

he has got personal experience. I find he is as much concerned about the defence of the country as all of us are. I have always understood it.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU :** How did you understand me ?

**SHRI RANJIT SINGH :** I have always understood it and even to-day I understand it about you. I am not talking of your Party.

I give an example of the treatment of the Emergency Commissioned Officers. We know that the entire House was concerned about them. We know probably the present Defence Minister was concerned about them very much. I know it. But the officials and bureaucrats combined to mislead him and they told him that 'We want the Army young. Therefore, these people must go out'. This way they shunted out these men of 30 or 35 years and at the same time, they increased the retirement age which extended the service limit of 600 officers who were on the verge of retirement by two years. I put it to you and I believe it will be acceptable to you that the officers and the top brass can fool one man for all times, but they cannot fool many men for all times. They can fool them for some time but they will be caught. That is why it is better to have defence in the hands of many men. They may not have a big committee, but they may have just a selected body or committee. Of course, the argument will be advanced from the side of Government that our secrecy will go. But where is the secrecy that they want to maintain in the matter of defence ? Do they not realise that today they are there is power but tomorrow we may be there. So, from whom are they going to keep the things secret ? And look at their sense of secrecy. In the Army, they circulate a pamphlet called 'The Chinese Army' wherein the details of the Chinese army are given, and the organisational pattern and system of the Chinese Army is given and so on and the pamphlet is marked 'Top Secret'. Again, there are pamphlets giving the recognition features of Chinese aircraft and Pakistani aircraft, and these are all marked 'Secret' or 'Top Secret' I think these are something that should be displayed everywhere.

18 hrs.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore) :** All wrong information only.

**SHRI RANJIT SINGH :** So, I have to make a further appeal and also to refute the argument which I can visualise from Government in advance, because I have talked to the people who are going to give him the answer ; and I know the answer that he is going to give.

While I round off my speech for today, I request that hon. Members may kindly go away with this thought in their mind that there is some substance in what I have appealed for. I have not appealed for a particular committee consisting of all the Opposition Members. Let Government have a committee of the Congress Party only. I am sure that if they have a committee of that type, they will not commit the blunders in defence which we have been committing in the past. I am sure my hon. friends Shri Randhir Singh and Shri G. S. Dhillon would not permit the programme of manufacturing a fuselage here and manufacturing the engine in Egypt. I am sure that national interests will be safeguarded. Then, we would not be selling our telephones in the market and buying them back at four times the price when a war starts. These are things which we have failed to take note of. This committee will safeguard such things.

18.03½ hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Since it is nearing 6 p.m. and we have to take up the half-an-hour discussion now I shall discontinue my speech now and continue it in the next session.

18.04 hrs.

#### EX-I.N.A. PERSONNEL\*

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Now we shall take up the half-an-hour discussion, Shri Samar Guha.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) :** I would begin this discussion on the ex-INA personnel by paying my homage to those great fighters of the INA and also to the great heritage of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and those who have given

\*Half-An-Hour. Discussion.

[Shri Samar Guha]

their best, nay all,—to those 26,000 men who have given their lives in the battle-fields of Kohima, Imphal and Chittagong. These 26,000 brave men of the INA should have received the highest position in the roll of honour in free India. They should have been given the highest award, but instead they have received not any prize, but the prize of colossal betrayal by the Government of free India. Nowhere in the world, at no time, has an army of freedom-fighters got such a grisly treatment and such a gruesome treachery from the national government of that country.

What is the INA ? Is the INA a mere band of rebels or a mere group of military offenders ? If we look at the contribution of the INA from the historical perspective, everybody will recognise, and at least the future historians in India will recognise that the INA will rank in the same positions the army of liberation led by George Washington, or the army of Kamal Ata Turk or as the Red Army of the Russian revolution. The contribution of INA must be recognised.

There is no doubt that Mahatma Gandhi led this country from glory to glory by launching a massive freedom struggle in 1920, 1930, 1940 and 1942. Although there was a huge and massive response to each of these monuments from the immense population of our country, but during this period of Gandhian struggle, not even a regiment of British Indian Army took part in any of the national fights. The Gandhian movement could not touch the loyalty of the British Indian Army in the foreign rulers. It was Netaji and it was INA that rocked the bottom of the faith of the British Indian Army in the alien rulers. In his last speech, Netaji said :

Perhaps, you think that the INA has been defeated, but you are mistaken. After this war, there will be a post-war revolution inside India.

