

come forward with imposing a ceiling limit in order to get economic equality among the people.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Imposition of a ceiling is not within the purview of my Ministry. It is again a question which should be addressed to the Finance Ministry.

Offer of Surrender by Tripura National Volunteers

*226. **SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI :** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tripura National Volunteers, an outlawed guerilla organisation, had recently indicated that they would surrender to Government ; and

(b) whether Government have decided to use the good offices of the Mizo National Front leaders to persuade the TNV men to surrender their arms ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : It is reported that the Chief Minister of Tripura has announced a general amnesty and ordered that anybody coming out and surrendering arms would be forgiven and allowed to lead a normal life. In view of this and also in view of the fact that these rebels are known to be getting their help from Mizo nationals and Mr. Laldenga who is the Chief Minister of Mizoram, whether the Government of India will use the good offices of the Chief Minister to see that these rebels are to surrender their arms.

S. BUTA SINGH : Sir, this has not come to our knowledge that the Chief Minister of Tripura has granted some kind of amnesty to the TNV people. Also, in the Agreement that was arrived at with the MNF, they gave a commitment that they will not extend any kind of help to TNV people and they have adhered to this

agreement. After the agreement was signed, there has not been any evidence to the effect that they have helped the TNV.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : During recent times, there has been spurt in the terrorist activities of these rebels. Only last week about 17 persons have been butchered within 3 days. In view of the fact that there is a lot of scare spread in the villages particularly in isolated villages and the non-tribals are feeling unsafe to live in those villages, may I know whether the Government has taken up this matter with the Bangladesh Government because they are crossing the border and taking shelter in the hilly areas, collecting arms and ammunition there and coming to Tripura and committing murders and going back. In view of this fact, whether the complicity of the Bangladesh Government had been brought to the notice of the President of Bangladesh when he had visited this country. May I also know whether the Tripura Chief Minister had been asking for more force and what is the total strength of the armed forces already sent to Tripura ; how many more battalions had been asked by the Chief Minister and what is the attitude of the Government of India in this regard.

S. BUTA SINGH : The question of TNV getting help from across the border, specially in Bangladesh, has been brought to the notice of the Bangladesh authorities. When the President of Bangladesh was in India, I had the opportunity of calling on him and discussing with him the influx of Chakmas into Tripura and other parts also. While discussing the question, I did bring it to his notice the help being given to TNV people in Bangladesh. As a matter of fact, the TNV has its major headquarters of operation in the hill-side of the border towards Bangladesh. I brought this to the notice of the President of Bangladesh. Also, through our diplomatic channels, we have been in touch with the Government of Bangladesh. The recent increase in the incidents in the activities of these TNV people has been mentioned to the Chief Minister. I sent him special message.

Also, the Home Secretary spoke to the Chief Secretary. Special meeting of the Coordination Committee was convened. We have extended all help to the State Government in combating this menace of TNV. At the moment in Tripura, we have sent 6 battalions of CRPF, one battalion of Assam Rifles; one battalion of RAC; 7 battalions of BSF; 3 battalions of Tripura Armed Police and one battalion of Tripura State Rifles. In addition to that, when I met the Chief Minister of Tripura, I did impress upon him the seriousness of the menace that is getting out of hand. But unfortunately, he was not willing to go all-out. He has his own thesis on this problem and the Government is not very tough—I should say.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : 'Going all-out' means, what does it indicate? You should explain.

S. BUTA SINGH : The strict operation against the TNV people including declaring them 'un-lawful'.

(Interruptions)

On these issues, the State Government has its own reservations. I am still impressing upon the Chief Minister to take really a tough-line with these insurgents and they should not be allowed any room...

SHRI AJOY BISWAS : The problem in Tripura is different. It cannot be compared with Nagaland or Mizoram. The issue is to build up unity and amity between the two ethnic groups, tribal and non-tribal. In 1984 the number of TNV was more than 500, but due to the persuasion of the Government, many extremists surrendered and now the number is around 150. They are totally isolated from the tribals and they have no political influence. So, deploying the Army or declaring the area as a disturbed area will jeopardise the unity between the two ethnic groups. So, the Chief Minister and the Government of Tripura are against deployment of Army and declaration of the area as a disturbed area. The problem is this. The Central Government

should provide more CRP battalions. The Home Minister has stated that more than 10 or 12 battalions have been deployed there...

AN HON. MEMBER : Six battalions.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS : But actually only six to seven battalions are under the actual control of the State Government, and the other battalions are under the control of the Central Government and are deployed on the border...

MR. SPEAKER : What is the question?

SHRI AJOY BISWAS : The demand of the State Government is to seal the 100 km border between Bangladesh and Tripura, that is, the Chittagong hill tracts. But that has not been done...

MR. SPEAKER : Why don't you ask whether they are prepared to give more battalions?

SHRI AJOY BISWAS : May I ask the Home Minister whether the Central Government will send more CRP battalions to the State Government as demanded by the Chief Minister? Another problem is...

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot allow you like this.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS : In the case of Punjab all the Parties are supporting the Barnala Government, but in Tripura, the Congress-I is demanding President's rule and I presume it is not with the consent of the Central Party...

MR. SPEAKER : I did not allow you to ramble on and on like that.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS : My question is whether they will send more CRP battalions and they will also build more border roads. More border roads should be built within a short period.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way to put questions.

S. BUTA SINGH : I am really thankful to the hon. Member who has just now explained the callous attitude of the State Government in combating this serious menace...

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : How 'callous'? Explain that. (*Interruptions*).

S. BUTA SINGH : Please listen. I am going to explain how it is callous. Mr. Speaker, Sir, here is a State Government which asks for more and more Central police by saying that there are only a handful of extremists. If that is the argument, may I know why they are asking for hundreds of battalions? Where is the use? If there are only 150 or 200 people, why are you asking for the entire CRP and the rest of the Central police from Delhi? Therefore, it is the attitude of the State Government, the State Government's treatment, to these elements... (*Interruptions*) I will cite one example before this House. We have been impressing upon the State Government that these are elements which must be dealt with very firmly. One way to deal was to operate. (*Interruptions*) Saifuddinji you should also try to listen. We suggested to the State Government that to deal with such an element they should resort to the provisions of the Terrorists and Disruptive Activities Prevention Act. (*Interruptions*) According to the experience that we have gained, this kind of element can be dealt with only through the provisions of this Act and the State Government has refused. They are not resorting to this punitive act which can put an effective check on the activities of them. (*Interruptions*). This only speaks of the attitude of the State Government and also the party representatives in this House.

The suggestion from the Hon. Member is to deploy on the entire belt of hundred and odd kilometres, every inch should be manned by BSF and CRP. Is that practical? They have been operating there. If you go through the number of incidents, right from 1984, 1985 and 1986 there have been 72 in 1984, 47 in 1985 and the recent ones are the most serious incidents

which have taken place in Tripura. These instances are increasing every day and the State Government is very happy to say that they want to maintain the normal relationship by all means. We are not suggesting that they disturb the normal relations between the tribals and the non-tribals. Who has suggested that? We never suggested. But we say that these terrorists and extremists who are killing the innocent people in Tripura must be dealt with a heavy hand and that the Government is vacillating.

My submission through you to the House is that we sent the forces which were required by the State Government. We stand by the State Government and we continue to give them all the support; but unless the State Government really makes up its mind to deal with the menace it cannot be handled only through these forces. The State Government must pick up the courage and they must meet these people with a heavy hand. Only then the terrorism can be curbed.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : I would like to know if by this escalation of incidents and killings which the Minister has admitted, the TNV is trying to convey a message and whether the Government has assessed what that message is and what kind of response they are framing towards that message in the larger national interest.

S. BUTA SINGH : As has been given in the answer to the original question, I have made it very clear. Sometime back there was a letter received by the Government which was addressed by Mr. Rankhal, dated 10th January, 1986 to the Hon. Prime Minister. He suggested that India should become the first country to recognise the sovereignty of the independent Tripura and that in turn they will have good diplomatic relationship with India. With this kind of element they want to keep good relationship by all means!

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : This is very bad Sir. Who wants to keep good relationship with them? Terrorists Act will not serve.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : My question has not been answered. I am referring to the escalation of incidents and killings. I would like to know whether by this they are trying to convey a message, not the letter.

S. BUTA SINGH : I am sorry, I could not get the question.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : By their apparent behaviour and the action of a group there is a message and we should understand what the message is and try to solve the problem. We should see that.

S. BUTA SINGH : We see that the message is to terrorise the people. I want the State Government to take effective steps. That is the message and we want to reply to that message by tackling them with stern action.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, Tripura Upajati Yuva Samiti is one of the wings of TNV and Congress (I) is having electoral alliance with them. May I know from the hon. Minister why this relation is being maintained with TUYS which is one of the wings of INV ? May I also know from the Prime Minister whether in the recent SAARC meeting this serious matter of their being trained in Chittagong Hill tracks was taken up at the SAARC meeting held in Bangalore ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : Sir, if I may answer my part of the question first, the hon. Member is fully aware that SAARC is a multi-lateral forum and bilateral issues are not discussed in SAARC and that is why it was not discussed.

S. BUTA SINGH : Sir, it seems that the leadership of CPI (M) has specialised in raising the sentiments of one element against the other. I should say that no such arrangements with any separatist or any communal organization is maintained by us.

Implementation of New 20-Point Programme

*228. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any instructions have been issued to the State Governments in regard to implementation of the new 20-Point Programme ; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Union Government to accelerate the progress of implementation of this Programme in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY) : (a) States have been addressed to initiate work on the schemes to be included in the Twenty Point Programme—1986 ; targets to be set for these schemes ; the funding arrangements ; and the monitoring of the Programme.

(b) The details of implementation and monitoring of the Twenty Point Programme—1986 are under formulation in the Ministry in consultation with the respective Ministries.

[Translation]

SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has made a short cut and the reply to my question is not to the extent I wanted. The 20-Point Programme is a part of the development programme for the poor and the reply is not as detailed as it should have been. I would like to know what facilities have been given to the States by us to implement the 20-Point Programme and the houses of the States which are not implementing the 20-Point Programme regularly ? