

इंडियन एक्सप्रेस में छपा है ये। तथ्य दीजिए आप हमको..... (व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He cannot answer every report in the newspapers.

श्री रामबाबु अग्रवाल : आप तथ्य प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं तो बताइए कि कितने लोग भर्ती हुए कितने लोग मरे और उनकी डेथ किस प्रकार से हुई ? तथ्य दीजिए। आप केवल यह नहीं कह सकते कि अखबार में छपा है। इसलिए गलत है..... (व्यवधान)

This appeared in the newspapers just today.

SHRIB. SHANKARANAND : We totally deny the report.

MR. CHAIRMAN : First of all, it is outside the main question.

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI : The fact that there have been incidents of infants missing from the hospital has not been denied by the Government. Once the patients are admitted into the hospital, they are to be attended by the doctors, nurses, ward attendants etc. In such cases, I would like to know, whether the Government has any scheme under which some responsible security officers should also be deputed to keep a watch while the nurses and other attendants look after the patients.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : This is a suggestion for action.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

Terrorism and Insurgency in Manipur

*143. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that terrorism and insurgency are on the increase in Manipur; and

(b) If so, what measures are being taken by Government to contain terrorism and insurgency in the said State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) There has been an increase in the violent activities of insurgent groups in Manipur in recent months.

(b) As the maintenance of public order is a State subject, the concerned State Governments in the North Eastern Region are tackling the insurgency/terrorism problems. The Central Government keeps a close watch on the situation and furnishes the State Governments with relevant intelligence and help of Para-military forces. The entire State of Manipur has been declared 'Disturbed Area' under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1953. The insurgent groups viz. NSCN and Meitei Extremists have been declared 'Unlawful Associations' under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. Action against insurgent groups is being taken by the Security Forces. As this was not considered adequate additional assistance of the Army has also been made available.

The Government's continuing policy has been to deal firmly with insurgent/secessionist elements and, side by side, to take all possible measures to persuade them to join the mainstream of national life.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Sir, for the first time, the hon. Home Minister has come with a positive reply to the question on insurgency and militancy in Manipur. Actually, the situation in Manipur is worsening.

There are various terrorist organisations like PLA and Meitie, Kuki National Front, and various other militant organisations operating there. There is strong evidence to prove that the adjoining country, Myanmar, is assisting and giving training to these terrorist organisations for the purpose of creating law and order problem in the border State.

Not only that. They are supplying weapons also. Here, in his reply, the hon. Minister has said that maintenance of public order is a State subject. I quite agree with the hon. Minister that maintenance of law and order is a State subject. But the situation prevailing in Manipur is an entirely different one. It is a border State. Threat is there not only from the insurgents inside the country, but also in the adjoining country. That being the case, the responsibility of the Centre is more for the purpose of giving protection to the life and property of the people of the State.

Therefore, Sir, in this regard, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what steps the Government is taking to contain militancy and insurgency in Manipur. It was a peaceful State, but now it has turned into a terrorist-infested State. You have declared it as a disturbed area also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please ask your question.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : I am asking the question. In the context of the reply given, I would like to know whether the Government has taken up the matter with the adjoining country for the purpose of containing terrorism and insurgency in Manipur.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Sir, the hon. Member is right in saying that Manipur is bounded by Nagaland,

Assam and Mizoram on the one side, and on the other side, by Myanmar. Basically, when I said that public order is a State subject, nobody can dispute that. So far as the question of insurgency or terrorism is concerned, in the context of this statement, it is confined not only to this one State, but it is there in the other two adjoining States also, as well as across the country.