That revolution was sounded by the rebellion of the naval ratings at Karachi and Bombay and by the General strike that was resorted to by the IAF and the Army in Delhi, Calcutta, Dum Dum and other places. Why the British Government ultimately

decided to quit India, the explanation of that was given by Mr. Attlee in the course of the debate on the Indian Independence Bill in the House of Commons when he said that at that time, "We were sitting at the top of a volcano." Who created that volcanic situation in India ? It was the INA and it was the great image of Netaji that rocked the bottom of the very foundation of the loyalty of the British Indian Army in the British rulers. When they found that a repetition of the 1857 rebellion was very imminent, the British Government decided to quit India.

Today, if Netaji could have come to India and had been in our midst, what would have been the position of the INA ? The position of INA would have been that this brilliant army, this gallant army, these brave sons of India, these fearless fighters for free India's freedom would have formed the nucleus of the Army of free India. But whatever the Government of free India have done, for INA ? They have degraded them and discarded them and disbanded them, and they have disbanded the INA, demobilised the INA; nay, more than that they have decried Azad Hindi freedom fighters as a band of mere military offenders. Every one of you will remember that at the time of the Red Fort trial there was a competition among the Congress leaders to share the glory of INA and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, but as soon as power was transferred to those Congress leaders, they immediately threw out gallant men of INA and the heritage of Netaji and the glory of Netaji.

Would you now remember that 28,000 of the British Indian army joined the INA and from among the civilians of South East Asia 120,000 enrolled themselves in the Army of INA under Netaji ? We have all forgotten that out of these not one, not two not one hundred, not one thousand, but 26,000 of these brave INA men shed their blood, embraced martyrdom for the freedom of India in the battle field of Pallel, in the battle field of Moirang, in Kohima, in Imphal, in the battle field of Buthidang and Muthidang. No name will be found engraved or recorded anywhere of those brave sons, of those great patriots, who have given their all for the freedom of India. I will give you the list of some whom Netaji sent as advance guard to India.

They have been hanged by the Britishers, but the Government did not try in any way to get their names recorded. They are : Sepoy Chatter Singh, Sepoy Nazir Singh, Havildar Durga Mal, Naik Hazara Singh, Fitter Sardar Singh, Naik Nagender Singh, I.O. Jem. Keshri, L/Nk. Charan Singh, Jem. Dal Bahadur, S. C. Bardhan, Charan Singh, Gurcharan Singh, Dalbara Singh, Pritam Singh, T. P. Kumaran, Kodder and Kartar Singh.

More than a dozen others were hanged during the British time, but there is no record anywhere in the Government of those who sacrificed their lives. None of them confessed, none of them showed a bit of weakness when they were sent to the gallows.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has already taken.....

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : At least 20 minutes you will have to give me. I am emotionally charged today. Please do not disturb me.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We have got to regulate time, because there is other business.

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH (Rohtak) : He is having a touchy subject.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I entirely agree, but I have to regulate the business of the House. (Interruptions).

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : You are murdering the emotion of a man, the highest, most sacred emotion of a man.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I can give maximum 15 minutes, and there are six members to put question, and the Minister has to reply. I must conclude it by half an hour, because I have to take up the next business. That is the only thing, otherwise I will give one hour, I am in sympathy with what you say.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Col. Abdul Malik of INA was the first man who raised the banner of freedom in the soil of India in Moirang. That man just begged the Government of free India for a job. He said : "Give me a job of Rs. 150 only" Yet, that sacred, that glorious flag that was flown in the soil of Moirang is not in India. Col. Malik said that he will not go to Pakistan. But he was thrown out and sent to Pakistan. And

so, the flag of freedom is still with him in Pakistan.

There is another man—Col. Misra of Bihar. He sacrificed his life to save the life of Netaji when Netaji was going back to Rangoon from Imphal front. Gen. Chaudhuri was shadowing Netaji and he was going to catch him but it was Col. Misra of Bihar who jumped into the vehicle and saved the life of Netaji.

