

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported killing of 21 Army Personnel in an ambush near Imphal on February 19, 1982 by secessionist elements

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now we shall take up the Calling Attention Motion. Shri Nepaldev Bhattacharjee. Not present. Shri Harikishan Singh Surjeet. Not there. Shri Dinesh Goswami.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Assam): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the reported killing of twentyone army personnel in an ambush near Imphal on the 19th February, 1982, by secessionist elements.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): Sir, at about 10.30 A.M. on 19th February, 1982, a convoy consisting of three vehicles belonging to an Army Regiment carrying one officer, 3 Junior Commissioned officers, 36 other ranks and one civilian was ambushed on Imphal-Ukhruj road, in the East District of Manipur in between Yangan-gokpi and Litan villages. The leading vehicle of the convoy ran over an explosive device laid by the undergrounds. The device went off damaging the vehicle which went out of control. Simultaneously, the undergrounds started firing, using automatic weapons as a result of which 20 Army personnel including an officer and one civilian were killed. 12 persons were injured, 2 of whom are in serious condition. The undergrounds took away one light machine gun, 5 selfloading rifles and one Sten Carbine.

Combing operations have been launched by the security forces to apprehend the culprits. A case has been registered in Litan Police Station under relevant sections of law and investigation is in progress.

Chief Minister, Manipur, visited the scene of occurrence on 20th February, 1982.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has given some details as to how this incident took place, in which 21 army personnel lost their lives because of an ambush. The situation in the north-eastern region continues to cause anxiety to people all over the country. The problem of Nagaland is yet to be solved. After long rounds of talks on the question of Mizos, it seems that the talks with Lal Denga have broken down and Lal Denga's MNF has declared that they are going back to the days when they were not prepared to talk in terms of some settlement within the purview of the Indian Constitution. Manipur has been comparatively a safer place. But we have seen that even in Manipur in 1980, if my statistics are correct, 36 army personnel lost their lives; in 1981, 50 army personnel lost their lives; and in 1982 we have started with 21. After all, Manipur was one of the places which were the cradle of Indian nationalism. One cannot forget that the people of Manipur, at least the people belonging to the plains of Manipur, follow the Vaishnavite culture and the Manipuri dances depicting Krishna Lila, symbolising the integrity of this country, is well-known all over the world. History also gives us an indication as to how Arjuna went to that area and wed Chitrangana. But the Minister must be aware—the House must take very serious note of it—that the Meitei people who follow the Vaishnavite culture are gradually giving up that culture because a feeling is growing in them that their problems are not being tackled in the manner they should be tackled by the rest of the country. A feeling is growing in the minds of the Meitei people that the Government is more concerned with tribals and the people who are in the area which was the cradle of Indian nationalism have not been taken care of by the rest of the country and by

the Government, with the result that there is a strong feeling to give up the strong basis of Indian culture. Anyone who is associated with the mainstream of Indian national life must be feeling deeply concerned and disturbed over it. The fact remains that in spite of Manipur being comparatively a small province, the unemployment problem there is stupendous. More than one lakh young boys are unemployed. There is virtually no industry, no communication system. There is a communication gap, both in the literal sense and in the sense that people here have hardly any proper understanding of what is happening in that region. Also no communication worth the name has developed in that region. We have carried a feeling, and this has been my complaint throughout, that though the British regime had a particular policy towards the north-eastern region—they had decided to leave certain areas untouched—after independence there has been no positive policy in regard to the north-eastern region and we have tried to solve the problems of that through *ad-hocism* with the result that even after 35 years of independence, the problems of this sensitive region remain absolutely as they were before. I do not want to refer at this stage to the foreign nationals issue, which we have had occasion to discuss a number of times. Often we hear about foreign hands. But let us not forget that even in this kind of guerrilla activities, there is a strong popular backing in Manipur. There is no use saying that there is foreign hand. Who can forget that only a few days back, thousands of women came out into the streets and created a situation in which two persons who were suspected as secessionists were permitted to escape? Can you imagine that in a remote tribal area, thousands of women coming out into the street not permitting the alleged secessionists to be arrested by the Police? This is not possible unless there is a strong popular backing. There are large numbers of jail breaking incidents in Manipur. In the

last one, about 40—I don't have the exact number—prisoners escaped. It is not possible unless there is some amount of popular backing. There is a feeling of alination in the entire North-Eastern region. They are trying to tackle this problem from the law and order point of view. I do not think that it will lead us anywhere. I am not saying that the secessionists are not to be arrested, if they are secessionists. Now, what steps are you really taking in order to satisfy the long-standing grievances of the people? People feel alinated. You have set up a Committee of the Ministers for the North Eastern Region. You are saying that because of the difficult situation, that Committee of Ministers could not take effective steps in Assam, but what about Manipur? Now, what steps have you taken for the economic development of that region? What are you doing to see that the employment position is eased in that region? What steps are you taking to see that the feeling of psychological alination that is growing in this region is removed and they feel that the rest of the country is also emotionally involved with them. Integration cannot be a only one way thing or process. It is no use giving homilies that the people of the region should be integrated with the rest of the country. Unless you show that there is sincerity on the part of the Government and the rest of the country. The people of this region are feeling neglected and wounded. What steps are you taking to see that the wound is healed? Unless very positive steps are taken in this direction, the very integrity of that region is under threat. Mr. Laskar himself comes from that region, from a nearby area of Manipur. He must be knowing about this feeling. I would like the hon. Minister to take note of the sentiments and do something so that this feeling of isolation which is growing in that region is removed. Steps must be taken to see that the position is eased in that region.

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR:

There is no difference of opinion with my best friend, Mr. Goswami, when he says that he is concerned about what

re. killing of

[Shri Nihar Ranjan Laskar]

is happening in the North-Eastern Region. Sir, I also share the concern and the anxiety shown by him. About the incidents of violence indulged in by some extremist elements, I must say that some misguided people have created problems in that area. I can assure my friend that the Government is taking every possible step to see that the situation is eased. We are confident that the extremist activities that are going on there will be crushed. By and large the law and order situation in Manipur is under control. But in an area where extremists are operative, some sporadic incidents do take place. This is what has happened on the 19th. I can assure my hon. friends in this House again that the Government of India is taking all possible steps to curb these activities. The Army, in their operations against the extremist elements in Manipur, is getting full help from the Government as well as from the public. My hon. friend was mentioning about a group of ladies who came out into the street objecting to the activities of the Army there. There may be one or two incidents like this.

It is our information that the entire population supports the Army. They also want peace and tranquility in this area. They also want development. The question has been put to me as to what we are doing in the north-eastern region so that the development processes go on there. It should be clear to all of us that unless peace is there, unless peace is maintained there, it is very difficult to go ahead with the development activities in the area, particularly when the hostile elements are there. We have sanctioned some projects there. But people cannot go there. They are looted. In such a situation how can development process go on? These are the difficulties. I can tell the hon. Member what specific steps we are taking for the benefit of this area.

The north-eastern region is receiv-

Secessionists

ing special attention in matters of development. I may mention that in the sixth Plan the outlay of five States and 2 Union Territories in this region aggregates to Rs. 2,400 crores approximately. The per capita outlay for North-eastern region is Rs. 1,303 as compared to Rs. 872 in the other States and Union Territories. This is one fact I want to emphasise. Moreover Central assistance in the case of north-eastern region is well over 80 per cent of the total outlay while in other States and Union Territories it is only 29 per cent. The per capita Central assistance in the case of north-eastern region is Rs. 1,205 while in the case of other States and Union Territories it is only Rs. 257/-. These figures definitely indicate the concern of the Central Government for development of this backward north-eastern region.

Additionally, there is a separate Council for the north-eastern region, namely, the North-Eastern Council. During the Sixth Plan period a provision of Rs. 340/-crores has been made for that Council. The development projects planned and implemented by the North Eastern Council have started giving results. So, we are doing all these and my friend also knows it very well. Moreover, at the instance of the Prime Minister a Committee of Ministers has also been constituted for speeding up the economic development of the region.

I can just list out the developments which have taken place as a result of closer review of their activities. A third-level airline has started operation there. Expansion of broad gauge line from Bongaigaon to Gauhati is being undertaken and it is expected to be completed by the end of the current year. Then, construction of six railway lines in the north-eastern region is also going fast. Over and above, construction of broad gauge

line from Gauhati to Dibrugarh is being undertaken. At present it is only upto Gauhati. An estimate cost of Rs. 100 crores has been approved for the purpose and included in the budget for 1981-82. The location-engineering and traffic survey is in progress. This will be available to us shortly. A suggestion has been given to extend the B.G. line...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Laskar, it will be better if you lay a copy of it on the Table of the House.

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: These are the various steps... (Interruption)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are asking for the information and he is reading the whole thing.

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: One more point. The Government, as a matter of policy, has been giving special attention to development of tribal areas.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Sir, I said that there is a strong feeling of alienation among the people there and also, the security staff is misbehaving with people of that region including women. There is a very strong complaint among the people there like this and that was why many women came out into the open. (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Karnataka): The administration should make that area a family-station area. I have been asking for this for a long time. (Interruptions)

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I do not want to create any misunderstanding. But this sort of complaint is there.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Yes, yes. They should make it a family station.

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: There may be such incidents, one or two.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I have been asking for making it a

family station for a very long time. (Interruptions)

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: Whenever such complaints are there, we take note of them and we take action. By and large, the people in general are appreciating the action taken by the army people there.

श्रीगुणदेवगुप्त (मध्य प्रदेश) : मान्यवर, मैं सर्व प्रथम फौजी जवानों को बधाई देना चाहता हूँ जो अपनी जान पर खेल कर देश की अखण्डता की रक्षा कर रहे हैं। इस प्रकार की घटनाओं में अब तक सेना के अनेक जवान और कर्मचारी मारे गये हैं। पी०एल०ए० का एक्टिविटीज के द्वारा हमारे अनेक जवान और कर्मचारी मारे गये हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस प्रकार से मारे गये फौजी जवानों की संख्या क्या है तथा शासन द्वारा इस प्रकार के पृथकतावादी तत्व अब तक कितने गिरफ्तार किये गये हैं? क्या उनकी जानकारी में यह बात है कि इस समय कितने ऐसे तत्व कार्य कर रहे हैं? क्या यह भी सही है कि मणिपुर की अखण्डता को खण्डित करने के लिए कुछ विदेशी तत्व पी०एल०ए० जैसे पृथकतावादी तत्वों के रूप में वहाँ पर कार्यरत हैं और उनके साथ सहयोग कर रहे हैं? आप जानते हैं कि देश के अन्य भागों में भी, जैसे पंजाब में खालिस्तान की माँग की जा रही है, मध्य प्रदेश और बिहार के आदिवासी बहुत क्षेत्रों में भी ऐसे पृथकतावादी तत्वों द्वारा इसी प्रकार की माँग की जा रही है। ऐसी स्थिति में मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसे पृथकतावादी तत्वों के प्रति आप क्या कार्यवाही कर रहे हैं और उनको समाप्त करने के लिए अब तक किसे तरीके के कदम उठाये गये हैं जिससे कि ये राष्ट्र विरोधी तत्व अपनी कार्यवाहियाँ न कर सकें?

[श्री गुरुदेव गुप्त]

तीसरी बात मैं मणिपुर के संबंध में यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि गत दशकों में मणिपुर में जेलों से भागने की तीन चार घटनाएँ हो चुकी हैं। 11 जनवरी, 1982 को 22 व्यक्ति जेल से भाग गये थे। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस संबंध में मंत्री महोदय क्या कर रहे हैं? जेलों में सुरक्षा को व्यवस्था बढ़ाने के लिए क्या आपने सी० आर० पी० की निगरानी में जेलों की व्यवस्था कर दी है? इसके साथ-साथ मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि आप ऐसे कौन से उपाय कर रहे हैं जिससे इस तरीके की घटनाओं की पुनरावृत्ति न हो और वहाँ पर शांति स्थापित हो सके?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: Sir, the first thing he wants to know is whether the so extremist people have some connection with some foreign agencies which may be helping them. The Government is aware of the unhealthy trends. Some foreign agencies of some countries have been helping these extremist people and we are aware of this fact and we are also taking action to see how this can be curbed. We are also taking steps to strengthen the intelligence set-up, so that the situation can be kept under constant control. Besides this, Sir, my friend has asked about the number of people who have been captured and all that. Till September 1980, 337 extremists have been arrested, 130 have surrendered and 40 have been killed in encounters. Moreover, we have arrested and taken into custody several of the extremist leaders and other people and because of the action taken by the army people there, the morale of the extremists, the extremists people there has completely gone down now.

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA (Orissa): Sir, everyone is deeply concerned about the situation in the North-Eastern region. This is not a new phenomenon. We have been noticing this phenomenon right from the 'fifties'. Some people there, a section of them do not reconcile themselves to the idea of Indian nationhood, of India as one nation and of India as one country and therefore this sort of thing is going on in that region in one form or the other. I am not going into the history of the entire development there because I have hardly any time to do that. But I will certainly submit that the kind of situation that now prevails there in the north-eastern region requires deft handling because, Sir, in this region, we have the problem of the so-called People's Liberation Army. We have been getting people who are trained outside the country to create situations of destabilisation. There are other countries with whom we are trying to establish friendly relations. Some talk was going on with the Mizo leaders, but unfortunately that broke down. The whole region is full of tension. It is very difficult to lead a normal life there. I spoke about deft handling because in the tribal areas—Mr. Laskar will agree with me because he belongs to that region itself—unfortunately, the tribals have a feeling that the Army people are behaving like occupation forces. This feeling must be removed. Why should there be such feeling? Is it because the tribal women complain? These things are there. These should change. If you visit that region you will see that these things are there. We have to face these hard facts. Our Army should behave there not as occupation forces but as meant for maintaining peace and trying to locate those people who are indulging in this kind of activity and book them; I have no objection. Therefore, Sir, I have said that the situation requires

deft handling and we do less manipulative politics in the north-eastern region. The less, the better. Sir, I would put two questions with regard to this region. This occurrence has taken place. It is very unfortunate. We have lost 21 Army jawans, including one civilian. This is not the only incident. The situation is such that many more incidents might take place unless the combing operations succeed in wiping out the entire people who are indulging in this kind of things. I would put two specific questions. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the number of the so-called secessionists is on the increase or they have decreased. What is the estimate of the Government on this score? And the second question is whether violence in this region is on the increase or it is on the decrease. And, Sir, I would like to request the hon. Home Minister, Gianiji, to see that the impression that is going round in that region about our Army jawans and their approach and attitude as occupation forces is removed and on the other hand to see that they are looked upon as friends. I must clarify one thing first. He has said about our paramilitary forces there. These paramilitary forces are working in a very difficult terrain and under very difficult conditions. We must realise this point before we criticise them. There may be some incidents. We do take action whenever there is a report about such incidents. According to my reports, people are now welcoming the paramilitary forces because at least they are helping in maintaining peace in that area. It is not a good thing just to criticise those people who are working under such difficult circumstances. His question was whether violence was increasing. All attempts are being made to see that the violence there is curbed. It is declining. This is our information. We have taken into custody a number of people.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Rajasthan): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring out one inexacti-

tude in the statement of the Minister. An Army Regiment normally means a regiment comprising three units or battalions. It can either be a unit or a battalion. If the Ministry of Home Affairs mentions an army regiment in the statement, they are starting with a mistake.

