

migrating from villages to the cities and from cities to the other States. With this law and order situation, it is impossible to hold fair and effective panchayats elections. Moreover, the intelligence department has also advised not to hold panchayats elections in the villages. I therefore urge upon the Government not to hold panchayat elections in view of the present circumstances. In case the Government intends to make an experiment in Punjab by delegating some powers to the representatives of the people, it should hold the elections of the Municipal boards as these have not been held since last 20 years.

A discussion may kindly be held in the House next week on all the aspects of this important issue.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF IN-
FORMATION AND BROADCASTING
(SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT): I shall bring these
Submissions made by the hon. Members to
the notice of the Business Advisory Commit-
tee.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now Calling Attention.
Shri Bhadreswar Tanti. No.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani):
Sir, I just want to make one submission
before hon. Home Minister makes a State-
ment.

Sir, the Governor of Karnataka has re-
portedly sent a Report. Now, at least we
should know what is the situation. What is
the hesitation in dismissing this Govern-
ment, Sir? Where is the hesitation? My
appeal to the Home Minister through you is,
why this constitutional deadlock is allowed to
be persisted? Why expeditious steps are not
being taken? Will you ask him to make a
statement?

MR. SPEAKER: You are welcome to do
it. I will not ask him but I will not bar him from
giving you the information.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Why he is
hesitating, I don't understand.

MR. SPEAKER: You can just ask him.

(Interruptions)

12.22 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF
URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

**Situation arising out of Killings of Inno-
cent persons and injuries to several oth-
ers in Rajapokhri villages of Assam
bordering Nagaland**

[English]

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA (Jorhat): Sir, I
thank you for accepting the Calling Attention
Notice on the situation created by the recent
massacre at the border of Assam. As I hap-
pened to be one of the representatives of the
district....

MR. SPEAKER: You first call his atten-
tion, then he will make a statement. You can
then put your question.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Yes, Sir. I call
the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs
to the following matter of urgent public im-
portance and request that he may make a
statement thereon:-

"The situation arising out of killings of
large number of innocent persons and
injuries to several others in the Raja-
pokhri village of Assam bordering
Nagaland by armed miscreants coming
across Nagaland and the steps taken
by the Government in the matter."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI
SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): Sir, According to
reports received from the Government of
Assam, in the early hours of morning of 7.4.
89 at about 3.30 hrs, about 100 miscreants
armed with guns, rifles, daos etc., from
Nagaland attacked the village Rajapokhri of

[Sh. Sontosh Mohan Dev]

Assam on its border with Nagaland and indulged in indiscriminate shooting and burning of houses. As a result 25 persons including 7 women and 5 children were killed and 64 persons received bullet injuries. 178 houses were burnt and 1889 persons were rendered homeless who took shelter in the relief camp set up by the Assam Government. Further, about 6500 persons, according to Government of Assam belonging to neighbouring villages also took shelter in different places out of panic. The State Government have ordered an inquiry into the incident by the Additional Chief Secretary of the State.

12.23. hrs

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The Government of Nagaland have confirmed the incident but stated that the arson and killing was done by unknown miscreants. They have reported that the Muslim settlers burnt down 62 houses and the church at Hokhai village settled by the Nagas and one old woman was beaten up and severely injured. They also reported that some pamphlets were found in Rajapokhari village after the incident purportedly signed by the NSCN, and ULFA. They also reported that the Assam Government had sent police reinforcements to various posts and that students and miscreants were reportedly assembling on the border and collecting arms for attacking Naga villagers. They, however, informed that the Government of Nagaland are enquiring into the incident and action shall be taken against the culprits after their identity had been established.

On receipt of the information of the incident the neutral forces on the Assam Nagaland border were alerted to prevent recurrence of such incident. The Chief Ministers of both Assam and Nagaland have been requested to the effect that these two State Governments may take immediate steps to restore confidence in the minds of people inhabiting the area, exercise moderation and restraint, investigate the matter with mutual cooperation, to arrest and bring

to book the culprits immediately. They were also advised to meet and sort out the issue.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA (Jorhat): Sir, I note that the Home Ministry has come up with a statement which is only revealing the portion of the facts that we know. It is not a solitary instance or incident where such torturous activities or torturous deeds have been systematically going on at the Assam Nagaland border. Nowhere else in India has a border dispute attempted to be tackled with the use of force as has been done on the border between Assam-Nagaland.