Then there was Col. Yallappa of Mysore. He sacrificed his life to save his army division while retreating from the front. Nothing has been done for these brave sons, and this government has never thought of giving any award even posthumously to these men who created Saga for Indian freedom struggle. No roll call of honour has been extended to them. Have their names been recorded anywhere ? No. There are relics of the INA—the Azad Hind Sarkar—in Germany and South-East Asia. But nothing has been collected. Netaji's residences in Singapore and Burma have not been acquired by the Government of India. The relics are there and the Government did not make any attempt to collect them. The INA memorial that was erected by Netaji in Singapore in 1945, was demolished. The first Governor-General, Mountbatten whom you say was the harbinger of India's freedom, while he was landing at Singapore, demolished that memorial. The Government of India did not make any attempt to re-erect it. I had a talk with the Government of Singapore who are agreeable to the re-erection of that memorial, and also to preserve the headquarters of Netaji as great memorial; but nothing has been done either in Moirang or Kohima; not one memorial for the INA. No insignia, no award in the battle-field or at Singapore associated with the heritage of Netaji and his Azad Hind Fauj has been introduced in the Indian Army of free India. No recognition whatsoever has been given to those patriots by the Government of India.

Worst of all, those INA people who, without caring for the consequences, had joined Netaji in the fight for freedom, had been sorted out and branded as grey, black, white and dangerous. Those people who betrayed the cause and said that they joined the INA under duress only, those black-sheep, were taken back into the Indian Army. But the others who fought in the INA were

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not taken. They have been completely discarded and branded as black, grey and dangerous men, because they fought for India's freedom struggle not in nonviolent way.

According to the principles, according to international practice, these persons should receive all benefits from the Government. Now, 28,000 men who were in the INA—I do not speak about 1,20,000 civilians who joined the INA—who were in the British Indian Army and then joined the INA, are entitled to pay, pension and allowances, according to international practice. We want to know, if during the last 22 years, any of them has been given any prize or award? Instead, their pays, pensions and allowances were forfeited. As against the dues of the INA the Government of India drew sterling balances, for the expected payment of INA men from the British Government. What did they do for those 28,000 men? Only recently, the Government have made certain half-hearted attempt, some kind of an act of chicanery, to repay them their pays and allowances and pensions. Do you know how they will get it as a result? The officers will get only 25 per cent of their pay, allowances and pension in cash now, and 75 per cent will be given to them in the form of savings certificates which will be cashed after 10 years. For the Jawans, it is 50 per cent in cash and 50 per cent in savings certificates which can be cashed only after 10 years. What a shame is it? Nothing has been given to them. They have been drawn sterling balances due to INA for the last 22 years and this Government has also drawn interest on these sterling balances and yet deprived those INA men of their legitimate benefits. The Government is not yet ready to pay them in cash and at a time their dues as pay, pension and allowances. I shall now finish very quickly the concluding part of my speech.

Sir, in the name of the nation, in the name of the best that we have in our concepts, in the name of those martyrs, in the name of the great leaders of India, in the name of the freedom struggle of India, we demand that : (i) all stigmas against the INA should be quashed by an official announcement and the brave fighters of INA should be given a place in the Roll of Honour as Army of

Liberation of our country; (ii) able INA personnel and their sons should be taken back into Indian Army; (iii) efforts should be made by the Government of India to collect, even after twenty-two years, all the relics of INA and Azad Hind Arzi Hukmat from Germany and South East Asia; (iv) negotiations should be started with governments of Burma and Singapore to get the possession of the residences of Netaji and the headquarters of Free India Government of Azad Hind in Rangoon and Singapore and they should be preserved as national memorials; (v) INA memorial at Singapore should be reconstructed and for that Singapore Government should be approached; (vi) martyrs memorials should be set up in the battlefields of Manipur and Nagaland; (vii) Flag of Freedom should be brought back to India from Col. Abdul Malik and he should be accorded the highest national honour in the name of freedom movement of Indian sub-continent; and other brave fighters of the INA should be posthumously given highest national awards; (viii) Dehra Dun Military Academy should be renamed as Netaji Subhas Military Academy and a Division of Indian Army should be given in the honour to be named as Subhas Division; (ix) Military 'Insignis' used by INA and the Awards like 'Sher-e-Hind' and 'Sevak-e-Hind' given by the Free India Government under Netaji for military valour should be re-introduced in the Indian Army; and, lastly (x) a complete history of INA, including the military leadership and genius of Netaji, the first Supreme General of India, and Azad Hind Sarkar of Netaji Bose should be written by competent historians and included in the syllabus of our military academies.

