

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding repealing of Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA).

**KUMARI AGATHA K. SANGMA (TURA):** Hon. Chairperson, Sir, thank you so much.

I had submitted a notice for an Adjournment Motion. ...  
(Interruptions)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON :** Please come to the text.

**KUMARI AGATHA K. SANGMA :** On 4<sup>th</sup> December, a very unfortunate and condemnable incident took place in the village of Oting in the Mon District of Nagaland where about 14 civilians were shot dead by the armed forces in a so-called counter-insurgency operation.

Sir, this is not the first time that an incident like this has taken place where innocent civilians had to bear the brunt of the draconian laws like the Armed Forces Special Powers Act. It also reminds us of an incident that took place in Manipur in 2000 which is also known as the Malom Massacre where over ten civilians were shot dead and it prompted 28 year old Irom Sharmila to go on a 16 years long hunger strike.

Yesterday, various political leaders across party lines spoke about this issue and condemned it and even the Home Minister gave a statement regarding this incident. He informed the House that an SIT will be constituted in order to probe this issue. But I also believe that it

is time that the elephant in the room be addressed which is that the Armed Forces Special Powers Act be repealed.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you. Is it over?

**KUMARI AGATHA K. SANGMA:** Sir, please give me 30 seconds. It is a very important issue. I would like to quote just one line of the poem wrote by Poet Maya Angelou. I come as one but I stand as ten thousand. Sir, this incident has been condemned by every student union from the North East – be it the Lotha Student Union, the Khasi Student Union, the North East Student Union, the Naga Mothers Association, the Manipur Women's Gun Survivors Network and Global Alliance of Indigenous People. My own political party, NPP NPP, including our Chief Minister, has condemned it.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude now.

**KUMARI AGATHA K. SANGMA:** Even the Jeevan Reddy Committee had recommended that this Act be scrapped and therefore, on those lines, I would like to say that the Armed Forces within themselves can address these issues and a lot of prosecutions have taken place.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Madam, thirty second are already over.

**KUMARI AGATHA K. SANGMA :** I would just like to say that the reason why AFSPA was enacted in 1958 was to ensure that insurgency be stopped in the North-East but it has not been able to do that. We can clearly see that insurgency has not been contained because of the enactment of AFSPA and, therefore, instead what it has done is it has caused civilians to be unfairly tortured, raped, and killed. Therefore, I take this opportunity not just on behalf of my party, the National

People's Party but also on behalf of the people of the North East that this Act be kindly repealed.