The Central Government is keeping a close watch on the activities of these insurgents in that part of the country. As far as the action by the Government is concerned, intelligence agencies are to be pooled, security forces are to be made available, para-military forces are to be made available, to the State, and there must be a sort of co-ordinated activity so as to contain insurgency in that part of the country. The Government has already taken a number of steps in this regard. In fact the N.S.C.N., the Meitie and other extremist organisations have been declared as unlawful associations. Also, the entire State of Manipur has been declared as a disturbed area under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958, under which a number of steps have been initiated by the Government in order to contain this.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : The hon. Minister has said that a number of steps have been taken by the Government. Only yesterday, the hon. Home Minister made a statement in the House on the communal clashes in the Capital itself in which nearly 70 people died, about 170 people were injured and 109 people have been taken into custody. According to Press reports, the death toll has exceeded 200. This is the situation in Manipur. The rebels are waging a secessionist war. They are also extorting money from the people. They are even running courts for the purpose of deciding

disputes. This is the state of affairs in Manipur. Now, the hon. Minister says that they have taken all possible steps to contain it. Sir, the Chief Minister of Manipur specifically demanded additional paramilitary forces to be deployed, particularly, in the I border areas to check infiltration of insurgents. He has also demanded additional funds for strengthening the forces in the State. But so far, excepting sending some forces, the money part has been completely ignored by the Home Ministry. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Central Government has complied with the demands made by the Chief Minister to contain terrorism and insurgency there.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, the hon. Member has narrated certain figures. I would like to put the record straight. As per the reports of the State Government, the total number of deaths that have taken place happens to be 75, total number of the injured 175, arrests so far made 160, and the number of inmates in the camps is between 500 and 550. It is true that there has been a communal clash in Manipur. The communal situation in Manipur has generally been stable. In this particular case.. ...,

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Now it is deteriorating.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : The communal clash took place on 3rd. Yesterday the situation was tense but now it is under complete control. I am personally in touch with the State Government. I happen to contact them yesterday and also today. I got the information that the situation is under control. Whatever forces they wanted have been made available to them to contain this.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : What about the police ? The Chief Minister has specifically asked for this

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Yes, Sir, we have made available the facility and also the forces. Whatever forces he wanted, we have made them available to him.

SHRI VIZOL : Thank you, Sir. I come from that part of the country. I do not want to keep the House in the dark about what is actually happening in that part of the country. The reply of the Minister is silent on some very important factors. The statement states at the end that the insurgent groups viz. NSCN and Meitie Extremists have been declared banned, unlawful associations. But these are not the two insurgent groups only, there are several other insurgent groups who are involved in the present trouble. This is the 'Indian Express' dated 5th May. It states, "Manipur toll 200. Troops out", So, Sir, this has become very serious. I would like to go into the genesis of this trouble. I am afraid I have to take some more time. At present the two insurgent groups, one is the NSCN and the other is the 'Kuki National Army', both these groups are involved in this trouble just now. Yesterday my hon. friend, Mr. Kulabidhu Singh, raised this question on the floor of this House but the House was quiet, no body asked, him any thing about this. Today it has come in the press—two hundred died or injured and troops out. What is the genesis of the trouble ? As a matter of fact, the trouble started a long, long time ago. The Kukis are moving tribes. They are spread all over the places in the North Eastern region, but mostly they are confined to the States of Manipur, Nagaland, some parts of Assam and Mizoram. They are in Burma also. Now what hap-

pened ? During the First World War the British colonialists started recruiting these Kuki people from the North-Eastern region as porters. They were being taken to France. The Kukis rebelled against recruitment of their boys. So, the British took stringent measures against Kukis at that time. However, Kukis continued to multiply because of influx of Kukis from Burma.

In Nagaland we have several Kuki villages. As a result of a 16-point agreement between Nagaland and the Government of India in the year in 1960, these Kuki villages in Nagaland alongwith Karo villages and Kachar villages were declared as indigenous inhabitants of the State of Nagaland. I do not know the status of Kukis in other States, but that is their status in Nagaland.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you please frame your question also? It is a very interesting information. I thank you. But please frame the question also.

SHRI VIZOL : Yes, yes, I am coming to that.

The same trouble started between Kukis and the NSCN. Kukis maintain a national army. I do not know whether it is a regular army of the Government or it is maintained by the Manipur State or it is a private army of Kukis. This is a question to be asked. This is my supplementary.

The present trouble started because of the liberalisation policy of the Government on trade with Burma. More is the last Naga village on the border with Burma, whereas Tamu, on the other side, is the last village of Burma, the last post of Burma on its border with India. These two villages or these two posts, one in India and the other in Burma, are flourishing with contraband goods for trade. They include arms.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now. Kindly conclude now.

