

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing more on this, except that I may inform hon. Members that there will be a discussion on this at 4.30 P.M. Then you can mention what you want to say on this matter.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY (Mysore): We should have a discussion, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes you will have.

HOME MINISTER'S STATEMENT
CORRECTING HIS STATEMENT
OF 14-6-67 REGARDING REPLIES
OF GOVERNMENT OF WEST BEN-
GAL ABOUT NAXALBARI

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): Sir, while making a statement in this House at mid-day on 14th June regarding the situation in the Naxalbari area I had stated that I had sent a telegram to the Chief Minister, West Bengal, on 12th June, and that my Ministry had also addressed a request to the West Bengal Government the same day for full facts in connection with the notice of a discussion on the following day in the other House. I had proceeded to say that since I had not received replies to those communications. I was somewhat handicapped in making a full statement.

A reply to my telegram to the Chief Minister was received in the afternoon of 14th June. A reply to the other communication of 12th June had, however, been received in the Home Ministry at about midnight on 13th June. It has also been brought to my notice that in response to a request made by my Ministry on 10th June a wireless message had been received in the Home Ministry in the afternoon of 13th June. Unfortunately neither of these two messages was brought promptly to my notice or that of any of the senior officers who were

dealing with the subject with the result that I had not been informed about them when I made my statement at mid-day on 14th June. I regret that in these circumstances I made a statement in this House to the effect that no information had been received from the State Government

I wish to take this opportunity to make it clear that in stating that no reply had been received to the two communications of 12th June, it was far from my intention to suggest that there had been any undue delay on the part of the West Bengal Government. I may add that I have sent a communication to the Chief Minister, West Bengal assuring him on these lines.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, you will remember that I had invited your attention to the things which the hon. Minister has just now mentioned, that messages were coming from the Government of West Bengal. I also read out from the newspapers about statements made in Calcutta. Now the hon. Home Minister has corrected what he said and it is all right. But I would like to state that when the hon. Minister was making a statement in this House on so important a matter as this, I think his officials should not have shown this remissness which they have done. It was their duty—not his—to keep him informed as soon as they received the statements. Sir, this was a serious lapse. Of course now he has corrected his statements. But for two or three days the situation had gone on with the West Bengal Government saying that they had sent their statements and the Central Government saying that—as he had stated in his earlier statement—they had not received them. That situation should not have been created. Anyhow, Mr. Chavan has corrected it now. I hope in future he will look after this thing a little better and that his officials will be more alert and active.