

pave way for social equality, human dignity and brotherhood. In this great task of national reconstruction, the Government and the Government employees have a vital role to play. Effective implementation of secular legislations will be possible when there is the growth of secular outlook among the Government employees. They must be the harbingers of change.

Sir, revitalisation of our educational system on secular lines enables us to inculcate the new value system in the minds of the younger generation.

Even today many names of persons reveal their caste and religious identity. Hence, Government should liberalise rules for dropping caste and religious names. This would be in furtherance of secularism.

Sir, the promotion of inter-caste and inter-religion marriages are the surest way to promote national unity in this country. Marriages do not fail simply because they are inter-caste or inter-religious. Even within the same caste, sometimes marriages fail. In fact, the inter-caste and inter-religion marriages tend to be more secure in view of the special responsibility cast on them. Society must move forward to achieve social change. In this effort, the inter-caste and inter-religion marriages play a vital role.

As the hon. Members urged, a uniform civil code is very essential for the progress of the nation. The Government should take effective steps to fulfil the goal set in the Directive Principles of the Constitution. The Government should take effective steps to fulfil the goal set in the Directive Principles of State Policy in the Constitution.

Sir, in this country, the cherished goals of Democracy secularism and socialism should get equal attention. Then alone, there will be all-round development of the country. Let us not forget that secularism is the necessary pre-condition for the unity of the nation, and future of the country is invariably linked with its growth. Hence, propagation of secular values among the young through education is a must.

Sir, the Government is well aware of the dangers of communalism, casteism and sectarian outlook. Once again, I urge the Government to take effective step to promote secularism.

I am thankful to the Hon. Minister for his assurances in this regard. The united efforts of the government and the people go a long way in achieving secularism on a firm footing.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I shall now put the amendment moved by Shri Nawal Kishore Sharma to the Resolution.

The Amendment was put and negatived

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : I seek the leave of the House to withdraw my amendment.

The Amendment was put and withdrawn

SHRIMATI VIDYA CHENNUPATI : Sir, in view of the assurance given by the Hon. Minister, I seek leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw her Resolution ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.
The Resolution was by leave withdrawn.

RESOLUTION RE: STEPS FOR REMOVAL OF BACKWARDNESS OF THE NORTH-EASTERN REGION

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN (Tripura East) : Sir, I beg to move :

"This House urges the Government to take immediate steps for the removal of backwardness of the North-Eastern region, which has enormous potential and raw material for sustaining rapid industrialisation, by setting up industries there and by connecting the region with a network of Railway, communication and transport system."

*Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I shall move my resolution in English and thereafter I

*The Original speech was delivered in Bengali.

[*Shri Baju Ban Riyan*]
will make my speech in Bengali. My resolution is ;

"This House urges the Government to take immediate steps for the removal of backwardness of the North-Eastern region, which has enormous potential and raw material for sustaining rapid industrialisation, by setting up industries there and by connecting the region with a net-work of Railway, communication and transport system."

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the very outset I will express my expectation that this resolution will be adopted by this House unanimously. The Government of India has formed the North Eastern Council. They have formed this Council because they found that the North Eastern region was backward economically as well as in all other respects. I have brought this resolution before this House with a view that the purpose for which this North Eastern Council has been set up may be achieved speedily and the work of the Council may proceed smoothly and efficiently. The Government of India has admitted long back that the seven States lying in the North-Eastern region are backward in all respect as compared to the States in other parts of the country. Industries are practically not-existent. Means of communication are very weak. Whenever we raised the question in this House that whatever Industries are possible may be set up in the States of North Eastern region, we always got the stock answer that transport and communication is very weak in that region. Proper roads are not there and it will not be possible to sell profitably the articles produced here in other markets of the country. Therefore, no industries can be approved for this region. Paradoxically, when we demanded railway lines and network of roads for the economic development of this region, we were told that there are no industries in the North Eastern region so what is the use of constructing roads and railways. So the situation is, that Industries are not coming up for want of roads and roads are not being constructed for want of industries! I will urge upon the Central Government not to forward one excuse against the other in the matter of setting up industries and constructing roads but they should go

ahead and develop both of them simultaneously. As I have said, the communication is very weak in this region. In Tripura we have a railway line only 11 Km. in length. This line is between Choraibai and Dharangarh that too is narrow gauge. So there is a railway line 11 Km. long, and we will not be able to claim that there is no railway line in Tripura! The people of Tripura demand that the railway line must be extended right upto its Southern borders i.e., upto Sabroom town. The distance will be about 400 Km. not more than that. In Tripura we have at present about 350 Km. of National Highway but that too is not in a condition to sustain traffic throughout the year. This is not the condition in Tripura alone. There are no railway lines in existence in Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Manipur. Whatever little railway tracks were constructed by the British in this region, even if that pace was maintained by our Government, then today after 35 years of independence at least the State Capitals in the north eastern region could have been connected by rail. Sir, the railway line between Lamding and Badarpur passes through tunnels made in 39 hills. If that keeping in view the interests of the have been possible to lay railway tracks in the whole of this region. I concede that the cost of laying railway lines in this region is higher than in other parts of the country, but I will request the Government that keeping in view the interests of the people of this area and economic development of this backward region, they should come forward to construct new railway lines here. In the annual report of the Ministry of Industries presented by the Government during the last budget session of Parliament, it has been mentioned at many places that the North Eastern region is industrially backward. The industrial policy of the Government that was declared in 1956 and the Industrial policy that was announced in this House on 23rd July 1980 and which the Government professes to follow in the matter of industrial development of the whole country, lays down that there will be uniform industrial development of all the regions. Imbalances among different regions will be avoided. So far so good. But unfortunately we have noticed during the last 35 years that the Government has

not paid that much attention towards the industrial development of the North eastern region. So far as I know, the Government is trying to set up some forest based industries in this region like paper mills. One paper mill is functioning at Nowgong. They are also trying to set up another paper mill in Nagaland. Work has started on that. One paper mill is going to be set up at Cachar. But apart from these, they can set up paper mills in the other States also based on the forest wealth of those States. There is a long standing demand of the people of Tripura for a paper mill in that State. Right from the days of the Congress Government, resolutions have been passed in the assembly of that State, unanimously to place their demand before the Central Government. Ever since the Left front Government came to power in Tripura, unanimous resolutions have been passed in every session of the assembly there. Voicing this demand and those resolutions have been sent to the Central Government. The Central Government have, of course, at no time refused to accede to their demand. They have always agreed to fulfil this demand. But they are not taking any positive steps in this regard. That is the beauty of it. The Centre never says 'No'. But does not do it either. If a paper mill is set up in Tripura, many people can be provided employment. The Government has initiated some very laudable projects in this region. The Nagaland paper project in Mokokchung district will produce about 100,000 tons of paper per year. It will cost about Rs. 230 crores and it will provide employment to 18,000 people. Similarly in every other paper project not less than 15,000 to 20,000 people will find employment. But in the North Eastern region we see that the able-bodied educated unemployed people have no other avenues of employment except Government jobs wherever available. In other States of India there are steel industries and various other types of industries, there are heavy industries and small scale industries too. We have nothing here. Sir, in the different States of the North Eastern region rubber based industries can be set up. Rubber tyres and tubes and various other rubber goods can be produced here for which there is great demand in other parts of our country as well as in foreign countries also. We

can earn considerable foreign exchange by exporting them. It has been found that the rubber produced in Tripura is not inferior in quality to that produced in other areas like Kerala etc. Sometimes it is better. Tripura rubber is of fine quality according to experts and the soil of Tripura is also very suitable for rubber cultivation. Rubber plantations are coming up in Tripura. The farmers there have taken up rubber cultivation. But when we approached the Centre for setting up rubber industries in Tripura, the Centre refused to give funds. The Chief Minister of Tripura came to New Delhi some time back. He met the Finance Minister for help in setting up rubber based industries in Tripura. But the Finance Minister clearly said 'No'. He refused to give any financial assistance. Therefore, in spite of tremendous possibilities, rubber industries are not coming up in this area. I will draw your attention to the fact that Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram and other States in this region abound in forests and to sustain the people of this region, cultivation of rubber and setting up of rubber based industries both are very essential. This will also contribute a lot in the overall development of our country as well as in earning precious foreign exchange. The personnel of the Geological Survey of India who are conducting survey in this region have found rich deposits of bauxite, pyrite, copper etc. in many States of the North-Eastern region. At many places in Manipur, Nagaland and in the Lohiya district of Arunachal Pradesh rich mineral deposits have been found. This proves that the entire North-Eastern region abounds in mineral wealth. Now the question arises who will utilise them fruitfully? If the Government comes forward to exploit them, then it will help in the progress of not only this region but the whole country will be benefited.

Sir, the ONGC is also conducting survey in the North-Eastern region. They have drilled well at several places in Tripura and have found considerable quantity of natural gas. At Baramura in Tripura they say that they have found huge quantity of gas and according to them oil also is likely to be found. At Rukhiya in Tripura a team of Russian experts are exploiting for oil.

[Shri Baju Ram Riyan]

They have also said that oil can be found there. You must have seen press reports some time back and Minister for Petroleum has also stated in this House that huge reserves of gas have been located at Baramura and oil is also likely to be struck there. Now the question is that this gas has to be properly exploited and utilised. We, on behalf of the people of Tripura place this demand before the Centre, that gas-based thermal power plants may be set up there. We have asked for Rs. 5 crores from the Centre during the current year for setting up a gas-based thermal power plant at Barainura. Sir, power is very much needed for establishing small scale industries in that region. Once this project starts, we can set up gas-based thermal power plants in other places in Tripura as well as in other States of the North-Eastern region where gas is found in abundant quality. This will go a long way in meeting the power requirements of this region. At present whatever little power is available from small Hydel projects. Some hydel projects like Dumbun hydel project in Tripura is capable of producing only 5 to 8 mega watt of electricity. Look-Tak project in Manipur, Omium project in Meghalaya supplies some amount of power. But this fall far short of the demand for power in this region, even at present. Now, if new industries are to be set up much more power will be required. With the present availability of power new industries are just not possible.

Sir, an Electric Corporation has been established in the North-Eastern region as recommended to the Government by the North Eastern Council. The North Eastern power and electric corporation is working there with its headquarters at Shillong. Their activities are spread over many States of this region. They have started work on a project called the 'Kopili' project at the border of north Cachar and Khasi and Jaintia hills. But there are many charges of corruption against the officers of this North-Eastern power and electric Corporation. These complaints of corruption have been placed repeatedly, before many Central Ministers specially the Prime Minister and the Minister of Energy. The Tribal association of the employees of

the Corporation have also forwarded a list of complaints. But I am sorry to say that no action has been taken against the officers of that Corporation and no remedy of the grievances has yet been found. Lot of corrupt practices exist in matters of appointment as well as in the rehabilitation of all those tribals who have been uprooted from their hearth and home on account of the construction of the 'Kopili' project. Corruption is also involved in providing suitable employment to these displaced persons. All these complaints have been forwarded to the Central Ministers but we do not find any sign of their redress.

Many types of industries specially small scale industries are possible in this region. Sir, the Small Industries Development Organisation in their report for 1980-81 has listed the various types of small scale industries that have already been set up and which are possible to be set up all over the country. Some of them are food-based, some leather-based, some others wood-based etc. etc. Out of that the food and allied industries which is possible in Tripura and the North-Eastern region has not yet been started there. Some other small scale industries are possible to be set up in this region like, 'dehydrated Vegetables', pickles and chutneys, rice milling, bread etc. Similarly some rubber-based industries like cycle tyres, tubes, surgical goods etc. can be set up here easily. Therefore if thorough examination is carried out then it will be found that many industries are possible in this region. The Centre has a study team to examine the possibilities of setting up small industries with moderate investment. I will request the Centre that this team may be deputed to carry out extensive study of the North-Eastern region and I am sure that they will find immense possibilities there. They should specially study the possibility of setting up agro-based, forest-based, mineral-based and rubber-based small industries in the entire north-eastern region. This will be of great help in providing employment to all the unemployed people of this backward region.

Sir, I will now draw the attention of this House to another very serious matter. The North-eastern region is admittedly neglected area. As a result of this, the people inhabiting various states of this region are

getting a feeling that they will perhaps be saved if they separate themselves from the Centre. They feel that they are not getting the right treatment from the Centre. For example, the Mizo National Party in Mizoram is demanding an independent State. Nagaland is also demanding an independent Nagaland. In this way the organisations of various tribal people are thinking and acting on secessionist lines. The main cause for this is that the Centre has not paid due attention for the development of this region.

16.05 HRS.

(SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI *in the Chair*)

If the development of this region had kept balance with the development of other regions of our country, if industries were set up here as has been done in other parts of the country, if the people here found some employment and could manage at least two square meals a day, then the question of such secessionist movements would not have arisen. We feel that because they are not getting any opportunity of advancement the reactionary forces are getting an opportunity to instigate them. We, of course, do not believe that by secession from the rest of the country they will benefit or they will be able to advance industrially. Our party do not believe in that. We want that the schemes and projects that are being implemented in other States may be implemented in this region also. We want that the development of this region should keep pace with the development of other parts of this country. Only then it will be possible to challenge and combat the secessionist forces that are instigating these poor, backward tribal people. The Government unfortunately is not yet paying due attention to this aspect. As a result of this, an agitation is long going on in Assam. Assam is also trying for secession under the garb of 'drive away the foreigners' agitation.

Sir, the entire supplies of essential commodities to the North-Eastern States right from foodgrains have to pass through Assam as this is the only State connected by rail. Now if there is a blockade in Assam then the supply to all the north-eastern States will be completely and effectively cut off. If you go to Arunachal

you will face a terrible shortage of foodgrains. All the ration shops are lying closed. The public distribution system is completely paralysed. Kerosene is not available. If you carry out an investigation you will find that there are families who do not get kerosene even for one day in the year. How paradoxical the situation is because kerosene is being produced very close by. This is the situation not only in Arunachal, the same situation prevails in Nagaland and in other States of the entire north-eastern region. This is the result of the destructive agitation in Assam. Sir, in the name of driving out the foreigners, many non-Assamese people who are living in Assam for generations have been driven out and forced to go to other States. It has been claimed that they came over from Bangladesh, formerly East Pakistan. But many such non-Assamese people have been driven out who had never been to Bangladesh but were born and brought up in Assam itself. Many such people have been driven out of Assam as 'Foreigners'.

Sir, I will conclude with the hope that the Government will approve my resolution keeping in view the backwardness of the whole north-eastern region. I also hope that all sections of this House will support my resolution and adopt it unanimously. This will also help, I believe, in preserving and promoting the national integration of our country.

