

[Shri Swaran Singh]

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.

**MR. SPEAKER :** The communal issue is no Party issue. There will be no speeches on this. The Leader of the House on behalf of the whole Parliament has made a statement and there is absolutely no difference of opinion on this issue.

As regards the evil of communalism which has resulted in bloodshed in different parts of the country, it must be condemned and is condemned by all sections of the House and I am sure this unanimous condemnation would strengthen the hands of secularism and there would be no further bloodshed; and I am sure the Prime Minister's views are shared by every party and section of this House.

We will now take up the Motion re : West Bengal.

18.47 hrs.

#### DISCUSSION RE PRESIDENT'S RULE AND MID-TERM ELECTIONS IN WEST BENGAL

**MR. SPEAKER :** Mr. Ramamurti.

**SHRI P. RAMAMURTI (Madura) :** I beg to move :

"That in view of the fact that there is no rule of prevalent in West Bengal, this House recommends that the President should assume to himself all the functions of the Government of the State of West Bengal under article 356(1) of the Constitution of India, and arrange for early and fresh elections to the Legislative Assembly."

**MR. SPEAKER :** Motion moved :

"That in view of the fact that there is no rule of law prevalent in West Bengal, this House recommends that the President should assume to himself all the functions of the Government of the State of West Bengal under article 356(1) of the Constitution of India and arrange for early and fresh elections to the Legislative Assembly."

**SHRI P. RAMAMURTI :** I do not just now want to go into the question as to how the Central Government toppled the UF Government and installed the Ministry of Dr. Ghosh. I want to confine myself to the state of affairs that is prevailing in West Bengal today. The police are running

amock. Nodbody to restrain them. They can do what they please. There is no law as far as they are concerned.

When this Government of Dr. Ghosh was installed, about 80,000 policemen were mobilised from all over the state and posted round Calcutta. Along with that, a Central Reserve Police force of about 26,000 or 27,000 was also sent there and they were posted throughout Calcutta. The Army was also mobilised. This is how that Government came to be installed. After that, what has been happening there ?

A team of MPs had gone there very recently. I am sure they will place before you the facts relating to the conditions that exist actually there. But the newspaper reports that come everyday, despite the blanket ban that the Government has put on them by so many means, are sufficient to alarm anyone. They remind one of the days of O'Dyer. We know that a peaceful civil disobedience movement is going on there

**AN HON. MEMBER :** Peaceful ? (Interruptions).

**SHRI P. RAMAMURTI :** What else is it ? (Interruptions).

**MR. SPEAKER :** This side also should listen patiently.

**SHRI P. RAMAMURTI :** Are you not ashamed of what is happening there ? Have you lost all sense of shame ? Today the police are running amock everywhere. Have you got any sense of shame ? Even newspapers which are the supporters of the Congress Party have written about this state of affairs there. For example, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, one of your own papers, has written yesterday about how the police does not even listen to the orders of the Chief Minister. This is the statement of one of the newspapers supporting the Congress. Just two days back, all the newspapers of West Bengal—they are not supporters of the UF; they are supporters of the Congress Party—all the newspapers have written as to how the police ran amock in Uttarpara. What is happening to the Congress Party ? I am sorry to say that the members of the Congress Party have lost all sense of shame.