

Need to solve the Assam-Nagaland Border Problem

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA (Assam): Madam, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity.

Nagaland was carved out of Assam in 1962 and was made a new State for the fulfilment of the political hopes and aspirations of the people of Nagaland. Assam did never stand in the way of creation of Nagaland. According to the Constitution, the border of a new State is to be fixed according to the previous internal border of the region. In the case of Nagaland too, it was to be fixed accordingly. But since the beginning, Nagaland has been grabbing the land within the territory of Assam. On many occasions, some people of Nagaland had attacked the border villages of Assam causing even death to many. Merapani massacre is one of the major events in the history of the post-Independence Assam.

Nagaland has been continuously violating the borders and till this day it has forcibly brought 49,000 hectares of Assam land under it. Diphu Reserve Forest, Nambar Reserve Forest, of the Golaghat District and Desoi Valley Reserve Forest of Jorhat District have been forcibly occupied and are being deforested by Nagaland. As per the Forest Policy of the Government of India also, it is a serious unlawful action being done by the State.

In the soil of Assam, Nagaland has opened two new subdivisions. The CRPF, the Assam Rifles and the BSF who are to act neutrally have been maintaining silence in favour of Nagaland and thereby creating serious problem for Assam. The BSF camp from the "Sign Board area" which has been occupied by Nagaland forcibly was withdrawn mysteriously. Out of 83,818.31 hectares of land of the Golaghat subdivision, Nagaland has forcibly occupied 49,000 hectares of land, that is more than half of the district. During the time of the AGP Government, objection was raised repeatedly. But no positive action

has been taken till date. The Central Government instituted a Commission headed by Shri Sundaram and the Commission submitted its report long ago. Though according to this report also, Assam has to sacrifice a lot, yet for mutual understanding and for peaceful co-existence, Assam agreed to accept the report. But Nagaland has taken its stand on the reverse. The present Government of Assam is rather trying to keep its eyes closed in the present situation of the border problem. Moreover, even at the time of elections, Nagaland had put up polling booths on the soil of Assam.

Madam, another important point is that a good amount of money was sanctioned for border development and accordingly, this grant was supposed to be spent for the development of the area which falls within the five kilometre range from the border. But in the case of Assam border development grant, in spite of the suggestions of the district administration, at the behest of the present Co-operative Minister of Assam, the grant is being spent in those areas which fall at least at a distance of 10 kilometres from the border. The reason is that this area falls within the constituency of the Minister. In the interest of this narrow political gain, the Minister is rather allowing Nagaland to proceed further. This is a serious issue and if the Central Government does not take any immediate steps to push back Nagaland to its own territory, tragic events may take place again in these areas.

Students' Agitation over the hike in Examination Fees in Delhi

श्री शक्ति यासी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय मंत्री, मेरा स्पेशल मेशन दिल्ली में विश्वविद्यालय के तुलना का एक बड़ा आन्दोलन चल रहा है। उसी के बारे में हैं। इस पर मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया, जिसके लिए मैं आपका बहुत शुक्रिया अदा करता हूँ।

मैं गुजारिश करूंगा कि दिल्ली विश्व-विद्यालय की एक्जीक्यूटिव कौंसिल ने 9 नवम्बर को विद्यार्थियों की परीक्षा फीस