

ज्ञानो जैल सिंह : चेयरमैन साहब, आपसे प्रार्थना कइंगा कि जो मैंने बातें कही हैं, वह मैं खुश हूँ कि बेशक रिकार्ड में न आये, लेकिन यह भी आप कहिए कि मोदी साहब ने जो कहा है वह रिकार्ड में न आये ।

श्री सभापति : वह भी नहीं आयेगा . .
(Interruptions) मोदी साहब का रिकार्ड नहीं होगा ।

SHRI PILOO MODY: Why should it be expunged?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mody, there will be a clean slate.

(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: अब जब रिकार्ड ही नहीं हो रहा है । Nothing will be recorded, nothing of this disturbance. No names will be mentioned. I will keep this out of the Press also. I will request the Press not to record.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Sir, with due humility, you exceed your powers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not, Mr. Mody. I do not exceed my powers. I have full powers to rule out any irrelevant remark in this House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI (Uttar Pradesh): Only unparliamentary words should be expunged.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will see what is to be expunged. But references to wives and others are very indiscreet here.

DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA (Maharashtra): References to reflections on a Member not knowing the English language and speaking in Hindi is equally deplorable. This should also be expunged

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall remove everything that is unparliamentary and my ruling will be final.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

The situation arising out of the agitation in Assam launched by the all Assam Gana Sangram Parishad and the Students' Union on the issue of Foreign Nationals and the steps taken by Government to remedy the situation.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jha, you have been standing for half an hour. Please sit down now. We are proceeding to another Business. Shri Kalp Nath Rai.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the situation arising out of the agitation in Assam launched by the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad and the Students' Union on the issue of Foreign Nationals and the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): Sir, the prolonged agitation in Assam since September, 1979 over the foreigners' issue has caused us deep distress and concern. The agitation has caused great suffering to innocent citizens and has disrupted normal life and economic activity in Assam and the rest of the country. Practically there have been no classes in schools and colleges for several months in Assam. Developmental activities have received a serious setback and the availability of daily necessities to the common people severely impaired. With the stoppage of refineries in Assam and flow of crude to Barauni, serious shortages in diesel and kerosene have been experienced not only in Assam and the North Eastern region but all over the country. Precious foreign exchange has had to be spent on importing diesel and petroleum and other petroleum products. In the

wake of violent incidents as a result of the agitation, 81 persons have lost their lives and about 15,000 rendered homeless.

Soon after taking office, Prime Minister discussed the Assam situation with the Leaders of Opposition and Groups in Parliament in January, 1980. A delegation of the All Assam Students Union (AASU) met the Prime Minister on the 2nd February. While assuring them that Government was alive to the seriousness of the problem, Prime Minister urged them to call off the agitation. Home Minister continued discussions with AASU on the 4th and 5th February, 1980. Subsequently, he visited Gauhati from 22nd to 24th February and had discussions with representatives of political parties in Assam State Assembly, AASU, all Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP), regional parties, cultural organisations, associations of educationists and many other groups and individuals from different walks of life. Home Minister also held joint meetings with the political parties represented in Assam State Assembly where almost all were of the view that 1971 electoral rolls should be the basis for identifying foreign nationals. The AASU and the MGSP, however, wanted the 1951 National Register of Citizens and the 1952 electoral rolls to be taken as the basis.

In pursuance of her earlier commitment, the Prime Minister held a meeting with the Leaders of Opposition Parties/Groups in Parliament and leaders of political parties represented in Assam State Assembly on the 1st March, 1980. The consensus was in favour of taking 1971 electoral rolls as the basis for identifying names of foreign nationals, though some even suggested a later date. The all-party meeting issued an appeal for restoration of normalcy in the State and urged upon the agitators to call off the agitation.

At the request of the AASU, PM met them for the second time on the 7th March, 1980. She again assured them that Government shared the apprehensions of the people of Assam and advised them that they should call off the agitation so that an atmosphere conducive to finding practical solutions to their problems could be created. As the students wanted further discussions, the Home Minister met them on the 8th, 10th, 11th and 12th March, 1980. At the request of the students, representatives of the AAGSP were also invited to join the discussions from the 10th March, 1980 which they did.

After detailed and extensive discussions, an understanding emerged on the 11th March that a solution to the problem would have to be found within the framework of the Constitution. It was also agreed that further discussions between the representatives of the Government and the AASU and the AAGSP would continue for determining the modalities and that these discussions would be completed within a period of about two months. On their part, AASU and AAGSP were to call off the agitation. However, after the preparation of the draft of the understanding, the two organisations had some second thoughts. Consequently, no agreed understanding could emerge.

Notwithstanding several rounds of discussions at the Prime Minister and Home Minister's level and the all-party appeal issued, the agitation in Assam has not yet been called off. On the other hand, the Government have initiated a series of measures to effectively deal with the problem of foreign nationals. These include the following:

- (i) deployment of additional Border Security Forces on Assam-Bangladesh border. As against 2½ battalion strength, an additional 4½ battalion has been deployed; thereby increasing the number of border posts from 48 to 71;

[Shri Yogendra Makwana]

(ii) strengthening of vigilance on Meghalaya-Tripura sector of the Indo-Bangladesh border in a phased manner;

(iii) strengthening of riverine police which will facilitate interception of infiltrators by the river route;

(iv) introduction of identity cards with photographs for all voters in Assam and in the North Eastern region;

(v) Government of Assam to take adequate measures to ensure that encroachment on forests and other Government lands are prevented effectively; and

(vi) Government of Assam to formulate suitable legislative proposals to prevent acquisition of property by foreign nationals.

Government is keeping a close watch on the situation. Government is determined that while genuine grievances of people of Assam should be looked into with sympathy and understanding, it has to ensure that Indian nationals are not harassed and that the interests of religious and linguistic minorities are adequately protected and that they do not suffer from any sense of insecurity. The apprehension of neighbouring States must also be kept in view. All necessary arrangements to maintain law and order have been made. It is expected that saner counsels will prevail amongst the organisations who are behind the agitation and they would call off the agitation so that normalcy is restored.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I request Mr. Kalp Nath Rai to address the House, I want to say that we have decided to rise at 1.30 and to limit the lunch also to half an hour today. But as a considerable time of the House was wasted—I would not like to say “wasted”, probably Mr. Kulkarni will not agree on the word “wasted”, so I would say utilised—for bringing in Special Mentions tomorrow, I would request everybody to confine himself

to five minutes, so that as many speakers as possible may get a chance. Please stick to the schedule of five minutes.

SHRI KALYAN ROY (West Bengal): The time limit should be for every one.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Five minutes for every one. Now Mr. Kalp Nath Rai.

(Mr. Deputy Chairman in the Chair)

श्री कल्प नाथ राय : आदरणीय उप-सभापति महोदय, प्रधानमंत्री ने आसाम की समस्या के हल के लिए जो कदम उठाया है और देश के सभी विरोधी दलों के नेताओं को बुला कर आसाम की समस्या को हल करने की कोशिश की है उस के लिए हम उन को बधाई देना चाहते हैं। लेकिन आज जो देश के अन्दर और आसाम में हो रहा है उस को देखते हुए मेरे जैसे आदमी के मन को बहुत ग्लानि हो रही है। आज मैं गृह मंत्री महोदय से यह चाहता हूँ कि आसाम की समस्या को लेकर जो जनघाती और राष्ट्रघाती ताकतें इस देश को तोड़ने का कुचक्र कर रही हैं, ऐसी ताकतों को कुचलने के लिए देश के सभी विरोधी दलों को और सरकार को राष्ट्रीय मतैक्य के आधार पर आसाम की समस्या का हल ढूँढना चाहिए।

उपसभापति महोदय, क्या कारण है कि श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी के सत्ता में आने के पहले से ही असम में एक विस्फोटक स्थिति पैदा हो गयी थी। असम के लोग जो हिन्दुस्तान के राष्ट्रीय आंदोलन के दौर से हमेशा से जुटे रहे हैं और असम ने हिन्दुस्तान की आजादी की लड़ाई में भी एक बहुत बड़ी भूमिका निभायी है, आज उसी असम के अंदर जनघाती और राष्ट्र-घाती ताकतें अपना सिर उठा रही हैं।

मैं सरकार से यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि वह इस समस्या को हल करने के लिये ठोस एवं समयबद्ध कदम उठाये तभी इस समस्या को हल किया जा सकता है।

उसभापति महोदय, मैं तीन चार सवाल आदरणीय मूह मंत्री जी से करना चाहता हूँ। क्या यह सही नहीं है कि असम में विभाजन के बाद से ही गैर-हिन्दुस्तानियों को गैर-कानूनी ढंग से असम में आने जाने की सुविधायें मिलती रही हैं? क्या यह सही नहीं है कि बंगला देश के बनने के बाद से ही इस आने जाने वाले लोगों की संख्या में भारी बढ़ो-त्तरी की गयी है? क्या यह सही नहीं है कि गोरखा भाषी नेपालियों की भी बड़ी संख्या में वहाँ घुसपैठ जारी है? क्या यह बात सही नहीं है कि सरकार असम की समस्या को हल करने के लिये सभी विरोधी दलों से बात चीत करने के सिलसिले को जारी रखना चाहती है और क्या असम की बेकारी की समस्या को हल करने के लिये असम के आर्थिक विकास के लिये कोई ठोस एवं समयबद्ध कार्यक्रम सरकार अपना रही है और क्या नेहरू-लियाकत पैकट एवं इन्दिरा गांधी मुजबूरहमान पैकट के अंतर्गत सरकार असम में कार्यवाही करने जा रही है? आदरणीय उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा निवेदन है कि असम हमेशा से राष्ट्रीय आजादी की लड़ाई में भाग लेता रहा। गोरीनाथ बारदोली जो असम के मुख्य मंत्री थे उन के नेतृत्व में और महात्मा गांधी के दिखाये रास्ते पर असम के लोगों ने देश की आजादी की लड़ाई को लड़ा और असमी जनता ने राष्ट्रीय ध्वरा के साथ मिल कर काम किया। लेकिन क्या कारण है कि 32 साल के बाद असम के अंदर असमी, गैर-असमी ट्राइबल गैर-ट्राइबल हिन्दुस्तानी, गैर-हिन्दुस्तानी का झगड़ा सिर उठा रहा है और वहीं एक

ऐसी विस्फोटक स्थिति पैदा हो रही है? अभी श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी के सत्ता में आने के पहले वहाँ त्रिपुरा के चीफ सेक्रेटरी श्री अनिल दास ने बयान दिया कि विदेशी ताकतें असम में अपना कुचक्र चला रही हैं जिसके कारण असम में यह स्थिति पैदा हो गयी है। उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने यह ध्यानाकर्षण प्रस्ताव इसलिये दिया कि मेरे क्षेत्र के कुछ लोग असम में रहते हैं। असम में दंगे होने के कारण उस क्षेत्र से भाग कर अपने इलाके में वे आये इसलिये कि असम में इस प्रकार की अराजकता की स्थिति पैदा हो गयी है। इसलिये मैंने आपका ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित कराया। उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं चाहता हूँ कि सरकार विरोधी दलों से और बात करे और विरोधी दलों से भी मेरी प्रार्थना है खास कर कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी, मार्क्सवादी कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी लोक दल और जनता पार्टी से कि इस सवाल को वह राजनीति का सवाल बना कर न देखें, इसको वे एक राष्ट्रीय सवाल के रूप में स्वीकार करें और असम को रिप्रेजेंट करने वाले सभी सेक्शनस आफ ओपीनियन के लोगों को राउन्ड टेबिल कांफ्रेंस में दिल्ली में बुला कर आपसी बात चीत के जरिये इस समस्या को हल किया जाय और मैं सरकार से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जब तक असम की समस्या का निराकरण नहीं हो जाता है, तब तक बातचीत लगातार जारी रहनी चाहिए। उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज यह कहा गया है कि वर्ष 1971 को हम आधार मानेंगे कि वहाँ के रहने वाले हिन्दुस्तानी हैं या गैर-हिन्दुस्तानी हैं। उधर से कहा गया है कि 1951 को हम मुख्य तिथि मानेंगे कि 1951 के बाद जो असम में गये हैं उन को वे लोग विदेशी मानते हैं, फारेन नेशनल मानते हैं। तो असम की विद्यार्थी परिषद् 1951 को आधार मानना चाहती है और सरकार की ओर से 1971 को वह बेसिस माना गया है, तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि 1961 में जो

[श्री कल्प नाथ राय]

संसद असम में हुई जिस के अंतर्गत असम में जनगणना की गयी क्या असम के सभी दलों के लोग, असम के सभी प्रतिनिधियों और भारत सरकार दोनों मिल कर क्या इस समस्या को हल करने के लिये तैयार हैं ? उसे आधार वर्ष मान लेना चाहिए । आज असम के संकट से पूरे देश में संकट पैदा हो गया है ।

उपसभापति महोदय, असम की रिफाइनरी के बन्द होने से दोलाख टन डीजल नहीं आया है और 50 हजार टन किरसीन नहीं आया है जिस के कारण राज्य में ही नहीं पूरे देश में डीजल की कम पैदा हो गई है । उसके कारण खेती के विकास का भविष्य भी चौपट हो गया है । तो मैं सरकार से यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि सभी विरोधी दलों के प्रतिनिधियों के साथ बातचीत की जाए । असम राष्ट्रीय धारा में हमेशा से रहा है, असम के लोगों की राष्ट्रीयता को मद्दे नजर रखते हुए इस समस्या का हल ढूढने के लिए तुरन्त उपाय किये जायें और असम के चतुर्दिक् विकास सर्वांगीण विकास आर्थिक विकास के लिए और वहां की बेकारी की समस्या को हल करने के लिए सभी दलों के प्रतिनिधियों से बातचीत की जाए ताकि वहां का चतुर्दिक् विकास हो सके, ताकि वह भी यह अनुभव कर सके कि वे हिन्दुस्तान के रहने वाले हैं । जब तक राष्ट्रीय धारा में असम के लोगों का प्रवेश नहीं कराया जाता तब तक राष्ट्रीय एकता के लिए खतरा रहेगा । इसलिए आदरणीय गृह मंत्री जी से निवेदन है कि वह उसका हल निकाले सब के साथ बातचीत के माध्यम से और इस समस्या को हल करें ।

श्री योगेन्द्र मकवाना : माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य की भावनाओं का आदर करता हूँ और जो

जो मुझाव उन्होंने दिये हैं उन पर विचार किया जाएगा ।

जहां तक फारेनर्स का मवाल है, इसकी फिगर्स मेरे पास हैं 1952 से लेकर अगस्त 1979 तक वह मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ ।

The number of infiltrators detected 3,71,861; number of infiltrators prosecuted: 30,610; total number of infiltrators deported: 3,10,870.

AN. HON. MEMBER: Period?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: I said it is from 1952 to 1979. This is the period. I do not want to take much time of the House and, therefore, I have not gone year-wise. If the hon. Member wants I can go year-wise. I have given the total figure. So, the Government is working on it.

The hon. Member rightly said that the Government should initiate with the students and other institutions of Assam. The Government is constantly in touch with them and we are constantly negotiating with the students and with other political parties of Assam. He rightly pointed out that the Prime Minister should call an all-party meeting. It was done, Sir. The Prime Minister met all the party leaders in Parliament, all parties and groups as well as parties represented in the State Assembly. She met them on the 1st March, 1980 and deliberations took place. They issued an appeal. It was an unanimous appeal. There was no opposition. It was an unanimous appeal issued by the members of all the political parties of this country and every effort is made by the Government in this respect. I can assure the hon. Member that we are not going to leave any stone unturned in this respect.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Assam): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that 81 persons lost their lives and thousands were rendered homeless. Sir, I condemn any violence that took place in

Assam and we want that all those persons who have been rendered homeless or have become victims of violence should be given all sort of assistance that one can give under the circumstances. I am also happy that the Central Government and the Prime Minister of India have taken a patient attitude to solving this problem because the problem in the situation in Assam is extremely delicate and, extremely sensitive today.

Sir, it is not only the Central Government that is eager to have a solution to the problem, I may point out that the people of Assam are more eager to have a solution because, as he has rightly pointed out, it is the people of Assam who are suffering mainly the burden of this agitation. It is true that normal life in Assam, to a great extent, has been paralysed. Prices have gone skyrocketing. But may I also point out that the people of Assam are bearing this burden with a smile because they feel that the problem has been allowed to drift from year to year in such a manner that if a solution is not found adequately after such an agitation which has dragged on for six months, the solution will evade and escape us for ever? And, therefore, I am happy that the hon. home Minister has said—and the Prime Minister has said in the other House—that nothing will be done to aggravate the situation. There can be two ways by which the situation may be aggravated. One has been the call of a counter-movement by the Bengal Congress (I). Sir, I do not want to comment on that counter-movement—I hope my Bengal friends will do it—because I do not think it is proper for me to make a comment. It is some seal and taken by a politics party of Bengal. But I must express my anxiety over the fact that the Tribune office in Calcutta was ransacked badly yesterday. It has very serious consequences in the sense that the Prime objective of those persons who are launching this counter-movement is to protect the

Bengali people in Assam. May I request and urge upon this House and also the friends of the Congress (I)—who undoubtedly do not support this movement—that such a counter-movement will not help the Bengali friends in Assam and will create some bitterness. I feel even in the interest of the Bengali people there that such a counter-movement is not going to help. The second point which I want to make is that Mr. Subroto Mukherjee is a very respected leader of the ruling party.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: General Secretary.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Therefore, when such a movement is taken up by the ruling party, it gives an impression as if the ruling party has some sort of direct or indirect support for it. I am very happy that the Prime Minister has made the position clear. But I hope that even in this House the Government will make it emphatically clear that it has no support for such type of move and that the movement has been taken up some persons who have taken it up individually at their own risk without the support of the Government or the party which is in power.

