

... आखिर बिहार और उत्तर प्रदेश में जो शासक हैं, जो रूलर्स हैं, जिनको वहां के लोगों ने जनादेश दिया, उन लोगों को भी सोचना चाहिए कि बिहार और उत्तर प्रदेश के लोग अगर छोड़कर चले जाएंगे, यहां से जा रहे हैं तो यहां पर रहेगा कौन? आज बिहार का सारा इंटीलीजेंट ग्रुप, पूरा इंटीलीजेंट पढ़ा-लिखा जो वर्कर ग्रुप है, वह अगर बिहार छोड़कर चला गया तो फिर बिहार आगे कैसे जाएगा? इसलिए कहीं न कहीं यह व्यवस्था करने की जरूरत है कि बिहार में बिहार के लोग रहें, उत्तर प्रदेश उत्तर प्रदेश के लोग रहें और आवागमन भी बना रहे-आवागमन को रोकने की बात नहीं हो रही। महाराष्ट्र के लोग जाकर बिहार में रह सकते हैं और बिहार के लोग आकर महाराष्ट्र में रह सकते हैं लेकिन जब अति होगी तो उस अति के खिलाफ बातें निकलकर आएंगी। आज एक अति हो रही है। आज जरूरत से ज्यादा हो रहा है। इसलिए नीतीश कुमार जी, आपसे मेरा निवेदन है कि राष्ट्रीय एनएफ की दुहाई देने के बजाए-उसमें हम भी भरोसा करते हैं, आप भी भरोसा करते हैं, आप शायद ज्यादा भरोसा करते होंगे लेकिन मैं दावा करता हूँ कि आपसे ज्यादा मैं भरोसा करता हूँ-उस विवाद में पड़ने के बजाए, उसको सामने ढाल बनाकर रखने के बजाए रेलवे के रिक्रूटमेंट और तमाम केन्द्रीय नौकरियों की जो व्यवस्था है, जो नीति है, जो पॉलिसी है, उसमें परिवर्तन लाने की व्यवस्था की जाए, इतना ही कहना चाहता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

The Prevention of Terrorism (Amendment) Bill, 2003

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Prevention of Terrorism (Amendment) Bill, 2003, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th December, 2003."

Sir, I lay a copy of the Bill on the Table.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

On the Situation in Assam and Bihar due to Railway Recruitment Policy—Contd.

श्री गांधी आज़ाद (उत्तर प्रदेश): धन्यवाद उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारा देश दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा लोकतांत्रिक देश है। यहां विभिन्न भाषाएं, विभिन्न वेशभूषा, रीति-रिवाज के साथ-साथ विभिन्न बोलियां भी बोली जाती हैं किन्तु सारी विभिन्नताओं के बावजूद हम सब भारत के नागरिक

एक हैं और एक रहेंगे। हमें गर्व है कि एक ही संविधान से पूरा देश व प्रदेश संचालित होता है। आजादी के बाद देश के सर्वांगीण विकास की योजनाएं तो जरूर बनायी गयीं लेकिन इसके बावजूद भी आज कतिपय प्रदेश कुछ कारणों से विकास की ओर अग्रसर हैं किन्तु कुछ प्रदेश आज भी गरीबी, भुखमरी आदि के शिकार हैं। इस कारण यहां के लोग दूसरे प्रदेशों में आजीविका के लिए जाते हैं। आजीविका की तलाश के लिए जाने के लिए इस प्रकार का अधिकार हमारे भारतीय संविधान द्वारा प्रदत्त किया गया है अतः इस प्रकार के संवैधानिक अधिकार पर किसी भी प्रकार का कुठाराघात करना, मेरी राय में संविधान की अवमानना करना है। महोदय, आज रेलवे भर्ती के कारण असम, बिहार की जो स्थिति उत्पन्न हुई, पैदा हुई, वह शर्मनाक है। इसकी जितनी निन्दा की जाए, कम है। इसी तरह की कुछ अफवाहें फैलाने वाली बातें महाराष्ट्र में भी कुछ लोगों द्वारा कही गईं, यह भी सरासर गलत है। मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि आरक्षित वर्ग की भर्तियों को छोड़कर जोनवार, प्रदेशवार और श्रेणीवार प्रकार की भर्ती की क्या व्यवस्था है? किसी भी श्रेणी में प्रदेश और जोन के लोगों को वरीयता देने की व्यवस्था है या नहीं है, ये इस स्थिति को स्पष्ट करें। अगर इस तरह की स्थिति है तो मेरी राय में आरक्षित वर्ग को छोड़कर किसी प्रकार की वरीयता या प्रदेशवाद के कारण देना न्यायोचित नहीं है। मैं सरकार से मांग करता हूं कि इस प्रकार की पुनरावृत्ति न हो सके, इसके लिए कोई कारगर उपाए करने के साथ-साथ इस प्रकार के भ्रामक प्रचार करने वालों के विरुद्ध भी कार्रवाई की जाए।

SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL : Thank you very much, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir. I had prepared to speak on the manner in which the situation in the North-East was used by the insurgent organisation. But the debate seems to be confined to the reservation policy. I am pained to hear this. Sir, I cannot support a demand for 100 per cent reservation in any service. If there were 100 per cent reservation, the people of North-East will remain in North-East; the people of North will remain in North and I do not know what will happen to the insurgency problem of North-East. It is only by interaction, only by people from North-East coming to other areas and people from other areas going to North-East that we can deal with the insurgency problem. If a Dhumka labour were not to go to North-East, I do not know what will happen to the border roads in North-East. If an English teacher was not to go from Kerala, I do not know what will happen to the literacy standards of North-East. If a Gorkha was not to go from Darjeeling to Shillong, I do not know what will happen to the milk industry in the North-East and I can go on and on. The unfortunate part is not the reservation part. If there is a grievance, I am sure, there is a remedy. If people of North-East or Assam feel that they have been discriminated

against, I am sure that somebody can remedy this. One of my friends here compared the Biharis in Assam with people from Mauritius. I think, there is no comparison. The Prime Minister of Mauritius or Trinidad or Surinam and so on would remember the name of his village, may be, his caste and may be his district and may be his State. The problem with a Bihari in North-East is or the problem with a Bihari in Assam is that he does not know the name of his village. He is there for four, five or six generations. He works in tea gardens. He does the menial job. He lives like an Assamese. He speaks the Assamese language. He has followed the Assamese culture. He celebrates *Rangoli Bihu*. He does not behave as if he was a visitor to Assam. Sir, I cannot support the demand for 100 per cent reservation because I believe this will only perpetuate the problems that we have in the North-East. The unfortunate part, Sir, is that the situation has been used by an insurgent group. My friends here say that Assam Government was not given adequate help by the Central Government. Some say, "the demand was for 180 companies and only 120 were given." Sir, the demand for forces from the Centre by the North-Eastern States or any State is endless. But, you will be well advised to see your own deployment chart. Why has the State force not been raised by the North-Eastern States, although the problem of insurgency is there for the last 55 years? Is it that the funds were not given? Is it that the funds were not given to modernise the forces there? The fact is, if you see the deployment chart, you will find that most of the force is used as orderlies in the houses of people in power and people in uniformed services. I am pained to see this. I am pained to see that a person of the level of Deputy Superintendent of Police in the North-East, would have something like 13 orderlies in his house. Then, who will fight the insurgents? Who will be there to fight the ULFA? Who will be there to fight the Bodo problem? With the result, Sir, the problem is continuing for the last 55 years. The Minister of State for Home is present. Sir, we have ceasefire with NSC(IM) since 1997. Why is this problem continuing? The problem is that you have ceasefire with NSCN(IM), but you are doing nothing more. You have ceasefire with NSC(K). NSCN(K) is colluding with the ULFA and is creating havoc in Tirap and Changlang districts of Arunachal and we are sitting quiet about it. Sir, you have not negotiated with the other insurgent groups, nor have you dealt with the insurgent groups. You must follow one of the two policies. Either you talk to an insurgent group, and if an insurgent group does not come to the negotiating table, how will it come to the

negotiating table unless you put adequate military pressure? Sir, now operations—I will just take five minutes. This is the only topic on which I speak.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. A. K. PATEL): You have already consumed your time.

SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Give me five minutes. I will conclude. I don't speak normally on other subjects. Sir, you have started operations along the Bhutan border. We are very grateful to the Bhutanese Government for having started operations against the ULFAs, the Bodos and the KLO. My only prayer is that these operations must be taken to a logical conclusion. And, don't limit it only to Bhutan or the bordering districts. Yesterday, we heard the statement that only two State Governments in the North-East have been cautioned. I believe, you must deal with all these insurgent groups in all the States of North-East, because if you fight in one region, they will go to another region. At the same time, Sir, I believe you should give a definite and a real call to the underground groups to come to the negotiating table. It is not enough to say that whoever wants to talk to us, we are prepared to talk to him. This is not the way to begin a dialogue. The real way to begin a dialogue is to establish a personal contact, reach out to them and tell them that the underground Commander-in-Chief of the Mizo Army is today number two man in Mizoram; tell them how we have honoured the Accord. The underground Mizo National Front has been elected to power for the third term. This is the trust that this country honours. Please go to them with the Mizoram Accord and see that this serves as a model. Sir, these insurgent groups are coming forward with very impossible conditions. They are saying they will begin the dialogue only if the talks are held under the auspices of the United Nations. Now, we don't control the United Nations. How do you bring forward the United Nations to hold Centre's dialogue with the ULFA? At the same time, I know Paresh Barua is in Bangladesh; Anup Chetia is in Bangladesh. You should persuade the Government of Bangladesh to show a friendly gesture. We are not supporting a single Bangladeshi insurgent group from our territory. We are co-operating with the Government of Myanmar. We have conducted joint operations with the Government of Myanmar. Bhutan Government has come forward to help us and we will help the Bhutanese Government always. Can the Bangladeshi Government show similar gesture? The two countries cannot progress if the Chittagong hill tract is not peaceful and this is possible only

by mutual co-operation and understanding. They should not play a host to the ULFA leaders in Bangladesh and, at the same time, the ULFA leaders, who are presently in Dhaka, who are in Cox's Bazar, should please come over and talk to the Government of India and I am sure the Government of India will stand by its commitment of negotiating all insurgency problems in a peaceful manner. Thank you, Sir, you gave me time to speak.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (DR. A. K. PATEL): Mr. Bhattacharya, although the time allotted to your party is over, still I give you 2-3 minutes.

SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE (Assam): Sir, first of all, I condemn the incidents, which occurred in Bihar and Assam, and, particularly, Bihari killings in Assam.

Sir, first of all, everybody says there is regionalism. But you know the position of the North-East for the last two decades. There are insurgent groups present like in Jammu and Kashmir. I want to say only two or three points. Sir, as a Member of the Railway Standing Committee, I met the Railway Minister several times and explained the real position of the North-East. He also mentioned that since there is a Supreme Court verdict, there is no question for any local people. I understand that there is the Supreme Court verdict. I also told him that the Central Government should file a Writ Petition in the Supreme Court. There are regional sentiments in everyone. What is the NDA Government? Regional forces are being encouraged, that is why this Government is there under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Sir, I must say that our Chief Minister wrote a letter to the hon. Prime Minister, and, that I want to mention here. The entire episode was the result of a wrong policy of the Railway Recruitment Board. Previously, there was a policy of Preferential Recruitment of local youth through local Employment Exchange up to the pay of Rs. 500 per month, and, the Railways informed, the then Deputy Minister for Railways, Shri Mohammed Sharief Qureshi wrote to Shri Tarun Gogoi, Member of Parliament in 1971, "The present policy, however, has no such provision and all categories of posts of Railway are open to all the citizens of the country."

In spite of the Chief Minister of Assam writing to the Prime Minister in November, 2000 for implementation of job reservation for local people, there has been no change in the policy. This has created resentment among the local people, and, hence this unfortunate incident took place.

Now, about the local employment of *chaprasis* for the posts of C & D categories. I also explained to the Railway Minister about the C and D categories. I know the position. In Assam, there are 20 Legislators representing Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and other places. They are residing in Assam from generation to generation. There is no question. In particular Assam, those who are rickshawalas, thelawalas, saloonwalas, they are all Biharis. Everybody knows it. So, these incidents have happened due to the wrong policies. Sir, as a Member of the Railway Standing Committee, I met the Minister several times, and, he is here.

After this, I want to draw the attention of the Home Minister. Our Chief Minister wrote a letter to Shri Advaniji. In the 14 letters in the last two years, the State Government made urgent appeal to the Government of India to earmark minimum 180 companies of the Central Para-Military Forces for Assam, as asserted by the Government of India in the year 1999 for maintenance of law and order and to fight militancy. The Chief Minister of Assam has made several requests, in person, and, in writing to the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister for the additional companies of the Central Para-Military Forces. The Chief Minister of Assam wrote 14 letters to the Deputy Prime Minister on this matter. The sudden withdrawal of 21 companies for the ensuing election duty in other States and together withdrawal of one full battalion of CRPF aggravated the situation, as the companies were withdrawn from counter-insurgency operation. This created vacuum that facilitated this violence.

Shri Swaraj Kaushalji, Laluji and the Opposition Leader of Bihar have visited Assam, and, we welcome them. Assam has two parts. One is the Brahmaputra Valley and the other is Barak Valley. In the Barak Valley, 40 lakh people are residing, and, mainly, 30 to 40 per cent Biharis and Hindi-speaking tea-garden people are there. I led a procession and a *padyatra*. There were about 10,000 Biharis. There was not even a single incident in the Barak Valley. In Assam, the Brahmaputra Valley incident was committed by militants of the North East. Our Chief Minister took a strong view. He suspended the Superintendent of Police and transferred the District Collector. Only four days after that, the Home Minister went to Assam, and he sent some force. That is on 19th or 20th. After 20th, there was no incident. So, I again say that there is no regional thinking. I request the hon. Railway Minister to review the recruitment policy, as it was just mentioned by Nirupamji. It should be State-wise in Grade 'C'

and Grade 'D' category posts, and not in the other posts. They should give all-India posts in the other way, but Grade 'C' and Grade 'D' category posts, that is, *chaprasi*, gangman, etc. should be given to the local people. Shri Ahluwaliaji just now said, "We are Indian". We are also Indian. We also fought for about 40 years. We know the position. There is not the question of Biharis or Maharashtritis or anybody. There is not the question of local sentiments, and particularly, the sentiments of the North East people who are facing insurgency for the last decades. And frustrated, who have taken arms and ammunitions. So, you should take care of this. Again, I request the hon. Railway Minister to review the recruitment policy. Thank you.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Assam): Thank you, very much, Vice-Chairman, Sir. Sir, this is a sensitive issue, and I thank the Chair for giving me this opportunity to discuss the matter. First of all, I condemn what happened on 9th, on the day of recruitment in Assam, and the subsequent torture of the passengers of the North Eastern Region for consecutive three days in the presence of the RPF and Bihar Police, where rapes, molestation, looting and all sorts of harassment were done to the passengers of the North Eastern Region. And, subsequently what happened in Assam, was very unfortunate, and I also equally condemn that. This unfortunate incident has far-reaching repercussions, because in certain media, there is a tendency of propagating that the people of Assam are very parochial. This is a quarrel between the Assamese and the Biharis. I totally denounce that kind of propaganda because Assam is a place where there is no single community like Assamese. There is no particular race or caste. Assam is a cosmopolitan society. People, since long, who have come from various parts of India, even from various parts of Mongolia, China, Thailand and many other parts, have settled in Assam and founded a greater Assamese society. The All Assam Students Union is the organisation which spearheaded the agitation, after which the incident happened in Assam. The President of the All Assam Students Union in 1974 was Shri Lallan Prasad Singh. He was from Bihar; his forefathers were from Bihar. He represented the All Assam Students Union, which took a Resolution that 100 per cent jobs in Grade III and Grade IV in the Central Services should go to the local people. We do not mean by 'local people' only the Assamese or the Assamee-speaking people. As other hon. Members have pointed out, all those communities,

including Nepalis, Bengalis, or all the people, speaking various languages, or belonging to other religion, they constitute the local population. They may be originally from Bihar, but they are also locals. The point of the people of Assam was that in the recruitment of Grade II and Grade IV posts, preference should be given to the local youths. The Railway Recruitment Policy has changed from time to time. I thank Nitishji for the bold step, which he has taken in advertising these posts which was done very unsystematically in earlier times. The defective policy of the Government of India is mainly responsible for all kinds of unfortunate incidents, which happened in the country. It is the foremost duty of the Government of India to revise the National Recruitment Policy in the interest of the nation. We are not demanding it only for the North-East, but similar reservation policy on regional basis should be given to the youth of all the regions of the country. This is our demand. If we go to the root cause of the problem, it is unemployment. Unemployment is the root cause of the insurgency in the North-Eastern Region. In Hindi, there is a proverb. If I am wrong, I may be corrected. " उत्तम खेती मध्यम बान, नीच चाकरी भीख निदान " That means the worst thing is getting a job to be employed by others, but the greatest thing is self-employment either through agriculture or business. Now, the question is, in a hundred crore population, every year one crore labour population that migrate from Bangladesh is added. Because we have not educated our youth to get self-employed. So, for what, there is stiff competition? I hope the Government of India will formulate a policy in the interest of the national unity. Every region should have an equitable share in development; every region should have an equitable share in employment—in Government and public sector jobs. In that case, hundred per cent has been demanded for the Grade D and Grade C. For the higher jobs also, there should be some proportionate representation from all the regions, otherwise some areas of the country will always feel isolated. There will be no one represented in the National Capital in the secretariat or in any of the Ministry's posts and there cannot be a national unity, if this kind of procedure is followed. The technicality of the Recruitment Policy was so that even for the post of a driver and for a *chaprasy*, the question paper, which was prepared, was of I.A.S. standard. It was an objective paper in computerised form (*Time-bell*). If Members of Parliament have to answer those questions, I think, it will not be possible for them. Some IIT students appeared in the examination

