

NCC. In all Sainik Schools NCC is compulsory and in 9 of the Universities it continues to be compulsory.

again. Crackers were used in the attack. A jawan of one of the pickets fired two rounds in the air in self-defence.

12.29 hrs,

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF
URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Firing by Central Reserve Police on the
Security Personnel of Durgapur Steel Plant

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) :
Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :-

The firing by Central Reserve Police force on the security personnel of Durgapur Steel Plant resulting in death of three persons and serious injuries to many.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAWAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, According to the State Government, the Police version of the incident at Durgapur is as follows :

On 24.3.1969, at about 1100 hours, 150 members of the Durgapur Steel Plant security staff went to the Administrative Building of the Plant with a view to placing a memorandum regarding their grievances before the Director in-charge. They were prevented from going to the Director's office by a section of UP PAC force stationed at the plant. That resulted in a clash between the security staff and the UP PAC who were attacked by steel chairs, steel chips etc. A lathi charge followed for the dispersal of the security staff. The news of this brought workers of the Steel Plant to the Administrative Building. A mob of 3000 strong assembled before the building and started ransacking office room, smashing window panes, etc. 5 cars, 2 jeeps and 2 scooters were set on fire. The UP PAC personnel opened fire in self defence. Four or five rounds were fired. Subsequently the mob swelled and attacked the UP PAC force

The report received by Government from the management of the Steel Plant is broadly similar to the version of the incident given by the State police. The management which had prior information of the demonstration had requested the local police at 10.00 AM to make adequate arrangement for maintaining law and order. The local Officer in-charge, however, expressed his difficulties due to prior commitments. The Director in-charge, Maj. General Wadhwa had also contacted the Additional District Magistrate at 11.30 AM and the District Magistrate at 12 00 Noon.

The State Government have also received allegations that the UP PAC opened fire without any provocation. They have further stated that the Additional District Magistrate and the Additional Superintendent of Police, Asansol, reached the scene with a view to bringing the situation under control. The Chief Security Officer and some other officers were placed under arrest as there were allegations of the commission of cognizable offences including an offence under Section 307 IPC against them. 35 members of the UP PAC and 24 members of the Plant staff were injured. Among the latter, there were three who had sustained bullet injuries. They have been admitted to hospital. Five or six members of the UP PAC, whose injuries are also reported to be serious, have been admitted to hospital.

According to the State Govt., the full facts are not yet available and they have asked a senior officer of the Home Department to conduct an inquiry.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Sir, some time ago, in this House, the questions were raised about Kerala when the Chief Minister of Kerala refused entry of the C. R. P. at the time of the 19th September strike. If my memory is not failing, either in this House or outside, when he replied, in a letter to the Chief Minister, Mr. Namboodripad, the hon. Minister assured the Chief Minister of Kerala that, in future, orders

have been issued that the C. R. P. which is stationed in Kerala or even anywhere else, will be used only when the State Government wants it and that they will take directive from the State Government. I want to know that. Secondly, in the newspapers, it has come out clearly—I quote :

“...that the security personnel went in a procession to the administrative building to place their demands before the authorities. When they reached there, they found the way blocked by the C. R. P. and the U. P. police.

Arguments followed and the processionists were lathi-charged without provocation and without warning.

As the crowd was dispersing, the policemen fired upon the retreating demonstrators.”

It has come in many newspapers, including a Bengali daily and *Patriot*—I can produce many newspapers if you permit me to speak for an hour...

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) : Being a patriot, he has produced only *Patriot*.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Then, Mr. Jyoti Basu, the Deputy Chief Minister, when he was asked by the press, said :

“I ordered a week ago the removal of the C. R. P... Why were the C. R. P. and the U. P. Armed Force stationed there ? What were they doing there ?

“The local police were not informed of any threat to law and order. And, after all, law and order is our problem. There cannot be any parallel agency for maintaining law and order.”

Again, in today's newspaper, you will find...

MR. SPEAKER : We have all read it; you need not read out everything.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : It says, “Bengal demands withdrawal of Central Police”.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister, after the new Government came into existence, duly elected, defeating the Congress completely, after they came in power, when they made the request that it should be removed, why was the C. R. P. not removed ? I would like to know whether the Centre had issued necessary instructions for the withdrawal of the C. R. P. and, if not, the reasons for the same. If they have not issued instructions, it is quite clear that they want to take a clash with the State Government by stationing the C. R. P. there, like at Durgapur or any other Plant, and by subversive activities of the Indian National Trade Union Congress headed by Mr. Atulya Ghosh. I would like to know that.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : As far as this particular incident is concerned, the C.R.P is not involved.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : The C.R.P is stationed there...