(Time bell rings)

Sir, I hope you will give me indulgence for five minutes. The point that is now in dispute and for which the solution has not been found is—the Home Minister may bear me out—that during the talks with the Assam Students' Union and the Gana Sangram Parishad both these organs showed a clear desire to come to a solution, but the solution has escaped us because on one side the Gana Sangram Parishad and the Assam Students Union have said that 1951 should be the cut-off date, on the other the Government is insisting on 1971 as the cut-off date. I have found a contradiction in the stand of the Government in the sense that the draft which they prepared for the discussion—of which I have got a copy with me and to which reference has being made by Mr. Makwana—

[Shri Dinesh Goswami]

says that the solution will be found within the framework of the Indian Constitution. When you say that the solution will be within the framework of the Indian Constitution, 1971 must have relevance to the constitutional provisions. I have gone through the entire Constitution, but I do not find any constitutional provision giving some amount of sanction to 1971. If the constitutional sanction is not there, you cannot have unanimity of opinion. Some political parties and unfortunately those who are responsible, including myself, for creating such a situation cannot give sanctity to this matter. I also want to place this thing before the Home Minister. You had a meeting with all the political parties. That is correct. But some of the Members of the Rajya Sabha who are taking keen interest and do not belong to political parties and are unattached Members were not called. I think it was the duty of the Government to invite us to the meeting so that we could also give our suggestions; whether they would have been accepted or not is a different matter. The point is that 1971 does not have any sanction of the Constitution. The Indira-Mujib Treaty also does not refer to 1971 at all. After the Indira-Mujib Treaty, there was an agreement—I think in September, 1972—between the two Rehabilitation Ministers, which says that the people after the 25th of March, 1971, will be taken back by Bangladesh. Now this has not changed the constitutional position. This cannot. No Treaty even when made by the Prime Minister can change the constitutional provision, unless a treaty in a proper legislative form is brought in the House and gets support of two-thirds majority of the House. It must be remembered that this agreement and understanding between the two Rehabilitation Ministers has not been placed in Parliament. The main point is that it has not been placed nor has any ratification for it been sought in Parliament because the

Treaty in any way has not changed the constitutional position. Under the Constitution, whoever is a foreigner remains a foreigner, irrespective of this Treaty. The only point that is resolved is this. Well, supposing we decide to identify these people and the problem arises as to where do we send them, then at least the Treaty helps us to that extent, that so far as the period from 1971 onwards right up to 1980 is concerned, at least there is an understanding with Bangladesh that they will take back their people. Therefore, this may be relevant for the purpose of deportation but not for the purpose of identification. And so when the Government is talking on the one hand that the situation should be resolved within the framework of the Constitution but at the same time talking of 1971, it bites me.

My time is short. I would like to know this. My approach is entirely different. As said, I want a solution. I would like to say that when the negotiations are going on the approach should be different. The students are asking for 1951 because it has some Constitutional sanction. But I know that there will be practical difficulties if we take 1951 as the cut-off date. This should be argued and discussed. Is it possible to take 1951 realistically when we allowed this problem to freeze for 30 years. So, it should be discussed and we should come to 1961. 1961 may be the very very acceptable date. I feel that there should be no ground why 1961 should not be acceptable to them. Keeping in mind the difficulties it compels us to go from 1951 to 1961. This is my own personal view. I am not reflecting the view either of the students union or of the Gana Sangram Parishad.

Now I have some question to ask. Sir, my first question will be this. I had a brief talk with the Home Minister, and he has pleased to tell me that the Home Ministry was deputing some officers to Assam to have a further round of talks. I would like

to know from him when he is deputing them. I want those officers should go as early as possible and preferably within seven days or so. Now I would like to know one point. I have got a circular with me which says that the Government of India instructed the State Government not to issue citizenship certificates to any one who has come after 1971. Is it a fact? In such a case, has it come to his notice that citizenship certificates have been issued contrary to the circular by many Governments to different kinds of persons?

My third question is whether the Government wants to have a solution within the framework of the Constitution and the laws as exist today. This is the primary point where we are differing because 1971 and the existing law and the Constitutional provision do not fit in together.

My fourth point is that I hope that he will also like to see that no steps are taken at the present moment to create a law and order problem. I am not saying that indefinitely you can go on. But what I would urge upon the Government is that negotiations should take place immediately and that before the next round of negotiations begins, at whatever level they may be, the Government should see that it does not take any measure by which the situation in the State may be aggravated.

Sir, I do not want to say anything further. I only wish and pray that in the interest of the country as well as in the interest of the State a rational solution acceptable to the people of Assam and also to the Government of Assam is found, and I am sure that if the Government has the will, it will be able to find a way out for its solution. That is undoubtedly the prayer of all of us who have assembled here to discuss this very very sensitive and important subject.

Thank you for giving me this indulgence in time.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: I can appreciate and understand the feelings of the hon. Member. He is rightly concerned about the situation there and he has rightly said that the economy has gone to shambles in Assam. The Government is, therefore, trying its best to settle this issue.

Some questions have been put by my friend. I will try to reply to them. So far as the officers are concerned, they will be going as early as possible.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Can you give us some time-limit if you can? Give the outer time-limit.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Within a very short time. I can say.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will they carry passports?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Do not be sarcastic at least on this issue. So far as the cut-off line is concerned, I will tell this august body that at the all party meeting on the 1st of March it was a consensus among all the leaders assembled there that it should be 1971. But that is not decided. It is still under 1 P.M. negotiations. The Government is negotiating with the leaders of Assam and the political parties. So it is still open. So far as the constitutional position is concerned, he is learned lawyer . . .

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I am not learned. I am a lawyer

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: He has said about the constitutional position. But, at the same time, we have to look to certain international treaties. We have certain international obligations also. And these require to be looked into. We have to take into consideration all these aspects and then decide the issue. So, I request my friend not to forget about these treaties and other aspects which affect us internationally. What was the third point?

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: That the Government will not take any steps by which the scope of the negotiations may be affected or the situation may be aggravated.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: The Government has no intention to take any action which will aggravate the situation there. And he was asking me about the counter-movement in Bengal. Sir, the Government is not in favour of any step which would increase tension or aggravate the situation in any way in Assam or elsewhere in the country.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA (Assam): Sir, the Minister of State for Home Affairs has mentioned, while replying certain measures which have been taken in their attempt to solve the problem of foreign nationals in Assam. Now Sir, the steps that have been mentioned by the Minister are the steps to be taken afterwards, after we decide the question of who are Indian citizens in that territory and who are foreigners. Unless and until we decide that issue, the question of issuing identity-cards or any other measure has got no meaning whatsoever. Therefore, the debate is going on about certain cut-off years. I do not understand how these questions can come in. Now, for instance, when the question of 1951 or 1952 comes, it has got a certain constitutional basis. We cannot, first of all, accuse the movement of being secessionist and anti-national and, at the same time, want to impose a solution which has got no constitutional basis. So we must start from the basis of the Constitution and the other laws in the country. Now, if we consider it from that point of view, the only basis is 1951. This basis of 1951 was urged by Prime Minister Nehru and also by the United Congress Party in the Assembly in Assam. But now, possibly for some political reasons, to be more specific, for reasons of obtaining the votes of certain groups, things have changed. The insistence on 1977 has no relevance because the

Indira-Mujib pact does not mention about this issue whatsoever. Now I will just read out a few lines from a circular issued by the Government of India to the Government of Assam on this issue. If we take it as the basis, then we cannot hold 1971 as the cut-off year. I will just read out a portion of the letter issued by the Government of India—Letter No. 26011/16/71 IC, dated 29-11-1971. It reads like this.

“Refugees who have crossed over to India from East Bengal since the 25th March, 1971 on account of the situation in that area cannot be treated as ordinarily resident in India. They are expected to return to their native places when conditions permit. They should not be considered for registration as Indian citizens under section 5(1) (a) of the Citizenship Act, 1955, read with the Citizenship Rule of 1956. If such a refugee has made an application to the Collectors who are the prescribed authority for the purposes of registration as Indian citizens under section 5(1) (a) of the Citizenship Act, such application should be rejected.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: What is the date of the letter?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA: 29th November, 1971. I shall give you a copy of it.

