

RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 14th August, 1989/23rd
Shravana, 1911 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,
The Deputy Chairman in the Chair.

RE REPORTED KILLING OF BODOS IN GOHPUR VILLAGE IN SONIT- PUR DISTRICT OF ASSAM

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA
(Andhra Pradesh): Madam, Deputy
Chairman,... (Interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There
is no Special Mention today. We
have permitted only one Special
Mention on the Bodo issue. Some
Members wanted to raise it... (Inter-
ruptions)...

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPEND-
RA: Madam, we have given a joint
notice today to the Chairman and he
has also permitted, I believe, to men-
tion about the refusal of the Doordar-
shan, Hyderabad... (Interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let,
first of all, Mrs. Anwara Taimur speak
on the Bodo issue because many peo-
ple have died... (Interruptions)...

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA (Assam):
Madam, I also want to say something
... (Interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Some
Members have shown concern... (In-
terruptions) ... They showed their con-
cern on Friday also. Therefore, let
us take it up today. Yes, Mrs. Tai-
mur.

SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAI-
MUR (Nominated): Madam Deputy
Chairman, we have all seen in the na-
tional papers that more than a hund-
red people were massacred in Gohpur
in Sonitpur district of Assam. A large
number of villages have been burnt
and nearly sixty thousand people
were made homeless. They are tak-
ing shelter in the neighbouring State

of Arunachal Pradesh. There are a
large number of children and women
among the dead. It is a great hu-
man tragedy.

Madam, a law and order situation
has arisen in Assam. We urge upon
the Union Government to investigate
into this incident in the border State
and render immediate relief to the
victims and punish the culprits. Ma-
dam, it is apprehended that a kind of
a civil war condition will develop in
Assam if firm steps are not taken im-
mediately. I would like to request
the honourable Home Minister to
make a statement regarding the actual
number of the dead and the injured
in this incident and the actual number
of houses burnt and the number of
the people in the relief camps... (In-
terruptions) ... We want to know the
actual position there. Thank You,
Madam.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Ra-
jasthan): Madam, I want to associate
myself... (Interruptions)...

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH (Guj-
arat): Madam, I want the Home Min-
ister who is present here in the House
now to make a statement... (Inter-
ruptions) ... Madam, this is a very se-
rious matter because more than four
hundred people have died and a law
and order situation has been created
and we want the Minister to take
proper steps immediately... (Inter-
ruptions)...

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF
THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESO-
URCES AND THE MINISTER OF
STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PAR-
LIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M.
M. JACOB): Madam, if it is a
Special Mention, let one Member speak
because if all the Members speak, we
cannot hear anything... (Interrup-
tions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes...
(Interruptions) ... Just a minute. You
have raised your hands, many of you,
and you want to associate yourselves.
It is all right. The Home Minister is

[The Deputy Chairman]

here. The matter was raised before once and once the Home Minister responded also and he came out with an explanation. We had a discussion. After that, on Friday last, some Members mentioned it and I had requested the Home Minister to look into the matter. Again, today you are raising it. The Home Minister is here. If the House agrees, he can make a statement... (Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI BIJOY CHAKRAVARTY (Assam): Madam, it should not be on the basis of the newspaper reports alone... (Interruptions)...

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Madam, I would like to say one thing... (Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI SYED ANWARA TAIMUR: Madam, the incident has taken place and it has come in all the papers... (Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI BIJOY CHAKRAVARTY: Madam, on the basis of the newspaper report alone it should not be made... (Interruptions)...

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH (Maharashtra): You see, Madam, what they are saying... (Interruptions).... You see what they are saying. It has come in all the newspapers... (Interruptions)...

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: We also want, Madam, that the Home Minister... (Interruptions).... should make a statement... (Interruptions).... we also want that the Home Minister should make a statement... (Interruptions).... It is a horrifying news... (Interruptions).... We are very much concerned with the news. It is a horrifying news. If it is true, then something must be done. Already the Government of Assam has taken some steps and the Union Home Minister also, I think, has been informed. Therefore, it is a serious matter. We shall have to take a united stand to stop such killings, if there was any, and to restore peace and harmony in the State. Therefore,

we should not dither but we shall have to take some firm stand. As far as I know, Madam, from Arunachal side some attackers came and attacked some missing villagers and non-tribal villagers and then, I think, it was a retaliation. But I do not know what were the numbers...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): Madam, you should not allow this to go on record.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Why not? (Interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Every Member has a right to speak. Then the Home Minister can give the correct information.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Therefore, Madam, we want that the hard facts should come out. And, moreover, on the basis of the facts, we should take some firm stand to restore peace and harmony in the State to prevent the Bodo agitation carnage in the State so that it cannot spread any more in the State.

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया (बिहार) : मेडम, 6 अगस्त को बुकिया विभाग ने असम सरकार को आगाह किया ... (अवधान)

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Madam, (Interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will call you.

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया : कि इस तरह की घटनाएं घट सकती हैं और कौमी दंगे हो सकते हैं, इसके बावजूद भी असम सरकार ने कोई भी कार्रवाई नहीं की। इतना ही नहीं 10 अगस्त को जब एक ए० जी० पी० गवर्नमेंट के मिनिस्टर के रिलेटिव की हत्या हुई, उन्होंने बैठकर फैसला किया कि बोडों के गांव पर हमला करना है।

एक स्कूल में बैठक हुई, वहाँ तरह-तरह के झूठा झूठा भाषण दिए गए । नोन बोडोज लोगों की मीटिंग हुई और उन्होंने फैसला किया कि इनका जमायत जहाँ हो रही है उसपर हमला करके बोडो लोगों का नर-संहार करना है और इन्होंने करीब 400 लोगों की हत्या की है और अखबार में 100 लोगों के नाम आ रहे हैं ।

मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार का ध्यान आकषिप्त करते हुए सरकार से मांग करता हूँ कि इस बारे में बताया जाए कि बागों, जो एक द्राइवेल जाति है, उसके साथ क्यों अत्याचार हो रहे हैं, कौन इसके पीछे है और कौन कर रहा है ?

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Madam, Deputy Chairman, my point is that this is a completely fabricated news that has appeared in national papers. (Interruptions). Earlier, Madam, you had disallowed us to raise certain facts that appeared in the papers. And this news item appeared in yesterday's newspaper. It came from Arunachal Pradesh. And we have come to know and it came from the Assam Government that it is Mr. Gegong Apong who engineered the entire news item. And these ABSU extremists have got their base in Arunachal and from there, they are making attacks simultaneously in the tribal and non-tribal villages of Gohpur area where the massacre is supposed to have happened. But the actual fact is that the Assam Government gave the correct information that only 10 persons have been killed. And out of ten, 7 are non-tribals. Madam, earlier, there had been an incident. One tribal boy or girl had been raped by the so-called extremists and after that there was some sort of tension. (Interruptions). It is done by the extremists engineered by the RAW, your institution, your Central Government institution. They have engineered everything. There is no question that there is no law and order. Madam, to stabilise the constitutionally elected

Government, the Central Government has applied every means so that this sort of disorder and chaos prevailed in that State. Madam, I appeal to you that you please ask them not to raise such matters which have appeared in the newspapers. (Interruptions).

ठाकुर जगतपाल सिंह (मध्य प्रदेश) : यह इतना ग्रहम सवाल है जहाँ पर सैकड़ों लोग मारे गए हैं उनके बारे में हिन्दुस्तान को जनता जानना चाहती है कि किसने मारा है ... (व्यवधान)

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (मध्य प्रदेश) : महोदया, देश के किसी भी भाग में अगर बड़े पैमाने पर हत्याओं का समाचार आता है तो उससे चिंता होनी स्वाभाविक है । समाचार पत्रों को पढ़ने से यह पता नहीं लगता कि सचमुच में कितने लोग मारे गए । यह तो गृह मंत्री सदन में बता सकते हैं और गृह मंत्री को भी असम सरकार पर सूचना के लिए निम्न रहना पड़ेगा । समाचार पत्रों को पढ़ने से यह भी पता नहीं लगा कि कौन किस को मार रहा है । शायद यह गोहपुर वही स्थान है जहाँ पहले भी उपद्रव हो चुका है ।

श्री संतोष मोहन देव : 1983 में ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अगर यह हो चुका है तो इसका मयावह और भी बढ़ जाता है । मेरा निवेदन है कि सवाल को पार्टों का सवाल न बनायें । देश के किसी भी भाग में कोई भी मारा जाए इस सदन के लिए चिंता का विषय है । और इसकी सन्धान की तह में जाने के लिए हमें तैयार रहना चाहिए और मैं चाहूँगा कि गृह मंत्री महोदय बयान दें ।

श्री जगेश देसाई (महाराष्ट्र) : इन इनके साथ हैं

उप-समापति : इसीलिए मैंने कहा कि होम मिनिस्टर बड़े हैं, सीरियस मैटर है, जवाब दें ।

डा० सचरार जहमी खान (राजस्थान)
उपसभापति महोदया, हम इस स्पेशल
मेशन का समर्थन करते हैं (अवधान)

उप-सभापति : देखिए, श्री कमलेन्दु
भट्टाचार्य असम के हैं उनको बोलने
बीजिए । वह ज्यादा बेहतर जानते हैं ।
श्री भट्टाचार्य ।

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTA-
CHARJEE (Assam): Respected
Madam, the hon. Member from AGP,
Dr. Saikia, and Madam Chakravarty,
the other day they were showing a
newspaper in the House. At that
time you were in the Chair. Madam,
they were reading lines from one
particular newspaper saying that the
RAW was supplying raw material to
the Bodo extremists.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: It was not
a newspaper. It was the copy of a
letter. (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRA-
VARTY: We have submitted authen-
tic documents. (Interruptions)

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTA-
CHARJEE: The other day they were
reading from the newspaper as if they
were reading lines from the Geeta or
the Bible. But today when it has
come into the newspaper, they are
denying today, they are saying what
has come in the newspaper may not
be true Madam, my knowledge of
Hindi is very poor. I should be
excused for that. The most hon.
Member, he is a very learned Member,
Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji, just a few
seconds ago, he said

“समाचार पत्र पढ़ने से यह मालूम नहीं
होता” लेकिन समाचार पत्र पढ़ने से और
सब मालूम हो जाता है सिर्फ यह मालूम
नहीं होता ।

As I understand Hindi

यह मालूम नहीं होता ।

My knowledge of Hindi is very poor

यह मालूम नहीं होता इन्होंने यह कह दिया

But if there is something concerning
the opposition parties Madam, one

very important thing I am telling you.
The Deputy Commissioner of Sonitpur
district he sent a message to Dispur
Secretariat six days back that he was
apprehending that a major catastrophe
might take place in Gohpur. This
Gohpur, Madam, is the same place
where other carnages also took place.
Madam, the Dispur Administration—
I do not want to blame anybody, I do
not want to say anything against the
AGP—but when I met the Chief
Minister of Assam, I found that he was
a very reasonable man. (Interrup-
tions). Madam, I meet the Chief
Minister of Assam—and I just want
to share it with the hon. Members of
this House—that I found him to be
an extremely reasonable person, who
showed his great concern for the
solution of this sensitive problem. But,
Madam, I say that this carnage was
engineered in spite of his knowledge
and the intelligence service of the
Dispur administration. Those who are
in charge, they did not take any steps
and the Deputy Commissioner of Sonit-
pur told the Chief Secretary, Dispur,
Sir, my last attempt to save this
place from this sort of a catastrophe
has failed. Madam, one party, which
is avowedly anti-tribals, its members
have engineered this catastrophe. I
would appeal to them; they should
kill some people in turn; they should
not kill 200 people together; they
should kill them in a phased manner
... (Interruptions).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No,
no, I object. Nobody should be killed
either in a phased manner or other
wise.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTA-
CHARJEE: Madam, this party is an
minority; they have been engineering
this sort of killing. It is not the first
time. If you go by the history, you
will find that some three thousand
minority people were killed in Assam
in Nelli, and the person responsible
for it got a prize post in the Govern-
ment. It is a matter of shame that
those people who were responsible for
the killings—an I.A.S. officer—got

prize post. That is the irony of history.