Nagaland was only a District of Assam; and it was contiguous to the district which I represent, Sibsagar and Jorhat. During the Ahom rule, there was so much of affinity, so much of cordial relations between the two Governments that even now we have certain *bazar* where Nagas regularly come. The Home Minister himself must be knowing about it. We have *bazar* known as Naga Hat. All along the border of Nagaland and my District Sibsagar, there are passages known as Naga Bats through which small traders from the hills of Nagaland come for their merchandise and small trade. The relation has been so cordial that one of the high dignitaries of the Ahom Monarch was named as Borpatra Gohain; Borpatra Gohain has a linear a descendance because his mother happened to be from Nagaland. Therefore, we have been maintaining very cordial relationship, but for certain forces even now who wanted to completely give an Isolatory outlook for Nagaland demanding an independent Nagaland; and these forces have all along been continuing to wage almost war-like postures between Assam and Nagaland, so much so that the present incident is only one of the three very major incidents in the course of last few years. We have a common border of 434 kms. Constitutionally and legally, there cannot be any dispute because the border of Nagaland has been fully demarcated by the Assam-Nagaland Act 1962 passed by this Parliament when the State came in. Everything has been defined. Whatever incidents have been going on since then are only the result of the encroachment or the result of greed or

the result of maintaining a posture of total confrontation by the Government of Nagaland and for that matter with the India of India. Therefore, this is not to be again a case treated in isolation; it has far-reaching effects. Are we to solve our border problems like this? We have a border problem between Karnataka and Maharashtra; we have also a border problem with other States. Nowhere is this going to support anything on that score. But, nobody has so far taken any portion of anybody's territory by using force to settle such issues except from the Nagaland side. More than 100 people have been so far killed. In one incident at Mera-pani on 4.6.85, quite a few unofficially speaking hundreds of people from Assam including para military police personnel were killed so much so that even the weapons of Assam police were poice were taken away by large forces of Nagaland; even the weapons have not been returned. On 5.1.1979, at Chungia, there was a clash in which quite a few men in Assam were killed. In a recent incident, as per the Home Minister's statement itself, 25 persons were killed, butchered, including seven women and five children. Were are we living? Are we living in a democratic country? Are these two sister States not part of the great Indian country? Has this problem to be solved by bullets, by spears? this is something strange. The saddest part is that para-military forces stationed in the area appear to be not only passive but reportedly they do not hear certain very pathetic cries from an affected Nepalese women who went for the Commander fo help but was denied any help. I request the hon. Home Minister to give us the name of the CRPF Company or the name of the Commandant who simply sat there, when all this massacre occurred and he simply did take any action. And who were the people killed? We are so concerned about the minorities. Some of those killed happened to be Muslims. The other day, Mr. Bhadreswar Tanti showed a leaf of the Qoran that was burnt out. There were Bodo people who were butchered. Hundreds of houses of tea garden labourers have been totally gutted. All these people were downtrodden people. And the Nagaland Police went there. A Police medal was also found there. I think all this has been

incited by certain quarters from across the border. Not only that. Unofficial reports say—I am subject to correction by the Home Minister—that there was a meeting by the Chief Minister of Nagaland just two or three days prior to this incident. What does it mean? It means that, because the Government of Assam has been accepting the provisions of the Constitution, this has been taken as a means of weakness and Nagaland people by means of most sophisticated forces, are wanting to encroach and grab the land for all days to come with the use of force. Even now as many as 27,000 acres of Assam land is encroached by the Naga People . Why? How is it so? Why should be Central Government be only a passive spectator?

