

# **CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

Serious situation arising out of reported heavy influx of people from Bangladesh and Burma into the North Eastern States, particularly Assam and Meghalaya

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA (Assam); Sir, I rise to call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the serious situation arising out of the reported heavy influx of people from Bangladesh and Burma into the North Eastern States, particularly Assam and Meghalaya.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Sir, government has seen some reports alleging large scale influx of people from Bangladesh and Burma into the north-eastern States of India.

As the House is aware, the Indo-Bangladesh border is more than 4,000 kilometres long and runs through difficult terrain at a number of places. Despite the vigilance of the concerned authorities, it is not practicable to have such border surveillance as to totally prevent surreptitious movement across it. Moreover, a number of Bangladesh nationals who come to India with valid document do not return to their country but stay on in India illegally. Because of their common ethnic origin with Indians of the neighbouring States, it is difficult to trace illegal migrants.

According to our information, in the first six months of 1978, approximately 7,000 persons were intercepted. This represents an increase over the corresponding period last year. This includes Mogh tribals from Chittagong Hill Tracts and also members of the majority community of Bangladesh.

The increase during the first six months of 1978 may have been due to many factors, including the inflow

of Burmese refugees into Bangladesh. It is, however, not always possible to trace the ultimate origin of persons seeking to come into India. Information available with the Government does not confirm newspaper reports of alleged heavy influx of Burmese-nationals into Assam and Meghalaya.

Such movements are due to a variety of reasons which include economic motivation. The two Governments are agreed that such migration must be discouraged and prevented. Only recently we have agreed with Bangladesh on steps to repatriate Bangladesh refugees to Tripura.

For our part we continue to make every effort to prevent the inflow of Bangladesh nationals into India and have urged Bangladesh to strengthen the steps to prevent it from their side.

श्री देवराव पाटिल (महाराष्ट्र) :  
मुझे एक निबन्धन करना है, प्वाइंट ऑफ  
आर्डर है . . .

(Interruptions)

श्री उपसभापति : स.प शांत रहिये  
कृपया ।

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA Sir, the Minister of External Affairs has given a brief reply on a situation which is very serious and which has assumed a more serious turn in that part of India. It is not merely a question of relations between two States or two or more States. It has also become a question of internal policy of population control and maintaining peace in an area which is 2,000 kms. from New Delhi and in an area which is inhabited by people with great concern for their future. I should like to remind the External Affairs Minister that this problem has to be solved with all the seriousness that the Government of India as; otherwise, this may lead to a situation within three or four or five years where we may have to lose that area from our country. And the situation is not so easy as ha^

been explained by the External Affairs Ministry. It is not merely a question of preventing a few people from coming into the State of Assam or Megha-Jaya or other areas. It is also a question of protection of the whole area in our country. The whole thing has a long history behind it—the influx and infiltration of population into the entire area which has been going on for years together. And this influx has not only changed the political picture but also altered the economic foundation of the society. This has created such a situation where dissatisfaction in the minds of the people is growing.

As you know, in 1947 this whole area constituted one State called Assam. Into that State of Assam continuously people from the neighbouring States, not merely from Bangladesh but also Nepal, entered. As a consequence, it has upset the very social and political stability of the region and created great amount of concern and dissatisfaction in the minds of the people. This is one of the basic reasons or growing discontent among the people and this has led to the division of the State into five units or parts. To solve the problem in an avoiding way, the State of Assam was divided into five units. If this situation is allowed to continue for another four or five years, the whole area will have to be divided again into two or more parts which will be outside India. This fact I would like to bring to the attention of the External Affairs Ministry. We have got to discuss this point not only from this point of view. We have also to control the population of that area and without this control no plan of economic development succeed. We have been pursuing our family welfare and population control policy in the entire country. But so far as this particular area is concerned, the population control policy has become ineffective because between 1961 and 1971 the population there has increased by 35 per cent:—the highest in the country. Out of this 35 per cent, the natural increase was only 24 per cent.

The remaining was due to increase in infiltration into that area. Nearly thirty-five lakhs of people have migrated to this area. This has created new-social tensions in the region.

In the context of such a situation, when the people start some movement or agitation, then it will be easy to blame the people and say that they are parochial or anti-India. But we must see that Government's inaction does not create conditions which will ultimately lead to such a conflict. I would request the External Affairs Minister to take very firm steps in this direction. In this area people from different provinces and the former East Pakistan and Nepal have come and settled and constituted one integrated society with stability. This stability has now been shaken by this new influx. This will not only destabilise the existing social and political situation and will create new problems leading to very serious political and economic consequences ultimately posing a threat to the security of the whole country. I would like to impress upon the House the gravity of the problem in this area. If we do not stop this infiltration ultimately it will lead to such a situation where we will be unable to mend matters.

Now I may bring to your notice the reaction of the non-political sections comprising different communities. The Assam Sahiti Sabha passed a resolution demanding the Government to take stringent measures to stop influx of outsiders and have warned that unless such steps were taken linguistic, cultural and economic problems will assume big dimensions and might overtake the State. The resolution also said that thousands of people were coming to Assam every day from neighbouring countries. They have also noted with concern that such an influx is taking place from some other Indian States also which has already created strains and tensions in the linguistic and cultural and economic fields of Assam. Now, Sir, this Sabha has also demanded that there should be either a system of entry passes or

[Shri Ajit Kumar Sharma]

there should be a national register. Sir, in 1941, and again in 1951, a national register was maintained. But, afterwards, that was abandoned. I was to impress upon the Government the need to start this national register again and to provide for entry passes. Unless these stringent measures are taken by the Government of India, the State Government by itself will not be able to control the situation. The State Government needs money. Because it is a very long border, by rail, by roads and by rivers, Sir, people come from all the States. Recently, about fifty thousand people, fifty thousand Nepalese, were driven out of Bhutan and, ultimately, a good portion of them entered Assam and they have moved to different parts of Assam. The Meghalaya Government has already taken some steps and they were forced to take some steps and they passed a law prohibiting entry of outsiders into that State. Now, Sir, in the whole of the North-Eastern region, Assam occupies the most important strategic position and what happens in Assam, particularly in the Brahmaputra and the Barakh valleys, determines the future of the whole North-Eastern region. Therefore, I would request that these two valleys, these two areas, must be protected from any more infiltration and the long history of continuous influx must be stopped. Unless we do that, Sir, we will not be able to control the situation and we will have to lose the entire North-Eastern region. So, I would particularly request the External Affairs Ministry and the Government to take immediate steps in this matter.

Thank you, Sir.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, no specific question has been put.

SHRI KALYAN ROY (West Bengal): But the problem of Assam has been posed.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: But I respect the feelings of the hon. our Member which he has so

( strongly expressed. In the case of illegal migration from Bangladesh, whether people go to Assam or to thff other adjoining areas, they do create a problem. It has been the policy of the Government to prevent this illegal migration. We have tightened the security measures. In the course of the last six months, the number has gone up a little. But it will not be correct to say that thousands of persons are coming every day from Bangladesh. Let us neither minimise the situation nor exaggerate it. Sir, there is a historical background to this problem.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: That you are forgetting.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: But, in consultation with the Home Ministry, we propose to take certain effective steps which will reduce the illegal migration. It cannot be completely prevented. Sir, there are people who come with valid documents and who would not like to go back. A house-to-house search cannot be made for such people. This is a humanitarian problem and I know that my friend, Mr. Kalyan Roy, is going to raise it. But, Sir, I would like to assure the House that no part of India will be allowed to go out of it. come what may.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: How does it arise? I know you are suffering from a split personality.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes Mr. Wariri.

SHRI ALEXANDER WARJRI (Me, ghalaya): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir I am sorry to point out at the outset that the House was full when it discussed the question of infiltration into Kashmir. Now when we discuss about North-East India the house is less than half. I am really sorry to say that we gave so little importance to north-east India. I think, right from the beginning till the present day, nobody cares about north-eastern India. Just

now the hon. Minister used the words "illegal migration"—and news papers "influx." I would rather use the word "infiltration". It is cent per cent an infiltration by people from outside. It is not different from infiltration into Kashmir.

Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, there are many reasons for this infiltration. It is not only economic but there are many other matters which the Ministry of External Affairs should take up. Our boundary line is not like the boundary line between Punjab and Pakistan. Our boundary line is along difficult terrains and rivers to be crossed. Our boundary pillars are not where they should be. There are some villages which are neither on that side nor this side. It has been said that Bangladesh is very friendly with us. We are on the borders and we know very well what this friendliness means. We are giving so much attention to the refugees. The refugees have come over here because of partition. But there are certain people who, because of partition have suffered a great deal. Before partition our border people were a rich people. Now because of partition they have been the sufferers—hardly anything has been done to help them.

Now, Sir, coming to the subject of infiltration, as observed just now, the Ministry should look into this as a matter of grave concern. I think that once upon a time, option was given to the people of the erstwhile East Pakistan to opt whether they would like to come to India or not, and a time-limit was fixed. I think that time-limit is over. And for that reason, the Rehabilitation Department was instituted. Now, the "Rehabilitation Department is still there. It is like an ever-green signal to those people from Bangladesh to come to India, because here they will be rehabilitated by the Rehabilitation Department. How they come across, when they come across and why they come across is nobody's business, it seems. Then, once these people have come either to Shillong or Gauhati or Nowgong, nobody can identify them and nobody can distinguish

between an Assamese and a foreigner who has just crossed over, or between the people of India and the people who have crossed over. It is difficult for the State Government 3 P.M. to trace those people. A great number of them have come. I refuse to accept the statement of the Minister that only a few have come. I can say that thousands and thousands of them have crossed over. The States of Meghalaya and Assam find themselves helpless in dealing with these unidentified persons unless the Central Government helps them. It is right that the Central Government cannot do much from here. But they can give enough powers to the State Government to deal with this problem and to fan out those infiltrators. The Government of Meghalaya have already passed a Bill two years back. It is the Residential Permit Bill. Till now, the President has not given his assent. I do not know the reason. This is the very Bill that can prevent such infiltration. Now, when we asked these people as to wherefrom they have come, they claim to have come from somewhere in India. They would inevitably say that they came from Karimganj or Silchar. These are the places they say they have come from. They are so many. I think that if you take into account the number of all those people who say they have come from Silchar or Karimganj, then those towns, by now, should have been depletion of their population. In 1972-73, the Assam Government decided to shift its capital to Dispur and as a result of that, there was an exodus of a big population going down to Dispur and most of them are non-tribals. Now, Shillong is more populated than what it was 1972-73. The number of non-tribals has increased so much and very few of them have come from other parts of India. I believe that most of them are from Bangladesh. With the change of the Government and the regime in Delhi, we from North-East India expect some change and some very dynamic approach towards the problems of North-East India. More than one year has passed. May I ask the Ministers,

[Shri Alexander Warjri]

State Ministers in this Government whether all of them know the names of all the seven States and how many of them have visited all those seven States? (Interruptions) This is a matter of great concern, Mr. Deputy Chairman. If nothing is done to stop this infiltration, a time will come when North-East India will return to the old British Assam Province consisting of pre-Independence Assam and Bangladesh and that too outside India. It is a very serious thing. I hope that this Government would wake up and do something for North-East India to stop this infiltration. I am afraid, if a war is to take place all of a sudden as in 1962, the Prime Minister, I am afraid, will have nothing to say to the people of North-East India but like the late Mr. Nehru will just say, "My heart goes with the people of Assam." This he said as a farewell greeting to the people of Assam because China was there at Bomdila. I hope this will not happen.

Therefore, Sir, I suggest: (1) that immediate steps be taken to stabilise the border-line between India and Bangladesh on the Assam-Meghalaya side which should have really been done immediately after the Bangladesh liberation war; (2) that all non-tribals travelling from the borderline through any route should have certificates from the police outposts or the BSP or the Military whichever is stationed there, and these people who come along those routes should be checked at the different gates by the State Governments; (3) that the security measures along the Cachar district border be taken up by the Army to protect further infiltration; (4) that the Residential (Permit) Bill as passed by the Assembly of Meghalaya be assented to by the President immediately or the inner line permit as imposed in Nagaland and in Mizoram, be also imposed on the State of Meghalaya; and lastly, the State Governments of Assam and Meghalaya be given all powers in order to fan out these infiltrators and to repatriate

them to their own country. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, the hon. Member . has made *i* number of suggestions. I will have to find out from the Home Ministry why the Bill adopted by the Meghalaya Assembly has not been given assent to by the President. I don't have any information on that point with me at the moment. Sir, the border is being guarded by the Border Security Force. Whenever necessary, the Force is strengthened. The suggestion to post the Army on the border cannot be accepted off-hand because we have an agreement With Bangladesh under which both countries have accepted that the Army should not be exactly on the border, and the border security should be undertaken by such force as the Border Security Force. Sir, the Government of Assam have all the powers necessary to check illegal migration. If it is a question of mere money, I am willing to take up their case with the Finance Ministry because the problem is not of Assam or Meghalaya only, it is a national problem. If infiltration takes place in any part of the country, whether it is Kashmir or Assam, the security of the whole nation is jeopardised, and we won't allow monetary considerations to stand in the way of safeguarding the security of the country.

Sir, the hon. Member also referred to the stabilisation of the boundary line between Assam and Meghalaya, on the one side, and Bangladesh, on the other. Sir, I do not have in my possession full details about this particular sector. The boundary has to be safeguarded and so far as my memory goes.— I am subject to correction—his boundary has been delineated in certain areas. If this particular sector is not covered, I will find out and place the facts before the House.

Sir, I need not say that though the Central Government might be functioning from Delhi, we are alert about the security of the whole nation.

Furthermore, this is 1978 and not 1962.

- > SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Assam): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, before I come to the merits of the case, I want to raise a preliminary point. I feel that in a discussion of this nature the Home Minister ought to have been present along with the Minister of External Affairs because the question that we are discussing today does not only relate to the Ministry of External Affairs but a major part of it relates to the Home Ministry also. And, I feel, Sir, that these questions have been raised too often in the House and I would like some guidance from the Chair so that in future Calling Attention Notices we are not confronted with such type of a problem.

Sir, we are discussing today a question of grave importance, a question which is very sensitive in nature and which deals with a very sensitive area. Sir, you have been yourself a minister-in-charge of Home Affairs and you are aware, about the sensitivity of the North-Eastern region. This is an area in which many forces, forces which do not belong to this country, are trying to create and instigate situations of insurgency. This is an area about which, I am in full agreement with Mr. Warjri when he said, very few people in Delhi have a proper idea. I do not want to introduce politics in this discussion but the fact remains that the previous Government dealt with this area with extreme caution and sagacity with the result that they could bring about a great deal of stability into this region. But we feel that the Janata Government has not been fully alive to the problems and complexities of this region. I do not want to go into the details because my colleague, Mr. Bipinpal Das, in an earlier Calling Attention Notice discussed this aspect of the matter in its full details.

Sir, the problem of influx from Burma, Bangladesh as well as from Nepal and Bhutan is causing a lot of anxiety and it has various implications, various

ramifications, social, political, economic as well as security implications.

Sir, you are aware that in some parts of this North-Eastern region even now rebel activities are going on and some of them operated from areas of Burma, and, therefore, when people come in from Burma, there are grave security risks. We do not know with what intentions people come. Now, though Mr. Vajpayee has tried to minimise the issue, the fact remains that even the Superintendent of Police of Cachar, as early as in February informed about the possible influx of people from Burma and he had to impose curfew in the District of Cachar. In July, u/s 144, prohibitory orders were issued. Sir, Mr. Sharma has given broad details of the possible repercussions on the social, economic and political side. I do not want to repeat the details. But there are certain other aspects also which the Ministry should take into account and there the Home Ministry comes. First ly, it is necessary to stop the influx as far as possible. I know it is not possible completely because there is the boundary of 4,000 kilometres. It is a porous area where one can go and one can come and in spite of all the vigilance, there will undoubtedly be some scope for illegal entry or illegal exit if a person wants to. I think, extreme vigilance is very necessary, otherwise, Sir, the problem has magnified so much that there has been an increase of 35 per cent in the population in an area or in the region where we do not have much of an industry and which is based entirely upon agriculture. And when there is such an influx of persons, it causes great repercussions on the area. The other aspect has been dealt with and I will not repeat it. But there are some other aspects. There are elements, anti-social elements who always take advantage of this situation to create communal or linguistic disturbances. Even the Chief Minister of Assam has warned the people about it and I know, the Assam Sahitya Sabha also passed a resolution cautioning the people

[Shri Dinesh Goswami]

against such, possible forces. As I have said, and I repeat, there are problems from different quarters in this area. These elements and also the imperialist powers want to have an area where they want to create some sort of a situation like Vietnam. I think the north-eastern region is a very important region at the present moment and, therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister of External Affairs—and if he cannot answer, he can get the information from the Home Ministry and enlighten the House—as to what steps they are taking in this regard. He said that steps have been taken. But let him give some indication of the concrete steps that have been taken. Merely to say that steps have been taken, does not mean anything. I want to know what steps in concrete terms you are taking to check infiltration, as far as practicable from Bangladesh, from Burma and also from Nepal. The situation is such that it may not only create social, political and economic tensions within India itself, but there is a strong possibility that it may come in the way of development of friendly relations with these neighbouring countries which is extremely important from our national point of view.

The other point which I would like to raise is this. What steps are you taking to see that anti-social elements do not take advantage of such a situation to create linguistic or communal disturbance?

Fortunately, Assam, has been always free from communal disturbance but we have seen linguistic disturbances taking place from time to time and we do not want these things to recur. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister of External Affairs, if he can say, what steps he is going to take in this regard. We also know that certain corrupt officials make bonanza out of such type of a situation and the innocent persons are put to great difficulties. I would request the hon. Minister to take note of this aspect of the matter.

Another aspect to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister is that there has been a tremendous possibility of a setback to the economic development of Assam in the sense that Assam's power problem was linked up with the Kopili project, a project which ultimately, after a lot of persuasion and pressure from the people of Assam, was taken in hand by the Central Government. I have come to know that one of the organisations NEPCO which was dealing with this project, has been stopped by Meghalaya Government from going ahead, with their construction on the ground that the Meghalaya Government was not satisfied with their employment policy and they complained that some Bangladesh nationals were working in the NEPCO project. Now, stalling the working of the NEPCO will come in the way of Kopili project. At the present moment, Assam is suffering from tremendous shortage of power and if the Kopili project does not come into existence within the stipulated time, it will disturb the economy of the State completely and the future planning will be affected. Therefore, I would like to know from Mr. Vajpayee—if he can clarify which I doubt and that is why I said that the Home Minister ought to have been here in such type of a discussion—what steps they are taking regarding this type of problem which is coming up. As I said, the problems have many dimensions and, therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister on these specific points. Firstly, what concrete steps is the Government taking to tackle this problem? Merely saying that we are alive to the problem will not do because the problem has many repercussions. What steps is the Government taking to prevent anti-social elements taking advantage of this problem? What steps is the Government taking so that the corrupt officials do not take advantage of this position? What steps is the Government taking to deal with the problems which the Kopili project is facing?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, many questions have been put and

some are such that I am not in a position to reply to them. Whether the State authorities have taken any step against the anti-social elements or not is not a matter which is being dealt with by my Ministry. Sir, the proper course would have been to address the Calling Attention Notice to the Home Minister.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: In fact, my Call Attention Notice was addressed to the Home Ministry.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: May I make a concrete suggestion? I am prepared to arrange a meeting of Members of Parliament belonging to West Bengal, Assam and other adjoining States with the Prime Minister, who is acting as Home Minister, and we can discuss this problem in detail. I would be the last person to minimise the importance of the situation.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I am not complaining.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: But if there are corrupt officials, and there might be some who would like to take advantage of the situation, it is for the State Governments to take action against them. They have to be awarded exemplary punishment.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: There are certain things which you can reply.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: So far as the question of our relations with Bangladesh and Burma is concerned, I am prepared to reply to that question, but I know that is not in the minds of the hon. Members.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I asked if he could give what concrete steps have been taken by the Government. He has just replied in vague terms, in general terms.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Actually we had sent a copy of this notice to

the Ministry of Home Affairs also, but I think it is a good suggestion that the hon. Foreign Minister has made for further pursuing this matter which is certainly of a very important, delicate nature.

Yes, Mr. Goswami.

SHRI SRIMAN PRAFULLA GOSWAMI (Assam): Mr. Deputy Chair-man, Sir, I shall try to be sober because all the people of North-Eastern region are temperamentally sincere, they are very sensitive. We are tribals. Irrespective of caste and creed, irrespective of the fact whether we are Brahmins or Goswamis, we are tribals and we are very sincere people. We also expect sincerity. We are not happy with your jugglery of words or all sorts of bureaucratic replies. I do know about the vast knowledge of the External Affairs Minister. I admire his visit to China. Let there be friendly relations with China. I am not an enemy of China, I am friendly with China. I am also friendly with Chinese philosophy, I am friendly with Russia's philosophy, although I am a patriot first. I do not mind but let it be clear and this is in my mind that the sensitive minds of young men are working there on the North-Eastern frontier. Do not minimise the importance of the situation. When you said that you are prepared to convene meeting, we are happy, but previously, when you said that you are alive to the situation, we were not happy. We would say that we would not allow any part of India to go. This has been said by all External Affairs Ministers in the past. This was said even by Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru who was more powerful and more effective than any of you. During the Chinese aggression the Army General, Kaul was over drunk and upset. Shri Lai Bahadur Shastri went there and suggested to evacuate the women and children from the North Eastern region. I was the PCC President then. I know Assam, Meghalaya, hilly areas of



[Shri Sriman Prafulla Goswaimi]

Meghalaya, Mizo Hills, I know Naga-land and Tripura. I had been working in these difficult times for many years as a political worker. I contacted Phizo and I worked as an Indian patriot. Sometimes I am very much averse to the attitude of the Or'ta! Government. As the External Affairs Minister, although you should be busy with China, America and all these things yet it is your primary duty to know the frontier regions. This is the vanguard of India; this is the defence of India. If today the North-Eastern region goes, if enemy occupy that area, what will happen to India? You should not only go to foreign countries and be briefed by these diplomats. I know many of those diplomats. I was in the United Nations; I know how they behave. They go on drinking, having cocktails and enjoying themselves. You see that you are briefed from the patriotic point of view. Shri D. D. Goswami has said it in a plain language. He knows how to do it; he is a practising lawyer. Shri Ajit Kumar Sharma also spoke with the same feeling. He is from the treasury benches and he is a professor. So we speak sincerely. Mr. Vajpayee, you should know the whole of India and more particularly the North-Eastern region. You should know about all these tribal people. As an External Affairs Minister, you should know Bangladesh, Nepal and Burma. You don't know as External Affairs Minister, but the Home Minister should know how the foreigners are operating in the North-Eastern region, how CIA is operating there. During the previous Government's regime also I spoke about it. Our former Congress Chief Ministers admitted on the floor of the House that CIA was operating there. You should have known it long ago. As the External Affairs Minister within six months of your taking office you should have called on the Chief Ministers of those States. And most of the Chief Ministers belong to the Janata Party. You should see as an External Affairs Minister that relations must be maintained with Nepal, Bhutan and

other neighbouring countries. With Nepal, there is no passport system. So Nepaiaess are going like anything in all the hilly and forest areas.

Today some of my friends think that this Motion is probably against the majority community of Bangladesh. That means a particular religion. It is not. It is against all religions. People who are foreigners—even in India—go there to exploit. As the time of the Chinese aggression they ran away with money. This is very unpatriotic attitude. I must warn Mr. Vajpayee about it. You are here only for some time. In spite of your assurances in the Rajya Sabha that no enemy can come and occupy that area, some Army Generals like General Kaul will fade away ever drunk and order evacuation and you will have to re-occupy it. You ask Mr. Biju Patnaik how he went there and what an excitement he gave me. After occupation of Assam, he was sent to organise subversive activities. So again it will have to be conquered. Then I was No. 1. Now I will not be there. These people will be there. I know how to organise. I work for certain ideals. That is why I am an Independent Member today. Some times I call myself an anarchist. But leave aside these small personal things. The political study is very essential from the Home point of view, from the External Affairs point of view and from the Education point of view. You know how the young minds in Assam are working. Many of the educated youths in Assam express the view as to why they should be in India. That is not my view. You put me anywhere in the world. As I am an anarchist, I will be happy. I am concerned with the social order. I have no religion, no nationality. Today I am a patriot. But if I find these people are leaving the country, I will have to speak something else. I will not be a camp-follower of Mr. Vajpayee or Mr. Morarji Desai or anybody. If it is blind-following, it will not help.

Therefore, Sir, I request that the Home Minister, the External Affairs

Minister and other Ministers of the Janata Party should go there, study and discuss the affairs. The Education Minister should also go there. And what is your intelligence doing there? It is just a duplication. There is the State intelligence. Then your I.G. is working there. Sir, some of the I.G.s are enjoying like any other bureaucrat. Sometimes they give their report to the bureaucrats sitting here. Do not depend upon these bureaucrats in the Secretariat. Personally the Ministers, the M.P.s and others should go and study the situation, meet the people, know their problems, their economic problem, their political problem, their feelings. If the national feeling, patriotism goes from the mind of the young, if separatist, disruptive forces are allowed to work and if foreign agents are allowed to operate you are doomed. People there feel frustrated. When I was in the Treasury Benches with the former Congress Government, then also I expressed about the frustration among the youth there. I had also said that this Defence of India Rule will not be able to control India. Your defence, your army, not to speak of defending invasion from foreign countries, will not be able to control the internal volcano if it erupts there. You may be able to kill hundreds and thousands but you will not be able to crush a rebellion by youth from whose minds patriotism has gone away. How are you to control it? Leave aside party politics. I do not belong to any party. I hold no brief. I am concerned with the whole of India. And most essentially I am concerned with the North-Eastern region of India. If my North-Eastern region is not developed, I am not happy with Delhi's development. You are spending crores of rupees over development here. I am not happy with the first part of the hon'ble Minister's reply. And what he said was most bureaucratic. What he said later is reasonable.

What about these Nepalese? You have to tackle this problem. The Nepalese are encroaching upon most

of your forest land. The Bangladeshi people, irrespective of religion, go and occupy all the railway lands, all the roads. There is influx from Bangladesh. Go to any station. Go to the railway stations and see the platforms, Bongaigaon, Gauhati and so on. So my earnest request to Mr. Vajpayee is: Go to these areas. Devote all your energy towards the development of these area. It is all right developing your relations with neighbouring countries but develop internal friendship and patriotism in the youth. In spite of your developing friendship with China Chinese arms will be smuggled by the youth here, a<sup>n</sup><sub>i</sub> they will accept the Chinese order of society. In Assam that is the greatest danger. I am not in any party. But I am representing the mind of the youth. I know the young generation. I know University students, professors and many other people. Therefore, before you meet the M.P.s, call a conference of the Chief Ministers of the North-Eastern region. Because if you meet the M.P.s they will sit in the Consultative Committee. They will raise questions and you will reply as you are doing now. Therefore, first call a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the North-Eastern region. Discuss with them and the Home Ministers, not with -these officers. Discuss with them their problems, their education, the youth mind and the influx.

Introduce the passport - system with Nepal because in our Assam tribal areas, most of the lands have been occupied by the Nepalese. The hills in Mikir Hills, in Meghalaya, in Arunachal Pradesh have been occupied by them. Now they are demanding citizenship. I have nothing against Nepal or the Nepalese people.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please finish.

SHRI SRIMAN PRAFULLA GOSWAMI:  
I am finishing in one minute. There is dearth  
of land. Forests have

[Shri Sriman Prafulla Goswami]

been destroyed. So whatever land we have got have to be distributed among the landless people, whether in Assam, in Manipur, in Meghalaya or in Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. First, have the Chief Ministers' conference and discuss the problems with them. Visit the areas personally.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: And then the M.L.A.s.

SHRI SRIMAN PRAFULLA GOSWAMI: First let them have the geographical knowledge. Mr. Vajpayee, you were so long doing party politics. Now you have become a Minister. Previously you went to Assam as a party man to build up your party. But now go there as a Minister and you will know. Go and see these places. Have its geographical knowledge. Have knowledge about their people. Meet the administrators, not the bureaucrats. Meet the M.L.A.s, the M.P.s and the Ministers there. Meet the professors. Then you will know. You must respect your own people. Mr. Ajit Sharma is a professor of long standing. He was put to jail. I was for your party's victory last time. You may ignore me, I don't mind. I am a different being. Your ignorance or attention will not affect me. I have my grass-roots. I know how to start a rebellion. I know what to do. I am not going to rebel against the Janata Party but, if necessary, I can rebel against all administrators, all corruption and all bureaucrats.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN; Now, that will do.

SHRI SRIMAN PRAFULLA GOSWAMI: Thank you, Sir.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, the question of migration from Nepal has been referred to by the hon. Member but the Motion specifically refers to illegal migration from Burma and Bangladesh.

SHRI SRIMAN PRAFULLA GOSWAMI: That is official. I respect your sentiment. But I did not draft the Motion.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: The fact of the matter is.....

SHRI SRIMAN PRAFULLA GOSWAMI: Unless I sign it I would not be allowed. But don't go by these technicalities. Technicalities will not advance your country.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: There are no technicalities in the matter, but I do not have the required information with me. What am I to do? I am not an anarchist.

SHRI SRIMAN PRAFULLA GOSWAMI: You will have to be. I know you are not an anarchist. But take note of this feeling.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Certainly. Everything that the hon. Member has said has been taken note of. He has made certain good suggestions. For example, he said that before calling a meeting of the Members of Parliament, we should consult the Home Ministers and Chief Ministers of the concerned States. That suggestion will be taken into consideration. But, so far as Nepal is concerned, we have an open border with Nepal. It, however, does not mean that people from Nepal should come in large numbers and settle down in our territory.

SHRI SRIMAN PRAFULLA GOSWAMI: A pass system should be introduced.

SHRI NAGESWAR PRASAD SHAHI (Uttar Pradesh); No passport system to Nepal.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: What I said earlier was that the problems facing the north-eastern region

are important. That area is sensitive. I Many forces, which are inimical to , the country, are working there and 'it is for the Central Government and the State Governments to take action. Just now, a little while ago, Mr. Goswami asked me, "Tell us what concrete steps are being taken." I could have replied to him that patrolling is being intensified, but that would not have satisfied him. I too am not satisfied with the prevailing situation. But this is a recurring phenomenon and we must sit together, put our heads together and devise ways and means | so that the north-eastern region could J be made secure so that the people there should feel that their sorrows and their worries are shared by the rest of the country.

SHRI SRIMAN PRAFULLA GO-SWAMI: Most heartily we will cooperate.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN-. Mr. Kalyan Roy.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): I think my name is there.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Sir, I never heard such an escapist statement from the External Affairs Minister. The position is not only grim but extremely tragic. It is pathetic and, at the same time, explosive. The Govern-- ment says we should not under-esti-mate it nor exaggerate it but we should refer to history. Then they say, "Well, it is also a human problem." But actually the Government is full of contradictions, or, is following a persistently inhuman policy towards the people who are coming there. What are they coming for? Do you think those people are coming to India—Bengal, Tripura, Assam and Meghalaya—in order to have fun? Or, are they leaving their houses, professions, lands and hundreds and thousands of acres of territory so that you could give them a better life here? Not at all. They do not want a better life because they know they cannot get any better life. After 30 years,

people are rotting and dying in the Sunderbans area, because you could not rehabilitate them. They are coming to save their honour, their dignity, their lives and their families because you told them at the time of Partition than at least they will be protected. Not a single refugee came from East Bengal to either Tripura or to West Bengal or to Assam when Mujib was in power. You do your patrolling there; or, as somebody, said, the Army should be moved on to the border. Shame on those who said that. People are coming to save their lives, to save their honour, to save the honour of their wives or daughters, which is not protected there. Mass-scale conversion is going on. And what about Phani Mazum-dar? Sir, I am told that he is rotting in jail. Hundreds of leaders who fought in thirties and in 1942 are rotting in jails. They will be squeezed out from East Bengal. And that is why they have been forced to come. And what is the reply of Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee? "I will try to give money so that B.S.F. is strengthened", not to see that they are properly rehabilitated. Mr. Bir Chandra Deb-Burman, an outstanding leader of Tri-pura tribal people, has said that every day thousands of tribals are coming into this country leaving everything— even without clothings— in order to save their lives. This is the quotation out of the speech of Mr. S. C. Paul, the Inspector-General of Border Security Force, West Bengal, who said that there has been an increase in the number of minorities coming into India from Bangladesh, both legally and otherwise. And then he further added that some of the Muslims are also coming. These Muslims are democrats who fought with the liberation movement, who will be killed if they go back—and they have been killed because your Government has forced them back on the point of bayonet. Last week, the *Illustrated Weekly* carried the picture of a widow with two children trying to enter the border and the tall CRP man forcing

[Shri Kalyan Roy]

them not to enter on the point of bayonet. So what we need today is not strengthening of the military forces there or further patrolling. We need little sympathies which we have lost ever since you, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, have taken over as the External Affairs Minister. You have forgotten the history. The history says that they will be protected. As a matter of fact, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, in reply to one of my questions on 4th August, 1978 stated—and that bring out the grim situation—and I am quoting:

"Recently tribals from Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh, predominantly Mogs and few Chakmas, numbering about 4000 entered, in a clandestine manner, the Sabroom sub-division of South Tripura district in the State of Tripura."

They are coming every day—every night, every morning. Endless hordes of people, thousands of people, come here to seek shelter. And what are you doing? They have been forced to come to this country, why? Because of your appeasement with the present Bangla Desh Government there which does not represent the people there. Your appeasement with that completely undemocratic Government—appeasement with the Government which is tied to America. Go into the root of the problem. The root of the problems is that they feel insecure there. Have you taken up the matter with the Bangladesh Government seriously, as you have seriously given away the Farakka water which is leading to the starvation of the Calcutta port? Therein lies the answer. Your entire foreign policy is wrong. Surrender to the imperialists, surrender to the undemocratic Governments. Talking about non-alignment or proper neutrality which is neither this way nor that way. Have you got the courage to approach the Ziaur Rahman Government which is pushing out minorities? That is

the problem. We have millions of people who have no jobs, no clothing, no shelter and we are burdened with more people coming in and this is leading to a serious problem. N

AN HON. MEMBER: Majorities are also coming.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: That I do not know. I will get from the figures how many people are from the majority communities and how many from the minority communities. But I am told that the majorities are also coming. But only those who dare to challenge the Ziaur Rahman antidemocratic Government with revolvers and bayonets in their hands. This is the position. And every day the Ziaur Rahman Government is throwing these people out, as if that will end the problem. As Mr. Burman was telling us, these Mogs and Chakmas are the worst sufferers. Nothing is left with them, not even the land. They have been pushed back by the military and the CRP. I would like to ask Mr. Vajpayee: Have you taken up the matter with the Bangladesh Government; and, if so, with what results? What was the reply given by the Bangladesh Government? Will he take steps to stop driving them out? Have you taken it up politically? Have tried to mobilise the international opinion? The time has come. During the Bangladesh liberation war, we did not fight alone. We tried to mobilise the entire international opinion, progressive opinion, the democratic opinion, so that the inhuman tyranny comes to an end. The time has come to mobilise the international opinion. What have you done? You were in Japan yesterday, you were in Belgrade the day before yesterday, you were in London last week, and you were hardly available here. Where is the time for you to go to those areas? I understand that international commitments should get priority. But what about mobilisation of the international opinion? This cannot go on because this will lead to a

communal situation. I demand an answer from Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He will advise the Prime Minister to call the Chief Ministers' conference. The Chief Ministers are aware of it. The Chief Minister of Tripura issued a statement that they cannot manage, cope, with it. The Chief Minister of West Bengal gave a statement that hundreds of people have crossed 24 Pargana border from the Bangladesh border. Do not try to by-pass the thing. Take a humanitarian attitude, take a strong attitude and take a determined attitude *vis-a-vis* Bangladesh that this cannot go on for ever. Have you done it? So far you have done nothing about it, except sending more Border Security Force to push out the widows and others who have come in.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Anyway, I am thankful to my friend, Shri Kalyan Roy, for putting forward the other side of the picture. If I say that those who come clandestinely with or without valid documents cannot be searched and we cannot make a house to house search because it is a humanitarian matter, I am attacked for adopting a humanitarian approach. And, on the other hand, if I tell my friends from Meghalaya and Assam that illegal migrants have got to be stopped and that if necessary security arrangements will be strengthened, I am accused of taking a very inhuman line.

Sir, I am sorry to say, I am prepared to admit, that this is a recurring phenomenon. The Janata Government did not start with a clean slate. I have not followed a policy of appeasement towards any country, and I would prefer to get out from the Government than to be an appeaser. Such accusations should not be made lightly in this House. For me the national interests come first. But what am I to do in such a situation? Should we allowed illegal migrants to come without any restriction because the type of Government that is now in Bangladesh is not to our liking?

, Who are we to pass a judgement on on the Government which any country might have or might not have? ; But we have taken all necessary steps to forge friendly relations. No element of appeasement is involved. I am prepared to defend the Farakka ! Agreement, its basis, and we will not allow the Calcutta Port to die and it is not dying. Let us not play politics ' on every issue.

Sir, people came from the Chittagong hill tracts; the number was about 4,000. Immediately we took up the matter with the Bangladesh Government, and the Bangladesh Government agreed to take them back and so far 2,191 refugees out of 4,000 have gone back to their hearths and homes. The facts speak for themselves. I know, the conditions are not very ideal in our neighbouring country. But tell me if a very strong policy is going to pay. We are strong wherever strength is necessary. But we have to adopt an attitude which will not close the doors for further negotiations or for further talks on any issue. When the President of Bangladesh visited New Delhi, this question was taken up with him. When these tribals came from the Chittagong hill tracts, the issue was immediately taken up in New Delhi as well as in Dacca. And as a result of efforts made by the Government, refugees are going back. But my friend, Mr. Kalyan Roy, keeps on repeating that they are coming in thousands...

SHRI KALYAN ROY; Come with me to 24-Parganas, come with me to Agartala; you will see for yourself. But you go to Ginza in Tokyo.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I am giving the figures given by the Government of Tripura. That is the agency on which I have to depend.

Then, sarcastically it is remarked that I am one day in Tokyo and another day in Belgrade. Yes, that is my job. That is the job which has been entrusted to me.

SHRI SITARAM KESRI (Bihar): It is a compliment to you.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : केसरी जी काश ! आपका कुछ कम्लैमेंट देना अता ।

Sir, that is why I wanted a meeting of Members of Parliament belonging to this region. Let my friend, Shri Goswami and my friend, Shri Kalyan Roy, sit together and find out a solution to the problem....

SHRI KALYAN ROY: We have no quarrel.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: — that is being discussed.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, the hon. External Affairs Minister, while replying to the questions of the previous speakers has said that they have taken it up with the Bangladesh Government. Sir, the problem is not whether some infiltrators are entering into India and creating a socioeconomic problem there. And nobody is going to suggest even in their wild dreams that the 4,000 kilometres of border should be policed by the BSF and that physical prevention is possible. The question is what political solution you are trying to arrive at. And there comes the question of Bangladesh. There comes the question of taking it up at the diplomatic level with the Government of the country from where these people are coming, because this is not a new problem. The problem of the refugee influx, so far as that part of Bengal is concerned, has been a continuous one. From 1947 till 1970— I am not talking of 1971 when one crore of people came— there had not been a single year when a large number of people had not crossed the border and taken shelter there. The same is the case with Bengal, the same is the case with Assam, Meghalaya and other border States. The question is, to what extent the Government there is responding to your suggestion. And here I

would like to quote some of the figures given by his deputy on the floor of this House and On the floor of the other House. The External Affairs Minister is very much agitated when my friend, Mr. Kalyan Roy, says that the refugees in Tripura have not yet gone back. Sir, on the 27th of July, on the <sup>noon</sup> of the other House, his deputy informed the Members of that House, as it is reported in a Bengali newspaper, that by the end of August, all the refugees will go back. It is not a very huge number. According to his own admission, it is 4,000 and odd and he has said that 2,000 and odd have been taken back by this time. Is it not an indication of the lukewarm attitude followed by that Government? Is it a very serious problem to take back 4,000 refugees? On the basis of the impression you got from that Government, your deputy made an announcement on the floor of the other House that by the end of August all the refugees will go back. Up to-date according to your admission nearly half of them have gone back and still half of them are there. The question is, not whether the 4000 of them will go back or they will remain here. The question is whether new influx would be stopped or not. Unless the Bangladesh Government takes it up seriously, the refugee influx will never be stopped, be it in the case of north-eastern region, be it West Bengal, be it any other area. I would not like to use the word 'appeasement' as the Minister of External Affairs is very much allergic to that word. But may I respectfully ask him if this is not because of the soft line policy which he has taken so far as the Bangladesh military Government is concerned? I am not going to interfere in the internal matters of that Government, but it has been the consistent stand of this country, and wherever there was a liberation struggle, we stood by them; at least, we have never resorted to the practice of pushing back the patriots as you did at the point of the bayonet. You forced the 200 patriots back at the point of the bayonet and made them get killed in Bangladesh.

True, a majority of the persons are coming to India, not because of the communal tension there, but because of the fact that the internal situation in Bangladesh does not permit them to continue their political activities, does not permit them to resort to their own political ideals. Therefore, they are coming and taking shelter here. I would not like to repeat, it has been repeated many times on the floor of the House, what kind of a treatment was given to these patriots, to these freedom fighters. I am not suggesting that you should encourage these people to come and organise a civil war from this part. But at the same time if somebody wants to take political refuge, have we not accepted this principle that we shall not hand him over to that Government who will summarily kill him, without a trial, without even a facade of trial? But unfortunately that is just what is happening. I do not know what it indicates: Appeasement or soft line or what does it mean? Two hundred people were forced to surrender at the point of the bayonet by the BSF and many more were put to immense hardship and it would not be desirable to disclose all those things. At the head of the Ministry he himself is well aware, nobody in his wilderness would suggest that this should be a breeding ground for political activities by them. But if these people do not find Bangladesh congenial to their staying and if they want to come to India, should we force them to go back and just be killed, shattered and butchered? That is the moot question. On the floor of the House his deputy, Mr. Kundu, admitted, it is the primary responsibility of Bangladesh Government to stop the refugee influx. I would like to know from the Minister of External Affairs, apart from merely expressing its concern through its diplomatic channels, what other steps the Government is taking to make them understand that we cannot be a passive onlooker. He knows very well what happened in 1971. This was one of the major issues. Whatever will happen in Bangladesh, it

will have its repercussions, it will have its consequences, because it is not physically possible to see 4000 kms however powerful he might be in 1978 as compared to 1962 which he very proudly mentions. Physically it is not possible. Therefore, there must be a congenial atmosphere in Bangladesh. What happened in Bangladesh? This is one of the major reasons. A large number of minorities were intimidated not to vote; a large number of minorities were put to pressure. As a result they are feeling they cannot live with honour, they cannot live with prestige, they cannot live with dignity in that country.

4 P.M.

One branch of the Administration thinks that there is no need for the Refugee and Rehabilitation Department because this is an old problem and since 1947 this has been going on and therefore this has to be closed. At the same time the hard fact of life is that still 10 million minorities live in Bangladesh and they have to live there. I am not one who think that all these 10 million people can come and stay here. At the same time we shall have to see that because of the peculiarity of the situation they live in the congenial atmosphere in Bangladesh. This Government should understand, whatever happens in order to sort out their internal problems, they will create a situation in which they will be forced to leave their homes and come to India. This game has been going on for 30 years. I am not blaming you for that. But at the same time it is high time for us to make them understand that we are not going to stand it and tolerate it. The External Affairs Minister can choose his own modality for communicating this to them. It is for the people of Bangladesh to determine, what type of Government they would like to have. We are not going to interfere with it. At the same time I would urge upon the External Affairs Minister to make this clear to the Bangladesh Government. If the freedom loving people there want to come and take shelter in India as political



refugees, we are not going to oblige them by surrendering those people "who will be simply butchered. I would like to tell the External Affairs Minister about the case of Pani Majumdar of whom Shri Kalyan Roy mentioned already. Our Government had told the Bangladesh Government that he was to be released. But the man is still rotting in the Dacca Central Jail. A large number of people are living under inhuman conditions in various jails of Dacca. Of course it is their internal matter and we cannot interfere. But at the same time these things are having repercussions in the minds of minorities whose number is more than 10 millions and who may come here in case certain disturbances take place there and if this happens it may completely upset our economy and our own state of affairs. Therefore, it is not merely and absolutely an internal or domestic matter of Bangladesh. Had it been so, in 1971 We had no business to be involved in their war of liberation. The people were fighting. We lent our moral support. But when one crore of people had to come and take shelter in that part of India, we had no other option but to see that some political settlement was reached so that those people could go back there. Whether there should be a military government or pseudo-military government or democratic government, it is their affair. But I think our External Affairs Department should tell them very clearly that 'you cannot pass on the consequences of your internal matter to us; you cannot create a situation in your country where a large number of minorities and a section of the majority community will feel insecure and decide to take shelter in our country'. This has to be made clear to them. I do not know what is the fate of the Minority Commission which was talked about in 1950 as a result of Nehru-Liaquat pact. If such a mechanism is necessary, I think the External Affairs Minister should take it up with the Government of Bangladesh. I would

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, in my statement, I have referred to the fact that those who are coming from Bangladesh also include members of the majority community. My friend sitting on the side opposite can say many things. But I have to function under certain restraints. Obviously, members of the majority community are coming not because their honour is not safe in Bangladesh. There are other considerations and they should take steps to check such illegal migration. Sir, those who had come from Chittagong hill tracts have all gone back, not because the Government of Bangladesh is reluctant to take them back. The fact of the matter is that the Tripura Government has not been able to locate them. They came through various routes, and they are staying with their friends and with their relations. The Government of Bangladesh offered to take each one of them back and from those who have gone back, we have not received any complaint of harassment or intimidation. Sir, because of the influx of the Bangladeshi or Burmese Muslims from Burma into Bangladesh, a difficult situation has

been created. But it is a matter of satisfaction that both Burma and Bangladesh have agreed and there is a settlement. Those who had come from Burma are going back. Some of these unfortunate people also try to migrate to our areas and they are to be stopped.

SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY  
(West Bengal); Migrated?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Some of them. Now, they have been asked to leave and we hope that they will go back. So, it will not be correct to say that Bangladesh is not prepared to take them, to take the refugees back. Sir, I have been reminded of what happened in 1947 and I wish my honourable friend did not do so. But again, Sir, I am functioning under constraints. Fortunately or unfortunately, I happen to be the Foreign Minister of this country. So, I cannot say many things. Wild accusations are made and unnecessary provocations are being created. This is not a party matter. I will never play politics with national interests. Who does not want, that the North-Eastern Region should be fully secured and fully safeguarded? Now, my friend, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, referred to 200 freedom fighters being forced to go to Bangladesh at the point of bayonet. Has this got anything to do

t with Calling-Attention Motion? I am-phatically say that not a single freedom fighter has been asked to leave India forcibly. We gave them an offer and it was an open offer. We were prepared to give political asylum to those who wanted to seek political asylum. But we told them that we would not allow them to remain on the border and create incidents. That might have been the policy of the Congress Government. That is not the policy of the Janata Government. If they want to fight for freedom, let them go to Bangladesh. But we would

f not allow our territory to be used against any country. We have given political asylum to Dalai Lama. But we do not allow him to indulge in any

political activity. But this allegation is also being repeated all the time that people were forced at the point of bayonet. Not a single person has been forced.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let us now take up next item.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that the following letter dated 15th August 1978 has been received from Shri U. K. Lakshmana Gowda;

"I am leaving today on a visit abroad to Europe and United States of America and expect to be away till about the first week of December 1978. Consequently, it will not be possible for me to attend the rest of the current Session of Rajya Sabha.

"I shall be grateful if the House grants me leave of absence for the rest of the current session."

Is it the pleasure of the House that permission be granted to Shri U. K. Lakshmana Gowda for remaining absent from all meetings of the House during the current Session?

(No hon. Member dissented)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN- Permission to remain absent is granted. Now, Special Mention. Mr. Bhattacharya.

#### REFERENCE TO THE TREATY OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP SIGNED BY JAPAN AND CHINA

SHRI G. C. BHATTACHARYA (Uttar Pradesh); Sir, I am very happy that our Foreign Minister is here today when I am making this mention.

Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs, is reported to have supported the Japan-China