

expenditure of the candidate also increased similarly. Otherwise, Rs. 10,000 more will go from candidate's account. They will do this. You have hardly any power. As far as increasing the expenditure is concerned, they will issue their own notification.

Another issue which applies to Goa, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and many States, particularly Kerala, is several seamen work on ships and other people go to Gulf for jobs. The Election Commission officials go to their houses and if they find that those people are not available, they will delete their names from the electoral list. Actually, they will go either to Gulf for one or two years for work or work on ship for one or two years. The ship is not his house. He is just working in that. But, because he is working in ship or in Gulf, as the case may be, and not present at home, his name is removed from the electoral rolls. To remove this anomaly, the Ministry of Law and Justice introduced a Bill. I wanted to know what the status of the Bill. It had lapsed two years back. It is absolutely essential. Since it is linked with NRI thing, I think, it has not been introduced again. Forget about NRIs. We are not concerned with that. But, the interests of this category of people who are working on-ships or in Gulf countries need to be protected... so that, whenever they are here, they can vote.

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY: It is under active consideration.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Thank you, Sir, Lastly, I would like to mention that our electoral system, we can proudly say, is a very foolproof system. We have got a legislation, called, RPF, 1950, another legislation, called, RPF 1951; similarly, we have got other rules too. These entire things, when put together, make perfect machinery and, therefore, we have been successful all these years. But, Sir, kindly see to it that Parliament's power to legislate on election is not taken away. It is your job to see that the Election Commission is told that their powers, under section, 24 are restricted. Similarly, the Supreme Court has to be told that its powers of creating laws, in the name of interpretation, are also limited. Thank you very much, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will take up further discussion on the Bill tomorrow. Now, a statement by the hon. Minister of Home Affairs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Bomb blasts in Nalbari district of Assam

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is with a deep sense of anguish that I have to inform this House about the unfortunate incidents of two bomb blasts in Nalbari district of Assam on November 22, 2009 which have resulted in the loss of 6 lives and injuries to 52. The preliminary reports indicate that the perpetrators of these crimes belong to the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA). In the past few weeks, we had received intelligence

reports about the plans of the ULFA to engineer bomb blasts in Nalbari and Guwahati districts. These reports were promptly shared with the Government of Assam and the State Police. The State Government had also issued alerts. The State Government had also put out a lookout notice for 9 ULFA militants who were suspected to have infiltrated into the State. While strict vigilance was maintained in the two districts and elsewhere, unfortunately, the incident in Nalbari could not be averted. Search operations are continuing in Nalbari and the neighbouring districts. The operational Group of Unified Headquarters met on November 23, 2009 and has taken stock of the situation.

The State Government has informed us that one person, suspected to be involved in the bomb blasts, has been apprehended.

The State Police and the security forces have maintained intense pressure on the ULFA and the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) (anti-talks faction) since January 2009. In the current year up to 15 November, 2009, as a result of counter insurgency operations, a total number of 1196 insurgents have been neutralised by way of arrests/surrender or being killed in action. Besides, 282 kgs of explosives and 630 weapons had been seized from insurgents till 22 November, 2009. The State Government and security forces have been taking all possible steps to contain the insurgency and, it will be apparent from the facts, stated above, that they have met with a considerable degree of success.

Owing to the counter insurgency operations, the ULFA has come under tremendous pressure. Its leadership is in disarray. Key ULFA leaders are in prison. Recently, 2 ULFA leaders surrendered to the Indian security forces. Three ULFA leaders are believed to be abroad and there are reports of serious differences among them. In this background, it is our assessment that the recent incidents manifest the desperation of the banned organisation ULFA. The State Government and the security forces are determined to intensify the counter insurgency operations against the ULFA and the NDFB (anti-talks faction).

The Government of India strongly condemns the acts of violence of November 22, 2009, even while it regrets that it was not possible for the security forces, despite their best efforts, to pre-empt and prevent the incident. On behalf of the Government of India, I offer my sincere condolences to the families of the deceased and to the injured.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (Assam): Sir, the situation of Assam is very, very critical. Killings are taking place daily in Assam, Sir, I am very happy that after the incident in Bombay, due to the measures taken by the Government of India, there has not been a single incident in Bombay. I really congratulate the Government for this thing. After destruction of the World Trade Centre in the

USA, not a single incident has occurred in the USA. But, Sir, in Assam, it is a continuous process, Day by day, the law and order situation is deteriorating. Frankly speaking, Sir, from October till today, in Assam, more than 30 persons have been killed and more than 100 people seriously injured. Sir, on 4th October, in Bhimajuli, a Biswanath Chariali sub-division in the Sonitpur district, 13 people were killed and more than 42 people injured. On 16th November, railway communication between the Upper Assam and the rest of India was totally disrupted for 12 hours. There was a stoppage of the running of Rajdhani Express. Again, day-before-yesterday, eight persons were killed in Assam. Sir, day by day, the situation is getting worsened. Three Cabinet Ministers of the Government of Assam publicly staged a dharna asking the Government to provide security to the people. This is the situation, Sir. The Cabinet Minister himself staged a dharna seeking security of the people.

Secondly, Sir, the Chief of the Bodoland Autonomous Council also staged a dharna demanding security for the people. Sir, I am very sorry to say that in the Bodoland area, on an average, daily two to five people are being killed. Sir, this is the situation in Assam.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please seek your clarification.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Please try to understand the situation, Sir. Enough is enough. Always, our people are killed. They are killed by extremists, they are killed by the military. Always, our people are killed. We should identify what the basic reason behind this is. It is high time for the Government of India to identify the basic reason. We want a permanent solution, Sir. We do not want a temporary solution. We want a permanent solution for the insurgency problem in Assam. Sir, the hon. Home Minister is sitting here. The hon. Minister in his statement said that ULFA is in disarray. ULFA is now in a weak position., Sir our suggestion is this. We appeal to the ULFA, we appeal to the Government of India to immediately start a political dialogue. Without a political dialogue, the insurgency problem cannot be solved. We request the hon. Minister, Sir, that a political dialogue with ULFA, NDFB and other extremist organisations should be started immediately in order to save Assam. This is the agony of the people of Assam. Assam is burning, Sir. It is the duty of the Government of India to save life and property of the innocent people of Assam. I seek this clarification, Sir. I need support from the entire House. A political dialogue with ULFA, NDFB and other militant organisations should start immediately. So, we want a permanent solution of the insurgency problem in Assam. Sir, I thank you for having allowed me to speak.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Prime Minister comes from that State, Assam. He represents that State in the Rajya Sabha and he is the Leader of the House also. It has a special status; and that is the reason why when the UPA was formed, one Peace Committee Group, PCG, was formed under the chairmanship of Indira Goswami along with about 10-12 members to negotiate with ULFA, and the National Security Adviser was regularly talking to them through this Group. What is the status of that PCG? I want to know whether we have come to a conclusion on that issue or not.

Then, I have seen that you have deputed one Interlocutor, Mr. P.C. Haldar, the former Director of IB, to discuss with NDFB. Now, I want to know whether they have started talks with the NDFB or not.

