

14.35 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED CLASH BETWEEN TRIBALS AND POLICE IN ASSAM

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:—

The reported clash between the tribals and the police in Assam resulting in the death of eight persons

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY): Sir, Government deeply regret the recent incidents in Goalpara district of Assam resulting in loss of several lives and injuries to a larger number.

On 18th November 1974 Boro people mainly volunteers of Boro Sahitya Sabha and workers of Plains Tribals Council of Assam armed with lathis, spears, daos etc. marched in processions to picket and close down Government establishments and institutions in Centres like Sidli, Kokrajhar, Bijni and Gossaigaon in Goalpara District of Assam, in violation of the prohibitory orders under Section 144 Cr. P.C. already promulgated in the sensitive areas. They made a bid to overpower the police and the security forces and take control of Government establishments and institutions. The police made lathi charges and fired tear gas to disperse the mobs and restore order. Two CRP men lost their lives at Sidli as a result of sudden attacks on them with sharp weapons from behind. The CRPF personnel had to resort to firing which resulted in the death of one civilian and serious injury to another.

On 19th November 1974, there were violent attacks on the Magistrate and police party in Bijni and the police resorted to firing twice after lathi-

charge and tear gas shelling proved ineffective. Three persons from among the agitators were killed and some more were injured. It is also learnt that two persons were killed and some injured in police firing in Kokrajhar. In Bijni, Gossaigaon, Kokrajhar a number of police and CRP personnel got injured and some seriously.

As recently as on 16th November the State Government had intimated to us that they had had discussion with the representatives of Bodo Sahitya Sabha on 12th November on the issue of Roman script for Bodo language and that another round of discussions was contemplated. It is, therefore, unfortunate that the incidents should have taken a violent turn.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am rather surprised at this type of statement that the Home Minister has made. If you carefully go through the wording of the Calling Attention Notice, it specifically refers to the reported clash between the tribals and the police in Assam, resulting in the death of eight persons. In the introductory part of the Statement by the Home Minister, he has said:

"Government deeply regret the recent incidents in Goalpara district of Assam resulting in loss of several lives and injuries to a larger number."

I am really pained to find that even after such a ghastly incident has taken place, the Home Minister has not found it fit to go into the causes of the disturbances that had taken place. He has not gone into the details of those who were killed and those who were seriously injured. He has not tried to put forward in his statement as to what are the reasons as a result of which the situation got precipitated and what are the steps that are likely to be taken by the Government to see that there will be no recurrence of similar developments in the future.

[Prof. Madhu Dandavata]

In this connection, I have certain information gathered and I would like to find out from the Home Minister whether this information is correct and also whether the reports that appeared in different sections of the press giving different interpretations about the incidents that have taken place are correct and whether those interpretations are correct.

Firstly, I would like to point out to the Home Minister at the very outset that the subject-matter of the Calling Attention becomes extremely serious because it deals with the problem concerning the weaker sections, like, the tribals and that too in an area which is a sensitive area on India's border. Probably, before the formation of Bangladesh, the situation was still more serious. After the formation of Bangladesh, to some extent, the situation has been relieved. But even then the situation continues to be extremely serious. I am very sorry to find that in the statement that has been made by the hon. Minister, no background of the incidents has been given at all. It is just a statement that is given by a bureaucrat and it only deals with a number of persons who were hit, the number of persons who tried to surround the police station and the manner in which the police tried to deal with them.

First of all, I would like to know, on the basis of facts, whether it is true that when the clash between the police and the tribal volunteers took place, at an early stage, the report was that seven tribals were killed, two policemen were killed and one hundred were injured. Today's report indicates that one of the tribals who were seriously injured also died in the hospital. Bringing the total number of deaths to eight tribals.

It has been extensively reported in the press that about 10,000 tribal volunteer tried to demonstrate in front of the Deputy Collector's office in Bijni in Goalpara district of Assam,

on 18th November and they demanded that the Government must introduce the Roman script in place of the Assamese script of the Bodo language and that Bodo language continues to be the language of the schools. In this connection, it has been pointed out in various press reports that the trouble did not start from the 18th November alone. There is a deep background. There has been a consistent discontent amongst the tribals in Assam. Initially, the Bodo Sahitya Sabha which was conducting this particular agitation had demanded that the language has no script but their demand was that the script to be utilised should not be the Assamese script but that the Bodo language should have the Roman script. They wanted to start the agitation as early as on 8th November, 1974. But, after that, the leaders of the agitation were conducting talks with the spokesmen of the Government in Assam and they expected that an amicable settlement could be arrived at, that the rights of the tribals could be protected, that the aspirations of the tribals could be reflected in the policy of the Government and, as a result of that, they announced that their initial agitation which was supposed to be started on 8th November would start on 18th November and, in the meantime, the entire agitation was suspended by the Bodo Sahitya Sabha which had conducted the agitation.