on behalf of other boys, because there were no identity cards. That is why some good percentage of jobs had gone to a particular community or a particular area. Two years ago, there was recruitment of Grade III post. 500 candidates were interviewed for Grade III posts. From the entire eight States of the North-East, only eight youth of the North-East Region got job. Out of 500 jobs, only one candidate of each State could get one job in that category. If that is the situation, how insurgency in the North-East could be stopped? From yesterday onwards, there is an agitation of various students' organisations of the North-Eastern region in all the States' Capitals led by the North-East Regions Students' Organisation regarding similar demands. The demands will continue, unless the Government of India come forward with a National Recruitment Policy, not only for Railways, but also for all the recruitments in the Central Government. There should be recruitment on regional basis. Equitable share to the local youth of all the regions of the country on proportionate basis is being represented even for the North-East. I think equitable share should be given to all the eight States of the North-East Region. Sir, there is one more issue. After the recent happenings, many leaders from the national parties had gone there, and in spite of taking concrete steps to ease the situation prevailing over there, they have been accusing each other. They wanted to take advantage of the situation during elections to the municipalities and town committees, and instead of finding out a solution, everybody wanted to exploit the situation, and the innocent people in Assam, who have continuously been killed and looted consecutively for more than 10 years, despite there being an elected Government, are in panic. They could not go from the refugee camps to their homes because everything was burnt down, and there is no shelter left for them. Also, some innocent boys are being arrested and put in jail. In the name of good administration, this is going on. An enquiry should be conducted to find out as to what really has happened and how the problem can be solved. I may inform the House that when Shri Lalu Prasad and a few other Members of this House had gone to Assam, they tried their level best to ease the situation, and it has helped a lot. But still, we feel that at the national level, till today, the Government could not come out with a specific statement about what has really happened during these incidents, and how the Government proposes to solve the problem for all times to come so that there is no division of the society in the name of language, in the name of caste or community. A permanent

solution, which will satisfy the aspirations of the people of the entire country, should be found out to all these problems. This is my prayer. I hope this House will take a very positive decision in this regard, and will direct the Government to come forward with a pragmatic solution so that the problem can be solved for ever. Otherwise, the militant outfits, who are the real culprits behind all the incidents, and who have got an upper hand to take advantage of the situation, to mobilize the public in favour of their organizational network.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. A.K. PATEL): Mr. Sarma, please conclude.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: If they are allowed to take this advantage, that will be very harmful for the entire country. So, in order to deal with the situation effectively, we should come forward with a permanent solution very quickly. The hon. Railway Minister is here. Today, agitation by AASU and many other organizations is going on in Assam. Widespread protests are reported from different parts of the State. These problems should not be tackled in such a manner that there is normalcy for a few days, and after some time, the same situation prevails. Unless and until a permanent solution is found to these problems, which is in the interest of the country, in the interest of the national unity, the situation will not change. If we want that India, as a country, should become a very strong nation, we must find out a permanent solution to all these problems. There should be no regional feelings, no differences between the communities on the basis of language and religion. With this appeal, I conclude.

SHRI NABAM REBIA (Arunachal Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I come from the biggest State of the region, that is, Arunachal Pradesh, which is almost 10,000 square kms. more than that of the size of Assam. Sir, I request you to be a little considerate to me. Before I come to the topic, I would like to recall, it was on the floor of this august House, maybe two years back, on another Short Duration Discussion on "Internal security of the country, with special reference to the North-Eastern Region," I had said here that the North-Eastern Region has become a den of the ISI activities. There is a move to carve out a Bengali-speaking Muslim country in the region. Assam is almost another Bangladesh today. All other neighbouring States of the region are being affected. All those things, we are discussing today, maybe, on behalf of these people, these

elements. Sir here, the discussion seems to be confined to only Assam and Bihar and sometimes, there is a reference of Maharashtra. We are talking of the North-East region. For the information of the hon. Vice-Chairman, even most of the Members of this august House are yet to know much about the region. There is no proper understanding of the region. Many of them think that Assam is the last State, Guwahati is the last city of the region. It has not come to their notice that beyond Guwahati, beyond Assam, there are States. As I have been saying, a State like Arunachal Pradesh has an area of almost 84,000 sq. kms. whereas Assam has 74,000 sq. kms. There is Nagaland. So many States are there. People have to understand what they are. Sir, I am just raising a very relevant point how the Arunachal Pradesh Cultural Group was attacked in Bihar. I want to know about it because I have interacted with these people; I have talked to them; I have come to know what experience they had. And I have given a written complaint to the hon. Railway Minister and I have met him also. (Time bell) Sir, please don't go on ringing the bell. As I said earlier, please be considerate to me. Why don't we try to understand the North-Eastern region? I am talking about the State of Arunachal Pradesh in particular. You ask a class II student of Arunachal Pradesh. He knows about the country! He is still good indeed, whereas even our own people do not know much. sometimes, even I cannot convince my fellow Indians that I am also an Indian. इस देश की विशेषता है 'अनेकता में एकता'. Many people do not understand it, 'unity in diversity'. As you know, Sir, on 12th of November, a Cultural Group of Arunachal Pradesh was going to Mumbai by the Dadar Express. Two escorts were there. They were attacked. When they protested, they told them, they are not Assamese; they are Arunachalese! Two of the escorts had their identity cards. They are Government employees, Government officers. They produced their I-Cards also to prove their identity. Still, they are not paying any attention! All of them are brought ... (Time bell) The jewellery of the ladies were snatched away, and the very girl who was raped was pulled out of the compartment. They were in the same compartment. She was not from Assam. She was from some other State. As one of the Members said, she was from Nagaland. One more girl who could just liberate herself from the clutches of these demons was from some other State. And our people have seen this! How come this behaviour! And when these people went to the Jabalpur Railway Station to lodge a complaint, why did the Police not file an FIR as lodged by the Group? I have specifically

5.00 P.M.

mentioned this point to the hon. Railway Minister; please take care of it. But still we are continuing, and we are trying to raise it. See the role of students in our State. They are very active in our region. Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma has also said..(Time bell).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. A.K. PATEL): Mr. Bashistha Narain Singh.

SHRI NABAM REBIA: I am not saying that you give hundred per cent reservation. I am not in agreement with most of the Members. That may not be practically possible. But please take into account the regional aspirations of the people of the region, and when you formulate policies and programmes for the region, please see that the demographic pattern of the region is not threatened. This is the most immediate cause of...
...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. A.K. PATEL): Please take your seat.

SHRI NABAM REBIA: ...any type of revolt, any type of unrest in the region.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. A.K. PATEL): Shri Bashistha Narain Singh.

SHRI NABAM REBIA: You are insisting, Sir. Okay. Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity, and I hope, Mr. Nitish Kumarji, you will be considering at least some of our local boys, particularly from my State, because I do not have a single person as a railway employee in the Railway Department. At least, I hope, next time you will consider five, six boys from my State also, and also see that people could create a separate railway zone for the North-East.

श्री बशिष्ठ नारायण सिंह (बिहार): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज हम लोग एक गंभीर विषय पर चर्चा कर रहे हैं। इस सवाल पर अपनी बात रखने से पहले मैं दो घटनाओं का उल्लेख करना चाहता हूँ। एक घटना इन दोनों सदनों से संबंधित है और एक पंजाब से संबंधित है, जिसको मुझे देखने का मौका मिला और वहां मुझे जाने का मौका मिला। 26 अगस्त, 1997 से 1 सितम्बर तक लोक सभा में एक विशेष चर्चा हुई थी और लोक सभा में जो विशेष चर्चा थी उसमें देश की महान हस्तियाँ, जो आज भी सदन में मौजूद हैं, उन लोगों ने भाग लेने का काम किया था। उस समय उनकी वाणी में कसक थी, उनकी वाणी में वेदना थी, उनकी वाणी में पीड़ा थी लेकिन साथ-साथ संकल्प

भी था। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं उस घटना का उल्लेख आज इसलिए करना चाहता हूँ कि जिन बातों के ऊपर, कई सवालियों के ऊपर उस समय जो प्रकाश डाला गया था, उनसे ही जुड़े हुए एक सवाल पर आज हम बहस करने के लिए और उस पर अपने विचार प्रकट करने के लिए इस बैठक में शरीक हैं, सम्मिलित हैं। उस बहस में चिंता प्रकट की गयी थी कि हमने क्या खोया है और क्या पाया है। उसमें चिंता व्यक्त की गयी थी कि आज देश की आजादी के पचास वर्षों के बाद भी हम कहां खड़े हैं और हमें कहां जाना चाहिए। लेकिन उस चिंता और उस पीड़ा के बाद उस हाउस में संकल्प भी व्यक्त किया गया था कि देश को हमें किधर ले जाना है, देश किस चौराहे पर खड़ा है और देश कहां जाएगा, किस रास्ते से जाएगा। आज असम और बिहार के इस सवाल को केवल दो प्रदेशों से जोड़कर देखने की जरूरत नहीं है। रेलवे भर्ती बोर्ड की जो पॉलिसी है, उसको देखने की जरूरत नहीं है। मुझे तो लगता है कि अगर मुझे अपनी बात शुरू करनी होगी तो मैं तो रेल मंत्री को एक बात के लिए बधाई देना चाहूंगा और शायद इस सदन के सभी सदस्य इस पर सहमति भी व्यक्त करेंगे। रेल भर्ती बोर्ड की पॉलिसी को—इस व्यक्ति ने जब मंत्री पद संभाला—ट्रंसपेरेंट बनाकर, इसको पारदर्शी बनाकर काम करने का काम किया है, यह एक बड़ी उपलब्धि है कि इसको अच्छे रूप में पेश करने का काम उन्होंने किया है, इसके लिए मंत्री जी बधाई के पात्र हैं। लेकिन दूसरे सवाल भी इसके साथ खड़े हुए हैं कि असम में हिंसा हुई है। इसलिए मैं एक घटना का विशेष रूप से उल्लेख करना चाहता हूँ।

(श्री सभापति पीठसीन हुए)

जब बेअंत सिंह जी पंजाब में मुख्य मंत्री थे और उस समय 25 बिहारी मजदूरों की पंजाब में हत्या की गयी थी, मैं बिहार का उस समय श्रम मंत्री था। मैं पंजाब में गया। लुधियाना के पास तीन गांवों में बिहार के 25 मजदूर मारे गए थे। उन गांवों को जब मैं देखने गया—आज असम के जो भी भाई यहां इकट्ठे हैं, जो भी महाराष्ट्र के या किसी भी प्रदेश के लोग इकट्ठे हैं, उनको बताना चाहता हूँ कि जो कुछ भी मैंने वहां देखा—वह आज तक मुझे स्मरण है, वह मुझे जिंदगी में प्रेरणा देने का काम करता रहेगा। जब मैं वहां तीन गांवों में गया तो वहां के गांव के लोगों ने मुझसे कहा कि आप बिहार से आए हो, बिहार के लोगों को जाकर तुम बता देना कि पंजाब के हम भाई और पंजाब के गांव के लोग पंजाब के निर्माण में जो बिहारियों का योगदान है, इसको कभी भूलें नहीं हैं, न कभी भुलाएंगे। और बिहारी जो बचे हुए हैं, उनसे पूछने का काम कर लो कि इनके साथ हमारा कैसा व्यवहार होता है? उनसे पूछने का काम कर लो कि उनके खाने पीने में क्या हम दिक्कत पैदा करते हैं? उनसे पूछने का काम करो कि क्या इनके योगदान को हम लोग एप्रीशिएट करते हैं या नहीं? बहस को आज इसी ओर ले जाने की जरूरत है। बहस को इस ओर ले जाने की जरूरत नहीं कि पुलिस ने क्या किया। बहस को इस ओर ले जाने की जरूरत नहीं है कि एफआईआर में कितना विलम्ब हुआ और कितनी गलती हुई। बहस को इस ओर ले जाने की जरूरत नहीं है कि कितना

सम्पत्ति का नुकसान हुआ है और कितना कम्पेनसेशन मिलना चाहिए। बहस को आज इस ओर ले जाने की जरूरत है कि इस देश की अखंडता और एकता, जो इस देश की विशेषता है, इसको बनाए रखने के लिए हमें ढंग के कारगर उपाय भविष्य में करने चाहिए और उनकी तरफ हमें जाना चाहिए—ऐसा मुझे लगता है। थोड़े ही दिन पहले प्रधानमंत्री जी का इस सदन में भ्रष्टाचार के संबंध में जो भाषण हुआ, उसमें जो उनकी वेदना थी कि हम कहां जा रहे हैं और जिन शब्दों में उन्होंने कहा था, उसी प्रकार क्षेत्रीयता एक बड़ा सवाल बनकर मुल्क के सामने खड़ा हो गया है इसलिए इस सवाल पर गंभीरता से विचार करना चाहिए।

श्री सभापति: बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

श्री बशिष्ठ नारायण सिंह: सभापति जी, उन गांवों में जाने के बाद जब मैं बेअंत सिंह के पास गया तो बेअंत सिंह जी का जो व्यवहार मैंने देखा मैं उसका वर्णन कर देना चाहता हूँ क्योंकि देश की एकता और अखंडता की रक्षा के लिए उस बयान का बहुत महत्व है। बेअंत सिंह जी अब नहीं रहे। जब मैं उनके पास गया और जाने के बाद उनसे कहा कि बिहारी मजदूर पंजाब के खेतों में काम करते हैं, पंजाब की हरियाली बनाए रखने में उन्होंने योगदान दिया है, यदि आप कुछ कदम नहीं उठाएंगे तो बिहार के मजदूरों पर और बिहार से जो वासी आए हैं, उनके ऊपर असर पड़ेगा। उन्होंने पूछा कि आप क्या चाहते हैं? हमने कहा कि जीवन और जिंदगी की कीमत पैसों से नहीं आंकी जा सकती है लेकिन ये गरीब हैं और अब मर गए हैं तो इनके परिवारों को भुगतान के रूप में, एवज के रूप में कुछ देना चाहिए। उन्होंने पूछा कि आप क्या चाहते हैं? कई सवालों को रखा। उसमें एक सवाल यह भी था कि एक लाख रुपए आपको देने चाहिए। मुझे खुशी है कि उन्होंने एक-एक लाख रुपए पच्चीस मजदूरों को भिजवाने का काम किया। यह रिकार्ड बात है। मैं इस बात को केवल इसलिए नहीं कर रहा हूँ कि जो मारे गए हैं उन्हें मुआवजा दिया जाए बल्कि इसलिए कह रहा हूँ कि आज इस सदन में इस पर गंभीरता से विचार करना चाहिए कि केवल रेलवे बोर्ड की पॉलिसी में ही चेंज करने की जरूरत नहीं है बल्कि नियोजन की नई पॉलिसी और केंद्र और राज्यों को नए ढंग से, जो गरीब क्षेत्रीय राज्य हैं उन्हें विशेष मदद देने की जरूरत है। स्पेशल पैकेज देकर उनकी योजनाओं को सफल बनाने की जरूरत है, उनकी बेरोजगारी को खत्म करने की जरूरत है और स्वरोजगार को बड़े पैमाने पर लागू करने की जरूरत है। तभी देश से ऐसी समस्या का निदान हो सकता है। सभापति जी, सात लाख लोगों में ... (व्यवधान) ..

श्री सभापति: माननीय सदस्य आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

श्री बशिष्ठ नारायण सिंह: बीस हजार लोगों को एम्प्लॉयमेंट मिल जाए, इससे बड़ी समस्या का हल नहीं हो जाता है। आपका मुझे बैठने का आदेश है इसलिए मैं इतनी ही बात

कहकर खत्म करूंगा कि क्षेत्रीय राज्यों के लिए विशेष योजना बने, यही बड़ी बात हो सकती है। धन्यवाद।

श्री सभापति: श्री शंकर राय चौधरी।

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: सभापति जी।

श्री सभापति: कितने मिनट बोलेंगे?

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: मैं तो ब्रीफ बोलता हूं। पहले ये खत्म कर लें, इसके बाद मैं बोल दूंगा।

श्री सभापति: नहीं, पहले आप बता दीजिए।

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: चार मिनट में खत्म कर दूंगा।

श्री सभापति: आपका सीधा सवाल न असम से है, न बिहार से है।

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: चार मिनट में खत्म कर दूंगा। सवाल देश से जुड़ा है।

श्री सभापति: लेकिन क्वेश्चन यह है कि देश...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सुरेश पचौरी: सभापति जी, इनका संबंध बिहार से भी है और बाकी और भी संबंध हैं।

श्री सभापति: बाकी और संबंधों का मैं जिक्र नहीं करना चाहता क्योंकि उसकी आपको जानकारी है, मुझे नहीं है।

नौवहन मंत्री (श्री शत्रुघ्न सिन्हा): राजीव शुक्ल जी को पांच मिनट दीजिए ये एक घंटे में खत्म करेंगे।

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: बिहार तो समुद्राल है।

श्री सभापति: तब तो मैं आपको बोलने ही नहीं दूंगा।

SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY (West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue is about the situation in Assam and Bihar due to the Railway recruitment policy. It is my submission that the problems are well-known. They have been posed to the hon. Minister. But I don't think the hon. Minister or any other Minister has an answer for the complex situation that the country is facing today. It is out of his hands. It is out of the hands of all of us. Today, we are a country of one billion people with eight religions, 18 languages and 1500 dialects. These problems will arise. The question is: What can in this case the Railway Ministry and in other

cases other Central Ministries do to minimise these incidents? I don't think they can be totally prevented because we have seen that even in recruitment to other Central Services, even in my own Service. The point is, the policy that we have to follow—I am sure the Railway Ministry is following that policy—is these recruitments have to be done on zonal basis. They have made so many Railway Zones. Let the recruitment of that category, Group 'C' and Group 'D', be carried out at the zonal level because the zone itself extends to more than one States in some cases. Secondly, even if you do it on zonal basis or regional basis or State basis, these problems will continue because even within the region or the zone or the State,—whatever we may say about regional predominance—each region has got elements of all communities of the country. Therefore, I think, there is no other answer, not just for the Railway Ministry but for all Central Services, to carry out recruitments to C and D Group posts on a regional basis. In addition to that, I think the major issue is that the recruitment procedure has to be transparent, has to be, to the extent possible, fool-proof and to the extent possible all the problems, which Shri Sanjay Nirupam mentioned, should be avoided because I don't think we can really blame anybody for this. This is a part of our system. I think when we are growing up as a nation, this will happen. The effort will be to minimise these incidents, control these incidents.

Now, in this case particularly, there were some remarks made against the role of the police. Now that the hon. Railway Minister has got his own police force, this is one thing where he has to exercise very tight control because whatever we may say, how much we may be agonised over this, the problem is with us and the problem will remain with us. But, I think, as we go along, we have to minimise it. So, I have really no advice to give the Minister. He gives solutions and I am sure, he is working towards it. Thank you.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI (Maharashtra): Sir, I will be very brief, I will finish my speech in two minutes.

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: सभापति जी, मैं अपनी बात बहुत संक्षेप में कहूंगा। जो मुख्य समस्या है, मेरे ख्याल से वह भर्ती और दो राज्यों का विवाद नहीं है, बल्कि बेरोजगारी की है, जो इस तरह बढ़ गई है कि अगर 15 लोगों की कोई वैकेंसी होती है तो एक लाख लोग फॉर्म भरते हैं और परीक्षा देने जाते हैं। उसकी वजह से मुंबई में भी तनाव हुआ और उसी की वजह से यह असम में तनाव हुआ। अगर

इस देश में उद्योग-धंधे न बढ़ाये गए और यही हाल रहा पूरे नॉर्थ इंडिया का और बाकी राज्यों का ... (व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति: आप कोई नई बात बताओ, यह तो सब... (व्यवधान)

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: बहुत संक्षेप में बात कह रहा हूं। मैं जल्दी-जल्दी सारे... (व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति: नहीं, कोई नई बात बताओ, संक्षेप में।

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: यही नई बात है। इसकी तरफ कोई नहीं बोल रहा है।

श्री सभापति: यह तो सब माननीय सदस्यों ने... (व्यवधान)

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: वरना रेलवे में भर्ती... (व्यवधान) इतने सालों से रेलवे में भर्ती हुई, लेकिन आज तक कभी कोई इस तरह की बात क्यों नहीं हुई, आज क्यों हुई? इसलिए कि बेरोजगारों की संख्या बढ़ गई जहां भी जाते हैं दो लाख आदमी मुंबई के प्लेटफॉर्म पर था।

श्री सभापति: ठीक है, ठीक है।

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: इस समस्या के हल के लिए एक तो इंडस्ट्रियलाइजेशन को बढ़ाना चाहिए, दूसरा मंत्री जी को सुझाव है कि जोनल के बजाय सी ओ डी के और नीचे अगर वे ले आएंगे, डिवीजनल लेवल पर तो और अच्छा है। मंडल स्तर पर अगर भर्ती हो तो उसी मंडल के लोग आयेंगे। तीसरी बात जो कुछ असम में हुआ, उसके लिए मैं असम सरकार और बिहार सरकार, दोनों को इस बात के लिए बधाई देना चाहूंगा कि उन्होंने स्थिति पर नियंत्रण करने में और शांति से इस समस्या को सुलझाने में प्रयास किया, वहां सांसदों का प्रतिनिधि मंडल भी गया था और जिसकी वजह से दो-तीन-चार दिन के अंदर ही वहां पर शांति हो गई। एक बात जो अभी शिव सेना के सांसद ने भूमिपुत्र वाली उठाई कि कुछ आरक्षण देना चाहिए वहां के लोगों को, जहां पर होता है, इसलिए उन लोगों के लिए रिजर्व कर दिया जाए। मैं इस बात से कतई सहमत नहीं हूं। केन्द्रीय सेवाओं के लिए अगर आप आरक्षण देने की शुरुआत करेंगे तो भूमिपुत्र की कोई हद नहीं है। आज आप महाराष्ट्र के भूमिपुत्र के लिए कह रहे हैं, कल महाराष्ट्र के अंदर विदर्भ वाले कहेंगे कि हमारा भूमिपुत्र का दावा है। फिर मराठवाड़ा वाले कहेंगे कि हमारा भूमिपुत्र का दावा है। इसलिए यह स्थिति किसी भी तरह स्वीकार नहीं की जा सकती। महोदय, मुझे याद है कि एअर इंडिया में जब भर्ती की बात आई थी तो केरल का स्टॉफ न लिया जाए इस पर आपत्ति जता चुके हैं कि केरल के लोकल लोगों को नहीं लिया जा सकता। इसलिए यह पूरे देश की बात होती है और केन्द्रीय सेवाओं में क्षेत्रवाद के आधार पर किसी किस्म का आरक्षण देना बिल्कुल उचित नहीं है। हां, आप नीचे के स्तर पर 'डी' श्रेणी में प्राथमिकता भले ही दे सकते हैं। दूसरी चीज, सर, इसमें जो असम का मसला है, इसमें दो

बातें बहुत महत्वपूर्ण हैं। पहले पचौरी जी ने भी कहा कि सैन्ट्रल फोर्सेस जो नहीं दी गई, 111 कंपनीज कुल दी गई, जबकि वहां पर 180 कंपनीज की जरूरत थी। वह उचित बात नहीं है। दूसरे एक बात यह है कि कम से कम प्रधानमंत्री और उप प्रधानमंत्री जी को असम जाना चाहिए। एक भी व्यक्ति वहां नहीं गया। इसका मतलब है कि उन्होंने समस्या को गंभीरता से नहीं लिया।

श्री सभापति: ठीक है।

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: अब आप हमारी तरफ लगातार ऐसे देख रहे हैं कि डर के मारे मैं बैठ जा रहा हूं। सारे प्वायंट हमारे हाथ में हैं। लेकिन आप जिस तरह से देख रहे हैं... (व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति: लगातार नहीं देख रहा हूं। आप बहुत महत्वपूर्ण बातें बोल रहे हैं और जहां महत्वपूर्ण बातें होती हैं, वहां ज्यादा नहीं बोलना चाहिए ताकि महत्व समाप्त न हो जाए।

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: ठीक है, तो मैं बैठ रहा हूं। धन्यवाद।

SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Sir, I want to deal with this issue with a national spirit because I do admit I have visited neither Assam nor Bihar after this incident. Sir, we are dealing with symptoms only, not the disease. The main problem is that we are dealing with the symptoms only. I call all that happened in Bihar and Assam and the stray incidents which occurred in Maharashtra, a part of the system. The deep-rooted disease is that, unfortunately, such problems are leading us towards disintegration, instead of leading us towards integration. There are all sorts of problems relating to caste, creed, religion, sex, communalism, and now the problem of provincialism. These are the issues, and the minute the symptoms appear, the undesirable elements take advantage of the situation.

Sir, my colleague, Shri Shankar Roy Chowdhury, suggested how we could minimise the problem. Certainly, there are golden middle points to deal with it. But, at the same time, we should not be desperate. I will suggest some golden middle points. There is a certain demarcation as far as the Services are concerned. There cannot be reservation as far as the All-India Services like IAS, IPS, Indian Foreign Service, Indian Forest Service, are concerned. On the same pattern, we have the State Public Services whereby this aspect is taken care of. As far as the Railways are concerned, I oppose reservation. But I do feel that we should have some zonal system to take care of the problem. Why should you invite 15 lakh people? For example, if people with MBA and B.Com. qualifications apply for the posts of gangmen, you can scrutinise the applications and

lessen the number of those called for examination. The problems are there but there has to be the will-power and the way-out will be found. I hope we will be able to find a way out and solve this problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Dinesh Trivedi, आप ध्यान रखिए कि जो मेंबर बोले हैं, सभी ने शार्ट, स्वीट और बढ़िया बात कही है।

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI (West Bengal): I do not know about the sweetness, but I will try to be short, Sir.

Sir, I am particularly saddened today to talk on this subject. The reason I am saddened is that the Railways is one outstanding institution which reflects India. It does not reflect one region or the other region, like the Army, the Air Force and the Navy. The hon. General Saheb just spoke. And that is why I am a little saddened that a symbol of unity should turn into a discussion of, perhaps, some kind of disunity. I must also condemn the incidents which took place, the unfortunate incidents which took place in Assam where some people were killed and the incidents which took place in the train. The reason I am sad is that both sides were Indians.

Sir, I have to speak a lot. But I must respect the time-limit as well. I will just ask some pointed questions and be done with. I listened with rapt attention to the hon. Member, Shri Nirupan. Regional aspirations are always growing, and rightly so. Today, if we look at the constitution of this very Government, we find that it reflects the regional aspirations, which is the NDA. Sir, at this point of time, I would like to ask the hon. Minister, who is about to frame the policy, or the Government, or the entire House: when you talk about the 'sons of the soil', how are you going to define who is a 'son of the soil'? Talk about an Army Officer or a Subedar who has lived all along in the border, outside his so-called State. Would he be considered as a person belonging to that particular State? Are you going to consider the Election Identity Card? Are you going to consider the names written in the employment exchange? What are you going to consider? Sir, let us face it, and I will conclude in half-a-minute. Somewhere down the line, we all have gone wrong, and unless and until, we recognise this, whether it is formation of zones and whether it is formation of some small, small units, we cannot overcome this problem. Sir, one-way, many countries are joining the European Union. There are so many countries which are coming together. The hon. Prime Minister mentioned about

borderless State between Indo-Pak or SAARC countries. I personally feel - this is a generalised statement, and I will sit after that - that you have to be very specific when you talk about the sons of the soil. My forefathers, perhaps, lived in Kutch, in Gujarat, but we have domicile in Bengal for the last 50 years. Am I a Gujarati or a Bengali? I consider myself to be an Indian and that is it. I think, the time has come when we have to redefine the entire policy of Indianness. Thank you, Sir.

RESOLUTION

Promoting Regional Harmony, Unity and Integrity of the Country

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before calling the hon. Minister to reply, I feel that keeping in view the sentiments of this House, we should adopt the following Resolution.

"This House expresses its deep sense of anguish over the recent incidents of violence in Bihar, Assam, Maharashtra and in some other parts of the country in the wake of Railway recruitment examinations in which many innocent lives have been lost and properties destroyed. Such incidents of parochialism should be condemned and countered unitedly and with determination. This House unanimously appeals to all to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic, regional or sectional diversities. All issues that have a potential for promoting divisive tendencies and regional discord can and should be resolved amicably through discussion, dialogue and other democratic means, and not through violent means.

Let us resolve to protect the regional harmony, unit and integrity of the country and re-dedicate ourselves to this cause".

May I take that this Resolution is adopted unanimously?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Resolution is adopted unanimously.