Then, Sir, the third thing is, in Bodo area – this Nalbari is also in that area – we have found that there is lot of infiltration of Bangaldeshi migrants, illegal migrants, and that is the reason, we have seen, this year, they hoisted a Pakistani Flag in a ground of Darang district and there was a lot of problem on this. There was a wild riot started and the houses of a lot of tribal people were burnt by these illegal migrants ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Assam): The issue of hoisting of Pakistani Flag has been resolved. That issue has been clarified because it was the Eid day after Republic Day. So, that Flag was Eid Flag. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: No; Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PARASD BAISHYA: No; Sir. It was a Pakistani Flag. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री प्रकाश जाचडेकर (महाराष्ट्र) : सर, यह टी.वी. चैनल्स पर भी दिखाया गया है ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He wanted to clarify. That is all. Please sit down. Yes, Mr. Ahluwalia ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: That is an allegation. It has been resolved. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, there was a Peace Committee between the illegal migrants and the rest of the tribal people. Just to pacify them, they made a Peace Committee and that was resolved. But it is a fact that a Pakistani Flag was hoisted there and after the Pakistani Flag, there were widespread riots between the illegal migrants and the tribal population of that area. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Please sit down. Mr. Baishya, please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: It is the Mohanpur village of Udalguri district. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Baishya, you had your chance. Please sit down.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, then the other political parties including the Congress, BJP, AGP and others joined hands together. They went in a big rally to the same village and hoisted the National Flag. In this way, it was resolved. It is not that the Pakistani Flag was not hoisted. My point is, ULFA is there. The ULFA leaders are taking shelter either in Bhutan or in Bangladesh. Now, these illegal migrants are coming from Bangladesh and encroaching the land, even the river bed; and they have spread on the entire river bed. They are cultivating there; they are living there. There is nobody to check them and they have become the legal migrants of that area. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: One minute; I am not asking you.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: It is an imagination. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: I am not talking about imaginary things. I know the facts. I have spent my childhood. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ahluwalia, this is not a debate. Please seek only clarifications.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: My point is, you are appointing an Interlocutor, Mr. P.C. Haldar, to deal with NDFB and here it says, 'anti-talks faction'. Now, when the ceasefire was declared and there was agreement with NDFB, there was only one faction which was in favour of peace talks and in ULFA also there was only one faction. Under the chairmanship of Indira Goswami, there was a PCG constituted and that PCG was directly talking to the National Security Adviser.

What is the status of these two committees and what is the status of the illegal migrants in these areas? What is their role in the anti-national and anti-social activities that are taking place and ultimately costing the poor tribal people of Nalbari their lives?

श्री विश्वजीत दैमारी (असम) : सर, असम के बम ब्लास्ट्स के बारे में हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब ने यहां जो स्टेटमेंट दिया है, उस पर मैं कुछ क्लैरिफिकेशन्स चाहूंगा क्योंकि Nalbari मेरा इलाका है, मैं उसी जगह से आता हूँ और Nalbari ही आधा बोडोलैंड में गया है, जिसको Baksa डिस्ट्रिक्ट के नाम से जाना जाता है। अभी वैश्य जी ने भी कहा कि असम की हालत बहुत खराब हो गई है, specially बोडोलैंड एरिया में। वहां आम आदमी के लिए सिक्योरिटी की बहुत प्रॉब्लम हो गई है। असम सरकार की जो पुलिस है, उसकी बहुत शॉर्टेज है। मेरा Baksa डिस्ट्रिक्ट है और सारे extremists वहां पर हैं - ULFA भी है, NDFB है। वह डिस्ट्रिक्ट भूटान के साथ लगा हुआ है, उस डिस्ट्रिक्ट में जो पुलिस प्रशासन है, वहां लोगों की सिक्योरिटी के लिए सिर्फ 12 ए.के. 47 राइफल्स हैं। पुलिस हमें arms दे नहीं सकती है, थाने में कोई vehicle नहीं है, magistrate के पास भी कोई vehicle नहीं है। SDPO के पास खुद का भी vehicle नहीं है, जो DSP होता है, उनके पास भी vehicle नहीं है - ऐसी हालत है! वहां की जो आर्मी है, शायद इलैक्शन में वे कुछ withdraw करके ले आए, तो वहां कोई सिक्योरिटी नहीं है। हर दिन आदमी मर