There was a report, called the Sundaram Report, where everything was stated in detail. The Central Government headed by the then Prime Minister Shri Morarji Desai, requested the Nagaland Government to accept it. The Assam Government accepted the report *in toto*. But nothing followed. There have been intermediate meetings between the Chief Ministers of Nagaland and Assam. The Assam Chief Ministers—all the Chief Ministers including the Congress (I) Chief Ministers—have been accepting everything, whatever the Centre said or what the Sundaram Report had said, but not the Nagaland Government. Why? Why is this so?

Again in the elections of 1980, in the elections of 1982 and more particularly in the elections of 1987 the Nagaland Government have been using Assam land for setting up booths. In 1987 it went to such an extent that an all party memorandum was sent to the President . That all party memorandum was signed by the Congress (I) people, the APCC President, the BJP, the CPM SUCI and also the Plains Tribal Council people—Shri Samar Brahma Choudhury of that Council is here. All of them corroborated the stand taken by the Assam Government. But unfortunately it is only because the Nagaland Government happened to be a Congress (I) Government, perhaps, they have found it rather difficult to say the correct

[Sh. Parag Chaliha]

thing to Nagaland . They have been all along, hesitant to compel the Nagaland Government to accede to the different agreements arrived at from time to time. Any impartial observer and I shall include even Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev who comes from Assam in this, will have to admit that at least in this case there has not been even the slightest deviation by the Government of Assam. All these things have been going on from the other side.

Another serious factor is that most of these encroachments and killings occurred immediately before any elections come. The first was in 1979, the second was on 4-6-1985 and now with the Parliamentary elections knocking at the door these killings occurred. Why? Earlier in 1964 also there were killings. Therefore, there was something systematic.

But now one thing is there. The Home Minister agrees with me that the boundary disputes, if any, should be resolved not through bullets, not by encroachment, not by grabbing things. Nowhere else has it been done and I am very happy to say this.

On the other day I met the Chief Minister of Nagaland. He told me that a meeting between the Chief ministers of Assam and Nagaland is to be held on the 25th of April 1989 to find out a solution. From our side, we have done nothing to aggravate the situation. We all still hope that the cordial atmosphere will prevail. From the side of Assam, nothing will be done to worsen the situation. While in 1979 the killings were going on, on the other side I organised a cultural conference at Sibsagar, in which various cultural parties from Nagaland and other neighbouring States participated. Therefore, we have been trying for maintaining a happy affinity and a happy relationship with the neighbouring States. But the Nagaland Government

has taken an arrogant and obstinate attitude. I am not here to add any fuel to the fire. The fire has been raging in Assam. but not in Nagaland, because parts of Assam are coming under Nagaland occupation. Therefore, we should not do anything to precipitate any breakdown in the talks. I would humbly request the Home Minister, with all the emphasis that I have in my command, to take sincere initiative to see that some tangible result comes out of the coming talks. Unless the Centre takes sincere initiative in resolving the boundary disputes between the two States, nothing tangible or permanent solution will come out. So, my appeal to the Union Home Minister is to see that the boundary disputes between Assam and Nagaland are resolved amicably. I repeat the constitutional providing under the Act has been fully established denoting the boundaries of Nagaland. Therefore, without amending the constitutional provisions, the boundaries cannot be changed. From our side, we simply want to adhere to that. But from the other side, it has not been so. Therefore, I very sincerely urge upon the Government of India and the Home Minister to take an objective view of things, not to view it from political angle, much less the partisan angle, because Assam has already been victimised in respect of its territories.

I only pray that the coming talks between the Chief Ministers of Assam and Nagaland on the 25th April will be fruitful. I will again say with reservation that we are not interested in any patch up solutions, but we want a permanent solution to the boundary disputes. But at the same time, the objective of maintaining full cordial relationship, which has been a historical fact, between the people of Assam and Nagaland should be ensured. This historical relationship shall have to prevail irrespective of party affiliations and anything. I as a representative of Sibsagar district, would like to say that we are all one. Even in these days, you will find people from Nagaland coming to the

Assam areas for trade and other purposes. We want a cordial atmosphere to prevail for all time to come.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if there is border dispute between two States it is not good either for the State Government or the people to solve the problem by using force. This not only strains the relation between the two States, but also strains the relation between the people of those States.