The things are very clear. The whole Assam movement would not have started at all if at that time, in the beginning, the Government of India had listened to saner voices. The demand was to correct the electoral rolls. The Chief Election Commissioner himself says that if we do not take drastic action to correct the electoral roll, Assam will be inhabited by a majority of foreigners by 1991. It was his clear written statement. He suggested drastic steps to the Home Ministry. When the people of Assam demanded it and with the change of Government. The Chief Election Commissioner also changed his position and the whole

problem was created. Today we appreciate the efforts of the Government of India to solve the problem. But these issues and cut-off years should not be brought in unnecessarily. What I want to specifically point out is that the first and foremost necessity in that area is the compilation of a national register of citizens. Without that it will be impossible to find any permanent solution. You cannot prepare the voters' list without a national register. First of all, a national register on the basis of the Constitution, of the Citizenship Act and on the basis of the Foreigners' Act and on the basis of the Representation of the People's Act should be prepared and after that the electoral roll can be easily prepared on the basis of this register. If the Government has the will and if they want it, they can complete it in three or four months' time. I would urge upon the Government to take up this particular issue.

In this connection I would like to put a few questions before the Minister. Firstly, is the Government considering the question of compiling a national register of citizens in that area? Secondly, will the electoral rolls we prepared on the basis of such a national register? Third, is the Government going to make a thorough enquiry into certain spots like the big railway stations which have turned out to be pockets of foreign nationals in that area?

I have received some answer in regard to Narainpur atrocity. The Home Minister has given the replies and his replies have given details about the Narainpur incident. But the reply on the question of North Kamrup atrocity was just an attempt to avoid the whole issue and there is no mention of any enquiry. Many issues have been raised in this House about Dr. Maitra's killing and atrocities including cases of raping. True, it is a great tragedy. But the people and the House must know why and

how this firing took place which resulted in the death of several placeful picketers and ultimately of Dr. Maitra. I want to know whether you are going to make a thorough enquiry about the atrocities in North Kamrup village and the raping of a woman and the firing in Duliajan. Are you going to have a judicial enquiry about it? I would like to know this from the Home Minister.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA:

Sir, I do not understand why the honourable Members harping on the cut-off year when I repeatedly said that there are different views prevailing regarding this cut-off year and when all the leaders of all the political parties give to us certain consensus. He is going behind that also. But I said in the beginning that it is open and it can be even 1977 as suggested by some leaders of the political parties. So, this issue we should not insist upon . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI SADASIV BAGAITKAR (Maharashtra): Who suggested 1977?

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Let not this 1977 come in the record.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: It must come in the record.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: I did not say '1977' . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA: Please do not confuse the issue.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: I only wanted to point out that there is no year fixed. There is no year fixed and unnecessarily he is harping on it and, therefore, I said that this is a very sensitive issue and we should not discuss it and we should not discuss the year particularly here in this House.

Sir, he has raised some questions. One is regarding the preparation of the national register and the electoral rolls. All this is part of the process and whosoever is a foreigner

[Shri Yogendra Makwana]

according to the law, we are deporting. But, when the agitation is going on, nothing specific can be said here in this House and we cannot say anything because we do not want to aggravate the situation in Assam, or elsewhere in this country.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA: Sir, there are two other questions that I have put. One is about the inquiry into the incidents in North Kamrup. What about that?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: The inquiry the Government is conducting and those who are responsible will be dealt with, but not now, because now the situation is very grave and the present time to take any action against anybody will certainly aggravate the situation.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA: Is any inquiry in action? I want to know whether any inquiry is in action, whether any inquiry is going on to assuage the people's mind. Is it not a part of the attempt to solve this problem?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir, I do not wish to say anything on this issue at present because I do not want that anything that transpires here creates some complications and problems there. My learned friend should understand that this is a very sensitive issue. As he comes from Assam, he knows what the condition is which is prevailing there and, in such a condition, it will be difficult to commit anything here in this House.

SHRI ALEXANDER WARJRI (Meghalaya): Sir, I agree with the Minister of State when he says that the situation is very grave. If the Government had acted ten months back, the situation would not have been such as it is now. Now, the problems of Assam and Meghalaya are not so difficult as they appear. I think it is the Government, it is the people dealing with it, who have made them complex. The demands of the students

and of the Assam Gana Sangram Parishad are very simple and the Minister knows them very well and I am not going to repeat all those demands now. Now, the illegal presence of the foreigners in any part of the country, not to speak of the border areas and the sensitive areas like Assam and Meghalaya, is not only not desirable, but is also dangerous to the country as a whole.

Now, Sir, this illegal entry by people from foreign countries to the north-east was from Bangladesh and Nepal and most of them have no passports or visas. I do not understand why a certain section of the people in our country should feel aggrieved because of the agitation in Assam and Meghalaya. Now, the Assamese people are composed of different ethnic groups. They are composed of Ahoms, Kacharis, Bengalis, people from UP, Bihar and other parts of the country. These are the people who are part and parcel of the movement. Now they call themselves Assamese. I do not understand why some people call this a communal riot or as a communal movement. Is it not enough there should be expulsion of foreigners according to the Foreigners' Act and other Acts? I would suggest that no cut-out line should be fixed. If a man is a foreigner, he should be expelled if he has entered the country illegally.

I would like to draw the attention of the Minister regarding Meghalaya where a similar situation is prevailing. On the 1st February, 1980, I wrote a letter to the Prime Minister asking her to meet also the leaders and students from Meghalaya who are also agitating on the same lines as Assam. But so far no action has been taken. I have not so far received even an acknowledgement letter to my letter which I wrote on the 1st February, 1980. Also I suggest that the Government takes the MPs. from these two States into confidence and discuss the possibility of restoring

peace and order in these two States. Who knows that we may perhaps find a way out to solve this problem? We are really aggrieved. We have not even been consulted once on this problem, although we have been taking the floor... (*Time bell rings*)... so often to discuss this problem. Of course, I agree with the Minister who said just now about the international agreement. There should be a humanitarian approach. One question, however, I would ask: Why should only Assam and Meghalaya be the dustbin for these refugees? Why not other States also share this?... (*Time bell rings*) It is not right. Other States also should take the responsibility and these refugees be distributed all over the country. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: There is no specific question from the hon. Member.

SHRI BIPINPAL DAS (Assam): May I ask a simple question? The Home Minister is here. Is it a fact...

SHRI KALYAN ROY: On a point of order. It is very unfair. Our names are there, and we have also to ask questions... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: He belongs to Assam.

SHRI BIPINPAL DAS: I am helping you... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIPINPAL DAS: Is it a fact that during the last negotiations with the agitation leaders a proposal came from the leaders of the agitation that let us not mention any cut-off point and let us simply say that within the bounds of the Constitution, in accordance with the existing laws and in terms of the international agreements, the foreigners will be detected, identified and deported? Is it true that this proposal came from their side? If so, what was the reaction of the Government to this proposal? Secondly, if Government's response is positive towards this, will the Govern-

ment resume negotiations immediately on that basis?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: So far as the first question is concerned, it is correct that the proposal came like that, and we accepted it also. Even now we are prepared for it. We are still prepared to continue the negotiations.

SHRI BIPINPAL DAS: You can call them immediately for this purpose.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: We can do it.

SHRI ALEXANDER WARJRI: Why not take the Members of Parliament into confidence while dealing with these matters?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir, the leaders of all the political parties were called. Their representatives definitely came.

SHRI ALEXANDER WARJRI: We do not belong to any political parties?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: He says that some Independents were left out. He is right. But all the political parties and groups were called.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: On a point of order, Sir. Even now three or four names are left. We gave our names at 10.00 o'clock today. Will it be taken up after lunch?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will continue with it up to 1.30.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will it be taken up after lunch?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Then you should control the time. You allowed two minutes even to Mr. Bipinpal Das. Is it fair? There should be fairness. You allowed him to intrude. He was never in the picture. We gave our names at 10 o'clock and we were assured...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let us use the time that we have with us. Mr. Chairman was very clear about it.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Then you should ration the time. You should not have allowed everybody to speak. This partisan attitude is not expected from you. You should have allowed everybody two or three minutes. You did not do it. I am compelled to say that the names which are already there should be allowed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think we have to adjourn at 1.30.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Then you take it up after lunch. Our names are there. People whose names are not there have been allowed. You allowed others to take 10 minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are also speaking out of order without any rhyme or reason.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Everybody should get an opportunity.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Are you taking it after lunch?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, we will not take it after 1.30.

SHRI SITA RAM KESRI (Bihar): It was the understanding that Assam could be discussed for more than two hours and Assam was discussed yesterday for more than two hours. It was the understanding that today's Calling Attention will not be given so much time. My submission is that Assam has been discussed very extensively.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KALYAN ROY: I am definitely on a point of order and on a point of procedure. The question is that our names were accepted. We have been waiting since 10 o'clock. You have not distributed the time on that basis. You allowed some people to speak for 10 or 7 minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have already taken 15 minutes.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Under what procedure have you allowed Mr. Bipinpal Das to speak. Why should I not get my time?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you do not want to cooperate, you can as well say so.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: It is mutual. It cannot be one-sided. We are very seriously concerned about the problem. 3,000 families have...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(SHRI KALYAN ROY continued to speak)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is not going on record. Mr. Bagaitkar, please.

श्री सदाशिव बागाईकर: उपसभापति महोदय,

(SHRI KALYAN ROY continued to speak)

SHRI VISWANATHA MENON (Kerala): Sir, let the lunch hour be taken away. Let the discussion go on up to 2 o'clock.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: For that also, there has to be co-operation from the Members.

SHRI VISWANATHA MENON: Sir, this is a very sensitive thing as you know. We, belonging to all the parties, have to make our submissions. We must be given a chance. So, my proposal that there should be no lunch hour be accepted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Even that will need self-restraint from the Members.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: You ring the bell and we will sit down.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nobody does that. Everyone will go on speaking. If the House does not co-operate, what is to be done?

श्री सदाशिव बागाईतकर : उप-सभापति जी, असम समस्या के बारे में . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Again I will remind the Members that unless they co-operate and in two or three minutes make their submissions, we will not be able to finish the list. At 2 o'clock this is definitely going to come to an end. Please keep this in mind.

श्री सदाशिव बागाईतकर : उप-सभापति जी, असम के बारे में जो मसला हमारे सामने है, राज की परिस्थिति में उसकी पृष्ठभूमि में दो तीन बातें हैं। असम में यह सवाल फिर से उभरा है। इसलिए कि गये दो तीन दिन में कलकत्ता में जो घटनायें हुई हैं उनके बारे में प्रधान मंत्री जी का जो बयान है उसका मैं स्वागत करूंगा कि ऐसी कोई चीज नहीं होनी चाहिए जिससे मामला और पेचीदा हो जाए।

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri A. G. Kulkarni) in the Chair]

श्रीमन्, मैं आपका ध्यान एक दूसरे बयान की तरफ आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा जो बंगाल के एक दूसरे नेता श्री पी० सी० सेन साहब ने फरमाया है। पी० सी० सेन ने फरमाया है—

—Violence is better than cowardice.

मैं इस सवाल को इसलिए उठा रहा हूँ कि असम के सवाल में मेरी दिलचस्पी है, स्वतंत्रता संग्राम का एक सिपाही होने के नाते मैं खतरा देख रहा हूँ कि अगर असम के सवाल को ठीक ढंग से हल नहीं किया गया तो यह प्रदेश ही नहीं, पूरा नार्थ ईस्टर्न इंडिया उससे अलग हो सकता है। उसका खतरा उत्पन्न हो गया है। इसलिये मैं चाहूंगा कि यह मसला जो लम्बे अरसे से चला आ रहा है उसका कोई सही हल निकालें।

(Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. G. KULKARNI): You have only to ask questions.

SHRI SADASIV BAGAITKAR: Sir, I have not even begun yet. My time was wasted. I cannot help it. You have allowed me five minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. G. KULKARNI): I think you were here when the Deputy Chairman ruled that every Member should co-operate and only ask for clarifications and take not more than two or three minutes. I think you will co-operate with me.

SHRI SADASIV BAGAITKAR: Yes, I will co-operate with you.

मैं इस पर भाषण नहीं देने जा रहा हूँ। मैं सिर्फ एक बात आपके सामने पेश करना चाहता हूँ कि असम का जो मसला है वह ज्यादा पेचीदा नहीं होना चाहिए और इसके लिए सरकार को देश के विधान के अन्तर्गत उसका फैसला करना चाहिए। यह पोलिटिकल कंप्रोमाइज का सवाल नहीं है। जो बात मेरे मित्र श्री विपिनपाल दास ने कही है, अगर वह सही है तो उस चौखटे के अन्दर सही-सही फैसला करना चाहिए।

अभी राज्य मंत्री जी ने यहां आंकड़े पेश किये कि 1952 से अब तक डिपोर्टेशन के केसेज इतने हैं। जो केसेज बताये हैं वह सही नहीं हैं। असम का मामला ऐसा है कि एक तरफ से लोगों को भेजा जाता है और दूसरी तरफ से वह अन्दर आ जाते हैं तो आपके आंकड़े कोई माने नहीं रखते हैं। जब तक हिन्दुस्तान के सिटीजन की जो व्याख्या है उसको लेकर आप व्याख्या नहीं करेंगे, तब तक हल निकलने वाला नहीं है।

दूसरे यह मामला ला एण्ड आर्डर का नहीं है, राजनीतिक नेतृत्व की बहुत बड़ी जरूरत है, जिम्मेदारी है, खास कर शासक दल की बहुत बड़ी जिम्मेदारी है। उनके जो लोग हैं चाहे असम में हों या बंगाल में हो अगर हैं चाहे असम में हों या बंगाल में

[श्री सदाशिव बागाईतकार]

जो स्टेटमेंट सुब्रतो मुखर्जी साहब का आया है उसको देख कर मेरे दिमाग पर यह प्रभाव पड़ा है कि इस मामले को उठा कर राजनीतिक अस्थिरता बंगाल में पैदा कर लॉ एण्ड आर्डर सिचुएशन पैदा हो गई है, इसलिए यहां प्रेसिडेंट रूल होना जरूरी है अगर ऐसी उनकी सोच है तो बहुत गम्भीरता बात होगी। इसलिए राजनीतिक स्तर पर भी उनको आगाह करना होगा कि ऐसी किसी बात में सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट उनका साथ नहीं देगी।

(Interruptions)

I am raising these issues for answer. Another question is:

प्रधानमंत्री जी के बयान का मैंने स्वागत किया है, उसके बावजूद जो सुब्रतो मुखर्जी का बयान फिर आया है।

जो गण संग्राम परिषद् के विद्यार्थी नेता हैं उनके साथ दिल्ली में जो बातचीत चली उसको समयबद्ध रखिये, उसे लम्बी मत करिये चार महीने, छः महीने के बाद करायेंगे तो फिर जो स्थिति पैदा हुई है इंडियन सिटीजन के बारे में उसको मुलजाना आपके लिए कठिन होगा। तो क्या सरकार इस मामले को हल करने के लिये कोई समय बद्ध आश्वासन हम को देगी? यही दो तीन बातें मैं पूछना चाहता हूं।

श्री योगेन्द्र मकवाणा: यह कोई एक साइड का मामला नहीं है। दोनों साइड का मामला देखना है। टाइम बाउण्ड सोल्यूश तभी हो सकता है जब दोनों साइड रेडी हों। मैंने अभी बताया कि अफसर लोग जाने को रेडी हैं लेकिन सिचिएशन तो ऐसी है। पीस होनी चाहिये, एजिटेशन स्टाप होना चाहिये, तभी अफसर लोग जा सकरी हैं, तभी यह सब हो सकता है। इसके लिये दूसरी साइड को कोआपरेट करना चाहिये। जब तक वहां से कोआपरेशन

नहीं मिलता है जो लोग एजिटेशन कर रहे हैं तब तक यह सब कैसे हो सकता। इस लिए हम कोई टाइम नहीं दे सकते। बंगाल के बारे में जो बात बताई है उस बारे में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि प्राइम मिनिस्टर ने बहुत क्लीयर कहा है। मैंने भी अभी बताया कि this Government is not in favour of any step which would increase the tension or aggravate the situation in any way.

मैंने अभी क्लीयर कहा है कि हम तो उस मामले में we are very clear on the issue.

SHRI SRIMAN PRAFULLA GO-SWAMI (Assam): Sir, this movement in Assam was first started because several lakhs of foreign nationals were included in the voters' list and the people there wanted exclusion of these foreign nationals and then holding of the elections. Then came the second issue out of that movement when the people there demanded that these foreigners should be deported. Then the third issue was that the border should be sealed.

Out of these three issues, the first one was not taken up and the election, as demanded, was not held because the former Government could not hold it. I would like to know what concrete steps are going to be taken now. I am happy that five demands have been accepted by the Government, but since no agreement could be arrived at in Delhi out of the negotiations, a stalemate has set in. Now, unless the Government takes steps to break this stalemate quickly, the movement will go on and as Mr. Dinesh Goswami has said rightly, the people of Assam are very anxious to have a solution of the problem so as to restore peace and normalcy there and even those leaders who started the movement, have also come forward in order to find out a solution. They came several times for a discussion and the Sangram Parishad students want a peaceful settlement and normalcy. Therefore, I would like to know what concrete

steps the Government is thinking of in order to break this stalemate.

I may also refer to another point. I wrote a letter about the atrocities committed by military personnel, may be the Border Security Force personnel or may be the CRP people, and cases of rape, and after a month or so, I received the acknowledgement. I would like to know whether they have sent anybody to inquire into and whether the Home Minister—I do not ask for the Prime Minister to go there; she is very busy—or somebody else would go there along with officers and make an inquiry into the incidents. This is my specific question.

Then, Sir, in West Bengal also, a counter-movement of retaliation has been started by Congress-I people. CPM is running the Government there and they are not for this movement. Now, I want to know whether the Prime Minister, Mrs. Gandhi, being the leader of the Congress party and also the Prime Minister, will ask for stoppage of that movement of retaliation. I do not support any sort of retaliation either by Assam or by West Bengal or any such counter-movement, or any kind of blockade whether by Assam or by West Bengal. Therefore, what steps are being taken to bring about normalcy there?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir, I have amply clarified the position and the Prime Minister has also declared in the House itself and I repeatedly said that we are not for any aggravation of the situation. It is very clear.

SHRI SRIMAN PRAFULLA GO-SWAMI: But have you issued instructions to Mr. Subroto Mukherjee to stop it?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: I cannot issue such instructions; I am a Minister here. It is for the party to decide. I cannot give any assurance on their behalf.

SHRI G. C. BHATTACHARYA (Uttar Pradesh): But the Prime Mi-

nister is the Party's President also. How can you say that? President of the Party and Prime Minister are combined into one.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: How can I say anything? I can speak on behalf of the Government and I am prepared to speak anything on behalf of the Government, not on behalf of the organisation where I am not an office-bearer; I am only a member.

SHRI SRIMAN PRAFULLA GO-SWAMI: On behalf of the Government, what steps you are taking?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: I have already said that we have taken many steps and if you are interested, I can enumerate the steps which we have taken from time to time. Any visit to Assam will not solve the problem unless there is some peace. Let there be some peace and let them stop the agitation. Then, it is possible for the Prime Minister or the Home Minister or any Minister to visit that State.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to know whether in the course of the movement and, particularly, during the period of negotiations between the Government of India and the leaders of the Assam movement, this factor was kept in view that because of the historic context of the partition of the country, a national commitment was given by the leaders of the country to those who have been left behind in Pakistan that in times of danger, they will be provided shelter in this part of the country. I would like to know whether this aspect was kept in view. I would like to know whether it ever came under any discussion. The total absence of any awareness of this aspect seems to me to be one of the important features of this foreign nationals movement, as if these persons came from a far off country. I would like to know whether this aspect of national commitment was kept in view. This is one question. Secondly, I would like to know, whether in the course of the

[Prof. Sourendra Bhattacharjee]

discussions, there was any attempt to ascertain whether under the garb of foreign nationals, an adverse feeling against all non-Assamese Indians was sought to be created. I would also like to know whether the leaders of the movement were asked to ensure and whether the Government of India and the Government of Assam would ensure that all Indian citizens living in Assam, but who are non-Assamese, live in security and whether they would, in future, be allowed to live in security and honour. In this background, I would question about the predicament of the refugees of the Nalbari carnage and the Barpeta Road carnage for whom the camps have been closed from the 7th of March and who have now been forced to trek towards West Bengal. What steps the Government of India proposes to take in re-opening these refugee camps so that these settlers in Assam can remain there? Then, Mr. Makwana has said the cut off date might be 1977. A suggestion like that was there. But he is saying the question of 1971 being the cut off date is still an open one. Our understanding has been, the position of the Government of India is that so far as 1971 is concerned, they are very firm on that cut off date. It is for the first time the House has been told that there is not that much firmness. Now, this would create serious misgivings and I would like the Minister to clarify the position in this regard. Lastly, in regard to the dichotomy between the Government and the Party, it is quite understandable. Mr. Makwana is here to reply on behalf of the Government. But in West Bengal, what is happening? It is the same party which is ruling here. It is not just a West Bengal party, as Mr. Goswami has said. It is a unit of the Indira Congress, which is the ruling party here. Yesterday I made an appeal to the Prime Minister to straightaway control her State unit so that such a defeating movement leading to further explosiveness of the situation is immediately stopped. Today you are see-

ing what has happened. In the background of my question I would like to know whether the Prime Minister would be prepared to intervene in the matter, direct with her State wing instead of just issuing a general statement.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir, I will bring it to the notice of the Prime Minister. As I said in the beginning, I cannot do anything, but I will bring it to the notice of the Prime Minister.

AN HON. MEMBER: Now you have done the right thing.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Historical factors, human aspects and misgivings of religious and linguistic minorities are also kept in view. So far as the security of the people is concerned, that is taken care of. So far as the cut-off year is concerned, I did not say it to be 1977. I did not say 1977; I said that it was open because my friend Mr. Joshi was pressing hard for it.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: We are told that 1971 is the firm date line fixed by the Government of India.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: In the beginning of my introductory speech I said that it was the consensus of all the political parties that it should be 1971.

(Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. G. KULKARNI): That is all right. Yes, Mr. Sankar Ghose.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: So, the Government of India stands by it. What about the refugee camps in Nalbari and Barpeta Road? Are any steps being taken to reopen them?

SHRI SANKAR GHOSE (West Bengal): At the all parties' Conference the consensus was 1971 people did not insist on 1977. They proceeded on the basis that those who have voted in successive elections, two to three elections should not be uprooted, that those who are there for decades should not be uprooted. There

was a statement by the Prime Minister that if you go back to 1951, then half the population of Uttar Pradesh will have to go away. So far as Punjab or West Bengal and other States are concerned, if you go back to 1951 and ask people to prove their nationality and citizenship, then there will be a lot of harassment. Even the ex-Chief Minister of Assam Mr. Mahendra Mohan Choudhury was asked to prove that he was an Indian citizen. In the light of all this, I want to know from the Minister whether he will take all these factors into consideration. The factors are: the uprooting of people who are there for decades, who have voted in successive elections and the likely repercussions in other States. It is not the problem of Assam alone, it is an all-India problem. Will the Minister take into account all these factors?

My second question is this. The Home Minister gave the figure to this House that in January in Nalbari and Barpeta sub-division 3200 houses were set on fire in 40 villages and 15000 people were rendered homeless. That is what the Home Minister had said. What compensation has been provided to them I would like to know. I would like to know from the Minister, what are the steps taken for the protection of the religious and linguistic minorities?

Then, Sir, a figure has been given by the Petroleum Minister Mr. Sethi, that with regard to oil there has been a loss to the exchequer to the extent of Rs. 71 crores. In view of the loss on this account, how does the Government propose to stop the oil blockade in Assam or the cargo blockade in West Bengal or similar other things in other States? I also want to know from the Minister whether the Government Officers' Association in Assam has said that they will carry out the orders of the Assam Gana Sangram Parishad. Are these Parishads distributing essential commodities? How do you propose to restore the situation there? I also want to know from the Minister that

so far as solving the Assam problem is concerned, it will be through peaceful means and not through violent means and through negotiations the Government will solve this problem.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir, so far as rehabilitation assistance is concerned, it will be given. Those who are affected have been given Rs. 2000 and also food and shelter in the camps. The other thing...

(Interruptions)

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Mr. Goswami, please don't take our time. It is very unfair.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: The other factors which he has said will be taken into consideration. As he has rightly pointed out, the Prime Minister has amply clarified that other factors will be taken into consideration before deciding the cut-off line. But, as I said, it was the consensus of the political parties and the leaders gathered there in that conference that it should be 1971.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Sir, my questions are three. Is it not a fact, whatever we may say here or outside, that the linguistic minorities—whether they speak Bengali, or Gujarati or Hindustani are feeling absolutely unsafe? Why are they feeling unsafe? Today the Statesman has brought out a news item which reads:

"Meanwhile the police are investigating an incident of arson involving over 20 dwelling houses owned by members of linguistic minority at Itakhuli basti near Digboi.

The houses were set ablaze by some people. The victims, Bengalis and Nepalese, have taken shelter in the Digboi Kalibari."

Sir, in this background, has he enquired how many houses have been set ablaze yesterday at Digboi and what steps has he taken in this regard? Has his attention been drawn to the repeated statements and letters by the Chief Minister of West Bengal, Shri Jyoti Basu, that 3861 people affected by

[Shri Kalyan Roy]

rioting at Nalbari and Barpeta in Assam crossed over to Alipurduar railway station as the relief camps, in which they were staying, had been closed on March 7. My question is, whether the Government, financial or otherwise, to run of India is taking the responsibility, these relief camps. Why were the relief camps closed and whether they would be again opened? As suggested by the Chief Minister of West Bengal, would the Government of India now consider sending a delegation of Members of Parliament of all parties to go into the problem?

And, lastly, Sir, supposing the Bengali students today start attacking non-Bengali students or non-Bengali people, would the matter be decided by talking with the student leaders to the exclusion of the political parties of West Bengal? Are we going to solve the country's problems by talking with some student leaders, some of whom give statements that two passports are needed—one to visit Assam and one to go out of Assam?

The questions, therefore, are—whether he would now bring normalcy in Assam, restore the lack of confidence amongst the linguistic minorities, take stern action against those who are burning and killing people of linguistic minorities and, lastly, whether he would take over the responsibility—financially—of the relief camps and send a delegation of Members of Parliament.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir, I have said earlier—and I say it again—that the Government of India has taken all steps.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: I did not ask that.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: The negotiations with the students were done because they are the main agitators in this movement. About relief camps, these camps are going on and wherever necessary, such camps will be opened.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: No, Sir, he did not reply to my question. Yesterday near Digboi, arson took place and the houses of Nepali and Bengali people were burnt. Would he enquire into that? What is his reply to that?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: We will certainly look into it.

SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET (Punjab): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the Government cannot accuse us on this question that the other political parties have not cooperated with them. In fact, they are having the full cooperation of all the political parties in the solution of this matter. It was at an all-party meeting that a consensus was arrived at making 1971 as the cut-off date. But the situation started deteriorating since then and the refugee camps have been closed. Now agitation has started in West Bengal. May I know, Sir, what the Government of India is doing about that? Voluntary organisations have been asked to quit.

Then, Sir, agitation has started in West Bengal not by any other party but by the unit of the ruling party. In spite of the left front Government slogans such as "Blockade of Assam" are being raised. I would like to know from the Minister how long will it take to find a solution when they are having full co-operation of all the political parties in the country, or they are only depending on the students and their organisations?

Secondly, is the Government prepared to assure the House that the refugee camps will be restored and voluntary organisations will be allowed to operate the camps, that the influx would be stopped and safety provided to the refugees? Is the Minister prepared to denounce all those who are raising the slogan "Blockade of Assam"? Without this the situation cannot be saved.

गृह मंत्री (श्री जैल सिंह) : वाइस चेरमैन जनाब, हमने बहुत लॉग रोप दिया कि इस मामले को सुलझाया जाय। मैं

मह जखर महसूस करता हूँ कि क्यों केवल स्टूडेंट से या संग्राम परिषद से बात की जाय। इसी बात को अनुभव करते हुए आसाम में भी तमाम पालिटिकल पार्टियों के साथ मैंने दो बार बात की और फिर उसके बाद प्रधान मंत्री जी ने सब पोलिटिकल पार्टियों को जो विधान सभा में रिप्रेजेंटेटिव हैं और जो पालियामेंट में हैं, उनको बुलाया, उनकी भी राय ली गयी। मेम्बर साहिबान का यह कहना दुरुस्त है कि कितने लम्बे असें तक चलाते चलेंगे, साल्यूशन कब निकलेगा? लेकिन मैं मेम्बर साहिबान को अदब से विनती करूंगा कि किसी बात को बिगाड़ना तो बहुत मुश्किल नहीं होता; लेकिन उसको सुलझाने में काफी देर लगती है। सरकार की मंशा यह है कि हम नेगोशियेशन और परमुएशन से इस मामले का हल निकालें तथा यह न हो कि जो लोग अपनी जिद के साथ एक ही बात करते हैं तो दूसरे लोगों को हम इग्नोर कर दें। हमारे ध्यान में उसी तरह से है जैसे मेम्बर साहिबान के कि जो नान आसामी हैं, बंगाली हैं या किसी और प्रांत के लोग वहां बसे हैं, मुद्दों से बस रहे हैं उनके खिलाफ नफरत हो और यह मामला बढ़ता चला जाय, हम यह नहीं करना चाहते हैं। अब यह जो आनरेबल मुरजीत जी ने सवाल उठाया कि वेस्ट बंगाल में जो एजीटेशन शुरू हुआ है वह कांग्रेस आई के मेम्बरों की तरफ से है, उनकी पार्टी वालों की तरफ से है। यह तो मैंने भी अखबारों में पढ़ा कि कांग्रेस “आई” के मेम्बरों ने शुरू किया है लेकिन आप जानते हैं कि श्री ज्योति बसु जो वहां के मुख्य मंत्री हैं उनकी विधान सभा में भी यह सवाल बड़े जोरों से आया और उसमें एक फिजोल्यूशन भी पास किया गया। ज्योति बसु जी क्योंकि मुख्य मंत्री थे, उन्होंने गार्डेड लफ्जों में यह कहा कि हम नहीं चाहते कि कई ऐसी बातें काऊंटर हों मगर जो ज़रूरी बातें हैं वह बहुत भड़क रहे हैं। तो भी उसी बात का नतीजा मैं समझता हूँ हुआ है। हमारी तरफ से कोई इशारा नहीं है।

SHRI KALYAN ROY: This is not correct.

ज्ञानी जैल सिंह : हम अब भी चाहते हैं. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: This statement has been misquoted. He has categorically stated that he is opposed to this sort of slogan.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: We really oppose any blockade. I say it is a disgrace to West Bengal that the Assam Tribune was attacked. You should not twist the thing. We are with you there, but do not twist it, please.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: Don't try to bring in political things everywhere.

(Interruptions)

ज्ञानी जैल सिंह : वाइस चैयरमैन साहब, मैं अर्ज कर रहा हूँ. . . . (Interruptions)

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: On a point of information, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. G. KULKARNI): When the Minister is on his feet let him complete first and then you can ask. Listen to him first. Then you can raise your point.

ज्ञानी जैल सिंह : वाइस चैयरमैन साहब, अभी वे मेरी सारी बात सुन लेते कि सी पी आई के मेम्बर साहबान असम में भी और असम की असेम्बली में भी और पालियामेंट में भी इस मामले में बहुत को आपरेटिव्ह हैं, वे इस झगड़े को बढ़ाना नहीं चाहते। मैं इस के लिए उन की प्रशंसा करता हूँ (Interruptions) सी पी आई (एम) भी इस मामले में, दूसरी पार्टियां भी, कांग्रेस (यू) भी—मैं सब पार्टियों के नाम नहीं लेता हूँ—बहुत को आपरेटिव्ह हैं और उन्होंने एप्रिशिएट किया है, 1971 के आधार “मानने” के लिए। मैं तो अभी सारी बात कह रहा हूँ।

[ज्ञानी जैल सिंह]

मैं ने कहा कि वे नहीं चाहते—कोई मुख्य मंत्री नहीं चाहता है— कि वहां एजिटेशन हो। मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है। लेकिन आज का जो स्टेटमेंट है मुख्य मंत्री का, वह पढ़िए। इसमें उन्होंने पसन्द नहीं किया— हम भी पसन्द नहीं करते—कि एजिटेशन हो। लेकिन साथ में उन्होंने यह बात की कि काज जो है वह गलत नहीं है, मगर तरीका गलत है। ऐसा तरीका नहीं करना चाहिए। जब ये कोई बात करते हैं तो आप उस को देख सकते हैं। अगर आप को यह बुरा लगे तो मैं यह बात भी कहने के लिए तैयार नहीं। लेकिन मैं ने प्रशंसा की है। जब किसी का प्रशंसा करते हुए भी आप समझते हैं कि नाम ही न लें आप का...

श्री कल्प नाथ राय : कहा है ज्योति बसु ने। स्वागत किया है।

ज्ञानी जल सिंह : खैर, कुछ भी हो। मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि हम इस मामले को पार्टी का इश्यू नहीं बनाते और ना ही यह पार्टी इश्यू है, यह नेशनल प्रॉब्लम है। नेशनल प्रॉब्लम को नेशनल सतह पर ही सुलझाना है और उस में सब का कोआप-रेशन हम लेना चाहते हैं। देर भी हुई है लेकिन देर इसीलिए हुई कि हम तो यह चाहते थे कि एजिटेशन को वे काल आफ कर दें और उस के बाद सारी बात करें। लेकिन वे ससपेण्ड करते रहे, फिर भी हमने अपनी बातचीत को जारी रखा। आज भी हम ने अपनी तरफ से बातचीत के दरवाजे बंद नहीं किए। लेकिन एक उसूल की बात उन को बता दी है कि इसमें पीछे हम नहीं जा सकते। यह नेशनल कांसेशनस है, और एक पार्टी में —एकाध पार्टी बेशक कुछ इन्कार भी करे—लेकिन उनके इन्कार से भी मुझे ऐसा ही लगता है कि वह मसले का हल ढूंढना चाहते हैं। वे असम में हम से मिले, प्राइवेट में मुझ से बात हुई, अलाहदीगी में, जब मैंने सब पार्टियों को बुलाया। जनता

पार्टी के नेता ने लेटर लिख दिया और उन्होंने कहा—अभी चिट्ठी तो मेरे पास नहीं है, थोड़े से 4 लपज हैं जो मुझे याद है वह मैं कहता हूं; हो सकता है उसमें थोड़ा बहुत कम हो जाए या बढा हुआ हो जाए तो फिर मेम्बर साहबान यह न कहे हमें गलत रिपोर्ट किया। उन्होंने नेहरू लियाकत अली समझौते का जिक्र किया लेकिन कहा उसके बाद भी आप जो फैसला करेंगे हम उसको देखेंगे। तो न वह नान-कमिटल है। मैं यह कहता हूं, जिस बात पर नेशन के बड़े और छोटे पार्टी के नेता-गण सहमत हों उस मामले को लेकर हम भी चाहते हैं कि एजिटेशन को बंद करें। अगर वे एजिटेशन को बंद नहीं करते तो सरकार हाथ पर हाथ रख कर बैठ नहान सकती। वह हिन्दुस्तान का महत्वपूर्ण प्रांत है और उस प्रांत के लोगों के जज्बात की हम कद्र करते हैं और कद्र करते रहेंगे, लोकल सेंटिमेंट्स को इन्ज्योर किए बगैर और जो वहां बसे हुए हैं उन का सम्मान करते हुए हम हल करेंगे और मुझे आशा है, आप सब हमसे कोआपरेशन करेंगे।

SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: Sir, I would not find any answer to my question. I had asked him whether the Minister is prepared to denounce the agitation of blockade.