रहा है। इसके लिए जिन तीन मिनिस्टर्स ने वहां धरना दिया, यह सही है कि वे मेरी पार्टी बी.पी.एफ. से ही हैं। वहां alliance की सरकार है, यहां यू.पी.ए. में है, लेकिन मेरा seat (•ÖÝÖÆü) unfortunately एन.डी.ए. के साथ हो गया, पता नहीं... मैं भी यू.पी.ए. का ही हूँ। तो वहां हालत ऐसी हो गई है कि सिक्थोरिटी के लिए हमें सड़क पर आना पड़ रहा है। हम लोग जब घर जाते हैं तो कभी घर में शांति से बैठ नहीं सकते, सो नहीं सकते। अगर हम लोग भूटान जाएं तो वहां अच्छी तरह सो सकेंगे, बैठ सकेंगे, इसलिए कहीं ऐसी हालत न हो जाए कि हम लोगों को भूटान जाकर शेल्टर लेना पड़े, चीन जाकर शेल्टर लेना पड़े। वहां बोडोलैण्ड में लॉ एंड ऑर्डर नाम की कोई चीज़ नहीं है। NDFB को जो यहां anti-faction दिखाया है, ऐसा कोई anti-faction हमने नहीं देखा। जो NDFB के लोग एक-साथ सीज़फायर के designated camp से निकलते हैं, पहचान जाते हैं, तब उनको anti faction बताया जाता है, लेकिन एक दिन पहले ये लोग एक साथ घूमते हैं, और एक-साथ extortion करते हैं। हमारे असम में हालत ज्यादा खराब हो गई है और सारे extremist groups को होम मिनिस्ट्री की तरफ से सीज़फायर कर दिया गया और इसके बाद extremists के वहां की पुलिस और वहां के आर्मी ऑफिसर्स के साथ अच्छे रिलेशंस बन गए हैं। अब हालत यह हो गई है कि extremists के बारे में अगर कोई कमेंट करेगा, तो वे उल्टे on behalf of extremists यह क्लैरिफिकेशन दे देते हैं कि वे लोग ऐसे नहीं हैं, वे लोग ऐसा नहीं करते हैं। तो इस प्रकार वहां उलटा हो गया है। इसलिए मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि वहां की सिक्थोरिटी के लिए कुछ व्यवस्था करें और खुद के लिए भी मैं एम.पी. होने के नाते होम मिनिस्टर साहब से अनुरोध करूंगा कि वहां मुझे थोड़ी सिक्थोरिटी की समस्या हो गई है। स्टेट गवर्नमेंट मुझे सिक्थोरिटी दे नहीं सकती है। कम से कम अगर स्टेट गवर्नमेंट की ओर से न हो तो सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट की ओर से हमारे घर की सिक्थोरिटी का कोई इंतजाम होना चाहिए। वहां ऐसी हालत है कि जब आप देखेंगे, तब पता चलेगा। अगर आज दिल्ली में extremists होते, सीज़फायर होता, अगर पार्लियामेंट के सामने आर्म्स लेकर कोई घूमता, तो आप कैसा फील करते? ऐसा हम हर दिन वहां सामना करते हैं। वहां हर दिन extremists openly markets में घूमते रहते हैं, कहीं भी जाओ, वहीं घूमते दिखाई देते हैं।...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : Sir, this is a very serious matter. A sitting Member of the Rajya Sabha from Assam is saying that he is not feeling secure in the State and the State Government is not providing him security. We all appeal, on his behalf, to the Home Minister that the Home Minister must provide him security so that he can live there safely.

श्री विश्वजीत दैमारी : थैंक यू सर, अगर ऐसा होगा तो बहुत अच्छा होगा। तो इस तरह की हालत है, आप थोड़ा महसूस कीजिए कि हर दिन extremists खुले आर्म्स लेकर सीज़फायर के नाम पर घूमते रहेंगे, तो रोज़ ऐसा कैसे चल सकता है? अगर आपने डायलॉग किया है तो अच्छी बात है, जल्दी डायलॉग करके, जल्दी बात करके उनकी समस्या का समाधान करना चाहिए, नहीं तो उनको किसी भी तरह से कंट्रोल करने की कोशिश की जानी चाहिए, धन्यवाद।

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर : महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने जो स्थिति बतायी है, उसके संबंध में मेरा एक ही प्वाइंटेड क्वेश्चन है कि पिछले पांच साल में असम की insurgency के बारे में सिक्थोरिटी एजेंसीज़ ने जो विभिन्न रिपोर्ट्स गृह मंत्रालय को दी है, उन रिपोर्ट्स में पॉलिटिकल लीडर्स का tacit support to insurgents and some of them holding Governments offices, उनका सपोर्ट extremists को है। उसके बारे में जो सिक्थोरिटी एजेंसीज़ की रिपोर्ट आई है, उसको बाहर भी पब्लिसिटी मिलती है - उनको भी मालूम है क्योंकि रिपोर्ट उनके पास है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उसके बारे में सरकार क्या करने जा रही है?

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR (Tripura): Sir, first of all, I strongly condemn the brutal killings in Nalbari district of Assam on behalf of my Party CPI(M), and I urge upon the Government to render all sorts of help that is possible to that area and to those who are injured. Nearly during the same period, some days earlier, in our State also there was brutal killings. In some border area Kanchanpur, Reang people were brutally killed by NLFT. I also condemn that killing also. I think the hon. Home Minister will take note of these incidents in Pasparan, Kanchanpur sub-division in Tripura. Sir, I have seen in the Statement that the State Government had also put out a look-out notice for nine ULFA militants who were suspected to have infiltrated into the State. Which is the country from where they have infiltrated? How long will that continue? We have seen that our State is surrounded by Bangladesh. Though the present Bangladesh Government is taking some steps to oust militants, even then my question is: What steps are the Government of India taking to see that these militants cannot infiltrate into the Indian territory maybe Assam, maybe Tripura, maybe Manipur and maybe other States? They are taking shelter in other countries – maybe Bangladesh, maybe Pakistan, maybe Burma and other countries. They are taking shelter in other countries and again entering into the Indian territory. How can this be curbed? What are the steps the Government are taking? What kind of relations the Government is maintaining with other countries? Sir, the militants shift their place from one State to another. When there is any operation in Tripura, they hide in Mizoram; when there is any operation in Mizoram, they shift to Nagaland. So, they go on shifting from one State to another. I think, there should be coordination among the States. There should be an inter-State cooperation among the North-Eastern States so that they can move jointly against these militant activities and curb them. If all the States come together and sit together and see which are the places they are in hiding then they can be rooted out.

All the State Governments should move together in co-operation with each other. This is my third point.

My fourth point is that we must have some political will against the militants. In our State, this NLFT group has killed our 1700 Party activists, including leaders, including Ministers, including ex-MLAs, etc. They have laid down their lives in the hands of the militants, that is, NLFT and some other groups. These are banned organisations. Due to their attacks, our people have lost their lives; they could not survive. Sir, our Party has been made the target. For the last 22-25 years, we have fought these militants of NLFT. Now, we have brought the State into a very peaceful situation. I think, the hon. Home Minister would appreciate the fact that we have brought peace at the cost of blood. The groups like NLFT are underground groups. Then, there are over-ground groups like INPT, and it is getting support from the Opposition parties in the State.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is not a debate. Please, seek the clarification.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: I am seeking clarification, Sir. If militants do not get any political support from whatever quarter, they cannot do these operations freely. So, directly or indirectly, they are getting political support. I would not go into the details as to from which party and in which State they are getting this support. You can easily understand from the atmosphere. In our State, we have the experience that this NLFT group is getting political support.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is not about Tripura. He will not be able to.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: I appreciate the steps being taken by the State Government. The steps being taken by the Government should be fully supported by the Centre and the Centre should extend all sorts of co-operation to the State Governments. Sir, I have seen that if there is some disorder in Assam, we also feel the loss of security because...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sarkar, this is only for clarifications on the statement. You are making it a debate.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: My earnest request to the Central Government is to take serious note of the incidents, and come to the help of the State Governments to strengthen democratic forces there irrespective of the party.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : This incident is unfortunate. But, I do not agree with the assessment that the situation in Assam is deteriorating. On the contrary, several groups have been contained and they have been brought to the negotiating table. The most recent one is the DHD-J, after Jewel Gorlosa was arrested and another leader was neutralised in an encounter. Today, we have moved forward where we can appoint an interlocutor to hold talks with these groups. We have NDFB (pro-talk faction). We have the DHD-J, both groups, and we have some other small groups such as the UPDS which have come forward to hold talks.

We have made it clear that the talks can be within the framework of the Indian Constitution, and, they cannot put forward any demand for sovereignty, I think, the talks will go forward. So, there has been a distinct improvement in the political situation in Assam.

6.00 P.M.

As far as violence is concerned, the two major organizations, which are responsible for the violence, are ULFA and the NDFB (anti-talks faction). As far as ULFA is concerned, the Government of India has, from time to time, held talks with ULFA. We know that talks were held in 1992. ULFA backed out and nothing came out of it. In 2005-06, the People's Consultative Group was set up. Three rounds of talks were held. The Government agreed to favourably consider the request of ULFA for release of five ULFA detainees provided ULFA made a formal approach for holding direct talks,

6.00 P.M.

nominated a delegation for these talks, indicated a time-frame and abjured violence. The People's Consultative Group representatives continued to help. The Government declared a unilateral suspension of operation from 13th of August, 2006 to 20th of September, 2009. However, ULFA did not respond, and, instead, used this period to raise new cadres, to acquire new weapons and to indulge in violence and extortions. So, those talks also did not lead us anywhere.

As you know, some companies of ULFA have now split. The A and C companies of ULFA have declared a unilateral ceasefire. The A and C companies have submitted a charter of demands to the State Government, and, we are working with the State Government to see whether the A and C companies can be brought to the table for talks.

Frankly, in my assessment of the situation, talks with ULFA are leading nowhere and the reason is obvious. The reason is that Paresh Baruah, Arvind Rajkhowa and Raju Baruah are outside India. There are serious differences among them. We hope that those differences multiply and we hope that some of them will see reason. Recently, two senior ULFA leaders surrendered to our forces, and, that has completely demoralized the ULFA leadership.

Our position regarding militant groups in the North East is very simple and straight forward – give up violence, give up arms, give up any claim for sovereignty, we are willing to hold talks. I do not think that the ULFA leadership today is in a position to accept these conditions; this is what we gather through intelligence reports about Paresh Baruah's speeches, statements and movements. But I am confident that with the recent surrender of the two ULFA leaders and the growing differences among the remaining three or four leaders of ULFA, it is only a matter of time that there will be further dissensions and ULFA will be weakened, and, eventually, they will see reason and come to talks. But, in the meanwhile – both the State Government and Central Government are clear that we will continue to maintain intense pressure on ULFA. ULFA is a very violent organisation. For example, day before yesterday's incident has been denied by ULFA, but the footprint of ULFA is seen in the way the bicycle bomb blast was carried out.

As far as NDFB is concerned, that is also split now — there is an anti-talks faction and there is a pro-talks faction – after Ranjan Daimary was expelled, and, Dhiren Bodo was elected as the leader. We are engaging the NDFB and we are willing to hold talks with them.

We are willing to hold talks with it. If the other faction also wants to hold talks, we are willing to hold talks with that. That again is a chequered history. A Suspension of Operations Agreement started on 1st of June 2005 and was extended from time to time. It will now expire in December 2009. They have submitted a Charter of Demands. We will look into that. If they give up violence, give up arms, give up the claim for sovereignty, we are willing to talk to them. In fact, an interlocutor has

been appointed. But in the meanwhile, we will not commit the mistake that during the interregnum we will not maintain pressure on them. That was a mistake. Once talks begin, we can think of suspending operations. But until then, subject to an SoO which they observe, we will continue to maintain intense pressure on these forces so that they do not recruit new cadres, they do not indulge in extortion, do not indulge in violence.

Sir, many of these leaders take shelter in Bangladesh. But, I must say after Sheikh Hasina's Government has taken over, we have received splendid cooperation from the Government of Bangladesh. Sheikh Hasina is visiting us next month. I am sure the cooperation between our two countries will be further strengthened especially in matters relating to militants who take shelter in Bangladesh and commit atrocities in India.

Sir, I have regretted this incident. For every one incident that has occurred in Assam in the last 11 months, please remember there are dozens of incidents which Assam Police has prevented. In fact, Assam Police has done an exemplary job in the last year. It is because of the intense pressure maintained by the Assam Police and the security forces that we have been able to force splits in the organisations, and one faction of each organisation is coming for talks. I think, they have done a remarkable job as far as NDFB is concerned, as far as the DHT (J) is concerned. Much remains to be done. We offer talks on the conditions that I have mentioned. We are willing to engage in a political dialogue. But, in the meanwhile, security forces will continue to maintain intense pressure on any militant group which indulges in violence or extortion.

Sir, while I regret this incident, the operational command has taken stock of the situation. I am confident that they will continue to improve the law and order situation. Hopefully, some day peace will return to Assam and everybody can feel secure and at peace in Assam.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

The House then adjourned at three minutes past six of the clock till
eleven of the clock on Wednesday, the 25th November 2009.