

**STATEMENT RE: SITUATION IN
KARNATAKA ARISING OUT OF PRO-
TEST AGAINST PUBLICATION OF
A SHORT STORY IN AN
ENGLISH PAPER DECCAN
HERALD**

17.04 hrs.

[English]

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): The House is aware of the recent violence in Bangalore and some parts of Karnataka as a result of protest against publication of a short story in the Deccan Herald Weekly' supplement of December 7. In the consequent rioting, police had to open fire in Bangalore as well as in Mysore. According to information, 11 persons were killed in Bangalore and 4 in Mysore as a result of police firing. The Central Government is in contact with the State Government and has asked for fuller and complete details in the matter. The State Government has already initiated some administrative action. A judicial inquiry into the incidents has also been ordered. It is learnt that the editor and the publisher of the news-paper have been arrested U/S 153A of IPC and cases registered against them. Measures for relief are also reported to be in hand. Details from the State Government in this regard are awaited.

2. It is a matter of deep regret that a careless and provocative story should have been published in a newspaper without regard to the feelings of our Muslim brethren. Several precious lives have been lost in the process. The H.M. has spoken to the Chief Minister of Karnataka and also to the Governor. Both of them have assured him that all steps are being taken to restore law and order and bring about normalcy. I have been in constant touch with the State authorities. The Central Government has offered all assistance that the State Government may require.

3. We have requested the Chief Minister to ensure that such provocative publications

do not recur and he has assured us that steps will be taken in this behalf. We have impressed upon the State Government to maintain law and order and to see that the situation is not exploited by anti-social elements.

4. We have also been in touch with the leaders of the Muslim community in Bangalore and have assured them fullest protection and action against elements who are out to vitiate the atmosphere of communal harmony. While we share the sense of hurt of our Muslim brethren, I would appeal to them to accept the unconditional apology of the Editor of the newspaper which has been prominently published. I convey my deepest sympathies to the families of those who lost their lives and those who have been injured in the last two days.

5. Peace and communal harmony are the need of the hour and I appeal through this House to all sections of the people in Karnataka to restore peace and communal amity.

17.05 hrs.

**CHILD LABOUR (PROHIBITION AND
REGULATION) BILL 1986—Contd.**

[English]

SHRI P. PENCHALLIAH (Nellore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Bill. The founding fathers had taken enough care of children but their dreams even to this day remain as mere dreams.

During the past 40 years we had been worried about making legislation but we were not concerned about the implementation of those legislations. Today we are adding one more legislation. Acts concerning the children are pulling up and gathering dust in the concerned Ministries. Only the other day there were heated arguments about the language of the Anti-Terrorists Act Government was only worried about its interpretation rather than utilising it for curbing terrorist activities in the country. I am also very much doubtful about the implementation of this legislation. I hope at least now the Government would try to implement this legislation.