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : For that you can ask me a separate question. I am prepared to discuss the matter.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore) : He may tell us whether the C.R.P is there or not. He is avoiding that question.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : There is nothing wrong. The C.R.P is there and will continue to be there.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I want to know whether he has received any request from the State Government that the C.R.P should be removed from Durgapur and if so, what is the reaction of the Government.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : The position is that the C.R.P battalions or companies were sent to West Bengal when the I.G.P., West Bengal, requisitioned certain forces from us. The C.R.P forces were also sent,

[Y. B. Chavan]

as also the U.P.P.A.C companies. Immediately after that, the Deputy Chief Minister suggested that the C.R.P be withdrawn. That amounted to saying that the State Government did not want the C.R.P for their work. Immediately we informed them that the C.R.P forces would not be available to them. So, the request made by the Deputy Chief Minister of West Bengal has been accepted. But the C.R.P., in the normal course, is located in different parts of the country. As such, it is located in West Bengal and that will continue to be there. The C.R.P. will not be imposed on the West Bengal Government against their will.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : That is used against the West Bengal Government (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order.

Dr. Karni Singh.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : What about U.P.P.A.C ? He has not answered the other part of my question. What about U.P.P.A.C ? That is a very important matter.

श्री जार्ज फरनेन्डीज (बम्बई दक्षिण) :
जयपुर में उन्हीं लोगों ने गोलियां चलाई थी ।

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंबेर) : राजस्थान में उन्हीं ने गोलियां चलाई हैं ।

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : About U.P.P.A.C, as I said, U.P.P.A.C, if I remember right, was also called for sometime in 1967 and it continued to be their except for some period when it went to Bihar... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : In the time of Mr. P. C. Ghosh.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : Whose State Government it was is not material point here. Whether it was in the time of Mr. P. C. Ghosh or during the President's rule, it was the State Government; Their police authorities who asked for them. Even in the month of January the West Bengal police

were aware of the existence of U.P.P.A.C. battalions there and they wanted them for election purposes, and also for deployment to Asansol and Durgapur. So far the West Bengal Government have not informed that they do not want them so that we could have removed them. If they want us to remove them, we shall certainly remove them.

DR. KARNI SINGH (Bikaner) : The firing that has taken place in Durgapur is indeed a very serious matter. It is not a question whether we are sitting in the Opposition or on the treasury benches. It shows the type of pattern that is developing in this country as a result of the deteriorating Centre-State relations. We have had more than our share of firings in the last ten years that no free country can be proud of. Whether they are justified or not, I cannot say. But in Rajasthan State we had three firings in two years and the Beri Commission report has not justified one. In Hanumangarh, in my area, only two days ago there was a firing and I have tabled a call-attention. The question that I want to ask today is, firstly, as to the type of ammunition that was used for the firing. I do not know whether the members here are aware of the new type of ammunition that has been developed for us in such firings. In Bikaner, during the strike of Central Government servants, firing took place in September. I know this because I visited the hospitals and saw the injured and I brought the matter to the attention of the hon. Minister here. I believe, about 20 people were injured by the bullets fired by the police alone, because I saw the bullet wound with my own eyes. I was told by the people who were hit by the new type of ammunition that has been introduced that it make so little noise that the crowd does not even know that a bullet has been fired or in fact firing has been resorted to. Several injured boys told me that they were playing around nearby during the trouble and apparently one of the boys pointed out to other that his leg was bleeding and the other fellow said that his hand was bleeding; they did not know that they were both hit by bullets. I brought the matter to the attention of the hon. Minister. If, God forbid, firing is to be resorted to, the police should

use the proper ammunition, so that even if one shot is fired it will dispel the crowd instead of putting 20 people in hospital with bullet wounds. The reports are not very clear as to how many people were actually injured by bullets.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister if in spite of the Members of Parliament bringing this matter to his attention, the same unfortunate type of ammunition has been used in the firing in Durgapur ?

The other point is that the Centre-State relations are deteriorating now. I have always been making an observation that the time has come, if we want to save this country, that we should have an all-party Government in the States and a national Government at the Centre. We shall sooner or later have to do that. As I said, this Centre-State strained relations is following a dangerous pattern and the Durgapur situation is one indication. The point is that in the interests of protection of the lives and property of people, not only the Central Government but the State Government will also have to sit round a table and take a very definite decision on this matter. In view of this, may I know from the hon. Home Minister whether he has any proposals to call a round table conference of all party Members and Chief Ministers of all the States and the Central Government to try and evolve some way whereby Centre-State relations can be more smoothly worked out, and whether Government have any proposals to define the functions of the Central police forces as situated in the States ? I make this request on the grounds namely that some of the public sector industries are defence-oriented industries, and if this sort of trouble goes on, our defence production will be affected and hence this question.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH (Pali) : Let him join my party first and then suggest it.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : As far as police firing is concerned, nobody likes it. I do not like it. It is always a very sad affair that police firing takes place and some people are injured and some people

are killed; it leaves a very sad feeling. The point is whether the firings had to be resorted to for justifiable reasons or not. That is one thing. In many cases, these questions have been examined by the commissions, and certain views have been given. I with the concerned State Governments act accordingly.

As far as the suggestion about the ammunition is concerned, I think my hon. friend Dr. Karni Singh mentioned this on the floor of the House

DR. KARNI SINGH : I had written to him.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I think I had replied to him also.

Dr. KARNI SINGH : Did they use the same type of ammunition ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : Since it is a question regarding the type of ammunition, it had to be examined by the experts concerned, and I have asked some committee to go into this matter.

DR. KARNI SINGH : Is he to experiment on poor Indian people or will he listen to the eye-witnesses in regard to what happened in Bikaner ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : Merely because he gives me some suggestion, does he expect me immediately to accept it. (Interruptions).

DR. KARNI SINGH : I had made this suggestion five months ago.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : The purpose for which he uses the gun is absolutely different.

DR. KARNI SINGH : I had made this suggestion five months ago.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I am prepared to accept his authority on the use of arms and ammunitions ..

DR. KARNI SINGH : I am no authority.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I am prepared to accept.....

DR. KARNI SINGH : I am no authority. I had seen those poor boys in the hospital, about 19 or 20 of them with bullet injuries.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I am prepared to accept his authority.....

MR. SPEAKER : I would like hon. Members to address the Chair. Let there be no dialogue across.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I am prepared to accept him as authority because he knows more about arms and ammunition than I do. That is why I am prepared to accept him as authority.

As far as Centre-State relations are concerned, Government are aware of certain situations. This matter was very recently discussed in the standing committee of the National Integration Council and it has been decided that we should meet again and discuss this matter in all its aspects. Certain talks and certain dialogues are necessary.

As far as national government is concerned, I think it is not for my hon friend to talk about it, but at all he has meant it, then I would suggest to him or make a recommendation that he may try coalition with the Communist Marxists if he can.

DR. KARNI SINGH : He has not answered the second part of my question. What is he going to do to define the functions of the Central Reserve Police in the States? He has not answered my question. What is he going to do to define the functions of the Central Reserve Police force in the State as a result of this dialogue ?

SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai) : The deployment of the Central Reserve Police force as also the police force from different States in the different States of India has

assumed the proportions of, and posed a very serious, problem to the country today and under altered circumstances now the relations between the Centre and the States have come up for discussion and should be discussed and finalised.

The Central Reserve Police force is posted in Assam also. And what did they do ? Very recently they shot dead a boy at the Gauhati Sports Stadium. At the same time, the Central Reserve Police people are wonderful people and they go about asking anybody they meet on the street. 'What are you?', and if he says that he is an Assamese, then he gets a few beatings.

SHRI SHEO NARAIN (Basti) : It is not fair that he should say like this.

SHRI HEM BARUA : He gets a beating. Because my hon. friends have not got the beatings, therefore, they say 'No'. They may not get beatings, but I know that the people get such beatings. Whatever that might be, may I know whether Government propose to see that the authority of the Central Government is preserved and at the same time the autonomy of the State Government is not eroded ? May I know whether Government propose to evolve a formula to the effect that the Central Reserve Police or the UP police force which is the worst not only from the point of view of the committing of atrocities...

SHRI SHEO NARAIN : I object to this. Such a learned professor should not make such remarks. The UP police is the best police in the country. I would request the Home Minister to withdraw the police force of UP from Bihar, Bengal and other States. Let them not be sent to other States. It is a very shameful thing that such a learned professor should say like this. We are not going to tolerate this. I would request the Home Minister to withdraw the UP police from other States.

SHRI HEM BARUA : Shri Sheo Narain is getting excited over this...

SHRI SHEO NARAIN : It is not a question of excitement. He cannot make such remarks. We have the best of jawans there. We have the ablest police in UP.

SHRI HEM BARUA : Mr. Mulla has made a comment on the UP police force, and on the strength of that, I have said that the UP police force is the worst in India. Therefore, may I know whether Government have evolved any formula in the matter of deployment of the Central Reserve Police or the police force from any other State in the different States of India and whether they have finally decided not to deploy the police force from the Centre unless a request is made directly by the State Government to the Central Government ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I would certainly like to make the position very clear again.

SHRI HEM BARUA : May I tell him that the Central Reserve Police in Assam is known as 'Chavan sena' ?

SHRI Y. P. CHAVAN : I do not need any *senas*. I think this is just by the way as a sort of humour.