SHRI VIZOL: Yes, I am coming to that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly conclude now.

SHRI VIZOL : Yes, yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Pointedly you ask a question..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIZOL: People will have to know about it. The trouble will continue. It is going to spread all over the North-Eastern region. I tell you this is what is going to happen. It will spread to Nagaland. It will spread to Mizoram. It will spread to Assam. This is going to happen very soon. The Government should not remain in the dark about it. It is going to be very serious.

The NSCN and the Kuki National Army have been strongly contending for supremacy in the trade between Tamu and More for quite a long time. Why? Because arms are obtained at a very cheap rate. That is why there has been a strong contention for supremacy to control this illegal trade between these two check-posts. In course of time.....

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, I have given you a lot of time. Please, please now ask your question.

SHRI VIZOL : Sir, this is the genesis of the problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no, please. There are other questions. Other Members have also given their names. I have to ask other Members also. Please put your question now. Please put your question.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: He has already put his supplementary.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: A number of questions are implicit in the presentation. Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know they are implicit therein.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: The Minister may be asked to answer them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then, I will ask the Minister to answer the implicit questions.

Mr. Vizol, please ask your specific question.

SHRI VIZOL: My specific question is this. You don't want to listen to the genesis. I am coming to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN. Well, we are interested in listening to it on another occasion. Now please ask your specific question.

? SHRI VIZOL : I am coming straight to my question. Who is maintaining the Kuki National Army? Is it a Government army, or is it a private army, or is it considered as an insurgent group?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, please, I must ask you to conclude. This is a Question Hour. I have given you a lot of time. Please do sit down. Please sit down.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): Sir, the hon. Member himself has supplied quite a detailed information. I am aware of the fact that there has been a constant trouble between the

NSCN, the Nagas and the Kukis. The present trouble which started in Manipur is not because of that trouble. It was on a very paltry thing. Actually a sum of money was advanced by some extremist for purchase of weapons to a member of a particular community. Neither did he supply the

weapons, nor did he return the money. That is how the whole thing started and it engulfed larger sections unnecessarily and it snowballed into a major communal conflagration.

I quite see the point which the hon. Member has made. We cannot possibly think in terms of taking an isolated view of Manipur only. [Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and a part of Assam will have to be taken together. That is why we have prepared an integrated plan of action. Now, it is going to be finalised and very soon *that operation will also start.*

SHRI G.G. SWELL : From the reply of the Minister of State, it appears that he is not quite aware of the situation that prevails in Manipur or in that part of the country. Since you are not aware of the whole situation you cannot have a proper perspective. The Home Minister is a little better acquainted.

The present trouble in Manipur is two-dimensional. As the Home Minister states, one trouble is the struggle between the Kukis and the Nagas. The Kukis under the leadership of the Kukis National Army and the Nagas under the leadership of the well-known terrorist group, the NSCN, are struggling for land. This has been going on for quite some time. A number of deaths have been taking place. It is taking place up in the hills and it will continue.

The recent occurrence is communal—between one community and the other. It arose out of the Smuggling of arms. It seems that a militant group had paid money to a particular arms smuggler. When he failed to deliver, there was trouble. That is how the whole thing started.

Now, Sir, underlying these two instances, this situation in that part of the country is extremely explosive. I would like to know whether the Home Minister is aware that the two townships of March in India and Tamu in Myanmar separated only by a narrow downstream are the hub of smuggling of hard drugs coming into India, of arms coming into India and with China having taken over the whole of Burma most of those arms are very sophisticated ones. I would like to know whether it is a fact that from India chemicals are going in a big way to Burma, to the Golden Triangle, for the manufacture of heroin. One more thing is unless you put an end to that traffic of hard drugs and the traffic of sophisticated arms, you cannot really control the trouble in Manipur or in Nagaland or in the whole of the North-Eastern region. In view of all that has happened, I would like to know whether you are framing a long-term policy. You cannot take shelter under the plea that it is a State subject. It is not Manipur alone which is in danger. It is the whole of North-East that is in danger. It is the whole of India that is in danger. I am sorry that the Government of India is not aware of what is in danger with China taking over.... *(Interruptions)* I am putting the question, please. With China having established a naval military base in Hanji, near Andaman and Nicobar Islands, are you aware what kind of danger the country is facing? This danger is through Burma and Nagaland.

