

नागरिक को असुविधा न हो, उसके बारे में गाइड लाइन्स अलग इसू होंगे। जहां तक संसद भवन के प्रांगण का सवाल है, आज तक भी जो व्यवस्था होती रही है, वह यहाँ के लोक सभा अध्यक्ष या राज्य सभा के सभापति — उन्हीं के निर्देश से सब कुछ होता रहा है और मैं इतना ही कह सकता हूँ कि आगे भी जो व्यवस्था होगी, आप ही के निर्देश के अनुसार होगी। मेरी जानकारी में लोक सभा के सचिवालय का एक अधिकारी ज्वाइंट सेक्रेटरी (सुरक्षा) इस नाते नियुक्त है और उन्हीं से सलाह ग्रहण करते हुए सारा प्रबंध किया जाता है। उस प्रबंध में कोई परिवर्तन की आवश्यकता हो तो उसमें हम आपकी आज्ञा का पालन करेंगे। बाकी यह बात जरूर है कि कुल मिलाकर के सारे सुरक्षा प्रबंध खास करके वी० आई० पी० की जो सुरक्षा है, उसके बारे में एक ओवर व्यू एक सैकेंड लुक सारा लिया जा रहा है। जल्दी ही उसके बारे में आवश्यक निर्देश दिये जाएंगे और उनका कार्यान्वयन होगा।

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Killing of Shri Bimal Singha, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of Tripura on 31.03.1998

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): According to information received from the State Government, Shri Bimal Singha, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of Tripura and his younger brother Shri Bidyut Singha were shot dead by National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) extremists at around 1200 hours on 31-3-1998 at Abhanga under Salema Police Station in Kamalpur Sub-division of Dhalai District. The Government of India strongly condemns this cowardly attack by the NLFT insurgents. I would like to convey on behalf of the House our heart-felt sympathies and condolences to the families of those killed.

Shri Bimal Singha had gone to Kamalpur on 28 March, 1998 and was staying at his home in Village Mohanpur in Kamalpur Police Station. It is to be noted that another brother of Shri Bimal Singha, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of Tripura had been abducted by suspected NLFT extremists on 9-2-1998 from near Kamalpur.

Apparently, Shri Bimal Singha left Kamalpur on the morning of 31-3-1998 in his official vehicle accompanied by his younger brother Shri Bidyut Singha and plain clothes Security Personnel. A contingent of uniformed security personnel consisting of 2 Havildars and 6 Constables in two escort vehicles accompanied the Minister. The Minister left his official car and two escort vehicles along with the uniformed security personnel on the road near the CRPF Camp at Abhanga and proceeded on foot towards east along with his younger brother and one plain clothes security guard. After traversing a distance of about 500 metres, the Minister asked his security guard to stay back in the house of a local resident and proceeded further accompanied by his brother. A few metres from there, on the Western bank of Dhalai river the extremists opened fire and killed both the Minister and his younger brother.

Hearing the sound of firing the uniformed security guards of the Minister who were waiting at the road side and CRPF personnel from the Abhanga camp rushed to the spot. However, the extremists had escaped from the place of occurrence by that time. A massive combing operation involving Assam Rifles, CRPF, BSF and State Police has been launched. Senior Officers of the Government, including the Director General of Police, other Senior Police and Para Military Officers have rushed to the spot to supervise operations against the insurgents.

It is to be noted that the entire Dhalai district, including Kamalpur Sub-division, has already been declared a disturbed area under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958, as amended, and security forces have been deployed for counter insurgency operations.

I have reviewed the security situation in the State. I have had occasion also to listen to what the Members of Parliament from Tripura have had to say in this regard. Additional security forces are being sent to the State. The vigil by security forces in the State has been intensified.

Let me assure the hon. Members that the Central Government would fully support and supplement the State Government's efforts to meet the situation in the State.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (Goa); Mr. Chairman, Sir, after the coming into office of this Government, a statement was made by the hon. Defence Minister that they would have a separate force to fight insurgency in the country. I do not blame him for that. That is to keep up the morale of the defence and para-military forces of the country. But such a public statement would certainly encourage the insurgents to take recourse to such action. I am sorry that the hon. Home Minister is making the statement, instead of the Defence Minister. I am told, Mr. George Fernandes is in the North-East today to review the situation over there.

Sir, the terrain of Tripura is such that three-fourths of the border is surrounded by a foreign country, namely Bangladesh. Only one-fourth of the border is surrounded by Assam and the other North-Eastern States. I would like to know whether the Government of India has taken any steps to see that this major portion bordering Bangladesh is fenced. This is very important because it is common knowledge that these terrorists, these insurgents, are trained in foreign countries; either in Myanmar or in Bangladesh. We also read recently that the ISI has set up training camps in Bangladesh. Therefore, it would be very difficult for our defence forces to fight insurgency when shelter is being given to the insurgents by the neighbouring countries.

The appropriate thing for the Government to do in such a situation would be to see that steps are taken for fencing the international boundary.

Secondly, Sir, the Minister's brother was kidnapped during the elections, i.e. in February. It is evident that this

gentleman was kidnapped as a bait for the Minister to come to the spot. Now, the Home Minister's statement says that the area has already been declared as a disturbed area. Therefore, it is under the control of the Central Government. The Central Government is also responsible; not only the State Government. Despite this fact, no Central security forces were sent with the hon. Minister when he went for a dialogue with the insurgents.

I think it is a failure on the part of the Central security forces also because this has been declared as a disturbed area and it is controlled under the Disturbed Areas Act. Therefore, it is a failure on the part of the Central Government, the defence forces and the para-military forces. The Minister and his brother were allowed to walk into a trap in the insurgents' stronghold.

I think such an incident is happening for the first time after two decades, where a Minister has been shot dead. I do not want to blame the Government directly. But I feel that those people who are there in the State, i.e. the Central security force personnel who are in charge of security there, have not taken appropriate steps to see that the Minister was given enough protection. I do not know whether the hon. Home Minister has any report from the local area. I hope the Minister would enlighten us on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would it not be much better if all the Members who have given their names put their questions and, thereafter, the Minister replies? I think that would be much better.

SHRI JOHN. FERNANDES: The Minister can reply at the end, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Nilotpal Basu.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: (West Bengal) Sir at the very outset, we appreciate the fact that the statement has come.

The whole difficulty is that the whole question of security not only in Tripura but also in all the North-Eastern areas

has a socio-economic dimension also. Of course, there was no space for dealing with that aspect and the possible avenues through which the Central Government could intervene to make a dent in the kind of backwardness that is there. But, I think, that is an important aspect which the Government will have to spell out subsequently so far as the development of the entire North-East is concerned. It is our privilege that the hon. Prime Minister is also here. I think that should be one of the major aspects, which has to be dealt with.

Sir, the problem is not only in Tripura but in all the adjoining States. For example, Tripura has a very long border with Bangladesh. The kind of extremism that we see there is not confined to a particular State only. There are cross-border extremist activities. The extremist groups in different States of the North-East are mutually coordinating with one another. So, I want the Home Minister to spell out some of the measures that he will take to coordinate these two aspects. One is at the international level, checking of the porous border. The BSF deployment is very thin, and it is a porous border. Right now, the distance between one outpost and another is about 15 km. So, unless there is some meaningful effort to plug the porous border, to scale up the BSF personnel there and to see that the internal security acts in conjunction with the deployment of the security forces, maybe, many of our efforts will become futile. So, I want the Minister to comment on that.

There are a number of groups operating in that particular area. There are two groups of the NSCN, then the ULFA, the PLA, the ATTF Tigers and the NLFT. They are operating over a very large area. A number of States have been affected by such activities of the extremist groups. So, how does the Central Government envisage coordination among all the State Governments and the security forces? As has been pointed out by Shri John Fernandes, 19 police stations are

under the Disturbed Areas Act in Tripura. The Government's intervention is also there. So, how will there be coordination among all these different agencies? This is one vital area. Unless there is proper coordination and mutual dissemination of available information to all the agencies, this kind of thing cannot be checked.

Finally, Sir, the Home Minister has assured us that everything will be done to comply with whatever request the State Government makes to enhance the security arrangement because it is a small State, it is a border State and it is a sensitive State.

The difficulty in that area is that so far as the para-military agencies are concerned, all the agencies are not appropriately equipped to deal with the situation. So, there is a growing need for deployment of military as well as Assam Rifles particularly. So, given the degree and the intensity of the difficulty that is there, the entire House is interested in knowing to what extent the companies of the Assam Rifles that is being requested by the State Government, will be deployed and what kind of subsidiary CRPF support will be provided to the State Government. I request the hon. Home Minister to be kind enough to spell this out.

Thank You.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): It appears a very dangerous situation is prevailing there, because the Minister there was called or invited and was made to get involved in a conspiracy by the insurgents. Therefore, the intention of the insurgents is quite clear knowing fully well that his killing might invite counter-insurgency by the State Government. Knowing that fully well, they have dared to kill the Health Minister of the Tripura State in a cowardly way, therefore; the first question that arises is how insurgents could become that daring. What are their connections? what is their supply base? Is there any foreign hand? If so, what is the foreign hand? And if there is not a foreign hand,

then it is not difficult to take care of terrorism on the soil of India. If the terrorists are being constantly helped, financed and armed by foreign powers, particularly in a place, which is so near to border, and if the border is so sensitive, then it becomes difficult. Therefore, the question arises is what are the details that are available with the Government of India about this group? If there have been any foreign connections, how is the Government of India going to take care of those connections? The more important point is that terrorism in that area can only be fought, if there is a coordinated effort between India, Bangladesh and Burma. There is a need for an international initiative in that part of the subcontinent. In order to strengthen the counter-insurgency, there needs to be involvement of the Defence Ministry and also the Home Ministry. It has to be a multi Ministerial effort. Therefore, will the Prime Minister, drawing a proper lesson from the incident that has taken place, take care to initiate an inter-Ministerial coordinated move? Secondly, will he involve our neighbours in a broad anti-insurgency strategy so that this does not recur? Thirdly, Bangladesh is a friendly country, but the military Junta—not the people—of Burma, because of India's support to the liberation movement or the freedom movement now being carried on the soil of Burma, have an axe to grind. Taking care of that, I would like to know how that dangerous potentiality can be neutralised. That is also an important point. The fourth question is, has the Government of India taken care of the need or the request of the Tripura Government for necessary reinforcements? We have been given to understand that all their requests for reinforcements were not acceded to earlier. Therefore, will the Government of India take a proper note of the requirements as evaluated by the Government of Tripura? Also, will the Government of India make an independent evaluation of the situation there on the basis of its own intelligence agencies and take all effective measures? I say this because it is a

challenge to India's independence, to the Indian Government, to all that India stands for. If a Minister of the State Government can be killed in that way after the killing of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, after the killing of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, this is once again a challenge to India. How this challenge is going to be squarely met by the Government of India is a point that I would like to know.

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN (Kerala): Sir, I welcome the Statement made by the hon. Home Minister that the Central Government would fully support and supplement the State Government's efforts to meet the situation in the State. But, I think the whole situation should be reviewed now.....because it is not a problem affecting Tripura alone. They are having 800 kilometres of international border. And as such, the border security is to be looked into very seriously by the Government of India. Therefore, my suggestion is that the Government of India, especially the Home Ministry, will have to review the whole arrangements there regarding the forces that are deployed there, whether that will be enough or more forces are to be deployed. A review of the supply of arms to forces there and the other arrangements or measures that are being taken to curb insurgency should be held immediately. After such a review, the necessary steps have to be taken on the basis of the conclusions arrived at. In that effort, if the Government of India has to spend or to help the Tripura Government financially to make the security arrangements, that also should be borne by the Government of India. These are my points, Sir.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN (Kerala): Sir, I appreciate the statement made by the Home Minister. I also want the fact to go on record that I met the Home Minister today and he has given immediate instructions to the officers concerned to take certain steps. For that, I must thank him. But, at the same time, the question is a little serious. About 800 kilometre-long border, international border, is there. It is not a question of

Tripura alone. It is a question of national security. People coming from that side attack and go away to that side. The terrain is so difficult that you cannot go there immediately. Our security forces are also handicapped because of the terrain in that area. They take advantage of that and operate in another country's territory. They come, attack and go away. This is the situation created there. Therefore, Sir, I request the Home Minister, through you, that this is a question to be tackled as a question of national security. The small Government in Tripura is doing its best. But it is not possible for any Government in Tripura to tackle it unless the Government of India comes in seriously with the required help. The Home Minister has told me that he will be doing something. I am glad that he has reacted positively. But the point is that the Tripura Government cannot move so freely. Not a single bullet-proof car is there with them. How can a Minister move? Even the officers find it difficult to travel because the risk of being killed is there. Sophisticated arms are available with the insurgents. They can kill anybody and speed away in a car. So, a request is being made that they must be provided with bullet-proof cars. They must also be provided with helicopters so that they can reach a place immediately to see the situation. I do not want to make a big lecture on how to do it. Our security forces can do it provided the Government of India seriously enters in. Please do not think that it is a question of Tripura only. It is a question of our national security in that whole area. So, I request the Government of India, through you, Sir, to do something seriously so that this problem can be checked and solved forever. I only make this request through you, Sir. That is all I want to say.

श्री विष्णु कान्त शास्त्री (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय सभापति जी, एक बहुत ही दुःखद प्रकरण पर हम लोग बात कर रहे हैं। हम सब उस परिवार की वेदना को समझते हैं जिसमें दो भाइयों की हत्या कर दी गई और एक भाई अभी भी अपहृत है। यह ठीक है कि केन्द्रीय

सरकार को बहुत बड़ी जिम्मेदारी है लेकिन यह भी साफ है कि राज्य सरकार अत्यंत विफल रही है। राज्य सरकार की विफलता को ढांकने का कोई कारण नहीं होना चाहिए क्योंकि आज त्रिपुरा में अपहरण एक उद्योग हो गया है। मैं त्रिपुरा को जानता हूँ। कई बार त्रिपुरा गया हूँ और त्रिपुरा में यह जो आतंकवादी हैं वे अपहरण करके अपना व्यापार कर रहे हैं। यह एकदम प्रत्यक्ष है। इसलिए राज्य सरकार की जो विफलता है वह भी चिन्हित होनी चाहिए। मुझे बिल्कुल याद है मेरी पार्टी के वहां के अभी जो उपाध्यक्ष हैं उनके बड़े भाई योगवृत्त चक्रवर्ती का अपहरण हुआ था और योगवृत्त चक्रवर्ती की हत्या हो गयी और वे सारे हत्यारे बंगलादेश में भाग गए। हम लोग बार-बार वहां मांग करते रहे हैं और अब भी उनका कोई पता नहीं चला। चूंकि ये बड़े लोग हैं, मंत्री हैं इसलिए हम लोग यहां इस बात को उठा रहे हैं। लेकिन ऐसी हत्याएं वहां निरन्तर होती रहती हैं। उन निरन्तर हत्याओं का कोई प्रतिवाद, कोई योजनाबद्ध कार्य पूर्व केन्द्रीय सरकार की सहायता के साथ वहां आतंकवाद के दमन का कोई कार्यक्रम नहीं लिया गया। यह सबसे बड़ा दुःख का कारण है। राज्य सरकार में अगर आतंकवाद के दमन की इच्छा न हो, राजनीतिक इच्छा न हो तो केवल केन्द्रीय सरकार की सहायता से काम नहीं हो सकता। मैं यह स्पष्ट देख रहा हूँ कि एक अपहृत भाई की रक्षा के लिए मंत्री महोदय वहां गए। उन्होंने स्वयं अपने रक्षकों को छोड़ दिया, स्वयं अपने छोटे भाई के साथ वहां वे अकेले गए और इस तरह से जैसे कि ठीक ही कहा गया कि एक बख्तर का शिकार हुए। लेकिन यह जो दुस्साहस उनका बड़ रहा है, इस दुस्साहस के पीछे वे असंख्य हत्याएं हैं जिन असंख्य हत्याओं का कोई दण्ड वहां नहीं दिया जाता रहा है। इसलिए मैं यह अपेक्षा करूंगा कि हमारी केन्द्रीय सरकार अवश्य ही वहां अपनी पूरी सहायता दे लेकिन राज्य सरकार की जो विफलताएं हैं, राज्य सरकार जो असफल रही है वहां कानून का राज्य स्थापित करने में, अपराधियों को दण्ड देने में उस पर भी कुछ विचार किया जाए और उसको भी यह निर्देश दिया जाए कि वे सख्त के साथ, कड़ाई के साथ वहां आतंकवादियों का दमन करें और वहां न्याय की तथा कानून के राज्य की प्रतिष्ठा करें।

मैं यह भी चाहूंगा कि जो अभ्याग भाई अभी तक अपहृत है उसके उद्धार की भी कुछ योजना हो। दो भाइयों की वहां हत्या हो चुकी है। लेकिन जो भाई वहां अपहृत है उसकी रक्षा कैसे हो सकती है इसके बारे में भी केन्द्रीय सरकार और राज्य सरकार को मिलकर प्रयास करना चाहिए और उसका उद्धार करना चाहिए। चूंकि

एक बड़ी दुःखद घटना के कारण हम लोगों का ध्यान वहाँ पर केन्द्रित हुआ है इसलिए अब इस बात को यों ही न छोड़ दिया जाए। इसके तार्किक परिणाम तक इसको ले जाया जाए और केन्द्र सरकार तथा राज्य सरकार के सहयोग से वहाँ पुनः शांति स्थापित हो सके अपने माननीय गृह मंत्री जी से यही मांग करूँगा।

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala): sir, this incident is a warning. It shows to what extent the extremist activities have been intensified in this area. The Government has to pay special attention to the border areas. It is true that many reports have come that the extremists who are resorting to terrorist activities in this country escape to our neighbouring country, called Burma, after committing the crime, and are operating from there. Some diplomatic steps might have been taken in this respect. But the narcotic trade is a major source of income for the terrorists. At the same time, they are given shelter in Burma. At certain points, the narcotic trade is going on in full swing and this has become a source of major income to the terrorist groups who are operating there. To what extent can this menace be controlled?

Sir, I would like to refer to para 3 of the Home Minister's statement. There appears to be a missing link in para 3. The missing link is this. "This Minister left his official car and two escort vehicles along with the uniformed security personnel on the road near the CRPF camp at Ahanga and proceeded on foot towards east along with his younger brother and one plain clothes security guard. After traversing a distance of about 500 metres, the Minister asked his security guard to stay back in the house of a local resident and proceeded further accompanied by his brother." An answer to this question has to be found out as to why the Minister and his brother walked alone, leaving the security personnel there. Why did the Minister ask the security guard to stay back in the house? Why did they go alone? That question has not been answered in para 3. I believe that there is some missing link. As has been referred to by some hon

member, it might be a trap. Did he go there to find out whether his missing brother was waiting for him at that place? Somebody might be there. Naturally, he might have told the guard that he was going to meet so and so. If we are able to find an answer to that question, I believe, something can come out.

SHRI K.R. MALKANI (Delhi): Sir, actually my question has already been asked by Mr. Vayalar Ravi. This is exactly what I want to know—why the Ministers left the vehicles behind: why they left the security men behind and what was happening. If the hon. Minister knows about it, he can throw some light on it. If it is not presently known, he can find out and let the country know what exactly happened, what was in the mind of the hon. Minister and why he walked into this trap.

DR. B.B. DUTTA (Nominated): Sir, I would like to be first assured by the hon. Home Minister that they will be giving the due importance to the North-East. I have a doubt because in the President's Address, the North-East or the North-West, despite the extraordinary problems prevailing over there, has not been mentioned at all. Though I remember that on 24th of May, 1996, when the President addressed the Joint Session after the Eleventh Lok Sabha was constituted, there were references to the North-West and the North-East specifically. This time, it is completely missing and I think they may be under a false impression that the situation has very much improved there and hence the North-East does not require even any mention. Now, the killing of the Minister in Tripura is indicative of a steadily worsening situation in the North-East. We have been telling this again and again, but it is very difficult for us to make the rulers in Delhi understand how the situation is passing out of hands. Sir, I am an insider from the North-East. With your permission, I would like to throw a little light on what is happening there. Recently, the Army has been deployed. Earlier also, it was deployed; then it was withdrawn then re-deployed;

this kind of thing is going on. If you look at the position of the Army-deployment, you will see from the locations or from their presence as if they are meeting the Chinese threat, But they are supposed to deal with the insurgents actually. All the insurgent groups about which the hon. Member, Mr. Basu, has just mentioned, have established coordination among themselves and they are acting and moving with a logistic support from each other and with perfect understanding with each other. Sir, this area is very complex Across the India-Burmese border. There are the poppy growing areas where, Sir, as you know, to guard the poppy production, more than 50 per cent of the world narcotic production is in this vast stretch and the Kachin National Army is guarding it. They are the mentors of NSCN. NSCN has now got two factions. Both the factions are the gurus; or the mentors of other insurgent groups operating in N.E. Region. They train them; they advise them. Now for the entire narcotic movement there are three main exit points—Bangkok, Hong Kong and Kathmandu. For Hong Kong, China has now imposed death penalty for drug-trafficking. There is a very tight corner now. Of late, they have been intensifying their efforts for the last few years, for the uninterrupted movement of the drugs and, what has to go with it, the weapons-gun-running. It is just a side-by-side affair. They are aiming to reach Chittagong port through Bangladesh and they are also aiming to reach Kathmandu through the North-East. So, they want reasonably safe routes. Now these routes are not being snapped at strategic points by the operations of the Army. I am mentioning these routes, though it ought to be common knowledge. One strategic route is in the southern tip of the North-Eastern region. The southern tip of the North-Eastern region has a second degree of isolation, and there, the most sensitive sector is Karimganj-Badarpur-Lalaghat. If the Army is there, if they guard this passage, then they can control their movements from Nagaland-Manipur towards Tripura, Dharm Nagar, Agartala

and also towards Mizoram, Aizawl, Lungleigh to Bangladesh. But we find that this strategic presence is not there. The strategic operations are not being conducted taking the whole north East region as one zone. I am mentioning all these things because the hon. Home Minister is here. We are tired of speaking all these things.