There is also another background to this problem. As early as in 1952, this particular language which is the Bodo language of the Assamese tribal communities was accepted only upto the primary school stage upto 1962. But then there was an agitation that it should be accepted and recognised as an important language even for the studies upto the master stage. I am told that one of the Ministers was responsible for encouraging this demand and as a result of that, initially, this particular language which was accepted and recognised only at the level of the primary school was extended to even

matriculation classes, though adequate books were not available. Therefore, the aspirations of the school going students grew, and the Sahitya Sabha felt that they must make a further pressing demand. They had some grievances about the Roman script. I do not want to go into the merits of this problem, whether the demand for the recognition of the Roman script is correct or the imposition of the Assamese script is correct; I do not want to go into those linguistic controversies at all. But I am one among those who believe that, when sensitive issues come up, there must be an attitude which must be an attitude of accommodation on the one side and an attitude of firmness on the other. Government must make up its mind how far they are going to accommodate the point of view of the tribals; they should sit with them and try to remove the prejudices in their mind; they should try to explain to them why is it that it is dangerous to go beyond the particular point. But even the legitimate demands are not properly considered. Even about whatever are the extravagant demands also, there should be a method of persuasion. The point is not driven home to the tribals. Sometimes the tribals are provoked to precipitate action, and that has happened in this particular case. News reports have appeared that the agitation has not stopped at the point of demanding Roman script for this particular language group; there is a section among the agitators who are also demanding that there should be a separate State. I am not one among those who feel that there should be more and more disintegration of a State like Assam because that is the most sensitive area of our country. That particular point of view has come forward because there was no dialogue between the leaders of the tribals and the leaders of the Government in Assam. At the right point of time if the leaders of the Government had tried to establish a rapport and dialogue with the leaders

of tribals, perhaps the extremist section among the tribals would not have been driven to the point of demanding a separate State at all. Dangerous reports are coming up in the press and some interested parties are also putting forward the claims of that section. A report had appeared in the press, if I remember right in the *Times of India*, Bombay, till 29th May, 1973 that youngsters belonging to the plains tribal community agitating for a separate State comprising the northern belt of Goalpara and other areas in the lower Assam region were given training in arms in Bengal and they were being despatched to Assam. This is a very dangerous report. Some interested parties might be interested in trying to develop animosity between the people of Bengal and the people of Assam. People like us who are committed to the concept of national integration and radicalism do not want such fissiparous tendencies at all. Such reports appear in the press and no cognizance is taken by the Home Minister about such reports. They do not come out with a statement whether this particular news report is correct or not. And if such news reports go completely uncontradicted, different types of elements can take undue advantage of that. Those who are interested in driving a wedge between the people of Assam and the people of Bengal so that they may preserve their own power positions do not feel it necessary to contradict these reports at all. But if such reports remain uncontradicted, they provoke certain extremist sections on both sides. On the one side, those who are guided by romanticism feel that there is a certain territory from where they can get arms, where they can get training in arms, and they develop certain ambitions which are extremist ambitions. On the other hand, sensitive people in Bengal might feel that this is a false allegation that has been levelled against the people of Bengal, that has gone uncorrected and that has not been contradicted by the Government.

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate]

Therefore, they may feel that an allegation has been made against the people of Bengal and unnecessarily a feeling of animosity may grow. I think this is a game of power politicians and I am surprised to find that the Home Minister at no stage contradicted such reports. If these reports are correct, they must try to see that such extremist activities are nipped in the bud and if they are incorrect, they must come out with a categorical statement that it is a false report that has appeared in the press and nothing of that type has been done.

A news report has appeared that when these agitations are going on, certain sections among the tribals were making efforts to see that this particular agitation does not go beyond a point where fissiparous tendencies may develop. But the complacent Assam Government did not take note of the conciliatory attitude at all and they probably wanted to teach a lesson to the extremists. Probably drunk with power, they took up the attitude that they were quite powerful to take up the challenge and 'we need not sit with the tribal leaders around a table and talk with them'. With that arrogant attitude and with that complacent attitude they precipitated a crisis and as a result of that, the agitation is going on.

Our own experience regarding any such agitation in which the language element is involved is that if at the right moment the fissiparous tendencies are not nipped in the bud, such agitations have the potentiality of threatening the integrity of the country and the integrity of various States and, therefore, the complacency of the Government, the arrogance of the Government, the negligence of the Government in this particular case becomes extremely unpardonable.

Lastly, I want to ask the Home Minister that when members of the

weaker sections like the tribal community launch an agitation, the Police must always be prepared to take greater risks. On a number of occasions eminent men in public life have said that the problems of law and order in this country have to be tackled in a more humane manner. There are countries like France where there were students' agitations there was a threat to the Government and almost it appeared that it might lead to insurrection, even then the police did not fire, only sator hoses were used and at a later stage there was a rapport with the students established. That is the method in which some of the democratic countries deal with the problems of law and order. But, unfortunately, in our country, when members of the tribal community try to stage a demonstration on the basis of demands which may be justifiable or which may not be justifiable, it is for the Government to decide upto what point they would accept their demands. When members of the tribal community put forward their demands, it is necessary that towards the members of the weaker sections you must show tolerance. Let me conclude by saying that just as we are talking about equality and social mobility, we always believe that as far as the weaker sections are concerned, mere equality of opportunity has not helped them. A preferential opportunity should be given to them so that the lag that has developed for centuries may be ended. Similarly, in dealing with the problems of law and order and agitations launched by the weaker sections, our society and our Government must be prepared to show a greater tolerance because for centuries they have suffered, they have suffered indignities, they have suffered atrocities and, therefore, the society as well as the Government should show a greater tolerance towards them. We show more tolerance towards the black-marketeers, we show more tolerance towards smugglers, we show more tolerance

towards the power-drunk people. When I say we show more tolerance towards black-marketeers, I mean this Government. I am not talking about the opposition. The Government show more tolerance to black-marketeers, this Government show more tolerance towards smugglers, they show more tolerance to power-drunk people, towards those who are indulging in malpractices and those who denigrate even the dignity and honour of the Parliament, but when the masses drawn from the weaker sections like the tribals and scheduled castes rise in revolt and lead an agitation, you try to be trigger-happy. Remember that the tribal problems can never be dealt with on the basis of a trigger-happy position. If you suppress them on the basis of bullets you will get only bullets in return. You will not get cooperation. This is the basic law of nature in any society which the Home Minister must remember. Let him try to deal with this problem in a human manner.

15.00 hrs.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: I heard Mr. Dandavate with rapt attention. It would be incorrect to say that Assam Government has been acting or has acted in an arbitrary or complacent manner. Sir, you will be aware that Assam Government took a very sympathetic attitude to these tribal people. Out of 15 million people the tribal people of Assam are about 13 and odd lakhs and out of them Boro people are 4 lakhs and odd. If you see how they are distributed, you will find that they are about 30 per cent of the tribal population. This is 13.29 according to the 1971 census. Now, these 4 lakhs and odd Boro population is distributed in several districts and in certain pockets here and there.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Are you pleading that the smaller the minorities the greater can be the intolerance?

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: No, not at all, why do you presume

such things? The smaller the people, the weaker the people, the poorer the people, the neglected the people are, the more and more the Government tries to do, the more and more they take care of these people. I contradict his statement that Government is interested in safeguarding blackmarketing and so on. And I may point out to him that the various steps that we have taken in recent months would clearly show that we want to take the stringent measures and most vigorous action against blackmarketeers, smugglers and so on which unfortunately the hon. Members are trying to defend. I do agree that we must have most sympathetic attitude towards the poor people and as far as we can we should try to help them and agree to their reasonable demands.

They said that Roman script should be adopted. You may be aware that the Assam Government, not now, but some years ago, have given orders that Boro language can be taught in the primary education schools and it has been extended also in the secondary stage. I am told even some textbook committee has gone into it and they are trying to prepare some textbooks for their use and so on. This is not happening just now but this is what has been done for the past several years. So, I am trying to remind Prof. Dandavate that this is not being done only just now. This has been done for last several years. Therefore, it is not as if Assam Government is not looking into the demands or grievances of the Boro people; they have been doing it earlier as well. You may also be aware that the State authorities especially the Education Department and the Secretary of Education to the Government of Assam, have discussed with the leaders and representatives about these problems, about the Roman script and so on but unfortunately they could not come to an understanding. In fact our Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities has discussed with these Boro leaders on 31-10-74. Discussions with Boro leaders by the State Government were held on 11th October and on the 12th November the Chief Minister

[Shri K. Brahmananda Reddy].

of Assam stated that after discussing it with the Department of Education and the Secretary of Education if it is sorted out it is all right. If it is not sorted out then they can go to the Ministry of Education and discuss. If it is not settled even then, they can go to the Chief Minister and discuss. We are sorry that some eight people died and about a hundred got injured. Some of them were policemen. It is just possible—I cannot say off-hand—some external elements may be encouraging them. All the same they should be advised not to indulge in this type of activity which leads to violence.

In fact, I may submit, it is in the interests of these Boro people that they get assimilated with the Assamese people.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE. Sir, I asked a specific question. I have got *Times of India* clipping dated 29th May, 1973. If such a damaging report has come then it is bad both for the people of Bengal as well as Assam.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: You please send that paper clipping to me. We will look into that.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: This news appeared on 29th May, 1973. The Government should either confirm or contradict it. It creates tension between two Governments.

*SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA (Vishnupur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the 18th and 19th of November, 1974, some ugly incidents took place at Goalpara in Assam where as a result of police firing 9 persons were killed, who were agitating for introduction of roman script for the propagation of Boro language in the State. The incidents that had taken place cannot be described as accidental ones because the agitation was continuing for more than two years and if the

unfortunate deaths had taken place it was mainly because the Government of Assam and the Central Government failed to deal with the matter efficiently and in time. (Interruptions). During the last 27 years of Congress rule both in the State and in the Centre the lot of the tribal people have not been bettered. My friend Prof. Dandavate who initiated the discussion has already given a detailed background of the problem now being faced by the Boro people in Assam and about the agonies of the tribal people and as such I would confine myself to some specific questions arising out of the recent incidents

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government had received any memorandum from the Boro tribals of Assam during the last two years complaining about the language policy of the State Government which runs contrary to the hopes and aspirations of the Boro people and if so, the decision taken by the Central Government thereon? My second question is whether the Central Government received any protest note from the Boro minorities of Assam regarding the introduction of Assamese language as a compulsory subject in all Schools and thereby imposing the language on them and if so, what were the reactions of the Central Government to this protest note? Thirdly, I would like to know whether the Government propose to set up a high powered non-official Committee to probe into the circumstances leading to the death of 9 persons and whether steps have been taken to pay compensation to the families of the deceased. And finally whether the Central Government has set up a Committee comprising of the representatives of the Central Education Ministry, eminent educationalists and representatives of the Boro minorities to devise ways and means for

*The original speech was delivered in Bengali.

the introduction of Boro language through Roman script within a time bound programme?

I hope the hon. Minister would give clear and categorical reply to each of my questions?

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: There is nothing special in this except that he wanted a Committee. I do not think a Committee to probe into it is necessary. The Government of Assam is seized of the matter and they are looking into the matter.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampur): Have you received any memorandum from the Boro community and the other tribal people of Assam for making their language to be learnt in the Roman script? His question is: whether you have received any such memorandum from the Assam tribal people.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: I think the Government of India have also received some memoranda from them.

श्री हुकम चंद कछवाय (मुरेना)

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने जो अपना वक्तव्य दिया है उसमें इस बात को बड़ा है कि कुछ नेताओं ने 16 तारीख को बातचीत हुई। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो बातचीत हुई है किम बात पर यह बातचीत समाप्त हुई। आपने उत्तर में यह भी बताया कि पहले इनके प्रतिनिधि मिला चुके हैं और उनके साथ चर्चा की जा चुकी है और फिर यह भी बताया कि धारा 144 वहां लगा दो गई थी तो उसका कारण क्या था? आपने दो बार गोली चलने की बात बड़ी 18-11-74 और 19-11-74 को... (व्यवधान)... वे हिंदी जानते ही नहीं हैं। हिंदी में उन्होंने वक्तव्य भी नहीं दिया। यह वक्तव्य पूरा हमें अंग्रेजी में मिला है, हिंदी में नहीं मिला जबकि अध्यक्ष महोदय का आदेश है कि दोनों भाषाओं में मिलना चाहिए।

मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह बड़ी संख्या में जो लोग प्रदर्शन कर रहे थे आपने कहा है कि इनके पास बर्छे, भाले आदि हथियार थे जिनको लेकर वे जा रहे थे इसलिए हमने इनके खिलाफ कार्यवाही की तो क्या आप वा गज दो प्रकार में नापने का है? आप ने पटना में सी० पी० आई० वा जो प्रदर्शन था जिसमें वे भारी संख्या में हथियार लेकर आये थे उनके ऊपर कार्यवाही नहीं की (व्यवधान) और वे लोग जब आये तो इनके ऊपर कार्यवाही की। वहां पटना में उनको सरक्षण दिया। यह दो प्रकार से नापने का तरीका ठीक नहीं है।

मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि आखिर यह सारा जो आन्दोलन चलाया जा रहा है इसके पीछे किसका हाथ है? कौन लोग हैं वह जो चाहते हैं कि रोमन लिपि हो?

एक माननीय सदस्य : जनसंघ।

श्री हुकम चंद कछवाय : जनसंघ ऐसे कामों में कभी भी नहीं पड़ता। आप को जनसंघ को पहचानने में बहुत समय लगेगा।

दूसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वहां के विश्वविद्यालय में जो वहां के उपकुलपति हैं वे एक पादरी है और वहां अधिक संख्या में ईसाई अध्यापक हैं जो केरल से बुलाए गए हैं? नाथ इस्टन हिल विश्वविद्यालय जो है उसमें बहुत बड़ी संख्या में जो प्रमुख विभाग हैं उनके पदाधिकारी ईसाई बनाये गये हैं और बड़ी संख्या में इन्हीं लोगों का हाथ इसके पीछे है? वे यह चाहते हैं कि रोमन लिपि यहां पर आये। ऐसी परिस्थिति में क्या आपने कभी इस बात पर विचार किया है कि जो अनुमोचित जाति और आदिम जाति की रिपोर्टें समय समय पर प्रकाशित हुई हैं उसमें इस बात पर जोर दिया है कि इनकी पढ़ाई इनकी अपनी भाषा में हो? वह उसमें सार कहा है। लेकिन उस पर जिस तरीके से गौर करना चाहिए वह सरकार ने नहीं किया।

[श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय]

आपने कहा कि कुछ सी० आर० पी० के लोग भी मरे क्या कभी आपने इस बात की खोज की कि ये सी० आर० पी० के जवान आदिवासी में को उनके क्षेत्र में कितना तंग करते हैं। उनको लूटते हैं, उनके साथ बलात्कार करते हैं, नाना प्रकार की घटनाएँ करते हैं। कभी आपने इस बात की जांच की? नहीं की है तो कीजिये।

इतना ही नहीं वहा शिक्षा वा जो कोर्स है उस कोर्स के अन्दर साफ कहा है कि जो पुराना इतिहास है भारत का उसे पढ़ाने की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है। और उसी इंग वह वहा पढ़ाई कर रहे हैं। अंग्रेजों का इतिहास और मुस्लिम काल का इतिहास जो है उसे ही उन्होंने मान्यता दी है और वही पढ़ा रहे हैं। तो क्या आप इस बात पर ध्यान देंगे कि जो भारत का इतिहास है पुराना उसे भी वहां पर पढ़ाया जाय?

ये सारी जो घटनाएँ हुई हैं इन घटनाओं की जांच के लिये क्या पार्लियामेंट के सदस्यों की एक कमेटी आप बनाने वाले है? या अगर वह नहीं करना चाहते तो कोई न्यायिक जांच कराना चाहते है? इसमें आप को दिक्कत क्या है? ये जितने मुद्दे मैंने उठाये हैं उनके उत्तर मुझे मिलने चाहिए और एक बीज मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो मरे हैं चाहे वे किसी भी तरफ के हों उनके लिये आपने क्या व्यवस्था की है? क्या आप उन्हें दफन कर रहे हैं? कुछ दिया है या नहीं? नहीं दिया तो कब देगे और दिया है तो क्या दिया है?

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: More than Assam, we seem to have talked about Patna. However, I would like to submit, as I have already submitted in reply to the previous member's query, that a parliamentary committee or any other committee does not seem to be necessary. The Government of Assam will certainly look into the matter. I have also mentioned during my first reply that the promotion of the

Boro language and the question of the people of the tribes to be taught in their mother tongue has been agreed to and is being followed in the primary stage as well as in the secondary stage. Therefore, it cannot be said that the Government of Assam were not alive to the legitimate demands of these people.

So far as compensation is concerned, it is a matter for the Government of Assam to consider.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने केवल प्रश्न पूछे थे और उनके भी उत्तर मुझे नहीं मिले। मैंने पूछा था वहां जो गड़बड़ी चल रही थी उसका मूल कारण क्या है? इस सारे आन्दोलन के पीछे किनका हाथ है? कौन लोग इसके पीछे हैं? यह रोमन लिपि की जो बात शुरू हुई इसके पीछे कौन लोग हैं? बाहरी ताकत कोई है या पादरी हैं इसके पीछे? यह उन्हें बताना चाहिए। उन को यह भी पता नहीं है इतनी बड़ी सरकार लेकर बंटे हुये हैं? यह बड़े ताज्जुब की बात है। मैंने विश्वविद्यालय का उल्लेख किया विश्वविद्यालय के उपकुलपति पादरी है। इतना ही नहीं जो शिक्षक नियुक्त किये गये है उनकी नियुक्ति के लिए कोई विज्ञापन नहीं निकाला। चुपचाप नियुक्ति कर ली है।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I cannot help it. Now, may I say that you are completely misinformed? Bijni, Sidli etc., are a way out from where the so-called North-Eastern Hill University is situated. The North-Eastern Hill University is in Shillong, way up in the hills; and these places are down in the plains, at a distance of about 400 to 500 miles.

Now, Mr. Daga.

श्री झूज चन्द डागा (पानी) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, 18 नवम्बर और 19 नवम्बर की घटनाओं में बन्दूक की गोतियों के कारण बिन आदिवासियों की

मृत्यु हो गई है, उनके प्रति आपने अफसोस जाहिर किया है। लेकिन मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह घटना क्या वहाँ सदा के लिये अमन पैदा कर देगी, वहाँ अब दोबारा झगडा पैदा नहीं होगा? आपने वहाँ बन्दूक से जो शान्ति पैदा करने की कोशिश की है और जैसा आप कहते हैं कि विघटनकारी नस्लों को गोलियों से काबू में लाने की कोशिश की गई है—लेकिन मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस सीमावर्ती इलाकों में आगे ऐसी घटना न हो इसके लिये आप ने कौन से उपाय किये हैं? मवाल यह नहीं है कि हमारी कमजोरी के कारण सीमावर्ती इलाकों में ये घटनाएँ होती हैं और पहले हुई है हम यह जानना चाहते हैं कि आपने कौन से ऐसे कदम उठाये हैं जिनके कारण यह झगडा पैदा न हो? अगर बन्दूक की गोली से सीमावर्ती इलाके की समस्याएँ हल हो जाती हैं—तो ठीक है लेकिन इस समय आप का ध्यान आकर्षण करने का हमारा उद्देश्य यह है कि उस सीमावर्ती इलाके के अन्दर जब ता० 18 और 19 को 9 आदमी मारे गये और 100 आदमी घायल हुये—तो इस घटना की पुष्ट भूमि क्या थी? आपने पलेन्ज ट्राइबल कान्सिल का नाम लिया है—आप बताइये कि इस संस्था का कम्पोजिशन क्या है? उनकी डिमांड्स क्या थी? आपके मामले में उन्होंने कब डिमांड्स रखी और आपके विभाग ने उन डिमांड्स पर क्या निर्णय लिया। सवाल यह था कि उस कान्सिल ने जो एक पब्लिक बाडी है कब अपनी डिमांड्स आपके मामले रखी और उन पर आप की तरफ से क्या कार्यवाही हुई? कार्यवाही होने के बाद—आपने धारा 144 लगाने की जरूरत कब महसूस की, मैजिस्ट्रेट ने उसको कब लागू किया, किन किन लोगों ने धारा 144 को तोड़ा जिन पर झगडा हुआ। आपने फाइरिंग का जिक्र करने हुए यह नहीं बताया कि धारा 144 कि किस जगह लगाई गई थी, किस किस जगह लोग इकट्ठे हुई और गाली क्यों चलानी पड़ी—इन सब का जवाब दीजिये।