Netaji Zindabad, Azad Hind Fauj Zindabad, Jai Hind.

श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा (कोटा) : सेंट्रल हाल में उन की फोटो लगाई जाये।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will permit only questions to be put by those who have given notice and whose names have got priority in the ballot. If there will be agitation—I know—I cannot help. If you want to change the rules, I have nothing to say. I have got about 15 notes from different people. I cannot accommodate all of them. If each Member goes on giving the

background and all that, there would not be time for the Minister to reply. I am closing this discussion at 18.35 hours.

श्री वेशी शंकर शर्मा (बांका) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह एक सत्य है कि नेता जी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस का और उन की आजाद हिन्द फौज का भारत को स्वतंत्र करने में उतना ही बड़ा हाथ रहा है जितना कि महात्मा गांधी की कांग्रेस और उन के अनुयायियों का। किन्तु हम देखते हैं कि जहां कांग्रेस के हमारे साथी उस और बैठे हुए बड़े-बड़े बंगलों में आराम की जिन्दगी बिता रहे हैं . . . (व्यवधान) . . . मैं बसेचन ही कर रहा हूं। मैं इतना ही पूछना चाहता हूं कि आजाद हिन्द फौज के कितने सिपाही आज दिल्ली के आस पास के गांवों में हैं, वह किस तरह अपनी जिन्दगी बसर कर रहे हैं, और सरकार उन के जीवन यापन के लिए, उन के परिवार के लिए क्या कर रही है ?

श्री रवि राय (पुरी) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि आजाद हिन्द फौज के 28 हजार सैनिकों को जब देश आजाद हुआ उस के बाद जब आजाद हिन्दुस्तान की सेना में लेने की बात आई तो क्या यह सही है कि यह कह कर कि क्योंकि यह ब्रिटिश सरकार के खिलाफ बागी थे, इसलिए उन को नहीं लिया गया ? क्या सरकार की फाइलों में यह लिखा हुआ है कि क्योंकि यह विद्रोही थे, बागी थे, ब्रिटिश सरकार के खिलाफ इसलिए उन को नहीं लिया गया ?

श्री प्रेम चन्द वर्मा (हमीरपुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या भारत सरकार आजाद हिन्द फौजियों को भारत की रेगुलर फौज का फौजी मान कर उन को वही सलूलियतें दी जायेंगी जो रेगुलर फौजियों को दी जाती हैं जैसे पेंशन वगैरा ; और

(स) क्या सरकार जो फौजी इस वक्त हैं, कई तो मर गए हैं बढकिस्मती से, लेकिन जो इस वक्त तक मौजूद हैं उन का एक

बाकायदा सर्वे करा कर उन को रोजगार दिलाने के लिए कोई ठोस कदम उठाने वाली है ? अगर है तो वह क्या है ?

SHRI S. KUNDU (Balasore) : Netaji was a saint, philosopher and a rebel. It reminds me today of a line from the great poet, Qazi Nazrul Islam. He said—in a summary form I say it—people who are singing the song of death while sitting on the platform of freedom ask you from behind what return you are going to give to these Martyrs. This is the exact question that I am asking these Congressmen sitting there. He was one of the greatest leaders to whom this nation, this Congress Party has not given proper national honour. Will this Government form a national committee, pass a Resolution in the House unanimously, and that national committee will decide what national honour should be given to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose ? This is the only specific question that I ask.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the feelings and emotions of hon. Members.

18.27 hrs.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

I would like to reciprocate fully the sentiments that have been expressed here. It was to honour and respect those sentiments that Government took a decision, reversing the earlier decision, to pay all the forfeited pays and allowances to the ex-INA personnel.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : But that should be in cash and at a time.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : You have had your turn. I know, you are very emotional on this issue. But you told me that you wanted to take this opportunity to praise the Government for having taken a decision to restore the pays and allowances and to give them the pay which had not been given so far. What was the occasion for this discussion ? All this is based on a reply to a question which was given in June. The half-an-hour discussion is based on that. I would have expected that decisions taken by the Government and announced on the floor of the House should also have been

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taken into consideration when a discussion was sought to be raised on the reply given in June 1967 because before the House dispersed on the last occasion I made an announcement on the floor of the House saying that Government have altered the earlier decisions that had been taken so far and have taken a decision to pay all the arrears of pay and allowances which had been forfeited on the earlier occasion. So, it is amazing that when you raise a half-an-hour discussion based upon replies that were given in June, you do not take into consideration the later decisions that had been taken and also announced on the floor of the House, namely, that a decision had been taken to restore all that and to pay all those amounts to the ex-INA personnel.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I have mentioned that.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: Do not be so emotional now and try to hear what I am saying now.

What was the question asked in June 1967 ? The question was :—

"Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. .... and state whether the question of restoring forfeited pay and allowances of the ex-INA personnel has since been considered ?"

and I had said :—

"The matter is still under consideration." But before the House rose in August I made a complete statement here on the floor of the House and said that Government have taken a decision now to pay to the ex-INA personnel, officers and men, all the pay and allowances that were due to them and that had been forfeited earlier.

This is really the sum and substance of the entire discussion.

श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा : शाहनवाज खां को कितना दिया है ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: I am glad the hon. Member there has reminded me about Gen. Shahnawaz Khan. A great deal of political intonations and overtones have been imported which could have been avoided.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Question. You call it political intonation ? No political intonation, only national intonation. I will now allow that insinuation... (Interruption)

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I know that the hon. Member does not allow others and if that is the way.....(Interruption) I think, he will settle down after sometime.

The important thing is, when the hon. Member was moved by emotion and I did not want to intervene at that time, he was all the time saying what has Congress done for them. I would like to reply that it was Congress that gave the opportunity to Gen. Shahnawaz Khan to come to Parliament, it was Congress that made him a Deputy Minister.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : You made him a stooge.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : Why are you sorry for having made him a Deputy Minister ? (Interruptions) If Mr. Samar Guha is sorry that we made him a Minister, all that I can say is, I am sorry for him. It was a sister party of Mr. Samar Guha which contested the election against Gen. Shahnawaz Khan. So, how the people who have not done anything for them, except making fiery speeches and emotional speeches, should criticise Congress is most amazing. Not only Gen. Shahnawaz Khan. You know Gen. Bhonsle was here and Gen. Mohan Singh, a very distinguished ex-INA leader and Col. Niranjana Singh who was also an ex-I.N.A. personal has been Ambassador in three places. There are several others. May I ask the hon. members as to how many of them they had put up ex-I.N.A. candidates.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Have you taken them in the Army of free India ? (Interruptions)

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : A great deal of injustice has been done by projection the actions taken by the British Government before Independence and to impute them to the present Government. To put the records straight, I would like to say that, after the Second World War, the British Government, in 1945, had taken a decision to grade them in different forms in which

Mr. Samar Guha has described them that is, black, grey, etc. They had taken a certain decision to retain some of the ex-I.N.A. personnel in the regular Army and they had taken a decision to dismiss others. It was after Independence, when the national Government was established here, that they altered all those earlier decisions and gave the ex-I.N.A. people who had been dismissed and who had been removed from service, all the retirement benefits, reckoning all the service including the period that they had been in prison.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Have you taken them in the regular Army ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : Although I am not as emotional as you are....

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : I have had the privilege of working under Netaji....

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I am sure that Netaji would not be happy about this unwarranted intervention in this matter. What I am saying is this that, it was the British Government.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order. The best way for me is not to trouble the Minister to reply. If you do not want to hear him, let him sit down. That is all.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : It was the national Government after Independence which altered the decision taken by the British Government and gave the ex-INA people all the retirement benefits. It is true that at that time they did not decide to give them all the arrears of pay and allowances that had been forfeited. This had been discussed and explained on a number of occasions on the floor of this House. It is true that there was a very strong opinion in this House and outside, and it was in response to that that we took a decision, which I have already indicated at the commencement of my reply ; we have taken a decision to give them all the pay. (Interruptions)

A great deal has been said that this pay is not being paid in a lumpsum. It is true

but that is because of the present financial position and the like. But then, the decision that has been taken is quite a fair one. A certain percentage of that will be paid to them in cash; some of them will have an amount as much as Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 30,000. A good part of it will be given in cash and even the Cash Certificates, as every one knows, can be encashed within a year and a half. At any rate, all these will carry interest. So, if they get a good part of it in cash and the rest in the form of Cash Certificates, ten-year Cash Certificates—if they like, they can encash those Certificates at any time and they are as good as cash—, it is quite fair.

Then several other points have been raised. (Interruption) I would like to clarify the position so far as our great leader, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, is concerned. There is no doubt that all of us have got the highest respect, highest honour, highest appreciation for the way in which he sacrificed all his life and the way in which he made such a significant and outstanding contribution for the liberation of India, for the freedom of India.

A question was put about naming various institutions after the great leader. These are suggestions which are very laudable suggestions and which could be examined. I am not turning down any one of them. This is a matter about which no controversy need be raised. Already several things and several important institutions and the like have been named after the great leader, and surely we will be paying in a very small manner the heavy debt of gratitude if we can persevere in this, and we can also take the greatest inspiration from his name. It is no favour to any organisation or an individual if we ennoble ourselves by associating any institution with the name of the great national leader, Netaji Subash Chandra Bose. There is no controversy on that. There are things which can be suggested and we can examine them and do everything.

A number of suggestions were made. Although, they do not strictly pertain to the discussion, in view of the great interest shown by them, I have made a careful note of them. I cannot straightway say what

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other action can be taken in Rangoon or Singapore and in other places. It should be our endeavour to do everything that is possible, for a variety of reasons, the most outstanding reason before our desire really to honour all those great patriots, all those great leaders who have served India and who have led the freedom movement, and we will certainly do everything that is possible to perpetuate their name and to derive inspiration from the great sacrifices that they made.

18.04 hrs.

#### STATEMENT RE : COMMUNAL HARMONY

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, communal incidents which in recent months have marred our national life in certain parts of the country, have caused deep distress as well as anxiety to this House, and to all right thinking people in the country.

Secularism and democracy are the twin pillars of our State, the very foundations of our society. From time immemorial, the vast majority of our people are wedded to concepts of secularism, religious tolerance, peace and humanity. It is understandable that they should feel outraged and deeply disturbed at the aberrations which appear here and there and afflict small sections of society, and which arouse or exploit communal passions or promote disharmony, tension and violence. It is a matter for satisfaction that even in areas where trouble has occurred, the general public at large, whether belonging to one community or another, has lived in a state of complete harmony and peace. Indeed, there have been many instances in which people of one community have saved the lives and property of their fellow-citizens of another community.

The incidents which have occurred should, therefore, arouse the indignant disapproval of our people. I am sure this House will deplore and condemn these incidents and join

me in conveying its sympathy to those who have been the unfortunate sufferers of such violence and crime at the hands of misguided elements.

As the House is aware, Government have recently appointed a Commission to go into these incidents. The object of the Commission will be to ascertain the causes which led to them and to recommend measures to prevent recurrence of such disorders in future.

The House is also aware that it has been recently decided to reconstitute the National Integration Council. I have invited leaders of various parties in Parliament and outside to join the Council, so that we can all sit together and deliberate over the problems posed by communalism, and linguistic and regional tensions. Government look forward to the constructive co-operation of all political parties and indeed, of all leaders of society to help in this task.

India has the privilege of being the world's largest composite society, and the home of many great and ancient faiths. Communalism is an evil which divides man and fragments society ; it does against our very genius and cultural heritage. It holds a threat to the Unity and integrity of our country which must be our foremost concern.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the citizenship of India is a shared citizenship. Danger to even one single citizen, to whatever community, caste, religion or linguistic group he may belong, is a danger to all of us and, what is worse, it demeans us all. I am sure the House will join me in an appeal to the people of our country to come forward and work for solidarity and common national purpose. Every man, woman and child should be able to tread on Indian earth without fear and with pride of heart in belonging to this great motherland.

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi)  
rose—

MR. SPEAKER : No more discussion on this.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) : Sir, I just want to place a document circulated by Pakistan Embassy on the table of the House.