While speaking here, Shri Parag Chaliha was saying that Nagaland has been formed by merging some parts of Assam. This is an historical fact. But by this, the people of Assam should not think themselves big. They should be sympathetic towards the small States and respect their feelings and views. He also spoke about the attitude of Nagaland Government and said that the Central Government is hesitating in giving any suggestions to them, as the Congress is in power there. But the situation is totally different. The Central Government provided all possible assistance to the Assam Government and also to the Nagaland Government.

I think that the Centre has always been neutral in this matter. This dispute of Nagaland and Assam is neither new nor is it taking place for the first time. Such unfaithful incidents have taken place there many a times. Both the parties should be farsighted and use their discretion in this matter. I hope that leaders of both the parties will settle the matter after negotiation with each other.

Sir, today both the parties are accusing each other. The Government of Nagaland admits that some anti-social elements, possible, Naga rebels and terrorists also, killed the people in villages in Assam. But the Assam Government blames, the Nagaland

Government for patronizing and harbouring them. The Government of Nagaland blames the Assam Government for such activities.

The Central Government must have sent a senior officer to investigate the matter, as both parties were making allegations and counter allegations on each other. I would like the hon. Minister to inform the House about those findings. It was stated in the statement that both the Governments have set up enquiries. The Assam Government has set up an enquiry under the Chairmanship for the Additional Chief Secretary and the Nagaland Government has also set up an enquiry. Where the attitude is so terse on both the sides and feelings have flared up to such an extent that it is on the verge of ill-will, I don't think the enquiry will serve any purpose even if it is undertaken at a higher level. Possibly, it will help in collecting counter arguments against each other. In that case, the responsibility of the centre increases.

I would like to urge the hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs that when both the Governments are taking different stands and want to set up separate enquiries the situation may become worse. Can the Central Government intervene and hold an impartial enquiry in this regard, so that the situation does not deteriorate further. (*Interruptions*)

I would like to know from the Minister of State for Finance whether an independent enquiry would be held in this matter. Much is said about para-military forces. Whenever the Government of Assam asked for the para-military forces, it was provided by the Centre. It is not proper to criticize the forces. It affects the spirit and morale of para-military forces, who are working there against heavy odds. So I would like to request the AGP friends through you, that they should ask their Government and people not to criticize the para-military forces unneces-

[Sh. Harish Rawat]

sarily. Otherwise, it will be difficult for them to work in North-Eastern area in the present circumstances.

In the end, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has any information regarding the hand of terrorists or elements like N.S.C.N. behind this incident?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati): May I put only one question, Sir?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, you cannot.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: The situation becomes explosive at the time of elections....

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Goswami, please take your seat...

*(Interruptions)**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): Sir, there is no denial of the fact that the incident which has happened is highly condemnable, whoever might be responsible for this. This is a fact, as told by Mr. Parag Chaliha, that the people of Nagaland and Assam are living in good relationship and there is no tension whatsoever between the people of one State and the other State. But it is also a fact that in this five thousand square miles area, which, according to both the governments, is a disputed area, there were incidents in the past. The incident which took place on the 7th of this month is a very heinous incident.

The number of people killed, injured and affected, as I said in my statement, is quite heavy. Twenty-five persons have died, many have been injured and out of fear, many people including children, have gone to the camps. Immediately after getting the information of the incident, I myself contacted the Nagaland Chief Minister, spoke to him and asked him to visit the site. We got information that the Home Minister of Assam has visited the site. Both the governments have taken care of the immediate situation from their respective sides.