I would like to make the policy of the Government of India very clear about the Central Reserve Police force. The Central Reserve Police force is a Central armed force, and it will be given to the State Governments only if they want it. There is no question of compromising the autonomy of States, because we respect it and we would like to strengthen it. As far as the autonomy of the States is concerned, there is no question of ...

SHRI PILOO MODY : Does he want them to stew in their own juice ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : This is another interpretation of what I am saying.

But I would like to make it clear that the Central Reserve police force, being a national armed force, will have to be located in different places in the country, and it is within the function of the Central Reserve Police Force to protect the Central Government property and the Central Government projects.

SHRI SHEO NARAIN rose—

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to allow him. His name is not there. Some other Congress Member's name is there and I shall call him now.

SHRI SHEO NARAIN : May I just say.....

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member should resume his seat. Somebody in the Congress Party must help me from this menace.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU (Chittoor) : It is the job of the State police force to protect the Central Government property.

SHRI PILOO MODY : Never.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU : The Industrial Security Force has been created to look after the interests of the Central undertakings but they have failed to protect the property of the industrial undertakings. In view of this, will Government take some steps to modify the Industrial Security Force and frame some rules to properly manage them ?

Secondly, just now the hon. Minister said that UP Reserve Police will be withdrawn if the State Government of West Bengal wanted them to go away. It is all right. He has also said another thing that they will also consider that the Central Reserve Police which is stationed in West Bengal will not be available for the security of the people there. In view of the explosive situation in West Bengal and also in view of the fact that responsible people in the Government are instigating people to 'gherao' and other things, is it not good to use the Central Reserve Police not only to safeguard the central industries but also, when times come, to give security to the public from this unlawful Government. (Interruptions)

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I want to raise a point of order.

श्री जार्ज फरेन्ग्वीज : ग्रन्थक महोदय, यह नहीं चल सकता है— आप एक राज्य सर-

[श्री जाजं फरदेन्डीज]

कार को अनलाफुल गवर्नेमेन्ट कैसे कह सकते हैं।

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : He first of all said that this Government cannot protect people from illegal 'gheraos'. Then, having encouraged by his own voice, he went on saying that the Government is unlawful. He should withdraw those words. Sir, it is an elected Government. The Congress has been defeated and they are only 55 people.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU : I have never asked the question from Shri Banerjee.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I have great regard for Shri Naidu. I have supported his groundnut resolution. Let him withdraw those words. It is in the larger interest.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU : I will explain it.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no question. The whole House will agree that the Government of West Bengal is not an unlawful Government. It is elected by the people and it is there.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU : I will explain, Sir. When a Government refuses to be a lawful Government and encourages people to 'gherao', it becomes an unlawful Government at that moment. There is no reply from the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : I have replied it anyway.

SHRI C. K. CHAKRAPANI (Ponnani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as usual the Home Minister is a bit adamant and arrogant. First of all I would like to make it clear that the Central Government has no business to station C.R.P or other forces in the State without the consent of the State Government. Now the fact is that they have stationed C.R.P and other forces in Kerala and other places. You have sent C.R.P to Kerala to suppress the 19th September strike of the

Central Government employees. The Chief Minister of Kerala has expressed his dissatisfaction over this issue and he has vehemently protested against this. I can understand the political background. After the General Elections and after the mid term poll there are non-Congress Governments in West Bengal and Kerala. The attitude of the Central Government towards these Governments is not helpful and you say that harmonious relationship will be established between the State and the Centre. How can you establish cordial relations with this attitude? The question is that in Durgapur the C.R.P and the UP Police have opened fire. Thank God, he has not denied the firing. The Minister has just now said that the steel plant authorities have not approached the State police for protection. This is wrong. He is distorting the fact. According to me, the State Police was not informed of it. The Steel plant authorities did not even inform the Police about the so-called threat to law and order. I understand that the steel plant authorities instigated this thing with political motives by the Centre who created a situation like this. I want to know this from the Government. Is the Government going to enquire into these aspects, as to why the steel plant authorities did not approach the State Police? Secondly, I want to know this, from the Government. Will the Government take immediate steps to withdraw the C.R.P forces of these States?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : As far as the C.R.P's role is concerned, I have made Government's position absolutely clear. As far as his claim that the Durgapur plant authorities did not inform the local police is concerned, it does not appear to be true from the reports that I got. I have to depend upon two sources of information. One is naturally the State Government on whose report I will have to work; and the other one is the one from the Director of the Durgapur steel plant itself. The information that I have received from the Manager of the Durgapur Plant says that they did inform the local police authorities once at 10 O'clock; then again, the Additional District Magistrate was approached at 11-30 and the District Magistrate was approached at 12 O'clock.