

Gaza and the West Bank and security for all countries and peoples of the region, and to ensure the protection of the people, an international protection observer force in the Palestine area may be constituted. And may I request the hon. Minister to kindly respond?

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with what he has said.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Sir, I respond only on the insistence of the hon. Member, that the Government's position has been made clear last week in a statement in the other House. Quite categorically, we have condemned acts of terrorism and violence and we have clearly said that air-strikes, particularly at President Arafat's place are unacceptable and condemnable. India stands unequivocally for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. We were amongst the first to recognise the internationally recognised boundaries.

We stand for the U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, as also 338, 'Land for Peace', Mitchel Report's earliest implementation, and we have said that this cycle of violence followed by higher violence must end and the West Asian peace process given a chance for restoring peace. I have personally been in touch with President Arafat as also with the Foreign Minister of Israel, Shimon Perez, from last week itself. They both appreciated India's position and have sought India's intervention so that the resumption of the peace process could be facilitated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Janeshwar Mishra - not present. Shri P.N. Siva.

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Sir, with your permission, would the Minister clarify the position ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri P.N. Siva.

Brutal attack on SC/ST students in Tamil Nadu

SHRI P.N. SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, as an unprecedented act, without seeking the permission of the Principal of Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College, the Tamil Nadu police, accompanied by anti-social elements, barged into the hostel premises of the college at 12 o'clock on 7.12.2001, broke open the doors of the rooms and unleashed violence upon the innocent students who were busy preparing for their ensuing examinations and others who were fast asleep. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P.G. NARAYANA'N (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, I am on a point of order, under rule 238. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN; I am not able to hear anything. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI P.N. SIVA: Young students who hid themselves in the overhead water tanks for fear of life were also not spared. They were dragged out and beaten so heavily that more than thirty students are under treatment for fractured limbs and broken heads. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN:, Sir, I am on a point of order. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Sir, it is not correct. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI P.N. SIVA: Sir, the Scheduled Caste students were called by the community names and mocked by the police for living on free food and education. Their family and social background were criticised, using unparliamentary words. ...(Interruptions).... All their belongings have been looted, by saying that gold chains were not for persons of their standard. All the students are under treatment and are deprived of appearing in their annual examinations. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN: Sir, I am on a point of order. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI P.N. SIVA: The Home Secretary who has to act impartially, on the contrary, has indulged in issuing statements defending the police. The parents are horrified and worried. The Union Government should take cognisance of these incidents and direct the State Government to take action against all the police officials who were responsible for this incident; change the Home Secretary for his partisan attitude; prevent Tamil Nadu from heading towards a State of anarchy and render justice to the aggrieved SC/ST students who have been inhumanly insulted and injured by the

ruthless police. Sir, if you permit me, can I show some photographs, as a proof of the attacks?

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम (उत्तरांचल): मैं अपने आपको इससे संबद्ध करता हूँ और पुलिस के इस कृत्य की निन्दा करता हूँ।

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Sir, he is unnecessarily ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not able to hear anything. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, Mr. Vijaya Raghavan. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री मोहम्मद आजम खान (उत्तर प्रदेश): मेरा यह कहना है कि अक्सर ऐसा होता है कि उत्तर प्रदेश के ...*(व्यवधान)*...ला एण्ड आर्डर के मामले जब भी हमने ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention of Shri P.N. Siva. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Sir, he is involving the SCs and STs in this. It is totally false. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Sir, the police had accused the students by saying that they were taking meals and education free of cost. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not allowed anybody. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not hearing anything. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Sir, the SC/ST students were abused by the police. ...*(Interruptions)*... The police used filthy and unparliamentary language against the students. That is the point. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Vijaya Raghavan. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN: Sir, please allow my point of order, under rule 238.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't come here. ...*(Interruptions)*...

[10 December, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

SHRI S. VIDUTHALA VIRUMBI: Sir, they used unparliamentary words against the students. .../Interruptions)...

Communal tension in Kerala

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN (Kerala): Sir, it is very unfortunate that Kerala, a State which is famous for its communal harmony, witnessed widespread communal clashes since 6th December, 2001. Both Muslim and Hindu fundamentalist elements are indulging in riot and arson for the past five days. Reports of attacks on houses, shops, other commercial establishments and centres of worship are distressing.

Sir, the State Government and the police have failed to stop the violence. Unfortunately, a one-sided version from a Union Minister, who belongs to Kerala, was also not helpful in resolving the problem. These incidents have taken place at a time when lakhs of pilgrims, from all over India, are going to the Sabarimala temple. Sir, the vehicles carrying the Sabarimala pilgrims are also being attacked by the miscreants at different places. The *hartal* called by the Sangh Parivar organisations will further aggravate the situation.

Efforts should be made by both the sides to avoid spread of communal clashes and ensure peace and communal harmony. Therefore, Sir, through you, I urge upon the Government to come out with a statement on the latest situation in Kerala.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM (Uttaranchal): I associate with the issue and request that steps should be taken to stop the violence. .../Interruptions)...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): Sir, there is a reference to my statement, and, therefore, I would like to say something. On December 6, the day when the Ayodhya incident happened, certain organisations had given a call for *hartal* in Kerala. For the first time, in Kerala, in about 30 places, there were attacks on the Sabarimala pilgrims who were coming from all over the country. About 200 vehicles were attacked. Therefore, I wanted that the hon. Chief Minister himself should visit the places and see to it that the miscreants who