ये घटनाएँ एक जगह नहीं हुई—4 जगहों पर हुई हैं—मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि 10 हजार आदमी कौन सी जगह पर इकट्ठे हुये, क्या हर जगह इकट्ठे हुये या एक जगह इकट्ठे हुये? आपने चार जगह का नाम लिया—दिल्ली, कोकराझार, बिजनी और गोसाईगांव—क्या इन चारों जगहों पर 10 हजार आदमी इकट्ठे हुये या किसी एक जगह पर इकट्ठे हुये किसने आर्डर दिया—उस आर्डर को पढ़ कर सुनाइये किमने उसका लागू किया, किम किम इलाके में और किस किस जगह लागू हुआ या पूरे गोपालपाडा डिस्ट्रिक्ट में लागू हुआ 144 धारा लागू होने के बाद कितने आदमी किस जगह पर इकट्ठे हुये, किस किस समय इकट्ठे हुये, आप न क्या बानिग दी, उस बानिग को पढ़ कर सुनाइये और किसने उसको नहीं माना?

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY:
Most of the information which the hon Member has asked for is contained in the statement itself.

"On 18-11-74 Boro people mainly volunteers of Boro Sahitya Sabha and workers of Plains Tribals Council of Assam armed with lathis, spears, daos, etc marched in processions to picket and close down Government establishments and institutions in Centres like Sidli, Kokrajhar, Bijn and Gossaigaon in Goalpara district of Assam, in violation of the prohibitory orders under section 144 Cr P C already promulgated in the sensitive areas

On 19-11-1974 there were violent attacks on the Magistrate and police party in Bijn and the police resorted to firing twice after lathi-charge and tear gas shelling proved ineffective "

SHRI M C DAGA I want to see the order issued by the District Magistrate Kindly read the order and tell me what were the places covered by that order under section 144. I do not want a general answer.

SHRI K BRAHMANANDA REDDY
I have not got that order with me. On the 18th two CRP personnel were killed and one civilian was killed. On the 19th, three civilians were killed in Buni and two in Kokrajhar. A total of eight were killed. I have already submitted that about a hundred were injured out of whom there were some policemen as well.

SHRI M C DAGA I say that if people assembled at four places, how many assembled at one place?

SHRI S M BANERJEE (Karpur)
Did he count them?

SHRI M C DAGA When an order under section 144 is issued by a magistrate, it is issued for a particular locality, either 10,000 assemble at one place or in different parts of that area. I want to know this fact. How many people were encountered by the police? 100 on this side and 200 on that side or 400? Or were all the 10,000 persons at one place?

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER Shri Chattopadhyaya to make a statement

15 27 hrs

STATEMENT RE REPORTED DECLINE IN PRICES OF COTTON IN CERTAIN STATES

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF D P CHATTOPADHYAYA)
Mr Speaker, Sir, some Hon'ble Members have observed during discussions on 11-11-1974, that there has been a steep decline in prices of cotton in Punjab, Haryana and some other parts of the country compelling farmers to resort to distress sales. It has also been stated that the Cotton Corporation of India has failed to enter the market and ensure reasonable prices for Kapas.

Government are keen to ensure that growers receive fair prices for their cotton and that the production of

cotton continues to increase in accordance with the Fifth Plan targets. At the same time, it is needless for me to emphasise that high prices of raw cotton will inevitably lead to higher prices of yarn and cloth affecting consumers at home, including the economically weaker sections as well as the competitive status of our cotton textiles in export markets.

As Hon'ble Members may be aware, the Agricultural Prices Commission goes into the cost of inputs of various agricultural commodities including cotton and recommends support prices. For 1972-73 cotton year, the minimum support price for the basic variety, viz., Punjab American 320-F, was Rs. 142 per quintal of kapas. For 1973-74 season, the recommended support price was Rs. 170 per quintal for the same variety. As against this, average market prices prevailing in the 1972-73 and 1973-74 season were Rs. 225 per quintal and Rs. 290 per quintal respectively. Kapas prices thus registered a sharp increase of about 26.5 per cent in the 1973-74 season over 1972-73 levels.

It is understood that prices of Kapas of 320-F variety in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan markets are presently ruling between Rs. 280—Rs. 320 per quintal. Though these prices represent a decline as compared to the peak levels reached beyond August 1974, they are on the average still higher than that the corresponding period last year. The price levels for cotton are also influenced by the level of purchases by trade and mills and in the last few weeks there has no doubt been some decline in buying interest due to some accumulation of yarn and cloth. This aspect of the problem has to be tackled effectively if prices have to be stabilised. We are actively considering what measures could be taken in this area.

Looking at lint prices, it is seen that between August 1973 and August 1974 prices for some of the principal