Do you have a well-laid policy, a well-conceived policy? What is the Government of India doing in order to avert this kind of danger to this country?... *(Interruptions)*.....
When I am articulating my question, I don't want to be disturbed in this

way. Every sentence of mine is clear, It is a serious question.

SHRI R.K.. DHAWAN : It is always serious.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: I cannot claim to have the knowledge about the North-Eastern region that Mr. G.G. Swell has; he comes from that region. With my little knowledge about that region, I have tried to answer the supplementary questions. I am grateful to him for his generous comment about me.

With regard to the action that has been contemplated by the Government, my senior colleague has already spelt it out just now. I would like to share with the House what further steps the Government of India has taken in this regard. We have strengthened the anti-smuggling net work in this sector. An agreement has been signed between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Union of Myanmar on the 30th March, 1993 for mutual cooperation for reducing the demand and preventing illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related matters. Therefore, they are very well aware of the seriousness of this sector after we have spelt it out. A well-coordinated plan will take this whole sector carefully into consideration.

SHRI W. KULABIDHU SINGH: Mr. Chairman, my friends have submitted facts. As I said yesterday, the Chief Minister says, 'Army will not be deployed in the Valley area, if it is used in the hilly area'. The Deputy Chief Minister says, 'Army should be deployed both in the Valley area as well as in the hilly area'. The version of the Chief Minister and the version of the Deputy Chief Minister are not the same. They are different. But the MLAs and MPs of Manipur, including me feel that our tongues are tied because of the deteriorating law and order

situation. If Army is not deployed in Manipur, there is a risk to the security of the MLAs and the MPs. All representatives of the people are remaining mute. Whatever the Chief Minister might shout from the house-top that Army will not be deployed in the Valley area or whatever the Deputy Chief Minister might say that Army should be deployed both in the Valley area as well as in the hilly area, why are the hon. Home Minister and the Government of India remaining mute spectators to all this? If adequate Army is not required by the State Government, I believe, that is not cent per cent correct. In view of the deteriorating law and order situation, the need of the hour is to curb this insurgency. That is the only thing I wanted to submit.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as deployment of the Army is concerned, we cannot totally ignore the aspirations of the local administration. But before deployment of the Army, the clear understanding was that the State Government, whether it is the Chief Minister or the Deputy Chief Minister, will not interfere with the deployment of the Army. The Army has been asked to flush out the insurgents from this area and clear it from all. insurgents. Ultimately, the Coordination Committee will meet and once they meet in the Coordination Committee, nobody can interfere in the working of the Army.

Fire Force Act

*144. SHRI M.A. BABY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many States have enforced Fire Force Act and provincialised the services since the setting up of the Standing Fire Advisory Council and how many meetings of the Standing

Fire Advisory Council have been held during the last five years with details of its decisions and subsequent actions; and

(b) whether Government propose to set up any new Committee to make an indepth study on the matter and suggest measures for future, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) 8 States have adopted the Fire Services Act and governmentalised the fire services after the setting up of the Standing Fire Advisory Council.

Only one meeting of the Council has been held during the last five years. The Council is an advisory body and deliberates mainly on various technical issues referred to it for consideration.

(b) No, Sir.

SHRI MA. BABY: Sir, you will appreciate that with the prevailing security environment in our country, with fire, violence, arson, riots and so on, fire-fighting becomes a very, very predominant task of the Government. I understand that this is a State subject. There is no denial of that fact. But from the reply, it is very, very clear that in spite of the suggestion, the draft, sent by the Central Government to the States as early as in 1958, only eight States have provincialised the fire services. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what persuasive steps have been taken by the Central Government to ensure that the fire services are provincialised in every State and sufficient care and attention are paid by the State Governments to this question. The usual reply would be that since the States are not properly responding to the direction from the Centre, they would think of bringing this subject in. the