The second strategic sector is Hojai-Lanka-Lumding-Haflong. Through that route we go to Dimapur, from Dimapur to Kohima, to Imphal, to Moreh and to Burma. This is the route. When we come to the otherside of the Brahmaputra river in Assam. We have got a very sensitive area, the Barpeta Road-Howli-Abhayapuri-Malaguri sector. It is through this sector that rest of India is connected with Siliguri Neck. It is this area which has recently witnessed the maximum number of sabotages, kidnappings, killings, lootings, arsons and what not. Sir, the Army should not always be called in the aid of civilian administration. It is just a way of corrupting the Army and spoiling the Army. In British India the Army used to go to the frontiers. But when the Army went to the frontiers, they pursued the attackers and all those mischief-makers even by crossing the border, if necessary and after having inflicted heavy punishment used to come back to the barracks quickly. The Army should not remain continuously deployed in aid of civil administration. We have deployed the Border Security Force in the border areas and by the continuous presence of the Border Security Force in those areas, the Border Security Force has earned the dubious distinction of being called Border Smuggler Force. You have no control over the Border Security Force. They have become a part and parcel of the gigantic smuggling that is going on by the sheer pressure of the economic logic from both sides of the international border. This is what is happening. Now the deployment of the CRPF in the region is also not done correctly. Recently we have said that for the development of the North-East, if the pre-condition is return of

peace, it is elusive. You cannot get it. Rather, you develop the North-East to get peace. It is through development that peace can come. If you wait for peace to come and then develop the area, it will never happen. That is why we want the CRPF to be available there to guard those industrial centres and activities whatever small-scale and medium-scale industries we have, and to guard those people so that they are free from the clutches of extremists and kidnappers who are demanding ransom. This is not being done. If it is so, what kind of policing is being done? The State police force is so ill-equipped. Whenever an incident occurs, the police force goes in the reverse direction. If you ask a police officer, "why are you afraid of going to the spot of occurrence then and there and pursue the attackers?" they will say, "We are ill-equipped and we cannot go with these ramshackle rifles to meet those people who are equipped with all kinds of sophisticated and automatic weapons". There is no similarity between the equipment with which the police are operating or the CRPF are operating and the weapons with which the insurgents are operating. They have amassed a lot of money through extortion. Every day it takes place in the entire north-eastern parts of Assam. As a result, what happens is this. Frustrated politicians, drug traffickers, gunrunners, insurgents, the lower bureaucracy and the police force, all these elements have combined together and the loyalty of an ordinary citizen in the North-East has shifted from the overground Government to the underground Government. Many people ask us, "Why do you pay income tax and other things to this Government?" We are paying tax every day, every week, to the underground people. The IPS officers, the IAS officers, the Deputy Commissioners, all are paying 30% of their salary every month to the insurgents. This is the order of the day. Who doesn't know it? No elected Government can function without the blessings of either this faction of the NSCN or that faction of the NSCN. That

is the picture in some parts of Assam. Parts of Assam are already captured by the NSCN because Karbi-Anglong and North Cachar Hill districts are very important for their movement towards, Chittagong port and towards Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. So, they have virtually taken over these two districts from the Assam Government. The Assam Government is just a titular head of these two districts. The actual administration is in the hands of the NSCN. This is the scenario in parts of Shillong City from where I come. It is under their threat. They are using it as a place of their hide-out, and meeting, their strategic policy-making meetings. They are meeting there, making their policy packages and moving right and left. This is the scenario. The Centre ought to know about it. The military knows about it. The police people know about it. Is this the way that we are going to ensure good governance, effective governance? Is this the way that the Government can function without an iota of morality and ethics?

It is the primary duty of any Government...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you any questions to be put?

DR. B.B. DUTTA: My point is this. I would like to be assured that this extraordinary situation would be tackled with an extraordinary package on the economic front as well as by deployment of proper forces in a proper manner. Sir, when the insurgents go to Bhutan...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't go in detail. Do you have any specific questions to be put?

DR. B.B. DUTTA: I would want to know one thing. What has happened to his brother who had been kidnapped?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri R. Margabanda. Not present. Shri Sanatan Bisi.

SHRI SANTAN BISI (Orissa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have gone through the statement. The only thing which I would

like to know from the Minister is what they are going to do for the misguided youth of the area.

श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय सभापति जी, बहुत सी बातें यहाँ कही जा चुकी हैं, मैं एक ध्यान आपके माध्यम से गृहमंत्री जी का आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि त्रिपुरा में जो एन० एफ० एल० टी० है, इसका सीधा संबंध नागा उग्रवादियों से है। इस प्रश्न पर अनेक बार यहाँ चर्चा हो चुकी है। पिछली बार जब यह चर्चा सदन में हुई थी तो तत्कालीन गृहमंत्री जी ने बताया था कि इनके अड्डे बांग्लादेश, मयनमार और भूटान में हैं। तब उन्होंने यह भी आश्वासन दिया था कि इस संबंध में बांग्लादेश से बात हो चुकी है और वहाँ जो अड्डे हैं वह लगभग समाप्त हो गए हैं, मयनमार और भूटान के बारे में तब बताया गया था कि इस पर आगे कुछ कार्यवाही होगी। तो मैं यह जानना चाहूँगा माननीय गृहमंत्री जी से कि इस बारे में उनको कोई विशेष नई जानकारी दी गई है? आतंकवादियों को जो यह अड्डे मयनमार, भूटान, वगैरह अन्य देशों में हैं, उनको रोकने के लिए वह क्या कार्यवाही करने जा रहे हैं?