Madam, I have got many points to raise. But I would only like the hon. Home Minister, through you, to tell us whether he is going to make a statement about it today, regarding this dastardly act. Is he going to make a statement today?

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: The Chief Minister of Assam in the same paper has stated about the news that if at all, it is exaggerated. We do not know how the Home Minister will enlighten us on this. The second point is.....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let the Home Minister reply.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: The Deputy Commissioner Sonitpur was told by the Chief Secretary of Assam and the Home Commissioner of Assam that due to shortage of forces, they could not immediately send the force. Therefore, they had to maintain law and order with the force that they had at that time. That day also I said that the required number of forces were not sent. The Central Government should have sent the required number of forces in Assam to combat terrorists in Assam.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): It is inconceivable to believe that something so atrocious can happen in any part of country which will not be condemned by anybody in the House. We are equally concerned as anybody else, whether from this side or that side, with what has happened and at the reports that appeared in the newspapers. We are equally concerned.....

AN HON. MEMBER: Related concern.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Not belated; it has always been our stand.

Secondly, the point is, instead of making inflammatory speeches regarding the involvement of political parties and leaders in the mass killing, it would be better if we lend our voice of sanity to restrain the situation. Instead of restraining the situation, if inflammatory speeches are made by anybody, without evidence, that tends to connivance with violence.

My third point is, my party feels, let the Assam Government institute an enquiry into it; let them make an enquiry and let the enquiry reveal the truth... (Interruptions). So long as the elected government is in power, it must be allowed to discharge its responsibility, and the responsibility of the Centre is to ensure that constitutional functioning is allowed in the State. It is not the interference.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Who will make the enquiry? Will it be the Central Government or the State Government?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is a law and order question. The State Government should make enquiry... (Interruptions)

THAKUR JAGATPAL SINGH: The State Government is involved; the enquiry must be by the Central Government. (Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Constitution of India cannot be drowned with shouts and counter-shouts in the House. Government must function according to the provisions of the Constitution.

And lastly, I call upon the Home Minister to make a statement. Let him speak the truth. Let him also say in the House that he does not want the enquiry to be conducted by... (Interruptions). Let him say. I would like the Central Government to share its views with us and make its position clear on the issue, whether it is not a law and order issue, and whether enquiry should be conducted by the

[Shri Gurudas Das Gupta]

Assam Government, or whether you do not believe in Assam Government, and you would like to conduct this enquiry yourself. If you take this responsibility upon yourself, that brings us to the end of the Constitution. Let us not do it.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Madam Deputy Chairman, the hon. Home Minister made a statement the other day when we raised the issue. The Chief Minister met the Home Minister and discussion was held. I requested the A.G.P. Government and the Chief Minister to come forward and co-operate with the Central Government to settle the dispute. Madam this matter has now come to light. The killing of more than 400 persons in that particular district shows clearly that the Assam Government had a hand in it because, the majority community... (Interruptions).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let the Home Minister clarify. (Interruptions).

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Whatever information I have gathered, I am placing before the House.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: This is atrocious. His comment is atrocious. (Interruptions).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let the Home Minister clarify. (Interruptions).

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I am only giving whatever information I have gathered. (Interruptions).

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: It is totally false information. (Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is very unfortunate. Somebody said, she said, that the Central Government was involved in it. He says 'the State Government'. Let the Home Minister tell us who was responsible for it. (Interruptions) The hon. lady Mem-

ber from Assam said that the Central Government was involved in it and said that I should give a directive to the Central Government to withdraw these activities. He says 'the State Government'. I cannot give any directive. I can only ask the Home Minister to make a statement to clarify the position. (Interruptions).

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: The information was given to the Government by the Intelligence that there would be a massacre in this particular district. The State Government was informed. The Home Minister and the Chief Minister of Assam knew the fact earlier. They allowed the thing to continue because, the majority community wanted to massacre the minority community, the tribals, in this district. The State Government is responsible. (Interruptions). The State Government supported the massacre. Therefore, I said that the (Time bell rings) I am concluding within one minute, Madam. They said that the State Government is controlling the law and order machinery. They have failed to control the situation there. I demand two things from the hon. Home Minister. Firstly, he should come forward with a statement before the House today. Secondly, I want that the Central Government should appoint a Committee to enquire into this incident that has taken place in this district so that the truth will come out. (Interruptions) If we leave it to the State Government, they will completely whitewash the entire thing. Therefore, I want the Central Government to appoint a Committee to go into this matter and submit a report. Thank you.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Madhya Pradesh): On a point of order, Madam. You just mentioned that the hon. lady Member from Assam made the allegation in respect of the Central Government and that if some Member from the other side...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is wrong.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: My point is, here, we are in Parliament where the Central Government is present. They can certainly reply to the point made by the hon. lady Member from Assam. But the State Government is not present here. There is no State Government present here. Therefore, it is highly improper for any Member of this House to make any allegation against the State Government. There is a difference between the two. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: She mentioned about the Arunachal Pradesh Government... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: My point of order is addressed to you, Madam. To say that the two are balanced is not correct. In this particular case, the Central Government is present in the House. If one of my colleagues makes an allegation, the Home Minister is there to reply to it. But the Chief Minister or the Government of any State is not present here and, therefore, this kind of an allegation cannot be made.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Advani, we are a Council of States and matters about States have been discussed. The Home Minister will clarify the thing. I will request the Home Minister to clarify.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: The Home Minister cannot do it on behalf of the State Government.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is the Minister of Home Affairs. It is his responsibility to see that law and order is maintained in the country, in the entire country. He is the Home Minister for the whole country and not for Delhi alone. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV (Maharashtra): The hon. Member is not asking the State

Government. He is asking the Home Minister.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. (*Interruptions*). I understand law and order is a State subject क्या आप इस बात पर खुश होंगे कि बोडो लोग, हरिजन हों, आदिवासी हों मारे जायें।

But on that ground we should not raise the issue here. It is very unfortunate. On a point of law do you want the people to die?

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: I am as much concerned about what is happening there. I am as much concerned about the carnage or the killings of Adivasis or anyone else, but what I have raised is a question of constitutional propriety, parliamentary propriety and you give a ruling on that. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, are they here to help us to enforce justice or to cover up inefficiency and ineptitude?

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): Madam, Deputy Chairman, it is indeed a horrifying, gruesome murder that has taken place in Gohpur and it is the responsibility of both the Centre and the State Government to ensure that such incident does not recur.

Madam, when we had an opportunity to discuss the Bodo agitation on the floor of this House, we had made it clear from our side, from our party side, that within the Assam State the Bodos should be given the right of local autonomy, not going outside of the State of Assam. Here, as in the case of certain other parts of the country, some ethnic troubles are taking place between tribals and non-tribals, or between two groups of tribals, different groups of tribals. So, it is very important to see from the point of view of national unity and

[Shri Dipen Ghosh]

integrity that such type of violence does not occur between tribals and non-tribals or between two sections of the tribals.

Madam, I do not want to give a clean chit to the Centre though I am not holding any brief for the State Government of Assam. We have seen how the Central Government and for that matter the ruling party at the Centre has tried to fish in troubled waters everywhere when such violent activities have taken place between two groups of tribals or between tribals and non-tribals.

Madam, my younger colleague whom I love most, Kamalendu Bhattacharjee, had stated that some of the persons who were involved in it, they got the prize post after the AGP Government was formed there, but I can surely remind Mr. Kamalendu Bhattacharjee and ask him, who paved the way for giving them the prize post ultimately? Only in the year 1985, on 15th August you had signed an accord and with pride you had taken them to the ramparts of Red Fort. (Time bell rings)... I am only reminding him...

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Punjab): Are you repudiating that?

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: When they signed the Assam accord, it in effect sowed the seeds of discord among the tribals and non-tribals, among the minorities and the majority people. Now, when the AGP Government or AGP for that matter has gone against the Central Government in national politics, they are trying to fish in troubled waters, they are trying to incite one section of tribals against another section of tribals. There is already a newspaper report that there is the hand of RAW. I am not blaming the Central Government or the State Government. I do not know whether it is correct or not but we have seen the black hand of RAW in Bengal also. We have seen

how RAW had fished in troubled waters during the Naxalite agitation in Bengal. We have seen that. (Interruptions)

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Himachal Pradesh): Madam, this is a serious matter.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: I do not want to give a certificate of being lily-white to Mr. Buta Singh.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: On a point of order. Madam, he is making wild accusations against an intelligence agency of the country. This is a very sinister thing. He is trying to mislead the House. He is trying to mislead people. He has deliberately done it. It has an act of mischief. (Interruptions)

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: They are misleading the nation. Madam, you did not interrupt Mr. Kamalendu Bhattacharjee. I did not interrupt Kamalendu Bhattacharjee. I did not interrupt anybody from that side. I want to put the record straight. They cannot absolve themselves of responsibility for today's situation in that part of the country.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Naxalites are supported by the Communist and not by the Congress. And yet he is charging the Congress Government. (Interruptions)

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: We know... We are leaders... From this side, you must remember, the late P. Ramamurti had reminded the entire House and through this House the entire nation of the danger of "Operation Brahmaputra". He had published a booklet on this issue. I was then at the benches behind his seat. It is on record. Every time our party has drawn the attention of the Government and through the House of the nation to this danger of the imperialist forces, the reactionary forces inside the country trying to destabilise

in our country and the Central Government, without knowing the danger of it knowingly or unknowingly has played into the hands of those forces. So today when the Home Minister will be giving a statement, will he kindly state whether there was the hand of RAW behind it and what role the Central Government had in it?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Perhaps you were not in the House when we had a discussion on Bodo agitation that was raised by the Member there. He denied it.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: I was there. Earlier was a Calling Attention and Mr. Santosh Mohan Dev was replying...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, you don't know perhaps, last time... just a second... there is no need to get agitated, I am trying to keep the record straight. There was a discussion and the Home Minister replied and he denied it. If you like, you can see the record because I was in the Chair. He is again there to deny...

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: I raised the question of "Operation Jhumjhum" and three crores being allotted to RAW.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: So this is a serious situation. I would ask Mr. Narayanasamy and other Members there not to try to politicise this issue. This is a question of unity and integrity of the country. So naturally the Centre must try to take that position. They should not try to shift the burden on to the shoulders of the State Government in that part of the country.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE (Maharashtra): Madam, Deputy Chairman, what is involved is the loss of life of a section of our brethren who belong to the weakest section of society—the tribals—and when we are talking

of this kind of a carnage inflicted on the adivasis, one would expect that we would have an approach which is more humane and non-political. Many irrelevant issues have been brought into this purely to politicise the issue. There are only two points I want to make and I have done. Firstly, Madam, law and order may be a State problem but this is too doctrinaire an approach, too legalistic an approach. When violence and killings reach a dimension that threatens the very mechanism of our Constitution, it is very much the concern of this House.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (Bihar): Will you apply the same yardstick uniformly?

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: We will apply the same. We do not have double standards. We do not talk with double tongues. And, therefore, Madam, this House must take cognizance of what has happened. It is very disconcerting that innocent people should have been killed like this. They cannot be made victims of political violence one way or the other. Madam, very unfortunately, RAW is sought to be dragged into it. There is only one thing. I want to put it very clearly that it is not to the interest of my party, it has never been to the interest of my party, to create conditions which will destabilize any State whatsoever. Whether it is Congress States or not, I maintain, Madam, it has never been our strategy... (Interruptions)...

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Joke of the year!

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Madam, if by the very weight of their own sins the Government of Karnataka falls, how is the fault to be found on to our heads? If States after States do get destabilized because they are not able to manage their own people, the minimum one would expect, in fairness and justice, is not to lay the

[Shri N. K. P. Salve]

blame on the head of the Home Ministry here. That has been the joke which has been carried on, and a little too far.

In the end, Madam, all that I want to submit is, it is obvious that the State Government has not been able to take care of the situation there.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: I want to ask whether RAW belongs to Congress (I).

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: It is clear to everybody that the State Government is not able to cope with the situation—I am only referring to the law and order problem. Therefore, it is the duty of the Home Ministry here to assist them in a manner as would stabilize the conditions and create an atmosphere which is commensurate with the spirit of the Constitution. People should be able to live freely.

I agree with only one point which Dipen has made. Madam, the Brahmaputra is a curse of that State. A river which can be harnessed, harnessed to provide water to the whole country... (Interruptions)... Will they listen to what I have to say? They have no idea of the problem which that river causes.

(Interruption)

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: I belong to that part of the country. I know Brahmaputra better than Mr. Salve does.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Madam, it is the economic conditions of the people residing in that area which need properly to be looked after, and I put it to the Centre that the Centre should take appropriate steps so that the economic conditions which are at the root of these troubles are duly taken care of. That is my submission, Madam. Thank you.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY (Karnataka): Madam, Deputy Chairman, I think I am the last to be called to speak on this issue.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: No, no. I am here!

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I didn't hear it. What did you say?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: You should be generous!

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I really don't want to be, because I have a very long business to be finished.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I said, perhaps I am the last to be called by you. They said "No". Anyway...

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH: As far as we are concerned, we will discuss...

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): He can't sit and speak like this... (Interruptions)...

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Madam, what has happened in Assam is shocking indeed. Nobody on this side of the House would feel happy about what is happening there. We condemn the killings.

Shri N. K. P. Salve said something about destabilization of the States. I hope his words are true. Unfortunately, they are not true.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): Mr. Dipen Ghosh also said.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: By the weight of their own sins... (Interruptions)...

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I didn't hear him anyway. I wish they are true. Unfortunately, they are not true. I want the Government

of India, which has the responsibility to rule the entire country, to play the role of a friend, guide and philosopher to all the States, whether they are ruled by the Congress Party or the opposition parties. The record of the Congress Party is not something that one can emulate. They have been indulging in destabilising non-Congress Governments, not only in Karnataka but also elsewhere. My fear is the Congress has learnt a great lesson from the British rulers. The British rulers ruled this country by dividing the country, and the same tactics the Congress Party is adopting, the politics of divide and rule. (Interruptions)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Your party is divided now. You are dividing yourself. What can we do? You are responsible for it. (Interruptions)

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Our party might have been divided. That is the concern of our party. But you are dividing the whole nation. That is horrible.

In respect of Assam, may I tell my friend, Mr. Buta Singh, not to use the RAW, not to use its power and not to conspire against the State Government? They should, on the other hand, let the State Government face the situation which is emerging, which is serious. The whole country is concerned about what is going on in Assam. Assam should remain united, and the Government of India should give its helping hand in that regard. I am afraid this violence will not stop. It should stop. But because it is a political violence born out of agitation, political agitation, I feel that this violence will continue unless the issue is settled politically.

In this regard, I would like the Government of India to play a very constructive role, not a role which will destabilise the situation. It will recoil on you ultimately. Don't look to short-term political dividends. It will boomerang on you and the coun-

try. Therefore, I want the Home Ministry and the Government of India to exercise restraint and play a very useful, constructive, beneficial role so that there may be restoration of normalcy in Assam. (Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Before I ask anybody else to speak or the Home Minister to react, there are papers to be laid by Shri Shiv Shanker.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

And it Report on the Accounts (1987-88) of the Board of Apprenticeship Training (Western Region), Bombay and related papers

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): Madam, I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) Audit Report on the Accounts of the Board of Apprenticeship Training (Western Region) Bombay, for the year 1987-88.

(ii) Statement giving reasons for delay in laying the paper mentioned at (i) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-8269/89 for (i) and (ii)]

REPORTED KILLING OF BODOS IN GOHPUR VILLAGE IN SONITPUR DISTRICT OF ASSAM—Contd.

SHRI KHYOMO LOTHIA (Nagaland): Madam, this is on Bodo.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Bodo.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT