congress party is dominated by these kind of people. If you have this kind of people for maintenance of your home, then your home is bound to collapse. There is no doubt about it. No Ideology. What is the ideology ?

Again, I quote Sarkaria Commission here.

"In the absence of the idealism of the freedom struggle, very often the success or failure has come to depend to a large extent on the shifting loyalties of fraction owing allegiance to an individual and none to any ideal."

What a brilliant description of the situation ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar) : Lack of idealogy is their idealogy.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : That is their idealogy.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Pragmatism is the new idealogy.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : With this kind of people, can you expect anything good for the country ? Nothing.

The ground for secessionism is built on economic disparities and also on regional imbalance. We have to see how we can overcome that. That is a very important thing. Now, what is happening ? In a country, a State which proposes to set up industry eleven years back, for which the Central Government gives commitment that they will participate, and then they say, 'we are not going to participate'; and then for another two years, they keep it hanging fire. For setting up an industry

[Shri Saifuddin Chowdhary]

in your country, the State Government has to hang their head in desperation—I do not know, how they are destroying the unity of our country. There are reports in this regard. I am not going into those things. The Minister of Personnel must see those reports. The report says, when somebody goes with an application to the Central Government Office, they say 'you want to set up industry in that State, don't go there and you go there, then you get licence'. If we are poor, then we are ready to share it. When you do discrimination, then there comes the danger of secessionism. If you have no money, do not give to Haldia Petro Chemicals. In 1984, you said, we do not have money and hence we do not give 'money to Bengal'. But at that time, some other States got some amount.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :  
Gujarat.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :  
I do not want to mention the name. It is not the question of the State. It is Maharashtra.

This kind of seeds of discords you are sowing. Again in this connection, the Sarkaria Commission is very relevant. It says :

"In the context of undue delays in industrial approvals, a useful corrective may be to appoint an empowered Committee for taking a final decision subject to a sort of sun-set rule that if any link or agency does not give its comments by the due date, the Committee will take a decision without waiting for it."

It was in the Sarkaria commission and I am supporting it. I am not going into all that. There are certain other important things.

What is happening now regarding the functioning of the Constitution; regarding the functioning of democracy in our country? Here, you will see, the Governors

are misusing their office—not to go much back—where they acted as an instrument of the Central Government to topple the opposition ruled Governments in the States. Even now, what is happening in Kerala? She has every right to tell the Chief Minister that you do this and do that. Why she goes to the Press? Is she hankering after publicity? Then in Andhra Pradesh, how can you oppose...

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY  
(Puri) : I rise on a point of order.

We cannot discuss the conduct of the Governor here.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :  
We cannot discuss the good conduct of the Governor but bad conduct of the Governor we can discuss.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY :  
My objection would be that this part of the speech should be deleted from the proceedings. (Interruptions)

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI :  
You also have an eye for the press, Mr. Chowdhary !

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :  
Press may have an eye for me, it seems, because they look down from the gallery. I do not know.

This is not what I am saying. What the Sarkaria Commission has said about it is that the active politicians of the ruling party should not be appointed as Governors in States. Have not they said so? Have not they said that article 155 has to be amended suitably to ensure consultation with the Chief Minister for appointing the Governor? Have not they said that after retirement, the Governor should not be given some other lucrative post in the Union Government or the State Government? Have not they said that the retiring Governor should not take part in active politics? What norms you are maintaining, I do not know. You require Governors who will be amenable to your manipulations. And the Minister 'for recapturing Tamil Nadu' goes to Tamil

Nadu and meets the Governor. There should be a limit to de-generation of things. I do not know what is happening. If you do all these things, democracy will be finished. That is what we have been seeing in Bengal. Bombs have been thrown in the premises of the House.

**SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI :**  
The leader of the opposition has said who threw the bomb.

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY ;**  
The Bills of the State are sent by the Governor for the assent of the President. How much time is required for giving assent or saying no ? 63 Bills are pending with the President ? And from 69 one Bill is pending i.e. West Bengal Trade Union (Amendment) Bill. How much time will it take ? Is this the running of democracy ? Is this the running of true federalism in our country ? I do not know. The Sarkaria Commission has said that in four months' time you sign it or in two months' time you sign it or in two months you return it. Somebody is thinking...

**SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI :**  
Thinking has been left to you Mr. Chowdhary. You are the repository of all the thinking. Sarkaria Commission is the Bible for you now.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Certain portions are the Bible and not all the portions... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :**  
What about formation of inter-state council. That is there in the Constitution.

**SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI :**  
We have sent it for comments. We will consider it.

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :**  
Inter-State format is there in the Constitution. They have reported that it should be formed immediately. You must know that when you did not give money to West Bengal according to Finance Commission's recommendations (1984-85) the Sarkaria Commission criticised the Government.

Another very serious thing that I want to bring to the notice of the House is that this Government is not at all willing to hold the elections that are due. The Delhi elections have been postponed. Nobody knows when the by-elections of Parliament will take place. If it will take place, nobody knows how it will be taking place. In Tripura what was done ? Why Army was called there ? You have to tell us. When you signed an agreement with the Chief Minister that jointly you will take action against the terrorists, why, without consulting him, you brought Army ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) :** It is a wrong statement.

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :**  
I am telling that this is not wrong..... (*Interruptions*) The second thing you required—I make a charge—to make the ground and the killing took place. After that, everything is quiet. People of our country are not blind. They know what is what ? Now what is happening in the by-election to Fatch Rai Constituency that is to be held on 24th of April ? There Army has again been mobilised. And the SDO who is the Returning Officer, who was Grade II has been promoted to Grade I after the announcement of election. There should be some shame or not, I do not know. Then, some days ago, an all-party meeting was called by the J. M. The Congress (I) did not participate. In that meeting a unanimous demand came that the Disturbed Area Act has to be withdrawn. The army has to be withdrawn for the proper functioning of democracy and all that. The democracy functions on the Constitution and also on conventions and norms. But the way they are breaking all norms, we seriously do not know what is going to happen in the coming future. The have to give an answer...

(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI :**  
Number of times answer has been given to you. Again the answer will be the same.

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :**  
 You actually don't give any answer.....  
*(Interruptions)* I want to bring one thing to the notice of the hon. Minister that after the Illegal Migrants Dissemination Tribunal Bill (IMDT) about Assam was brought, we expressed our apprehension that it will encourage the harassment of the minorities there—linguistic, religious and everything. The amendment we brought was not entertained by them. They did not accept that amendment. Just if some complaint is made on that basis and the police officer binds the person, it is totally harmful. Many innocent citizens of our country are being harassed and they surrender to that kind of chauvinist pressure. What they have to do very sincerely is the setting up of refinery there. That they did not do. I do not know what action they have taken...

*(Interruptions)*

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Now wind up please.

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :**  
 No, Sir, it is very important. IMDT is done very quickly, but why no action is taken on the second refinery in Assam ?

**SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI :**  
 Joint sector we have offered them.

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :**  
 I do not know what offer you have made. Who will go to Assam ?

**SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI :**  
 I is there in the statement that we have made.

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :**  
 You understand that if economic activities take place, then the chauvinist trend is also curbed. You are not taking any action on that but you are encouraging IMDT. Who will protect those people ?

**AN HON. MEMBER :** Congress will protect.

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :** The Congress will protect them but who will protect the Congress ?

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :**  
 Who listens to you ? I will say one word about the Sarkaria Commission. The Sarkaria Commission has said : No idealism, caste and communal riots. And that is being encouraged very much by them. So, they cannot control anybody. One news item I saw in *Sunday*—'Merchant of Death'. Have you seen this ?

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** He would have seen. O. K...

*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :**  
 This is regarding supply of arms from Rajasthan to North-East and even to Gorkhaland agitators, and \*\* is there as the dynamite king. Who is this man, do you know ? Somebody came and gave me this photograph. Have you seen this ?\*\*

*(Interruptions)*

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** No, that I cannot allow.

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :**  
 Why, Sir ?

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** You have to give prior notice ..

*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :**  
 You know who is he, who is the dynamite king, and who are all conniving ? I believe there should be an inquiry into this whole episode. There should be an inquiry as to who all are connected with this...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI :**  
 What is this, Sir ? One comes and shows some kind of a picture here...

*(Interruptions)*

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** I do not know. What was the occasion, how they have taken it, we do not know...

*(Interruptions)*

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\*\* Not recorded.

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :**  
One full truck load of this man was caught while taking the arms and ammunitions...  
(Interruptions)

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The time is over. Please conclude.

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :**  
Sir, I would like to quote one small portion of the Sarkaria Commission report. It is very important. Before I conclude, I would like to quote a small passage from the Sarkaria Commission about the maintenance of codes of conduct.

"One unfortunate fact of the Indian situation is that enough attention has not been paid to the evolution and observance of the right Codes of conduct and conventions. Even the Codes and Conventions evolved in the earlier years have been broken too lightly in the later years. Expediency has sometime been given precedence over wisdom. There is an increasing tendency to resort to violence and extra-constitutional methods to force settlement of Political issue imagined or real."

Before I conclude, I appeal to the Government that they should be serious in running the affairs of the country. Don't surrender to the secessionists and separatists. Don't give them concession and really honour the federalism, the true federalism that is very much required in our country for the functioning of the country in a democratic way. With these words, I conclude.

**DR. PHULRENU GUHA (Contai) :**  
Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I stand to support the Demands for Grant for the Ministry of Home Affairs. Sir, so many points are to be brought out here but the time is very limited. Sir, law and order has been the main problem of the country. The question is how we can solve the problem of communalism, casteism, terrorism, etc. Separatists have been raising their ugly heads because there are fundamentalists, unpatriotic people who are

there from all sides. They encourage the people to do all kinds of destructive work. There are some organisations who are prompting these people. Government has to take serious steps against all these communal and terrorist and anti-national organisations.

What I would like to point out here is that a large number of social legislations have been passed. It shows the good intention of the Government. But, Sir, all these laws are not implemented properly. We find a number of dowry deaths. We find all sorts of cruelty against women. The implementation of these legislations is not only the responsibility of the Central Government but it is also the responsibility of the State Governments. Sir, I am very sorry to point out here, in this House, that our friends from West Bengal say that everything done by the Central Government is wrong. That is their attitude. I do not know how many of them believe in democracy. But what I would like to say is that very recently, I had visited my constituency and I have gone from village to village. There, I found that so many villagers were tortured by the CPM cadres and their supporters. They have not only tortured men but women also were tortured and the women had come to me with tears in their eyes asking for help. I was in tears when I saw their pitiable condition who had undergone the torture of those people. Sir, if you come inognito, I will take you and you will be my guest and you will see yourself what type of torture these people had undergone in the villages. When these villagers went to the Police Station to register a complaint, they did not record or register their complaints. Even when they registered their complaints, they did not take any action.

Sir, when the Congress was in power in West Bengal, at that time, they misguided the Government staff not to cooperate with the Government by not coming to office in time. The result was that when the CPM came to power, the Chief Minister of West Bengal asked the staff to come to office in time, but they did not. They failed in this. You spoiled the discipline among the staff and that was the starting point for indiscipline among

(Dr. Phulrenu Guha)

The staff in West Bengal. So, what I would like to point out here is that they should not preach here in this House but they should do it in West Bengal.

16.00 hrs.

I am one of those who believe in democracy. Whoever is the elected Government we should respect. But they should be impartial as far as possible. They should not torture the Congress people only. Do they have the courage to torture any of their friends? No,

Sir, I would like to say that in a village in Mohammadpur in Bhawanpur, a man was tortured. I have gone and seen him and he was beaten like anything in a Club the whole night and he was forced to sign a bond that he will give Rs. 5000 to them. He is a poor man, I do not know whether he will be able to give that money. But there is also another type that the Congress people have been boycotted by the CPI (M) supporters. The Congress people cannot get the labourers for their day-to-day work in the field. (Interruptions). But I tell you, my friends, I am bold enough to say about the torture by the CPI (M) people. I spent six months in Naukhal where Mahatma Gandhi spent a long time to restore peace in that area. I would like to mention that all people were not killed all women were not raped, but all the people were suffering from fear complex in those days. The same thing is happening now in Bengal. In the villages in Bengal the people are suffering from the same fear complex because of their torture. So I am telling you, that is very very bad

In another village, the CPI (M) supporters forced the labourers not to work in the houses of the Congress people. The result is that they are not able to do any work in the fields. There are a number of cases like this,

The last one I would like to say is that in another village a shallow tubewell pipe was choked by bricks and sand by CPI (M) people. So more than 20 acres of land consisting of high yielding paddy

was totally ruined. There are a number of such cases, but the time is very short. So I will not go into more incidents.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You can say all these things in West Bengal. Why your M.L.As. are not raising them in the West Bengal Assembly?

(Interruptions)

DR PHULRENU GUHA : Excuse my saying, Sir, here we have a large majority, but they can speak whatever they like. But this is not happening in West Bengal

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : There the M.L.As. are throwing bombs.

(Interruptions)

DR. PHULRENU GUHA : I don't think so. But whoever had done it, it was wrong I had seen during the British Government that the party in power, whenever there was a movement, they tried all sorts of things. So, I do not know who has done what. So, don't tell me all these things, I am old enough to see and understand all these things in life.

The last point I would like to say is that there are welfare organisations in many Government housing colonies but these welfare organisations have no place to work. So, something must be done for them.

The new Migrants Welfare Association consists of 375 families, but out of these, 280 families are in Delhi from Mana Camp. They were working at Mana, but they were transferred to Delhi by the Government. If they were in Mana Camp, they would have got the land for rehabilitation. So, I think the Government should take care of them. If they cannot give land to them, at least they should give flats to them.

Lastly, I would like to say that something should be done for the freedom fighters. All of them are old. Many of them will not be able to live long. So,

give them travel facilities and medical facilities. I think that this is the minimum courtesy that we can show to our freedom fighters.

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

16.05 hrs.

#### DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Large scale loss of ammunition due to fire at Central Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur on 23rd March, 1988

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We are now taking up Discussion under rule 193. Shri Purna Chandra Malik.

[Translation]

\*SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK (Durgapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you know that a terrible explosion occurred at the Central Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur on the 23rd March last, at 4.10 P.M. After this incident, I alongwith a few other hon. members gave a calling attention notice to the hon. Speaker for discussing the subject in this House. This calling attention notice was admitted and listed for discussion on the 0th March last. But when it came up for discussion, some hon. members demanded that this may be converted into a discussion under rule 193. As the House was unanimous on this demand, the same was converted into a discussion rule 193. This important issue is now being discussed. After this incident, the hon. Minister of State for Defence, Shri Shivraj Patil, gave a statement in this House. In that statement he stated "The fire started outside magazine No. 20 where ammunition had been stacked for sorting prior to storage in the magazine." In that statement the hon. Minister treated the matter rather lightly and the seriousness and gravity of the

incident was not reflected therein. I want to know what was the type of ammunition, which was stacked therefore sorting purposes. Whether guns, explosives, rockets, bombs etc. can be stacked at one place. It appears from the statement that all these were stacked together for sorting in the open fields without any shot or covering. Sir, through you, I want to know from the hon. Minister how long were those kept stacked there? Moreover, Sir, the 'Indian Express' dated 26.3.88 has published a news item on this incident which says, "It began when shells manufactured at the ordnance factory exploded while being offloaded at the railway station platform near the COD magazines. Now, Sir, there is a wide variance in the news published in the Indian Express and various other newspapers and the statement made by the hon. Minister. The press reports say that fire was observed when the ammunition was being off-loaded at the railway platform near the magazines. But the hon. Minister said in his statement that the ammunition was stacked in the open ground for sorting before being stored in the magazines. Many other press reporters who witnessed these incidents at Jabalpur also confirmed that the fire started first at the railway platform when the ammunition was being off-loaded from the wagons. Which of these two versions is true? That of the hon. Minister or that of the press reports? Now my question is who were those persons who were engaged in the work of off-loading of the ammunition? We know Sir, that in such type of jobs civilian contractors from outside are normally engaged. We are all well acquainted with the character of the contractors. With a view to making bigger and biggest profits they employ unskilled labour at a cheap rate. Now we know that the contract labourers employed by the contractors are mostly used to loading and unloading of rice and wheat bags, cement bags etc. If the labourers handle explosives and ammunition in the same manner as they handle rice and wheat bags then what tragedy can occur? We can easily understand that. What will happen if explosives are also thrown down from the wagons in the same way as wheat and rice bags? Therefore I want to know from the hon.

\*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.