We are talking about India's forgotten frontier. I will not go into Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal or Tripura. I will confine myself to Manipur. I have also limited time. The problem of Manipur is that of political corruption, of financial corruption, of an absence of integrity, of unemployment and finally of a total absence of law and order. As far as political corruption is concerned, I will read out a quotation from the Governor's letter. It will not take more than a minute:

"Manipur was under President's rule for two and a half years before it became a State in January, 1972. In March 1972, the State had to be put under the President's rule once again. Fresh elections were held in 1974 and a Ministry assumed office on 4th March. During the period 4th March, 1974, to 14th November, 1979, there were 5 Ministries as a result of shifting loyalties and a large number of Members as many as 35 Members out of a total of 60, held ministerial offices at one time or the other and several of them were members of two or more Ministries. Out of 50 Members, 15 defected once 27 twice 11 three times and 3 had the dubious distinction of defecting four times."

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: What is the relevance of this?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The relevance is the political corruption. The Ministry there is a congress (I) Ministry. You have created political corruption, economic corruption, financial corruption. That is the relevance. You have had the scandal or a rapeseed. You have had the scandal about bamboo. Figures have been quoted here by the Minister.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please don't widen the scope because it is a bigger question.

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: We want notice for this thing.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: You want notice about this thing. Your party's Chief Minister has created political corruption.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Go to the next point.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: You want to support the Government.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I want to support the House. You need not discuss the whole politics of Manipur.

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY (West Bengal): Manipur is very much connected with what is happening there.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is just one incident.

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY: It is just one incident. Everyday people are being killed by the Army.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can refer to other matters. Please don't dilate on that.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: You want me to go by the way. I would not go directly; I will go in a round about way.

Sir, there is a total absence of law and order. I do not know if Gianiiji will do me the courtesy of replying or he will ask one of his two deputies to give the answers. I would request him to answer as to how many killings have been there in the year 1978, killings of the security personnel, how many in 1979, in 1980, in 1981, and in the first two months of the current year. The hon. Minister said that there is an improvement, we are killing insurgents, and we are controlling the insurgency. The figures will speak for themselves. Would he give the figures for the last four years, starting from 1978? Is it cor-

rect, Sir, that in nine-tenths of Manipur which are the hills, inhabit about one-tenth of the population and in one-tenth of Manipur which is the valley inhabit nine-tenths of the population? Is it correct that those who reside in the valley cannot purchase land in the hills whereas those that reside in the hills can purchase in the valley? Would the Minister answer that? Secondly, the Minister said that we are controlling insurgency. How many insurgent groups are there? Who are they led by? I would like you, Sir, as you protected the Government, to please protect me when it comes to answering these questions. Please ensure...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not protecting the Government; I am...

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: However, please ensure they answer these questions. How many insurgent groups are there? How many civil servants have been posted to Manipur and have lived or worked in Manipur for more than three years? It is my belief that one of the major causes of corruption in the public life of Manipur is the retention of civil servants in that State for longer than three years. It is no use giving the kind of figures that are given here—per capita Central Assistance, etc. because that assistance is misused. How many missing persons are there in Manipur? Did or didn't the hon. Minister of Home receive a letter from me last year reporting about a missing person whose mother had represented to me that he was taken away by the security forces, and having heard nothing from her son asking whether there is any trace of him or whether he has been killed or he is in jail? Is it not a fact that that letter till today remains unanswered? Then, what is the current figure of unemployment? The hon. Minister said that they have done so much about development. What is the current figure of unemployment? And is it a fact that unlike the rest of the country there

is no unemployment insurance scheme in Manipur? The Loktak project which is the major irrigation project was supposed to have been completed in the year 1975. We are in 1982. There is an overlap of about seven years. We have not completed it yet. When is the Loktak project likely to be completed by?

Finally, I would like to lend weight to what my friend, Mr. Dinesh Goswami said here, and I will conclude with that. The absence of Members on the Treasury Benches is indicative of the importance that is lent to the North-East region.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: On this side also, there are not many Members.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Why don't you let them interrupt me. I am having a running commentary on what I am saying from the Chair which is an incredible thing.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is not necessary for this matter. That is why...

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, this is an indication of how much importance is given by the Government to the question of North-East. It is not a question of Imphal integrating with Delhi. May I submit to the Government and to the hon. Minister that it will be more worthwhile as far as the North-East is concerned for Delhi to integrate with Imphal?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: Sir, the hon. Member has asked for several figures. I have made a note of them. So far as the question of unemployed youth are concerned, it is not relevant to this case. I think if he puts a separate question detailing all the information that he wants to know, we will be able to give the answer.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, here we have a Calling Attention matter before us...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Give the figures.

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: Sir, first of all he has asked how many extremist groups are working in Manipur. That is the first question that he put to me. According to our information, in Manipur there are three groups which are operating. Meithis in the valley and Mizo and Naga insurgents. These are the three groups which are operating in Manipur area.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I am not being contentious. But there is a letter from the former Governor here which says that there are four groups. Please be sure what you say about the groups of insurgents. According to the information given in the former Governor's letter there are four groups.

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: You are right and I am also correct because Meithis have two groups and then there are Nagas and Mizos. If you take the first two together then there are three, otherwise there are four.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Please speak near the microphone.

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: In the Meithis group there are two factions of extremists and then there are Mizos and Nagas. They are there in Manipur. If you take the total, then there are four groups.

So far as the problem of unemployed youth is concerned, we have taken up a large number of projects recently whereunder unemployed youth have been trained up for employment. The latest figures I will give you. I think these are not with me at the moment. But I know for certain that a number of unemployed youth have been given training. This is, Sir, our Government's approach, which has been a co-ordinated one, firstly to see that we deal firmly with the extremist elements there, and secondly to see that the development efforts are accelerated and their benefits reach the

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people. So, we are taking all possible steps in this direction to control the extremists on the one hand. I have already enunciated in my earlier answer what steps we have taken to see that the fruits of development reach the people.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, he has not answered my question. May I seek your protection. He has not given the figures of persons arrested and killed.

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: How many times have I to give these figures?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I want to know how many have been killed in 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981 and in the current year. Then, I have spoken about my letter. I have also asked questions about missing personnel and civil servants who have spent more than three years.

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: These figures are not with me. I will supply the information.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: This is Calling Attention notice about Manipur.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Laskar, if you do not have the figures, please supply them.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Not supply.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He will lay them on the Table of the House. If he does not have the figures right now, what can he do?

श्री बी० सत्यनारायण रेड्डी (आंध्र प्रदेश): उपसभापति जी, यह जो बीस आर्मी परसोनल की हत्या हुई है और दूसरे जो जखमी हुए हैं, यह बहुत ही अफसोसनाक वाक्या है। पूरे नार्थ-ईस्टर्न रीजन और मणिपुर के हालात को देखने के बाद ऐसा मालूम होता है कि यह न सिर्फ इनसर्जेंट्स

और आर्मी परसोनल में, बल्कि सारे उस इलाके की जनता और आर्मी में एक किस्म की तण्डुल है, कनफ्लिक्ट है। जो अबबारी में इससे पहले खबरें छपी हैं, उनसे पता चलता है कि हजारों की तादाद में लोगों द्वारा आर्मी परसोनल के वहीकल्स को रोका जाता है और जगह जगह पर उनके ऊपर बाधाएं डाली जाती हैं।

तो इससे पता चलता है कि यह कनफ्लिक्ट जनता और आर्मी में हो रही है। यह परिस्थिति उस इलाके में क्यों पैदा हुई, इसके बारे में सरकार ने कभी सोचने की तकज्जह दी या नहीं यह सरकार इसके बारे में बताएगी। और एक इन्स्टेंस में देना चाहता हूँ कि... thousands of women blocked 12 fully-armed security vehicles in the greater Imphal area and attempted to snatch from them two youths arrested by the security forces.

1. P.M.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That point has already been covered.

श्री बी० सत्यनारायण रेड्डी : ये हालात उस इलाके में पैदा हुए हैं। यही नहीं बल्कि वहाँ के जो विद्यार्थी हैं उन्हें बड़ी तादाद में अरेस्ट किया गया और हड़तालें भी हो रही हैं। यह तमाम सिचुएशन उस इलाके में है। तो ये हालात क्यों पैदा हुए? ये हालात पैदा होने का मौका क्यों दिया गया, इसके बारे में क्या सरकार ने सोचने की कोशिश की या नहीं। इसके साथ-साथ गवर्नर साहब ने अपने हाल के असेम्बली सेशन में यह बयान दिया कि पूरे इलाके में, इम्फाल और मणिपुर एरिया में, ला एण्ड आर्डर सिचुएशन इम्प्रूव हो रही है अगर यह इम्प्रूव हो रही है तो ये वाक्यात क्यों हो रहे हैं। वहाँ ला एण्ड आर्डर है कि नहीं,

और अगर नहीं है तो सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में क्या प्रबन्ध कर रही है, ला एण्ड आर्डर को कायम करने के लिये ?

इसके साथ-साथ, हम लोग हर रोज सुनते हैं, अखबारों में पढ़ते हैं कि नेगोसिएशंस होते रहते हैं, जो इन्सर्जेंट नेता हैं उनसे बातचीत होती है। मसले को हल करने के लिये। हाल ही में वहाँ का जो नेता लालडेंगा है, उनके साथ बातचीत हुई लेकिन कोई नतीजा नहीं निकला, फिर बातचीत शुरू हो गई है। तो सरकार इस सिल-सिले में ढील दे रही है.... (समय की घंटी).... मैं सरकार का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि हाल ही में, अभी दो दिन पहले, लालडेंगा ने स्टेटमेंट दिया है, उन्होंने कहा है कि उनकी आर्गनाइजेशन ने ऐलान किया है कि मिजोरम एक इन्डिपेंडेंट स्टेट है.....

श्री उपसभापति : वह डिफरेंट मामला है।

श्री बी० सत्यनारायण रेड्डी : नहीं, इसी सिलसिले में है क्योंकि इंसर्जेंट्स का मसला है, उन्होंने अपने को इन्डिपेंडेंट स्टेट घोषित किया है। इसी के साथ मैं आपसे जानना चाहूँगा कि क्या सरकार का ध्यान इस तरफ दिलाया गया और अगर दिलाया गया तो क्या सरकार उनसे बातचीत करना चाहती है और सरकार उनके स्टेटमेंट को किस नुकतेनजर से देख रही है।

मैं सरकार से यह भी पूछना चाहूँगा — गृह मंत्री महोदय से — उन्होंने कहा कि तीन इंसर्जेंट तत्व हैं, तीन या चार जो भी हों, तो क्या उनका हेडक्वार्टर मणिपुर या नाथं इस्टन राजन के किसी इलाके में है,

या बाहर के विदेशी इलाके में है ? अगर विदेशी इलाके में है, तो क्या सरकार ने उन विदेशी मुमालिक का ध्यान दिलाया कि उनकी इम्पोर्टेंस [नहीं] हो। उनकी गतिविधियों को रोकने के लिये सरकार क्या इन्तजाम कर रही है ?

इसी के साथ-साथ मैं एक बात के बारे में जानकारी और भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि ये इंसर्जेंट्स, तीन या चार जितने भी प्रकार के हों—क्या उनका एक दूसरे के साथ संबंध है ? क्या इस सिल-सिले में एक दूसरे के साथ मिल कर वह काम कर रहे हैं या नहीं, इसके बारे में भी सफाई हो जानी चाहिये।

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: I can only assure my hon. friend and also this House that there will be no let-up in the drive against the extremists operating in those areas. Government is taking every step so that these extremist activities in the north-east region are curbed as early as possible and that is why our army and para-military personnel are working there under extremely difficult conditions. We must realise this and try to help them and not blame them in the manner some of our friends are speaking.

Then the hon. Member asked about the base of these extremist groups, whether they have their base in this country or in some outside country. We have some information; as you know some other countries nearby are showing some interest in this regard.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Which are those countries,

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: I think many of you know it.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: But you have to inform this House which are those countries?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: We have some information that there are areas like Chitagong and other areas and also we have caught ammunition with markings of some other countries. We are taking precautions.

श्री उपसभापति : बहुत सी बातें बताने के लायक नहीं होती ।

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Have you taken up this matter with those countries?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: Yes, for instance, our friendly neighbouring country Burma is giving all help to us.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : मान्यवर, चाहे मनीपुर हो, नागालैंड हो, मिजोरम हो, सारे नार्थ-ईस्टर्न रीजन में आज असंतोष की बड़ी लहर है । यह बात नि-विवाद है । उसको फौज की बदौलत आप कंट्रोल नहीं कर सकते हैं यदि जनता को अपने साथ नहीं लेते हैं । यह बात ठीक है कि मनीपुर में चीफ मिनिस्टर भी है जैसे जगन्नाथ मिश्र बिहार में हैं, अन्तुले वहां हैं

श्री उप-सभापति : आप सवाल करिए, माषण मत करिए ।

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : मासेज का, नान-आफीशियल्स का, जो देहात में, गांव में रहते हैं, कोआपरेशन की जरूरत है । आप फौज ले जाओगे तो फिर मूठभेड़ें होंगी । कहना नहीं होगा, पुराना इतिहास । दमन के चक्र से दबाना चाहोगे तो जनता बगावत करेगी जनता नहीं मानेगी । आप का तरीका होना चाहिये, शान्ति सेना । शान्ति समितियाँ गांव के लेवल से अपवड्स बनाइये । जयप्रकाश नारायण ने शान्ति

सेना बनाई । उनके प्रयास भी हुए । वह चीज खत्म नहीं होनी चाहिये । आप अपना योगदान देकर जो थोड़ा-बहुत काम हो रहा है शान्ति सेना का उसको बढ़ाइये, गांव लेवल से समितियाँ बनाइये । नान-आफीशियल जनता की, जिसमें विरोधी लोग भी होंगे । उनकी जमात ऊपर तक बनावें । उनको जिम्मे-दारी दें अमनोअमान कायम रखने की । यदि यह आपकी दलील है कि कोई कोआपरेशन नहीं देने वाला है तो आप के दिवालियेपन की हद है । मैं नहीं समझता कि वे लोग कोआपरेट करने के लिये तैयार नहीं हैं । कहने का मतलब है कि भारत की मेन-स्ट्रीम में उनको लाने का पुरजोर प्रयास सरकार की तरफ से नहीं हुआ है । तो आप शान्ति सेना गठन करेंगे । गांव लेवल से ऊपर तक वहां के प्रतिक्रियावादी तत्वों से निपटने के लिये ? दूसरा सवाल , इन्हीं सिक्सथ फाइव इयर प्लान का जिक्र कर दिया कि इतने करोड़ रुपये खर्च कर रहे हैं, रेल लाइन बना रहे हैं, लेकिन वह इलाका ऐसा इलाका है -- चाहे मनीपुर हो, मिजोरम हो या नागालैंड हो -- सारी बेल्ट में फुल एम्प्लायमेंट की नीति चला सकते हैं । यहां खास ध्यान देने की जरूरत है । भारत के ग़ौर इलाकों में भी ध्यान देने की जरूरत है । लेकिन उन इलाकों में फुल एम्प्लायमेंट की नीति सरकार चलाये । इस पर भी मैं आपका ध्यान खीचना चाहता हूं कि जयप्रकाश समिति बनी थी, जिसमें उन्होंने रिकमेंड किया सिक्सटीज में -- पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू भी थे -- कि ऐसे इलाकों में सरकार फुल एम्प्लायमेंट की नीति चलावे । तभी उस का सॉल्यूशन हो सकता है । फुल एम्प्लायमेंट की नीति चलाने में आपको क्या दिक्कत हो रही है ? तीसरा सवाल है । विदेशियों के

भी हाथ है, फिशिंग इन ट्रबुलड वाटर्स, ऊपर से लेकर छांटे तक मिशनरीज के रूप भी। उनका मिशन आगे चलता है, जैसा इतिहास में हुआ है। चाहे मिशन के नाम पर हो, चाहे धर्म के नाम पर हो, उसकी आड़ में पैसे आते हैं और उससे खुराफात होती है। ऐसे लोगों के खिलाफ भी आपने कार्यवाही की है? कितने लोगों को पकड़ा है? चौथा और आखिरी सवाल। करप्शन की बात इन्होंने उठाई। करप्शन बम्बई में भी है, जगन्नाथ मिश्र का भी है— इनके लिये तो यह ग्लोबल फेनोमेनन है; नयी बात नहीं है। फौज में जो अफसर हैं उनमें आफीशियल होमीनेशन की भावना अंग्रेजी जमाने से आ रही है। वहां जो अफसर जायें उनके मानस में भी परिवर्तन की जरूरत है। 1942 में अंग्रेजी फौज दमन के लिये पटना में सड़कों पर आ गयी थी। जनता ने बगावत की तो फौज हटा दी गई, फिर आदिवासी इलाके में अन्दर भेजी गई। तो चाहे फौज हो, चाहे सेक्रेटरी हों, अन्दर सेक्रेटरी हों, जो हों उनके मानस को बदलना होगा। आप इस के लिये कौन से कदम उठा रहे हैं? ये मेरे चार सवाल हैं।

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: Sir, the first thing that I will answer is about the formation of Shanti Sena at the village level. This is really a very good suggestion. In fact, I must tell my hon. friend that our para-military forces are working here. They are, in fact, the shanti sena people working in those areas. Anyway, we will examine your suggestion.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : आल लेवल पर नहीं है।

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: Secondly, Sir, about some foreign elements inside and outside the coun-

try taking interest in our affairs, yes, we have the knowledge about those people and we are taking steps, we are not allowing many people to go and visit those areas and create problems for us.

About full employment, I have said that we have laid special emphasis on those areas so that this unemployment problem is more or less solved there. The basic thing is peace. Unless peace is maintained how can you go ahead with this?

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : इम्प्लायमेंट बढ़ाना और फुल इम्प्लायमेंट देना, इन दोनों में फर्क है।

श्री उपसभापति : उन को पता है इस का।

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: Lastly, Sir, he says that people are not helping, they are not giving help to the army people. This is entirely wrong. Maybe; some misguided elements are there who are creating this sort of belief, but people in general are with us.

SHRIMATI ILA BHATTACHARYA (Tripura): Sir, here I express my deep grief at the incident which occurred in Manipur on 19th February. It is not only the question of killing and attacking of military men, but the extremists snatched away a large number of arms and ammunition. This is a serious matter. We should be anxious about this. The extremists are snatching away all kinds of arms and ammunition. My question to the hon. Minister is, that is it not a disclosure of the fact that some people who are hostile to the Government, are well armed? Otherwise, how is it possible?

श्री अरविन्द गणेश कुलकर्णी (महाराष्ट्र): आप की बहिन कुछ कह रही हैं। आप सुनिए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Deputy Minister is there.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: How is this conversation going on? (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI ILA BHATTACHARYA: Is there no prior information about the plan of action of the extremists to the Government through the State or Central intelligence branch? I think it is due to the sheer negligence on the part of the intelligence branch and weakness of the security arrangements for which the unfortunate military personnel lost their lives, which cannot be compensated at any cost. May I ask the hon. Home Minister, did this incident prove complete failure of your intelligence branch? So far as I know, the extremists are getting support from a section of the people of Manipur. What is the root of this incident? What is the cause that the people of Manipur are discontented for a long time? They are suffering from regional backwardness. I think the Government of India is aware that a small State like Manipur has more than one lakh of unemployed men and women. The road communication is very insufficient. There is no road connection from Delhi to Imphal. The State is economically very backward. Poverty and unemployment have increased in that State after 35 years of Independence. Practically the condition of the people in the entire North-Eastern zone is the same, specially from the very beginning of Independence. So all these causes have made a section of the people of Manipur become frustrated and follow an undesirable path which would not be able to solve the basic problems of life. So I would like to know what steps the Government of India have taken to minimise the frustration, that is to solve the economic problems of the people.

My other point is that political events in a border State like Manipur make a fertile ground for extremists' activities. I know there is a demand for changing the present leadership

of the Government. May I ask the hon. Minister whether it is a fact or not that there is a connection between this demand and the action of the extremists?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: Sir, about the first point regarding intelligence and all that and how it happened, really we are investigating into it and getting reports as to how it happened. I have already stated that we are definitely taking more steps to strengthen the intelligence set-up in this region. How it all happened, we are getting reports and investigation is going on there.

Secondly, whether a section of the people are with the extremists, yes, definitely there are elements who are misguided, who are definitely with the extremist people but this is a minor section which is creating this problem. About regional backwardness. I have already said that we have taken steps, but one thing the hon. lady Member also knows, because she comes from that area, that geographical barrier is there. Even if we wish, we cannot reach there. In some areas we have set up some industries, but it is impossible to take machinery and other things there; it takes time. Anyhow, we are taking all steps there to bring them into the mainstream and to see that development takes place. Once these industries are set up and development takes place, the unemployment problem which is there I know, is likely to be solved.

About politics, I need not answer.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, that will do. Mr. K. C. Pant.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA PANT (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, the Hon. minister said that there were four groups—the Mizo group, the Naga group and the two Meitei groups—which were still active in the insurgency in Manipur. Is it not a fact that over the years the Mizo and Naga groups have practically ceased

to operate actively in Manipur? Is this not the position now? If not, then what is the intensity of activity of these two groups at present in Manipur?

Sir, the central problem just now is the Meitei young people—a group of them, may be a small number—who have been described as misguided—rightly so—and the feeling of alienation amongst them. I would also recall that the Valley of Mahipur was very much in the freedom struggle. Many jail-goers are still living there. Many people went to British jails. Netaji also set foot in Manipur and that too created a tremendous national fervour in Manipur. And culturally, politically, it has been very much in the mainstream of India. Economically there have been problems, and those problems are partly because of geography. The Government is trying to overcome them. Some facts have been given by the Minister and those are relevant facts. But in spite of the special efforts being made, it is a fact today that a section of the young men are feeling so alienated even culturally that they want to change their names. You know, almost everyone among the Meiteis calls himself a “Singh”—Dorendra Singh, Tompok Singh and so on and so forth. Now they want to go back to certain names of the pre-Vaishnavite period. That is the extent of the sense of resentment which they are harbouring. So quite apart from this particular problem of insurgency, about which there cannot be two opinions—insurgency has to be dealt with firmly; secessionists have to be dealt with firmly—there is this deeper aspect of the problem as to why such alienation could have come about in a State which really has been in the mainstream of Indian life. The only major political problem earlier on was the demand for separate Statehood. Once that was granted, that aspiration was satisfied. Yet, even after that we are having this sense

of alienation amongst a section of the youth. I would strongly suggest that this must be analysed. If the Government has already gone deeper into this problem, I would very much like the Minister to enlighten us as to the reasons for this alienation, for this sense of distance, for this desire to consciously distance themselves from the rest of the country. Unless we get to the root of the problem, the Government will not be able to deal with this problem. I entirely agree that law and order problems have to be dealt with as law and order problems. But if you want to prevent them from growing, if you want the disease to be nipped in the bud, if you do not want it to spread, then you have to go into the reasons, and the House would like to know, the country would like to know, the reasons and what the Government is going to do about these reasons. Apart from these, there are two or three specific questions. I hope the Minister will answer these questions. He is a good friend of mine and he has personal knowledge of this area. I am very glad that he is dealing with this question. I hope he answers the questions that I have asked because it will help the country to understand the problems. There are some other minor questions: One is whether the Army alone is dealing with the problem or the Manipur Rifles is also dealing with the problem. Has it been left entirely to the Army to be dealt with? If so, does it not create some problems which can be avoided if the Manipur Rifles also participate in the law and order operations? Secondly, is there any proposal to make Imphal a family station for the army people so that the kind of problems that some Members have mentioned—this question of ladies sometimes complaining, etc.—could be done away with? These army men are operating in very difficult conditions at the risk of their lives and we should pay a tribute to the way in which they are functioning. But if there are black sheep amongst them,

[Shri K. C. Pant]

they should be disciplined. At the same time, I would like to know whether this can be made a family station. Compensation must be paid to the families of those who died. I would like to know how much compensation is paid to the families of those army men who died in this particular raid and in other similar insurgency activities. Then what are the types of arms which they are using? Where do these insurgents get these arms? What is the source of these arms, sten guns and the like? They are not manufactured in the villages. What is the source? What are the markings? Are they Indian markings or foreign markings? Could they have come from the Army? These are the sets of questions for which I would like to have answers. Finally, I would like to know whether any pockets have been formed by the insurgents in the neighbouring countries. He mentioned Chittagong tracts. Those are only tribals who moved into Tripura, as far as I know. I would like to know whether Manipur people, Meiteis, have already established any kind of camps in the country surrounding Manipur, whether it is Bangladesh, whether it is China or whether it is Burma. This is my last question.

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: I think my friend has made my position very easy because he himself was in this position and knows the north-eastern area very well. So I agree with most part of his analysis of the situation there, what he has said about it. The extremist groups of the Meiteis, of the Manipur Valley, their aim is to liberate Manipur through sabotaging and armed revolution. This is their notion. They had sent some youths to Lhasa for training and indoctrination. The main reason for this discontent is the feeling of deprivation—that is what we have analysed—of the superior position enjoyed by other people than these Meitei people. Then the problem of educated unemployment is

also there. Moreover, this unsettled political situation also contributes a little bit to this situation. So these are some of the reasons for the conduct of some of the youths there—he will agree, they are misguided. But this is not the way to achieve things. There are various ways to achieve this thing. There is the talk of extremist nature. Naturally it is the duty of the Government of India to curb the extremists as early as possible. We are taking all steps.

Regarding family stations, whether this area is declared as a family station or not, this particular information is not with me. I shall collect it and supply to my friend. About pockets I have already said...

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA PANT: Compensation.

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: Regarding compensation there are established rules. We cannot forget the sacrifices made by these people who died in action. Sufficient provisions are there. These details are not with me just now. But I know we will take sufficient care of these people, those who die in action. In this regard there should not be any apprehension. We are taking full care of them. We have our knowledge, yes, in Bangladesh area some pockets are there. Some of these are extremist activity shelters. About markings on ammunition, some of these markings we have seen; we have been markings of Chinese may be, these are older ammunition, but we have seen them. It shows that some foreign element are helping them...

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA PANT: When did they go to Lhasa?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: This information we should not disclose.

REFERENCE TO THE REPORTED STUDY BY THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION IN INDIA ABOUT CORRUPTION IN INDIA

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now we go to special mention, Mr. Shiva Chandra Jha.