महोदय, भूटान के जंगलों में जो प्रशिक्षण शिविर हैं, उनकी चर्चा, पिछले दिनों जब भूटान के महाराजा यहाँ आए थे तो तत्कालीन प्रधानमंत्री जी से उनकी हुई थी, लेकिन उस संबंध में क्या कार्यवाही हुई, अभी तक इसकी जानकारी सदन को नहीं दी गई है। यह क्षेत्र मादक द्रव्यों का एक बहुत बड़ा अड्डा है, वहाँ से आने जाने का मार्ग है और वहाँ से ड्रग ट्रेफिकिंग होती है, उसे रोकने के लिए भी सदन को आश्वासन दिया गया था कि कठोर कदम उठाए जाएंगे, लेकिन आज तक मेरी जानकारी के अनुसार कोई ठोस कदम नहीं उठाए गए हैं। सदन के समक्ष यह भी कहा गया था कि केन्द्रीय सुरक्षा बलों को राज्य सरकारों का पर्याप्त संरक्षण मिले, सहयोग मिले, इसके बारे में नई रणनीति बनाई जाएगी। मैं जानना चाहूँगा कि कौन सी नई रणनीति बनी है? स्थिति यह है कि जो केन्द्रीय सुरक्षा बल है और सेवा है, उन पर अनेक प्रकार के प्रतिबंध लगे हुए हैं और आतंकवाद से निपटने के लिए सेना को पर्याप्त अधिकार नहीं दिए गए हैं। ऐसी चर्चा सेना के अनेक जनरलों ने समाचार-पत्रों की अपनी रिपोर्टों में कही है। मैं जानना चाहूँगा कि क्या इस प्रकार की जानकारी माननीय गृहमंत्री जी के समक्ष आई है या नहीं आई?

महोदय, एक अन्य बात यह कहना चाहूँगा कि भारतीय गुप्तचर सेवा की असफलता इस क्षेत्र में अनेक बार देखने में और सुनने में आई है। इस संदर्भ में क्या

कोई नए आदेश जारी किए जा रहे हैं ताकि भारतीय गुप्तचर सेवा ऐसी हो सके, जो कि आतंकवादियों की कार्यवाहियों के बारे में सही जानकारी दे सके? हमारी गुप्तचर सेवा पूर्वोत्तर भारत में, विशेष रूप से त्रिपुरा में कमजोर हुई है, जैसी कि यहाँ चर्चा हुई है और इस वजह से न हमारी सेना को सही जानकारी मिल पाती है और न ही सुरक्षा बलों को सही जानकारी मिल पाती है।

अंत में, महोदय, मैं एक बात कहना चाहूँगा कि यहाँ जो आतंकवाद है त्रिपुरा में, असम में, नागालैंड में विशेष रूप से, वहाँ अनेक उच्च-स्तर के राजनीतिज्ञ, जो सत्ता में हैं और सत्ता में नहीं भी हैं, इसमें कहीं न कहीं किसी न किसी रूप में शामिल हैं। यह एक दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण स्थिति है। क्या इसकी जानकारी भारत सरकार को, गृह मंत्रालय को है? अब यह स्पष्ट होना चाहिए और जो राजनीतिज्ञ इसमें शामिल हैं, उनके विरुद्ध कार्यवाही करने की कोई व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए। ऐसा मेरे आपके माध्यम से निवेदन है और जो भी जानकारी इस बारे में गृहमंत्री जी को है, वह अवश्य सदन को देनी चाहिए। धन्यवाद।

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH (Assam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we thank the hon. Home Minister for the statement that he had made. This is a dastardly act and has to be condemned. As my other colleagues have pointed out, almost in the entire North Eastern region insurgency has become a way of life and we need a multi-faceted strategy to deal with this menace and this has to cover all the related aspects, narco-terrorist activities of various insurgent groups. In this context, through you, Sir, I would like to put two questions to the hon. Home Minister. As is well-known, these various insurgent groups in the North-East have developed links with one another. We need well coordinated command structure among the entire North-Eastern region States to take a coordinated view of the activities of the various insurgency groups and to deal with them. Are we satisfied with the degree of coordination that exists among the States of the North-East? That is one point that I would like to know. The second thing is, Sir, on my various visits to this region I have been appalled at the lack of sophisticated equipment with the normal police forces and other security

agencies. The insurgents are infinitely at an advantage in this regard. Therefore, our Government, the Central Government in particular, I think, needs to come to the assistance of the States in this region. Is there an effective programme being worked out to ensure that the security agencies in this sensitive North-Eastern region will not be handicapped because of the inferiority of the weapon system available to them, *vis-a-vis* the insurgents?