श्री चन्द्रपाल शैलानी (हाथरस) : हमरे देश का पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र बहुत समय से पिछड़ा रहा है। आजादी मिलने के बाद स्वर्गीय पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू जो हमारे देश के निर्माता ये उन्होंने पहली बार इस क्षेत्र के विकास की ओर ध्यान दिया। अंग्रेज के जमाने में इस इलाके की हालत बहुत ज्यादा खराब थी। आजादी प्राप्त होते ही इस क्षेत्र के विकास की ओर ध्यान दिया गया और वहां पर समय समय पर निर्माण कार्य प्रारम्भ किए गए। असम पहले एक सूबा था। यह ऐसा इलाका है जहां पर कहीं पर तो ऊंचे ऊंचे पहाड़ हैं, कहीं पर नीचे दरे हैं, जमीन समतल नहीं है और वहां उसकी बहुत सी दूसरी समस्याएं हैं। उस इलाके का विकास और निर्माण हो, उसका उद्घार हो, उस इलाके की समस्याओं का समाधान हो, इसी दृष्टि से हमारी सरकार ने नागालैंड को बनाया, मिजोरम बनाया, अरुणाचल बनाया ताकि छोटे छोटे सूबे होने से अच्छा प्रशासन चल सके और विकास हो सके।

[अर्थी अवागमन शैलानी]

औद्योगीकरण की दृष्टि से देखा जाय तो प्रकृति ने वहां पर काफ़ी खनिज पदार्थ दिए हैं जिनको यदि निकाला जाय तो जहां देश को सामान मिलेगा, वहां स्थानीय लोगों का भी विकास होगा। अभी माननीय सदस्य कह रहे थे, कुछ दिन पहले हमने पढ़ा है कि अरुणाचल में तेल के विशाल भंडार हैं अगर वहां तेल निकालने के लिए युद्ध स्तर पर कार्यवाही की जाय तो वहां का काफ़ी विकास हो सकता है। बर्मा पड़ीसी देश है जहां बहुत तेल पाया जाता है, अरुणाचल बर्मा से लगा हुआ है, असम में भी तेल के भंडार हैं। इसलिए जहां जहां तेल निकालने की संभावना है, जैसे बम्बई हाई से तेल निकालने के लिए सरकार प्रयत्नशील है उसी तरह से पूर्वाचल क्षेत्र में भी यदि कार्यवाही होती रही तो बहुत जल्दी ही हम तेल के मामले में आत्म निर्भर हो जाएंगे। सरकार को इस दिशा में शीघ्र कार्यवाही करनी चाहिए।

मैंने उस इलाके को देखा है, वहां आवागमन के साधन कम हैं। सड़क आवागमन का मुख्य साधन होता है, अगर इस क्षेत्र के बड़े-बड़े कस्बों तक सड़कें हो जाएं तो अच्छा रहेगा। वहां पर केला, पाइनेपिल और अन्य फल होते हैं। यदि आवागमन के साधन हो जाएं तो लोगों की आर्थिक स्थिति सुधर सकती है और औद्योगीकरण भी हो सकता है। रेलों का भी वहां अभाव है। न्यूबोनगाई गांव के आगे मीटरगेज लाईन है और कई जगह बदलनी पड़ती है। कुछ जगह रेलों का नामोनिशान नहीं है। जिस तरह से शिमला और दार्जिलिंग आदि पहाड़ी इलाके रेलों से जुड़े हुए हैं उसी तरह से इस क्षेत्र से भी रेलों का जाल बिछाया जाय। वहां के लोग मेहनती, ईमानदार और देशभक्त हैं, लेकिन साधन न मिलने की बजह से उनका विकास पिछड़ा हुआ है। यह इलाके ऐसे हैं जहां पर्यटन का यदि विकास किया जाय तो काफ़ी आमदनी वहां के लोगों की हो सकती है। वहां देश, विदेश के पर्यटक जा सकते हैं क्योंकि यह क्षेत्र प्राकृतिक सौंदर्य से भरा पड़ा है और इसको पर्यटकों के लिए स्वर्ग बनाया जा सकता है। अतः सरकार इस ओर ध्यान दे।

वहां पर बौकसाइट, पायराइट, कोयला, तेल वर्ग रह पाया जाता है जो दूसरे प्रान्तों से नहीं पाया जाता है। इन खनिज पदार्थों की आने वाले समय से देश के औद्योगीकरण के लिए काफ़ी जरूरत पड़ेगी। वहां पर रबर भी काफ़ी मात्रा में पाया जाता है। जिस तरह से दक्षिण में रबर पैदा होता है, यहां भी और पैदा हो सकती है। इसी तरह से टिम्बर

वहां होता है बढ़िया किस्म का जिसको फर्नीचर उद्योग में इस्तेमाल किया जा सकता है। अगर आवागमन के साधन हों, और लोगों को काटेज इंडस्ट्रीज के लेविल पर सहायतें दी जाएं, लोगों को कर्ज दे कर और विशेषज्ञ भेज कर के उनकी ट्रेनिंग दी जाय, तो फर्नीचर का काम बहुत अच्छा आसानी से हो सकता है। क्योंकि वहां पर लकड़ी के बहुत जंगल हैं और अच्छे किस्म की लकड़ी वहां पाई जाती है। वह जंगली इलाका है और तरह-तरह के जानवर भी वहां रहते हैं इसलिए चमड़े का उद्योग भी काफ़ी फल-फूल सकता है। आज हमारे देश में चमड़े की कमी है अगर इसका सदूपयोग किया जाए तो खाल की ऐसी चीजें बन सकती हैं जिनका बाहर एक्सपोर्ट भी हो सकता है और उससे फारेन करेन्सी मिल सकती है।

वहां बांस भी बहुत पाया जाता है। बांस की कलात्मक बहुत सी वस्तुएं और फर्नीचर बनता है। अगर वहां इस तरह के सींटर खोले जाएं तो काफ़ी फायदा हो सकता है।

आज असम में जो आन्दोलन चल रहा है, वहां के लोगों में जो हीनता और असंतोष की भावना उसके और दूसरे कारण भी होंगे, मैं उस विषय में नहीं जाना चाहता, लेकिन यह बात सही है कि असम में पिछड़ेपन के कारण लोगों में असंतोष और रोष की भावना है। अगर असम के आन्दोलन से सरकार निपटना चाहती है और उसको सही दिशा देना चाहती है तो जो वहां विदेशी नागरिकों की समस्या है, अगर वहां औद्योगिक विकास हो और पिछड़ेपन को दूर किया जाए तो वह समस्या भी काफ़ी हद तक हल हो सकती है। वहां छोटे-छोटे उद्योग खोले जाएं।

असम एक ऐसा इलाका है जिसके चारों तरफ हमारी सरकार को इस बक्त विशेष ध्यान देना चाहिए। अगर वहां के पिछड़ेपन को दूर कर औद्योगिक विकास किया गया तो आज जो मेन-स्ट्रीम से हटकर लोग बात सोच रहे हैं, वह नहीं होगा। वहां ऐसी स्थिति बनेगी कि वे भारत के अंग हैं, रहे हैं और आगे भी रहेंगे। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं यह अनुरोध करूंगा कि इस इलाके की तरफ बहुत गौर से देखना चाहिए और वहां के औद्योगिक विकास के लिए कोई ठोस और प्रभावी कार्यवाही सरकार को अपल में लानी चाहिए। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Mr. Bapu-saheb Parulekar may speak.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Sir, the Minister of Planning ought to have been also there. You call the Minister of Planning also.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR (Ratnagiri) : Mr. Chairman, at the outset I thank the hon. Member who, while moving this motion has focussed the attention of this august House through this Resolution on the various problems of the seven sister States.

Mr. Chairman, this is not the first time that we are debating this issue and I believe that every year, that is since 1980 at least once we have debated this issue. Many good suggestions were made to the Government and in reply we were told that the Government is going to take action, but unfortunately we did not come to know as to what action the Government took and therefore, with all humility I would request the hon. Minister, if he is not in a position to tell us now what action the Government proposed to take, to at least inform us as to what action the Government will be taking.

Sir, this North-East region, though it contains a small area and 4 per cent of our population, is vital from the point of view of various aspects of our country, firstly, from the point of security, secondly from the point of hydroelectric generation, thirdly minerals, fourthly, oil and fifthly forests, and these can be multiplied.

At the fag end of the argument in his speech the hon. Member referred to the agony of the people who are staying in North-East and he referred to the secessionist activities. Before going to the failures of the Government in giving proper amenities to the people of North-East, I would like to request the hon. Minister to take this august House and all the Members in confidence and tell us as to what is happening in North-East. We have reports which we read in the press. But we do not get the information which we are getting from the press. During the last three years i.e. from 1979-82 we have been reading that the C.I.A. agents are working very seriously and helping the secessionists in that area. Shri Sarin who has written this book 'India's North-East in Flames' referred to an incident of (John B) Nolton (a CIA official

attached to the U.S. Consulate in Calcutta). His secret notes to a C.I.A. Indian agent in Calcutta were intercepted by our intelligence.

I quote from his book. He says :

"Please come to Calcutta Club on.... at 12 hours. I will be in blue shirt", etc. The contact came to the Club at the appointed time. A senior Intelligence Officer, who intercepted the letter, sat on a table adjacent and overheard their conversation. And, on the basis of this clue, an inquiry was conducted...."

This revealed that Nolton made frequent visits to Assam, Meghalaya, and Tripura. He once wrote to many of his friends in India. What has happened to this? The people ask us when they read this. But we, the Members of Parliament, are not in a position to tell and convince others as to what has happened.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it time to read that now? Anyway....

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR : He referred to this. This is an issue. Let us not be technical on this.

Again I may refer to the observations of the hon. Home Minister of 21st March in Rajya Sabha :

"A U.S. Intelligence Agency could be behind the Assam agitation and the unrest in the North-East Region."

The words which he uttered and which I am going to say are very important and are more eloquent :

"In the modern world, conquests were not made by the use of arms but by the flow of money and literature, a show of love and affection and by creating agents."

This was endorsed by the hon. Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi on April 4 when she said about this North-East. Rightly Mr. Sarin has said "North East is in flames". I will not allude more on this. You rightly said that we have to stick to the Resolution. I refer to the main issue. The problems of North East are totally neglected. I do not mean to suggest that we have to give more importance and main pre-occupation to this but if you

[**Shri Bapu Saheb Parulekar]**

continue this neglect, there is a danger as is expressed by the hon. Member who moved this Resolution. I believe our failures are mainly not military but they are political. They are administrative. They are emotional. I feel that the root failure is the lack of integrity and perspective. In this connection, it would not be proper to say that the Government of India did not give proper funds. If we see the figures we find that the Planning Commission has not been stingy with funds. But the money has gone, as the Report shows, to politicians, contractors, bureaucrats and engineers. The Report further says :

"It would be very difficult to claim that even a third had percolated to the people."

If that happens, I would request the hon. Minister to kindly consider as to what should be done so that the money which is being pumped in from the Centre to the North East is properly utilised for the development of the North East.

I would like to make one more suggestion which I have made at that time—which would establish the integrity. It pains me to mention, but I have to mention one incident in 1981. I had been to Imphal and one young boy met me and asked me, Mr. Parulekar, have you come from India ? What does it show ? The first tri-colour of our country was unfurled in Imphal-nearabout it stands a university in the name of the architect of our country, Pandit Nehru. I had the fortune or misfortune to see the building of the university and to my surprise I found that not even an inch of place was left on the wall where anti-Bharath, anti-India slogans were not written. When I asked the Vice-Chancellor, he was pained to tell me, "If I dare to do anything with these slogans, my life will be in danger". This is the position. Of course, when I asked about the other position, I was told about the total neglect.

As far as the officers who are supposed to implement the policies of the Government are concerned, we find that Rs. 500 to Rs. 800 more are given to those persons who are from those areas and stay there.

It should be otherwise, in fact. But many of these posts have been created in order that these officers who are there, should be placed in a particular area. As against this, I.A.S. and I.P.S. officers from other parts of the country refuse to go there and a responsible person—a politician—told me that below-average officers are there in the North East who are not in a position to implement the programmes. They have created a bad impression to the people and they could not tone up the administration.

I would, therefore, suggest, can we not give incentives to our officers, just as incentives are given in U.S.S.R. Even remotely, I do not want suggest that North East is Siberia of our country. But the Soviet Union Officers and servants who are placed in Siberia are given 2½ times or 3 times of emoluments of those officers who are placed in Moscow or Kiev. This is the backbone of our bureaucracy—our officers, competent officers going in the North East, say there is a total neglect.

The other suggestion I would like to make is, better way of attracting talented public servants and enterprising industrialists. It would be necessary to give incentives to them. I found that out of a total income-tax which is recovered, only 4.5% is recovered from this area. So the tribals in this area, are not required to pay income-tax and in order to attract the industrialists, entrepreneurs engineers, agriculturists, experts in various walks of life, can we not exempt income-tax or some other taxes to these people. Some incentives should be given. Even if the income-tax concession is given to all the people, not more than 5% of our total tax would be affected. I believe, vigorous anti-corruption drive in North East is called on so that 2/3rd of the money which is being spent on this can be utilised. If this is done, I believe that the secession activity will remain confined only to a lunatic fleet.

With this, I would like to make certain suggestions to which a reference was made by my hon. colleague who moved this resolution. Sometime back, when I was speaking on this issue in 1981, hon. Mr. Makwana who was in-charge of the Ministry told us that steps would be taken for

transporting the fruits speedily to Calcutta market. That is the main industry in Tripura. If you go to Agartala, you find fruits at the cheapest rates like water-melons, pineapples and other fruits. But there is not transport facility available.

Then, we were promised that a paper plant will be established by the Hindustan Paper Corporation there. They have submitted a preliminary report. I would like to know what has happened to that preliminary report. The people there ask what about the promise that was given. I want to know from the hon. Minister what is the progress of this project. The hon. Minister should tell us about that.

We were also given a promise on the floor of the House that a pineapple processing plant will be established somewhere in the North East, I believe, and if I remember a right, in Agartala. What is the position in regard to that ?

I would like to make one more suggestion. I would request the hon. Minister to pay very serious attention to this aspect and that is, the restoration of land to the tribals should not be delayed any longer. I may also suggest that this should be accompanied by the rehabilitation of the non-tribals. We find that this is the root cause of the trouble.

I had also made a request at that time and many of my hon. friends joined me in making the request that if we have to give special attention to the problems of North-East region, a separate Ministry should be created for the purpose with at least a Minister of State incharge of that because we are not in a position otherwise to pay proper attention to the development of North-East region.

One more suggestion that was made at that time was the establishment of an independent commission to probe into the allegations made by all political parties against each other as to who vitiated the entire atmosphere of the North-East region, one party making allegations against another party, with the result that the people in general are not ready to believe the leaders of any party. That speaks volumes and that leads to the chaotic conditions.

Assam produces 60 per cent of tea. The grievance is that there is no reason why the Tea Board is not established there. That is the grievance. I do not know what steps the Government have taken in this regard.

I believe, the State of Assam has been cheated of additional revenues because of Barauni being chosen as a public sector refinery and, I believe, the Assam leaders are asking for 3 million tonnes capacity in Assam. There are many other suggestions which were made. I would like to tell the hon. Minister that some more steps have to be taken in regard to them.

According to the Assam State Electricity Board, an estimated quantity of 60 million cft. per day of natural gas is flared away in the region of Upper Assam. Is it not a national waste ? We are in need of gas. But this much quantity of 60 million cft. is flared away and the experts say that the utilisation of this gas can provide more than 200 MW of additional power per day. Is it not a criminal negligence ? Who is responsible for this ? If we are not in a position to make use of the gas that is made available and we are wasting it, I submit, this is a criminal negligence.

Another grouse of the Assamese people, I believe, is that the *per capita* credit sanctioned by the banks in Assam is the lowest. I have got the figure of 1978. That figure shows a sheer discrimination against Assam. In Assam, the *per capita* credit is Rs. 38 whereas in my State of Maharashtra it is Rs. 443 *per capita*. With this discrimination, if they feel that the Government of India at New Delhi is not taking into consideration the development of these sister States in the North-East seriously, if they think of behaving in a different way, if they are thinking in terms of secessionist activities, I think, we are all guilty of that, the Centre is guilty of that, the Government of India is guilty of that. We have to find out in what best way we can assist these people. For want of time, it is not possible for me to make more suggestions. I will do it by meeting the Hon. Minister. Because this is a very important part of our country, I would request the Hon. Minister to give serious thought to it and to see in what way we can protect our people and give adequate facilities and all assistance to the border areas.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. N. G. Ranga will speak now.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : For such a useful debate, at least call the Hon. Minister for Planning. Let him jot down the suggestions made.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has given in writing to Speaker. He has taken his permission.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur) : I wish to congratulate and also thank my hon. friend Shri Baju Ban Riyan for moving this resolution.

It serves a very useful purpose.

I agree, with Shri Bapusahab Parulekar when he suggested that special incentives should be given to those officers who would be invited to go to these distant parts in North-Eastern frontier. Today it is a place for punishment. Such of the officers who are found to be rather troublesome in the rest of India are sent away to that area for a short period of 3 or 5 years and they are given some special allowances which are not at all commensurate with the risks and the inconveniences that they have to face and for the reason that they have to be away from their own people for a long period of time. What is offered to them is indeed a pittance. That is the reason why I have taken the responsibility of writing to the concerned authorities at the highest level in our Government that a separate system of incentives, emoluments, promotion and all other facilities should be developed in order to make it so attractive for officers all over India as to seek permission to go to these areas and serve there and I hope the Government, the Planning Commission, the Ministry of Finance and the other Ministries which are dealing with this area would take, at least from now, serious view in this aspect of the matter.

A number of industries can be developed there.

Already there is one great industry and that is the handloom industry. It is a domestic industry. It enjoyed its reputation and popularity as a domestic industry all over India till recent times. But now, it has lost its primary place in our homes in

the rest of India but, in Assam and in all these six other small States it still continues to be treated not only as a cottage industry but also as a home-based industry.

Sericulture is one of the most important aspects of that. Not much has been done although some Training Institutes have been started. Some Emporia have also been opened.

So much more can be done and has to be done and so many other industries have already been indicated by our friends.

All these have got to be developed. Everybody is agreeable on this point. Every time Assam or some other State Budget comes up for discussion, whenever it is under Governor's rule, all these possibilities for development in the seven States are being discussed in this House. But, unfortunately, not enough note has been taken either by the Planning Commission or by the Ministry of Home Affairs or by other Ministries concerned with this matter. I sincerely hope that at least from now, some more attention would be paid to these various aspects for the development of agro-industries and also for the industrial development of this area.

Long ago Sir Akbar Haidari warned the then Government of India that until and unless we take special note of the needs of this area and help these people to develop economic self-reliance to the maximum extent, we would be in danger so far as security is concerned. Thereafter, Mr. Sri Prakasa, who was also sent there as Governor, also warned the Government of India in a special note to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru himself in regard to the need for the development of communications.

My hon. friend, Mr. Parulekar, was rather pessimistic as to the action that is being taken by the Government. I am glad that, at long last, at least now, under Indiraji's leadership, attention is being paid by the Railways to these seven States. As much as they possibly can, they are rushing now railway building materials in order to build seven separate link railways in that area. In about three or five years' time—now they have only a few kilometres length of railways—they would be able to get, I think, about 200 kilometres length of railways, if I am not mistaken. This is a very

important development—the present Government deserves all credit for this—and this would help rapid development of the industrial and agricultural wealth of that area and its enjoyment by the local people themselves.

I would like to suggest to the Planning Commission that they should have a need for Zonal Planning Commission for that area. They need not call it 'Commission'; they may call it certainly 'Planning Committee.' This Planning Committee would be able to suggest all these wonderful things, including the development of hydel power at every great curve of that gigantic river, the Brahmaputra, which is now only proving to be a river of sorrow, not of wealth.

All these things can be done. But how are they to be done? By whom? Through whom? Not through the contractors who are going from outside, not necessarily; in the beginning, of course, we have to depend upon them, not upon officers alone. Therefore, I would like to suggest a Special Development Authority for that area with necessary powers, with adequate financial powers, funds and any other equipment that is needed for carrying out, for executing, all these developmental activities. Not less than Rs. 100 crores will have to be placed at the disposal of that Corporation. Let it be in charge of marketing. A suggestion is being made for the flying of bananas, pineapples and various other fruits from that area. It can be done. But under whose authority? Is it for the benefit of contractors? Is it for the benefit of middle-men? It should be for the benefit of the local people and the producers. And how could it be done except through a Corporation that is organized by the Government, a Corporation in which the Governments of all the seven States would be partners, aided by the Government of India?

These two Authorities have got to be created as soon as possible: one, a Zonal Planning Commission and the other, a Corporation. The third one is, as suggested by my hon. friend Mr. Parulekar, there should be a special Minister, at least a Minister of State, to be in charge of development of not only the North-Eastern States but also Himachal Pradesh, Kashmir,

Jammu, Ladakh and other terrain areas on the Himalayas, because, all these areas are too far away; they suffer from the same disabilities, they need the same kind of developmental protection, help and assistance.

Having said that, I would like to sound a note of warning to our friends in the Opposition as well as to ourselves. A reference has been made to CIA agents, terrorism and all the rest of it. We have got to make up our minds to learn to live with these things. Let us learn something from the old British experience. For 150 years or more, they used to have trouble at the Khyber Pass with all those tribal peoples and Baluchistan. Yet they kept patient with all those troubles. Similarly, we should be able to keep a sound heart here. Just because something goes wrong here and some few people have been killed or butchered or some bombs have been thrown here, there and so on, let us not be chicken-hearted. Too far away from the centre, these things are bound to happen. They would be happening. There are centres which go on welcoming these outsiders to play mischief there and inside also some discontented people would always be playing mischief. It is also possible that some one or two Government officers and some of the other people on whom Government depends, sometimes go and encourage them. Therefore, this mischief is bound to be there. We must be prepared to be patient, bold and courageous and have confidence within ourselves. Even today we are spending hundreds of crores of rupees on the Defence forces and in various other ways also in order to see that in those areas there is peace and tranquility and something more will have to be spent hereafter also. If in addition to all these we remain confident of ourselves and we wish to retain these areas within the embrace of Bharat Mata we must also be prepared to spare not less than Rs. 100 crores every year without expecting any return at all, in order to invest in the social and economic development of these people and their areas. Marketing facilities have got to be created and then special steps will have to be taken. One suggestion has already been made in regard to the need for relaxing income-tax rules for these people and

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

others who would have to go there in order to serve those areas through the Government. Excise rules have got also to be changed. In regard to import duties also, whenever various things have got to be imported for the benefit of those areas and these peoples, exemption will have to be given. Similarly, in regard to excise, I know how it hurts them. We made some enquiries in Kashmir. Those people used to complain.

Now these special steps will have to be taken for the benefit of these areas. Special attention has got to be paid by the Planning Commission. Today my fear is that the Planning Commission till now has not paid as much attention as it should for the special needs of these distant areas, these under-developed communities and these people who are suffering for a very long time indeed. These were the people who used to be in the heart of India, in the Gangetic valley as well as in the Deccan, but they were driven away by the incoming invaders and various other tribes and peoples here who came from abroad, either from the east or from the west and in the end they receded into those regions. There is a place called Aitanagarapadu in Andhra Pradesh. You have got Itanagar there. We have got a Goddess—Aitamma. What does that mean? These people who were there in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and other north-eastern areas must have had their ancestors here in Andhra itself, in Deccan and so on. Similarly, you have got Kakoti. He is a Member of Parliament in Rajya Sabha. His father was also known as a Kakoti. We have got a Goddess, there known as Kakatiamma in Warangal, Andhra Pradesh. And the great rulers of the Deccan who protected the whole of south India from the north Indian invaders for two and a half centuries and thereafter, with the help of the Vijayanagar rulers for another three and a half centuries, were known as Kakatiyas. And one of their scions was the Maharaja of Bastar. He was also a Kakati and you have got a Kakati there in Assam. What does that show? These were the people whose ancestors were here in the heartland of India. Therefore, they are our brethren from which time?—thousands of years ago. What is more, they are elder brothers

because they have remained true to Indianism whereas so many of us absorbed all kinds of people. We have become a mixed race in this country. I do not mean to say that the mixture has been a bad thing. It is a good thing. But, they also have to maintain what they might have been, in those days, when we were all there as original people. Therefore, India has a special debt to pay to these people, a special mission to discharge towards these people. For that reason, in every possible manner, the Planning Commission has to make a special study and give them special concessions or assistance or help. They have to give whatever help is necessary to them and make whatever changes have to be made in our own administrative set-up there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ngangom Mohendra.