ज्ञानी जैल सिंह : कामरेड सुरजीत जैसे आदमी की समझ में, जो पार्टी का चोटी का लीडर है और बहुत दूरदेश है—हम एक ही प्रांत से आये हैं—अभी भी डिनाउन्स करने में कोई कसर बाकी रह गयी है। जब इन्दिरा गांधी ने भी कह दिया है कि ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिए।

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा (बिहार) : उप-सभापति महोदय, यह आसाम में जो एजी-टेशन चल रहा है उस को बन्द होना चाहिए, लेकिन उस को रोकने के लिए बंगाल में जो शुरू हुआ है वह बड़ी हैरानी की बात है

ऐसा मालूम होता है कि कहीं देश में चैन अफि एजीटेशन तो नहीं चल रही बंगाल में जो हुआ उस में कांग्रेस वाले हैं। क्या प्रधान मंत्री अपने लोगों को आदेश देंगी कि वे ऐसा न करें।

दूसरी बात। मुझे उन के नेताओं से बात करने का मौका मिला। लम्बी बातें हुई, डेढ़ दो घंटे तक। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो जन संग्राम परिषद है और विद्यार्थी हैं उन की परिभाषा में फारेन नेशनल कोन हैं, इसलिए कि जहाँ तक मैं समझ सका हूँ फारेन नेशनल बंगला देशवाले हैं जो बंगला देश से आये हैं—यदि ऐसा हो तो फारेन नेशनल की उन की परिभाषा में क्या बिहार की आरिजिन के, यू० पी० की ओरिजिन के, पंजाब की आरिजिन के, मध्य प्रदेश की ओरिजिन के लोग भी आते हैं, जो उन की फारेन नेशनल्स की परिभाषा है उस में कितने लोग इस बैकग्राउंड के हैं?

तीसरा मेरा सवाल है कि जो फारेन नेशनल्स के रूप में वहाँ आये हैं उन लोगों में कितने हैं जिन्होंने यहाँ की सिटीजनशिप एक्वायर करने की खाहिश जाहिर की है? अगर उन्होंने खाहिश जाहिर की है तो आप क्या कर रहे हैं?

आखिरी सवाल है। आप ने आसाम में सब पार्टियों से बातें कीं, एजीटेशन के नेताओं से बातें कीं। मैं कहूँगा कि आप एजीटेशन के नेताओं से, यूनियन के नेताओं से और आल इंडिया पार्टियों के नेताओं से बात करिए ताकि इस समस्या का निराकरण जल्दी हो।

श्री योगेन्द्र मकवाणा : मैं ने पहले भी कहा कि बात हुई, अभी भी कर रहे हैं। उस में कोई कसर नहीं रखेंगे।

जहाँ तक बंगाल के स्टूडेंट्स एजीटेशन के बारे में कहा, मैंने पहले कहा कि I will bring it to the notice of the Prime Minister, because she is the party President.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : कितने लोग उस बैकग्राउण्ड के हैं, बिहार के हैं, यू० पी० के हैं उन की परिभाषा के मुताबिक?

श्री योगेन्द्र मकवाणा : इस का इन-वेस्टीगेशन हो रहा है कि कौन फारनर है और यह फारेनर्स एक्ट के मुताबिक होगा।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. G. KULKARNI): Do you want say something? Now we move on to special mentions. Dr. Siddhu—not here; Shri Kalyan Roy—not here. Shri Anand. Please wait, Mr. Anand. He is saying something.

श्री जैल सिंह : आनरेबल मेम्बर साहबान को इस बात का पता होगा कि 1952 से लेकर 1979 अगस्त तक 3 लाख 10 हजार से ज्यादा विदेशियों को वहाँ से निकाला गया और यह प्रासेस कन्टी-नुअसली चलता है। आसाम गवर्नमेंट ने उन की छांट की। जो डिस्प्यूटेड मामले थे उन में मुकदमे चले। उन की गिनती 30 हजार से ज्यादा है।

उन्होंने परिभाषा की बात कही। परिभाषा तो बिल्कुल साफ है कि विदेशियों के लिए ही इस्तेमाल करते हैं, लेकिन कुछ एलीमेंट ऐसे एजीटेशनों में आ जाते हैं जिन्होंने दूसरी बात की। हम ने पहले उन से कहा कि यह बताओ कि कोई इंडियन आसाम में रहना चाहे, इंडियन सिटीजन हो तो उस के ऊपर आब्जेक्शन करोगे तो उन्होंने कहा कि आब्जेक्शन नहीं करते, हम इंडियन सिटीजन के आसाम में रहने के अधिकार को मानते हैं लेकिन हमारा मतलब केवल विदेशियों से है। यह बात भी मैं हाउस को बता देना चाहता हूँ कि वहाँ कुछ ऐसा एलीमेंट भी है जो इस बात को उठाना चाहता है कि आउटसाइडर आफ आसाम वहाँ नहीं रहना चाहिए। और उन का छिपा हुआ हाथ उस में है। इसलिए मैं कहता हूँ

[ज्ञानी जैल सिंह]

कि ज्यादा बात मैं इस लिए नहीं करता कि हाउस को तो मैं सब कुछ बताने को तैयार हूँ, मेम्बरों को भी बताने को तैयार हूँ, लेकिन पब्लिक में सारी बातें जायें तो कंस बिगड़ सकता है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि वह मामला एमीकेबली सेटिल हो जाये।

श्री कल्प नाथ राय : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि असम की समस्या को हल करने के लिए क्या पुनः वह असम और बंगाल जायेंगे और सारी विरोधी पार्टियों के लोगों से मिल कर उस समस्या को हल करने के लिए तेजी से कोई कदम उठायेंगे ?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. G. KULKARNI): Yes, Mr. Kalyan Roy.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Sir,...

SHRI KALYAN ROY: You are talking every time. I would not listen to you. You have called me, Sir.

श्री कल्प नाथ राय : मैं ने मंत्री जी से सवाल पूछा है कि क्या असम की समस्या को हल करने के लिए क्या वे फिर गौहाटी या बंगाल जायेंगे और सारी विरोधी पार्टियों के लोगों से मिल कर तुरन्त इस समस्या को हल करने के लिए कोई कदम उठायेंगे क्योंकि इस प्रश्न को ले कर असम में बड़ा आन्दोलन है।

ज्ञानी जैल सिंह : मुझे आशा है कि बेटर कौंसिल प्रिविलेज करेगा और वह लोग एजीटेशन को काल आफ करेंगे। एजीटेशन काल आफ होने के बाद एक बार नहीं कई बार भी जाना पड़ता है तो हम लोग असम जायेंगे।

REFERENCE TO ALLEGED SUPPRESSION OF VIEWS EXPRESSED BY OPPOSITION MEMBERS IN THE RAJYA SABHA BY THE A.I.R. IN ITS NEWS BROADCASTS

SHRI KALYAN ROY (West Bengal): Sir, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting stated on the floor of the House that the Government had not maintained any black-list of persons whom they want to shut out from the Government controlled media. In fact, the way the AIR is broadcasting the news bulletins indicate that the Government is blacking out all the Opposition speeches, particularly criticism of the economic policy of the present regime.

Sir, you will agree, in this session the Finance Bill was one of the most important Bills. Similarly, the Railway Appropriation Bill was also very important. All of them were taken up on the 18th of March in the Rajya Sabha. At first the Railway Appropriation Bill was taken up. Shri V. B. Raju and Shri N. P. Shahi spoke. Others also spoke. I am referring only to the speakers of the main Opposition parties in the Rajya Sabha. Shri C. K. Jaffar Sharief replied to the debate. What is most regrettable, Sir, is that the AIR fully covered the reply of the Minister in both the English and the Hindi broadcasts in the night but completely blacked out the Opposition speakers. Not one word about their speeches. Nor even the names of those who participated. Only the exhaustive reply of the Minister. Is this not censorship? I would like to know what is censorship.

The same thing happened to the discussion on the Finance Bill on the same day. Myself, Shri Sankar Ghose and Dr. Bhai Mahavir spoke on behalf of the Opposition and none else. While the reply of Shri Pahadia was covered both in the news broadcast and in the "Today in Parliament" programme, not a word about the speeches nor even the names were given. Is it not a black out? Sir, we feel greatly disturbed by the partisan pattern of the news broadcasts. And this reminds me of