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Sir, I do appreciate that at this hour of crisis in Tripura the entire House has risen above petty politics and I express support and sympathy for the people of Tripura. I also appreciate that the Home Minister has assured all kinds of support to the State Government and has promised to drive away this menace. One question I would like to ask the Home Minister—I have heard, I have been told—that after the election a number of para-military units were withdrawn from the State and they will not return; although several mandates were given by the State Government for their return, they will not return. So there was a kind of security gap in the State because a number of para-military units should be there but they were not there. This is one kind of a problem. Another issue which Dr. Manmohan Singh has raised and I think it is correct is that the equipments the police have are no match for the very sophisticated weaponry the Opposition carries. The third issue is, I think this is related to what Shri Vishnu Kant Shastri has raised. We must have some sympathy for the State Government. It is not a question of State Government's failure because it goes far beyond the capacity of the State Government. The drug war in that region, the drug triangle which operates passes through Assam, Tripura and through all these places. Many of the insurgent groups are very much part of that. No Government of Tripura can handle this problem on its own. It is far beyond their capacity to handle the problem of trans-border trade, trans-border

smuggling of arms, trans-border movement of drugs, trans-border movement of insurgent groups. So this is a question in which the Central Government has to really cooperate with the State Government fully. What happens is, Tripura is very much at the periphery. Sometimes we do not take cognizance of their problems. I have seen it in the past. Several times I have talked to the Home Ministers and others, some of them are not familiar with the problems in Tripura. I would request our Home Minister to pay a visit to Tripura as soon as possible and to acquaint himself with the problems directly and by going through the files and then try to help the State Government to solve this problem.

श्री विष्णु कान्त शास्त्री: सभापति जी, मेरा नाम लिया गया है, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ, कि मैं बिल्कुल सहमत हूँ, कि त्रिपुरा सरकार को पूरी सहायता करनी चाहिए। मेरी पीड़ा यह है कि क्या त्रिपुरा सरकार ने दो साल पहले, जब माननीय इंद्रजीत गुप्त जी गृह मंत्री थे, कुछ मांगों की थीं? क्या त्रिपुरा सरकार ने अपनी असमर्थता जताई थी?

सभापति: यह प्वाइंट आप पहले कह चुके हैं।

श्री विष्णु कान्त शास्त्री: मैं स्पष्टीकरण करना चाहता हूँ कि मैं क्या कहना चाहता था। क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार के द्वारा उन मांगों को पूरा किया गया? अगर उन्होंने कोई मांग ही नहीं की तो फिर त्रिपुरा सरकार दोषी है। अगर उन्होंने मांग की और केन्द्रीय सरकार ने उनकी मांग पूरी नहीं की तो केन्द्रीय सरकार दोषी है। यह बात स्पष्ट होनी चाहिए कि क्या उन्होंने मांग की थी, और अगर मांग की थी तो क्या मांग पूरी की गई? अगर उन्होंने मांग नहीं की तो त्रिपुरा सरकार को दोषी मानना चाहिए।

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I fully appreciate the concern expressed by Members in the course of the discussion, though there are more points made which are in the nature of suggestions for action rather than questions for clarification.

It has been very rightly said that it is not merely a question for one State Government to confront. It is a question

of national security in which all the States in the North East or on the border and the Central Government would have to cooperate fully to ensure that incidents of this kind do not occur.

I will mention one point. After all, there are so many points which can be mentioned. I was told by the Ministry, when I assumed office and I enquired about these matters, that Parliament has enacted a law, the National Security Act, which is intended to deal with insurgents who are arrested. But this Government—and I am not blaming it—have a viewpoint, which viewpoint can also have validity, “In principle, we will not use NSA; The National Security Act will not be used by us even after an insurgent, a militant, is arrested. Unless we are able to prosecute him on a specific offence, we will not detain him.” Now, this is a matter in which my Ministry, the Ministry of Home Affairs, has been trying to persuade the State Government...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The previous Government?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: No. I am not talking of the previous Government. I am talking of the State Government. I am not talking of the previous Government, I do not know what precisely my predecessor's view in this regard was. But I am of the view that while civil liberties are very important, in some of these States, particularly on the border, the country is confronting a situation which made it legitimate for the Parliament, which is very much concerned about civil liberties, to enact a law like the National Security Act, and if the National Security Act has any legitimate justification, it is in situations of this kind. Frankly, let me tell you, on the question that was posed by Shri Vayalar Ravi or by Malkaniji as to the missing link in this entire episode, I am in no position to say anything about it, unless I speak to them directly. This is the information that I have received from the State Government. I can presume some of these things. After all, obviously it is very likely that when the Minister went to the den of these extremists di-

rectly, he may not have even secured the consent of the Chief Minister. I don't know. The Chief Minister is coming to meet me. The Chief Minister will be here tomorrow and he will be meeting me the day after tomorrow. I will be able to put these questions to him. This I do know that even though this sector is a CRPF sector—under the Disturbed Areas Act—the Minister did not inform the Central para-military forces when he went there on his own. He did not. Now, these are matters in which I really cannot come here and blame anyone. Here is a person whose brother has been abducted; he has been abducted for several months now; maybe, someone may have contacted him from amongst the extremists and told him that if he come over here, they will be willing to release him. Something might have happened. But, obviously he walked into the trap and was killed along with his brother and the abducted brother remains still abducted. He has not been released as yet. Now, with these situations, as I said, the State Government and the Central Government have a joint responsibility to see that insurgency is dealt with firmly. There is no doubt that these insurgent groups in Tripura—there are two principal groups, smaller groups have also erupted—have had a linkage with the principal insurgent group in Nagaland. They have trans-border linkages. There is no doubt about it. Shri Narendra Mohan was telling me that Shri Indrajit Gupta mentioned that there were links with Bangladesh, Myanmar and Bhutan. This is true. There is no doubt about it. The Government of India has been trying to have a dialogue even with these sections. We have been following it up, but the results, till today, have not been very satisfactory. It would need a very concerted and determined effort on the part of the entire country, on the part of the Central Government and the State Government to see that this evil is rooted out. We will deal with it firmly.