श्री मनीराम बागड़ी (हिसार) : सभापति महोदय में एक जानकारी चाहता हूँ। दो दिन से अध्यक्ष महोदय नहीं आ रहे हैं। क्या छुट्टी पर हैं, विदेश में हैं या और कोई बात है—सदन को इसकी जानकारी आपने नहीं दी।

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am presiding in the afternoon.

श्री मनीराम बागड़ी : अगर बीमार है तो क्या बीमारी है या क्या बात है, आपको बताना चाहिए कि क्या कारण है?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : There is no need to say what malady is there and why he has not come. There has been no such convention here. It is astonishing to hear this from him.

श्री मनीराम बागड़ी : हमें मालूम हुआ है कि बीमार हैं, क्या बीमारी है, यह जानकारी सदन को दी जानी चाहिए। आखिर वे हमारे अध्यक्ष हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is enough. you should not mention all these things.

श्री मनीराम बागड़ी : मैं आपसे पूछ सकता हूँ कि क्या बीमार हैं? सदन को जानकारी देनी चाहिए। अगर बीमार हैं तो साधारण

बीमार है या ज्यादा है, क्या तकलीफ है, उसके मुताबिक हम उनसे मिलने जाएं। यह जानकारी आपको देनी चाहिए।

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can go and see him.

(व्यवधान)

श्री मनोराम बागड़ी : मेरी बात का क्या जवाब दिया ?

समाप्ति महोबय जवाब : देने को कुछ नहीं है।

श्री मनोराम बागड़ी : आपको कुछ पता नहीं है ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can go and see him.

SHRI MOHENDRA : I have asked you thrice to speak. If you do not want to speak, then I can call others.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : THE Minister of Planning should have been here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister has asked Mr. Laskar to be here. He has taken the permission of the Speaker. Mr. Mohendra.

SHRI NGANGOM MOHENDRA (Inner Manipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the discussion about the removal of backwardness of the North-eastern region cannot but be intimately connected with the discussion about the law and order situation there. There is growing corruption there. It is rampant everywhere in that region particularly in my State—the State of Manipur. Sir, when it was referred to by me, you showed some sort of reluctance to allow. How is it that you allowed Mr. Parulekar to refer to it? I would now like to invite your attention to the growing corruption in Manipur particularly, when I happen to see the Minister who is very close to my State and who must be very conversant with what has been happening there and what is going to happen there.

I may now refer to a press cutting about insurgency in Manipur. You know, Sir, at some place it says, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi had gone there to inaugurate a two-day meeting of the Coordination Committee of the Congress(I) in the North-Eastern Region. This place, particularly, Manipur according to him, was "totally neglected" before Independence. I would like to ask the hon. Minister on the other side whether it has not been totally neglected during the post-Independence

period also. I would not like to express any second opinion on this. My friend, Mr. Rayan as well as others has already spoken about it. I would only like to highlight that.

Sir, you will remember that you yourself also participated in that Calling Attention Motion when there was an ambush resulting in the death of 21 army personnel there. On that day you yourself and Mrs. Mohsina Kidwai said about the funds sunk to the State of Manipur and how those funds were later embezzled. This has been going on. But, mind you, Sir, Manipur was always governed or rather administered by the Congress without suffixes 'I' 'U' or 'S' and with suffixes except for a short spell when there was a Janata rule. Therefore, Sir, that party cannot rather say now that there is no responsibility for them. Now, Sir, this has been admitted on the floor of the House here. Before I come to that, I want to say that Mr. Laskar in his reply said on 23rd February that the per capita plan outlay during the Sixth Plan for Manipur is Rs. 2,243 as against the all-India average of Rs. 872. This was said by him. Nobody is denying this and indeed the Government of India is spending money or rather has planted money there. Where does the money go from there? I had been spelling out on this point several times right from the beginning of the seventh Lok Sabha whenever I got an opportunity to speak up. I told you that there was unearthing of unbridled embezzlement during the last session of the Manipur State Assembly where the Chief Minister himself and other concerned Ministers admitted that the Medical Department embezzled or rather misused a sum of Rs. 1.33 crores; the Electricity Department Rs. 4.84 crores; Industries Department Rs. 84.9 lakhs and the Civil Supplies Department Rs. 7.98 lakhs. In the Education Department the embezzlement of funds is to the sum of Rs. 79.06 lakhs. Now you are sending them the money only to be embezzled there. Nobody is there to see this. I think it is the appropriate time to remind the Home Minister that a small village called Molcham in the Tengnoupal Hill District of Manipur was reported ceded to Burmah and the matter

[Shri Ngangom Mohendra]

was settled in a secret meeting between the Government of India representative, Maj. General K. L. Khosla and Shri V. Linpo, the Burmese Government representative held from October 24 to 27, 1980. Nobody in Manipur knows about that as it was done behind the screen. It will not be surprising if I tell you that all these disclosures were made not at the initiative of the Government there but were brought forth before the Assembly by the opposition and therefore, in that small State, the State of Manipur, the opposition though small in number, is playing an effective role, which I am proud of. 17 hrs. They had to admit these embezzlements in the House. Every now and then you will also find photographs of Congress(I) Ministers appearing in some of the Delhi magazines with of corruption. These cannot be treated as trash or as something said about a responsible Minister or who is supposed to be responsible. Say, for example, there is the recent case in the news of one Minister who is incharge of the tribal welfare with a caption "Manipur Minister Swindles Tribal Welfare Money."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why bring in the Ministers of State here?

SHRI NGANGOM MOHENDRA: Because the funds are being embezzled by Ministers and the bureaucrats themselves. This is what I want to pinpoint here. I am not bringing any new allegations.

Now, Sir, a word about the bureaucrats being sent from here. There is a belief that they are not paid well and, as such, some hon. Members were suggesting that some more allowances be paid. Sir, my experience is otherwise. Whenever an officer is sent there he is reluctant in the beginning but once having gone there he never wants to come back. Why is it so, Sir. He will rather seek extension. I had a talk with the ex-Governor, Shri L. P. Singh about this and he told me that he knew some officers who were very good in Bihar but he did not know what happened to them once they are posted to Manipur. He said that he had tried his best to pull them out of Manipur. It is not the allowances that matter there-

fore but it is unbridled collusive corruption and the unbridled way in which Government funds are embezzled which matters.

Sir, there is insurgency. But who is responsible? Am I responsible or are you responsible? Nobody is solely responsible. Even Mr. Rajiv Gandhi admitted that there was total neglect. Of course, he referred to pre-Independence era. So far as post-Independence era is concerned I need not repeat because many hon. Members have spoken about it. Nobody can deny it. Mr. Parulekar was telling that in Manipur he was asked by a student "you are from India?" Sir, even my own kith and kin tell me, you are going to India, what will you bring?" Why? The fault is not single traffic. It is double traffic.

Sir, about this unbridled corruption recently the youth and students formed an anti-corruption struggle committee and in course of the struggle they painted posters and slogans on the walls. The administration there was aware of the expected impact which these posters will create when Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and other people visit that place. So, naturally the Administration did not want that these posters and paintings should be seen by those who come from Delhi. Therefore, in a pre-dawn swoop-although they dare not operate a pre-dawn swoop-in other deserving cases, they arrested five or six unarmed volunteers and charged them under Unlawful Activities Act and so on and so forth, in a bid to smother this popular movement in its wake! I am not against that struggle and I am not unhappy either because, the rest of India could know that some men in Manipur are organising the people and youth and students against unbridled corruption of the Minister-beaurucrat contractor-supplier combine.

The next thing to be done is by the Government of India. It is not so much for the people to do that. Now and again we hear so many good things with no follow-up action. I request the Home Minister to look into this. There is a saying which we hear in Manipur, when the Palika Bazar Incident took place here. What was the comment in Manipur?

They say, now that bomb is planted in Palika Bazaar, so, why not impose punitive fine on the residents of the Palika Bazaar area? And you will find the same position with respect to the incidents and happenings in Punjab. Some journalists were murdered and then Khalistan movement is there.

THE MANIPURIS ASK : Why not extend the provisions of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act to Punjab and take action under that Act?

17.06 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Sir, the people of Manipur think that the Government of India has several standards—one standard for Punjab, another standard for Nagaland. There is yet another standard for Manipur; and yet another standard for Mizoram. So, do you think it is possible for any State Government, however efficient it may be, to ensure development work so that the people may live in peace and may be benefited? Sir, we are a border State; Yes. We, being in a border State, it is the bounden duty of any power that be, to keep us in peace, to create the necessary confidence among the people there. All said and done, this is like what happens in a family for instance. When you don't care for one of your own brothers, the brother will run amuck and do some untoward things. The people there feel, the young men feel, there is no law and order there. It is your responsibility to go into it. It is not my responsibility. I am at the 'telling end', you are at the 'doing end'.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is your responsibility to tell them and it is their responsibility to take care of it.

SHRI NGANGOM MOHENDRA : Definitely, Sir. We are at the 'telling end' and they are at the 'doing end'. Now, may I tell you that as a sequel to Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Manipur, 3 Ministers have been dismissed? Perhaps you as Home Minister, may know the reasons for their dismissal. If there is a nexus between the visit and the dismissal, and if the dismissal is for being corrupt then, certainly there are others who

equally deserve to be dismissed forthwith in that Ministry. Among the dismissed Ministers, the Power Minister (Mr. Radha Binod) and his Departments were praised by Mr. Burney, the Governor, only the other day, while inaugurating a power station. Things change so quickly and so dramatically. It arouses the suspicions of the people.

I now come to the subject of development of industries in Manipur. I once told hon. Members in this House—I think it was in 1981—that during the last 32 years of independence, I was yet to see some industrial smoke, bellow over the skyline of Manipur. I still remember that occasion. And your predecessor Mr. Makwana reacted very sharply and told me, not to ignore facts and asked me: 'What about the Spinning Mill?' I just wish to quote from a recent circular from SSI saying that all the 5 districts in Manipur are termed as 'Zero Industry Districts'. This is what your Government says. I will not go into it, but I feel it has vindicated my stand. I do not want to enter into any controversy with you or antagonise my State. Please do something tangible for the development of the State. So far, none of the Ministers cared to go deep into the affairs of the State. Why don't you arrange periodical meetings of the MPs from the North-Eastern Region with you?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Minister also belongs to your region.

SHRI NGANGOM MOHENDRA : By being called, we are not going to be great but by being called, we shall be gratified, we shall feel privileged to discuss the matters in an atmosphere of mutual give and take basis. But are we to run after the Ministers? I tried to meet you, but I could not because you were not available, because our Ministers are "Aaj yehan kal velan". By being called by a Minister I never feel myself elated or something like that. I do not gain any importance. Nothing of that sort. Only there should be reciprocity from either side. This is what I mean. Over and above those suggestions made by our friends, I want to add this and at the same time I say you are going to have a very very expensive

[Shri Ngangom Mohendra]

lot of friends there in Manipur. Mr. Ranga, you know, Congress Party came into being in Manipur only in 1946. Never before that. Now, why was this party organised there? Because there were some elderly people who thought that Congress was coming to power at the Centre and therefore the Congressmen themselves felt that they would be in power and they were right; they were in power. But those who formed the Congress are no longer in that party though alive, why?

Now, Sir, according to the Government figures only 22 lakhs of rupees had been snatched away by unknown armed people from the banks and Government offices at gun-point but Rs. 8 crores were embezzled at pen-point—as I mentioned earlier. So, I say all these things not to invite some sort of adverse feeling but I say these things with utmost sincerity so that the Minister who is very much in close proximity to my State will feel better than Mr. Makwana because I told him several times about these problems but nothing came out of him.

Once you went to Imphal,—Mr. Laskar, and due to bad weather you were whisked away to Ukhrul, the Chief Minister's constituency and the security arrangement was so massive that you were made so scared that even then wanted to go and stay in the Assam Rifles Camp! I was trying to locate you but by the time I found that you had already reached Ukhrul. When Mr. Zail Singh went there, he was also likewise whisked away to Ukhrul. Every visiting dignitary was thus kept away beyond the reach of parties and people other than yours!

So, Sir, if we are to start developmental work in the North-Eastern Region in a right earnest manner, we must fight corruption because your party breeds corruption and corruption breeds lawlessness and lawlessness breeds insurgency in that region. This is the formula.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have heard with great interest the views expressed by the hon. Members about the north-eastern region, and whatever has

been said about its development, I fully agree with that. But there is a sense of feeling that the Centre is not looking after the north-eastern region properly. In this context, I will right now give one simple example. This morning, I wrote a letter to the Home Minister of India against the large scale eviction process in Assam from Government, Railway and forest land of the linguistic and religious minorities in Cachar, Nowgaon and Kamrup districts. You will be surprised to know that the Home Minister of the country himself came to the House to tell me that he is convinced that some injustice is being done and an order has been passed to stop all eviction in Assam until further instructions from the Central Government. Shri Mallikarjun was with me in the morning when we met the Home Minister with this letter. By his immediate action, he has saved hundreds and thousands of families belonging to linguistic and religious minorities, who were being evicted from the Government land. We do not want that the Government land should be occupied by these people, but let us give them alternative land before they are evicted. This was our appeal and he has accepted it.

At the very outset, I would like to convey my thanks to the Government of India and the Home Minister, who has very kindly taken immediate action on my request, and has proved that our Government, and our Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, fully appreciate the position in the north-eastern region and they are taking all possible care to see that the situation is not allowed to worsen unnecessarily.

Prof. N. G. Ranga and Shri Parulekar have made so many points and I fully agree with them. There is, however, a main problem in the north-eastern region, and that is the conflict in the minds of the people whether they should be with the national party or the regional party. That is the main conflict, and parochialism is leading to regionalism. This is one of the main factors which is creating an uneasy situation and unrest in the whole north-eastern region.

When this Government came to power, a Committee under the then Minister of

State for Home Affairs, Shri Makwana, was formed and it had representatives of all the Ministries. Subsequently, when Shri Laskar came to this Ministry—he is also from the north-eastern region—he became the Chairman of the Committee for the north-eastern region. I am not trying to beat the drum of my party, but I would like to give some facts to indicate that our Government is fully conscious of the difficulties experienced by the people in that region.

I would like to mention that a food processing factory has already been set up in my constituency, Silchar, with a cost of Rs. 2 crores. Shri Parulekar mentioned about the Tea Board office also. I would like to inform the hon. Members, that a Tea Board office has also been sanctioned for Gauhati. I would like to thank all the hon. Members in this House who have been taking up our cause all the time, and because of their efforts, we have got now so many things.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER : They must be with you, because you have no colleagues from Assam. They are also helping you.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Then, Joggigopa bridge was originally supposed to be a railway bridge, but thanks to Shri Laskar, when he became Chairman of the Committee, this bridge was converted into a rail-cum-road bridge. Necessary sanction for that has already been accorded. Then, five railway lines have been sanctioned for the north-eastern region, but the Government is not getting land to provide for these railway lines. I would not give credit only to the Congress (I) party for all this; in fact, all the political parties have been making demands for various developmental works in this region, and I appreciate their support we have been getting from them. But is it not necessary for the people of the north-eastern region themselves to help create a suitable climate, which would hasten the pace of developmental works there. I would pray to the people of the region to rise above everything else in the interest of the development of the region and the country as a whole.

As I said, it is very essential that a proper atmosphere should be created in

that region. In my view, if on the floor of the House, we say that there will be insurgency, or there will be secession, we will be adding fuel to the fire. We must not say always in that tone; we must have the guts and courage to say that persons who are agitating on flimsy basis, and creating situation of secession and parochialism must also be condemned.

At the risk of my life, I would condemn it, whoever it may be. This is a situation which must be tackled by all political parties. Five railway lines have been sanctioned in the last Budget. But you will be surprised to know that lands are not being made available to the Railways for construction of these. Then what is the fault of the Central Government? They must create a situation and the people must come forward to hand over the land.

I have a feeling, Sir that certain regional parties intentionally do not want the development work to go on there. I agree with what Prof. Ranga has said that some of the Government officers are also involved in it. Those officers are trying to create an adverse situation. There are certain high-ups in the Government of Assam, Manipur and Mizoram who are involved in it. Unfortunately the Government is not taking any action against them. I do not want to mention their names. I have repeatedly written against them, but the Government is not taking any action against them.

Many of my CPM and other friends ask what is my benefit of being in the Congress Party. I tell, look here I am the only MP from Assam. There is no more MP. There is one more MP, who is a Minister now and he cannot speak. I only have to speak. Now, the benefit of being in the national party is that when I focus, my views, I have got another 352 MPs with me. My views are focussed by them. This is the advantage to be in the National party. In being the National Party from Assam, we have seen Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed as President of India; we have seen Shri Bijoy Chander Bhagwati as one of the Ministers as well as a national leader. Being in the national party, this is the advantage. Those who are Christians, their Members are also in the Congress Party. When there is an attack on Chris-

[Shri Santosh Mohan Dev]

tianity, when there is attack on Hinduism, when we go to our leader and say we believe in secularism and this is why we are with you, the whole party stands behind us. This is the advantage of being in the national party. Being in the regional party, you can create chaos, but you cannot deliver the goods. This is what the North-Eastern people should learn.

Sir, Members of Parliament of different parties have got a role to play. I will request the Members to discharge that role. I am not trying to beat the drum of my Government. I will demand and am demanding many a thing. Today many things are being said by all Members, I am not going to repeat. I fully agree with what they have said. I may tell them that Assam Budget is coming for discussion on Monday or Tuesday. I expect all the national parties—whether it is Janata, BJP, CPI, RSP, Forward Block—to come forward to say that in Assam those people who are creating secessionist and parochial movements must stop it, the Government should not tolerate this. If there is a peaceful movement, government should not take action, I agree. Let it go on as long as it is—three years, four years—but if there is an incident like the one which happened recently in which 19 persons have died in a bomb blast, that should be stopped with a strong hand. Bomb does not choose Bengalis, Assamese, or Biharis. In that incident in which 19 persons were killed, the victims were Assamese, Biharis, Bengalis, Nepalis, people of all communities. I say innocent people are being killed and this is what is happening there. So, this is one point against which you should all lend support to the Government.

I would like to say that in North Eastern region, we must create a national spirit. I would like to say that in Assam national spirit was the best ten years ago. In Assam, the political stability was the best in India, not that our party was in power, but political stability was there. So, it must be brought back in Assam. I do believe the Assamese people are nationalist in ideas. We need to bring them in to national limelight again, because there are some powers—I don't know which are the powers foreign or other-

wise—which are acting against the interest of the country. They must be punished.

With these words I would like to demand certain things. Our Hon. Minister of Railways, Shri Mallikarjun is here now.

Fortunately, Mr. Kedar Panday has come. There was an assurance by him, given at Silchar, that the Cachar Express would be made a daily Express. If he does not believe me, Mr. Kedar Panday can vouch for me. Why was that not done? We are not demanding many things. This Cachar Express caters to the needs of Cachar, Tripura and Manipur. We are not asking it for the sake of pleasure. Only two trains run from Silchar, viz. Barak Valley Express and the Cachar Express. We can go up to Gauhati. From there, we have to go to Bongaigaon, and after waiting there for ten hours, catch the broad gauge connecting trains. We are demanding that the Cachar Express or the Barak Valley Express should go up to Bongaigaon, so that the people of Mizoram, Cachar and Tripura can go up to Bongaigaon and catch the broad gauge trains, without transhipment.

I am glad to know from Mr. Laskar that the committee of which he is the chairman, has taken action for providing additional funds for extending the broad gauge upto Gauhati, and that the work will be completed by 1982-83. I hope that he will take care to do it, because sometimes assurances given by Government are not kept. He is Our Man in Havana, and he has to take care to see that the assurances given to the people of Cachar are fulfilled.

Next, there is a basic problem in the North East region. We have nothing against our fellow citizens, viz. the Assamese. If Bengalis should be there, Assamese should be there. I also feel that the Assamese people there should have a greater say. I do admit it, but at the same time I will demand that for Tripura and Cachar, which are mostly inhabited by Bengalis—there are lakhs and crores of Bengalis in the other areas of North Eastern region—there should be a university in Cachar, or Tripura, with three media of instruction, viz. Hindi, English and Bengali. We do not want only Bengali to be there, because we want that we should be in the national stream; and

by fighting the elections, myself and Mr. Laskar have proved it. When elections were fought all over Assam, people of Cachar stood by the national parties and the national stream. But we demand a university, not to disturb the universities of others. If Manipur can have a university, if Assam can have a university, if Gauhati and Dibrugarh can have two universities, why should not the people of the North-Eastern region who are linguistic minorities, get a university? This university is meant for Tripura. I don't mind if it is in Tripura. If necessary, give it to Tripura, or Cachar; but there should be a university with three media of instruction, viz. English, Hindi and Bengali.

Before I conclude, I would also like to tell the Minister, Mr. Laskar that there is now a climate in Assam for a solution. This should be availed of, because unless we have elections in March, there will be a constitutional breakdown. And unless there is a popular Ministry, I am sure that this problem cannot be solved.

Our friend Mr. Mohendra mentioned about Manipur. I was in Manipur. I went to the meeting he referred to. Sir, you will be surprised to see, if you go to Manipur, that you are in a battle-field. In every corner, there are the Police and the Military. The same thing in Mizoram; the same thing in Assam.

Mr. Thungon has gone. Arunachal was a State where there was no jail till now, because there was no crime. People were so peace-loving, and so good. But now in Arunachal also, the same forces which are creating instability in Assam, Meghalaya and Manipur, have gone and started agitations. So, I must say that the Assam problem must be solved immediately, with an iron hand in this sense, i.e. by taking the views of the national parties into consideration. The views of the Government, and whatever the consensus of the national parties are, should be adhered to.

With these words, I support this Bill; and I also support the demands voiced by the other Members.

श्री राम विलास पासवान (हाजीपुर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज पूर्वचिल दी जो समस्या है, . . .

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can continue next time because we have to take up now Half-An-Hour Discussion.

17.30 HRS.

HALF AN HOUR DISCUSSION

AGREEMENT WITH FOREIGN FIRM TO DESIGN AND PRODUCE PROTOTYPE HELICOPTER AT HAL

SHRI B. V. DESAI (RAICHUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is Half-An-Hour Discussion on the points arising out of the answer given on the 9th July 1982 to my Unstarred Question No. 353 regarding agreement with foreign firm to design and produce prototype helicopter at HAL. This is the story of an armed light helicopter, an agreement being entered into with a French Firm and the fate of the whole story. In fact, in 1969, an Aeronautic Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. Subramaniam had recommended to equip the IAF with ALHs. At that time, it was found that in 1980 we may require this helicopter for combat purpose to replace certain other SA-315 and ALT-III. So, this was the recommendation. Accordingly, the Defence Ministry entered into an agreement with a French Firm in 1970 called SNIAS: and they had to design and develop and indigenously produce the prototype here and the production was to start by 1980. It is now 1982 and July ends. Till today, it has not seen the light of the day and the agreement expired in September 1980. The hon. Minister is very young and energetic. I have got all regards for him. He looks like a military General. While replying—probably, I do not know,—he could not catch the entire points which I wanted to focus—he gave a little narration in his own way instead of adhering to the points which I have mentioned in a, b, c, d, e and f. He has gone through 1, 2, 3 and 4. Somehow, some information he has given thinking that it is written reply; probably it can go. Actually, the question of the combat helicopter is so essential that as far back as 1969-70, it was envisaged and it did not come through. The reason the hon. Minister has given us due to serious financial constraints in the wake of 1971 conflict." Exactly, that is the reason why we should be more careful to see that some more money is spent and this project