During the course of his speech, Mr. Parag Chaliha said that there should be a permanent solution. Nobody disputes about this. This issue has been agitating both the States for quite a long time. In the past, during the time of Janata rule, initiative was taken and during the time of Congress rule also initiative has been taken. The Sundaram Commission went into this question and then a Special Officer was deputed to see that the problem is solved. Unfortunately, it has never been solved. On the other hand, as has been very rightly said, in the past, during the election times, including the last election which was held, there was tension. But it will be wrong to make the allegation—of course, nobody has raised it, but in the national Press I have seen it—that this has been done by the Congress (I) government against a non-Congress (I) government to destabilise them. On going through the records, I see that in 1979, when the incident was there, the Chief Minister of Assam was Mr. Gulab Borbora and the Chief Minister of Nagaland was Mr. Vizol...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: We have not said that.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: No, you have not said that. It came in the national Press. I want to make it clear. In 1985, the Chief Ministers were Mr. Saikia and Mr. Zamir. So, this particular incident which has

* Not recorded.

happened, according to the information we got, was about sharing of crop by certain people. The immigrant Muslims used to cultivate there. They used to share the crop with the Nagaland people and some dispute arose there and this is the culmination of this situation which ultimately entered into this unhappy incident. Now, we want that permanent solution should be made. The Home Minister had also said this on several occasions. Sir, now in the last election when the issue came for setting up of the booth, the Assam Government went to the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court gave direction to the Election Commission that after discussion with both the State Governments, their observers were sent and they had set up some polling booths there and it is also desired that there should be a permanent solution there that for every five years the elections will be held. But since the matter is before the Supreme Court, I am not a legal man, I do not know whether at this stage we can render our good offices. But I am happy that the Chief Ministers of Nagaland and Assam are meeting, as told by Mr. Parag Chaliha, on 25th and if they can come to a certain working solution, definitely the matter can be brought out of the court and it can be decided. Now, we have to wait and see as to how that can be solved.

Now, there are allegations that the CRPF are not active, they did not react at the right time and if they had reacted, the situation could have been avoided. This is the allegation. Now, we came to know about the incident and about the allegations. Now, we had sent a senior officer and he has submitted a report and we are having a thorough examination of the report. We have decided, as Mr. Harish Rawat has also suggested, that a scenario officer of the Government of India should inquire into the whole matter, to look into the case as to whether there were lapses and if so what action can be taken and also to see that in future such incidents

should not occur. Now, the fact remains that the para military forces there are under the D.I.G (Border) of the Assam Government and it is the duty of the Assam Government to give feed back or to intervene and to give guidelines. No intelligence report was available about that incident and I do not want to blame anybody. This is what the CRPF had said. Some people said that the distance was 1 1/2 Kms. But there are also reports to us that there is a distance of half a kilometre in the first phase of occurrence. The CRPF said that they had reached the spot within 15 minutes. Some people said that they had reached the spot after three hours six hours. But we are not happy about this contradictory statement. But we have decided to instal a high level inquiry by the Government of India high officials and after we get the report we shall take appropriate action. If there is any lapse on the part of anybody. But in the meanwhile we appeal to all not to throw any allegations against each other because we have to see that the tension is diffused and further instigation must not be allowed. I am told the D. I. G of Nagaland and the D.I.G. of Assam had a meeting and they have taken certain steps how to diffuse the situation, how the crop which has been harvested can be reaped by the people, how the people can go back to their respective places, etc. and the motion has been set to diffuse the situation. So, the meeting of the Chief Ministers will also help further diffuse the situation. So, I am sure the the action taken by the Government of India is in the correct direction. But we are not very happy to have an independent inquiry by the State Government. It will again lead to certain tensions and other things. So we have requested the State Government not to proceed with their independent inquiry. Let there be the Government of India officials to look into this where both the State Governments can project their view-points, their grievances and after getting the report, appropriate action will be taken.