As far as the question of providing modern arms to them is concerned, I would like to say that a special scheme

has been drawn up, funds have been allocated for that, maybe more has to be done. I am not going to read out the number of jeeps provided, the number of self-loading rifles provided and the number of Gipsies which are getting bullet-proof and the number of trucks provided. These are matters of detail, but this I would expect that over a period of time, insurgents in the North-East, insurgents in the North-West, insurgents even in the South have been able to acquire weapons which outbeat weapons which are in possession of our own policemen. They are better equipped because all kinds of weapons are available for a price and without a price. There are some of our neighbours who are willing to help them and provide them with all kinds of things and some of them are being provided on condition that you keep on creating problems in India. This is the only condition. You will get it gratis; you will get it free provided you keep on showing results. If you keep on showing results, if you keep on creating incidents, we would provide you more, but if you stop doing that or if you fail to do that, we will not provide you weapons. These reports have also come to light and these are disturbing reports.

So far as illegal infiltration and illegal immigration is concerned, it is another problem on which there has to be a national consensus and a national determination that we will not allow it all along the border. Of course, both in the West as well as in the East, but in the East it is a far greater malady than it is in the West. Nothing should influence us. No exterior consideration should influence us when we tackle the problems of both illegal infiltration and illegal immigration because, I believe, some of it is calculated and deliberate infiltration and some of it is illegal immigration for which there may be some economic justification also, but the fact that this creates problems for the country cannot be disputed.

I would agree with the point raised by Shri Dasgupta that there has been some withdrawal of security forces in the past

weeks for consideration of elections. Because of electoral considerations, electoral considerations in Jammu and Kashmir also, there has been some withdrawal. Yesterday and today when I met the MPs from Tripura and the Home Secretary, I directed the Home Secretary to restore the level of security to what it was before the elections. To my information, 66 companies were there earlier, out of which 25 were withdrawn during these days for the purpose of elections. I have directed them to restore it to the level of 66 as it was earlier. The movement of Army or what is done in respect of Army is not done or announced publicly. I can assure the House that when the Chief Minister comes here to see me whatever is necessary even in that regard would be done. Sir, so far as the specific questions were concerned, I have tried to deal with them. All that I can say is that this one hour discussion in the debate has made me conscious of several things. I very much agree with Dr. Dutta when he said that to believe that peace has to precede development, this just cannot happen. Efforts for ensuring peace and development have to go hand in hand and done simultaneously because both are interdependent. It is lack of development, it is backwardness that is contributing to this situation. No one can deny that. So, I am happy to tell the House that the Prime Minister has decided to convene an early meeting of the Chief Ministers of the North-Eastern zone, of all the North-Eastern States where all problems relating to development of that region and also the problems relating to insurgency, etc. can be discussed with them.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: What initiative are you going to take with regard to our neighbours, particularly Bangladesh? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: As I said, efforts have been going on in the past to see to it that the neighbouring countries realise that this situation cannot help anyone—neither them nor us. So, whatever we are able to do in the course of these discussions, I may mention that. In

October 1993—this is long back—the Union Home Secretary visited Dhaka. Following that visit a Joint Working Group was set up which has held its meetings both in New Delhi and Dhaka to discuss the security related matters of mutual concern. Similarly, an agreement for maintenance of peace and tranquillity in border areas was signed with the Government of Myanmar in 1994 at New Delhi. Since then national level meetings and several sectoral level meetings have been held. The Myanmar authorities have extended full cooperation in certain security related matters which have been helpful in controlling the activities of the insurgent groups in the North-East. Initiatives have also been taken for obtaining cooperation of the Thai authorities since some of the insurgent groups of the North-East are known to be procuring arms and ammunition from unofficial sources in Thailand. You would appreciate that this is the information provided to me by the Ministry right now. I will certainly pursue this matter and be ensuring that so far as adjoining countries are concerned, we are able to persuade them, influence them and make them realise that this type of activity has to be curbed by us and certainly in that we will need their cooperation.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI R.K. KUMAR): Sir, with your permission, I would like to make an announcement. Sir, in view of the late sitting of the House, we have made arrangements for dinner for the hon. Members and staff and others. The arrangement in Room No. 70 is for the hon. Members and arrangement for staff and others is in Room No. 73. The serving time will be from 8.30 onwards. ...*(Interruptions)*... Others include Press people also.

SHRI JIBON ROY: Sir, I wanted to have from the hon. Minister a piece of information. The information is, immediately the day after the cyclone, a delegation under the the leadership of

hon. Agriculture Minister ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is going to make a statement now.

SHRI JIBON ROY: Sir, I just would like to have a piece of information...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. You can seek your clarification after his statement is over.

SHRI JIBON ROY: Sir, I am not seeking any clarification. I just wanted to have a piece of information from the hon. Minister before the statement is made. It is linked to it. I am not seeking any clarification. After him, one more broader delegation visited that area...*(Interruptions)*...What I wanted to have from the hon. Minister is, whether the statement is under the leadership of the hon. Minister of Steel and Mines, Shri Naveen Patnaik...*(Interruptions)*...I wanted to know whether the statement covers both the visits ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, he will cover that.

SHRI SOM PAL: Sir, if the hon. Member allows me to make the statement, his query will be settled automatically...*(Interruptions)*...It will be automatically answered.

श्रीमती निर्मला देशपांडे: महोदय, मैं सदन का ध्यान आपके माध्यम से इस गंभीर समस्या की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहती हूँ। 6 तिब्बती 23 दिन से...

सभापति: मैंने आपको कल स्पेशल मेशन के लिए टाइम दे दिया है इसलिए अभी बोलने की जरूरत नहीं है।

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Situation Arising From Thunder—Squalls in Orissa and West Bengal on 24th, March, 1998

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOM PAL): I seek leave of the House to make a statement on the situa-