SHRIDINESH GOSWAMI: (Guwahati): We have accepted the report of the Sundaram Committee.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I do not want to go into this. This is a long long study. I am also from Assam and I do not know the stand of the Assam Government. I know the stand here. But here I am in the Government of India a Minister. From that point of view I have to say that both the Government are disputing, the matter has gone to the court, but in the last election the Government of Assam have shown their magnanimity, they have allowed the polling booths to be set up and we are happy about it. With the spirit of give and take it should be solved and as Mr. Parag Chaliha has very rightly said, Nagaland has come out of Assam and traditionally and culturally Nagaland and Assam are very close. Nagas' language is more or less Assamese language. So, I think personally, Sir, that the situation which has cropped up there is very grave and it should not happen, but about what has happened, all of us condemn it, whosoever, is guilty should be punished, both the Governments will cooperate with the Inquiry Committee that will be set up by the Government of India and if there is any lapse on the part of any one, appropriate action will be taken as per the rule and we shall also strengthen the Para-military forces after getting the report because there are also certain suggestions that the present deployment of the para-military force is also not sufficient. That we shall take care of.

With these words, I thank the Members who have participated in this debate and I am sure that peace will come back in the area very soon. At present the negotiations have started on how to solve the problem and I wish them all the best and again I convey my deep sympathy for those who have been killed and I am glad that the Government of Assam has taken up the proposal about rehabilitation schemes by

giving money to those families whose members have been killed, to those who have been injured and the camps have been opened and soon they will be able to go to their respective places. But the issue is not the boundary dispute, the issue is crop sharing and as the place of occurrence is the boundary dispute area, so I think that this should be looked into from that angle and it is an isolated issue in a particular place. Grievances are there that some houses of the Naga People have been burnt and it is a fact that the first incident came from the other side.

As regards the allegation of the Nagaland police involvement, this inquiry will reveal. As regards Shri Harish Rawat's contention regarding NSCN and ULFA, we have got some report that their leaflets are available, but there are all pieces of information, it has to be examined on the spot as to what is correct and what is not correct. So, I will not come to a decision right now until we get the final report from the proposed Inquiry Committee and once the report comes, I am sure that Members of the House will be able to know about it.

AN HON. MEMBER : Is there no lunch break, Sir?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If all of you feel that there should be Lunch break, I have no objection.

SHRIDINESH GOSWAMI: Let us begin after Lunch. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): If all you want to have lunch break. I have no objection.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : After lunch, other Members will also come to listen to you.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Yes, it is alright. We will do it at 2 P.M.

Shri Bhajan Lal:

[Translation]

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If all of you feel that we should adjourn for Lunch now because many Members would come to listen to the reply to the debate on the Demands of the Agriculture Ministry, I have no objection.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Mr. Goswami will bring Opposition members to listen to the Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If all of you agree, we will adjourn for Lunch and re-assemble at 2 P.M.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We now adjourn for Lunch and re-assemble at 2 P.M.

12.58 Hrs.

*The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till
Fourteen of the Clock*

*The Lok Sabha Re-Assembled after Lunch
at Six Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock*

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

DEMAND FOR GRANTS 1989-90

[English]

(I) Ministry of Agriculture—Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, further discussion and voting on the demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIBHAJAN LAL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have been discussing the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture for the last four days. Many hon. Members participated in it and gave valuable suggestions. I would like to thank all of them, who have participated in this discussion.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our country is an agricultural country and 70 per cent of the population lives in villages. Mahatma Gandhi once said that the soul of India lives in the villages and the condition of the country cannot be improved until the condition of villagers is improved, because the economy of our country depends on agriculture. In fact agriculture is the backbone of our economy. The first Prime Minister of India, Pt. Jawahar Lai Nehru realised the dream of Mahatma Gandhi by paying foremost attention to agriculture and improved the condition in a systematic way. He said that in this world, other things can wait but agriculture cannot wait. The work carried out in the field of agriculture for the last 42 years is really commendable. You may be aware that when the country progresses and marches ahead there can be some shortcomings also. Many hon Members of this House pointed out these shortcomings as well as the remarkable achievements. I congratulate them. They have gone to the root of the matter.

You know about our scientists. Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru gave a sound foundation to the country, which helped in achieving greater heights. He paid utmost attention towards strengthening the agriculture and improving the lot of farmers of the country. Efforts were made to provide irrigation facilities to the farmers, wherever possible, by constructing dams.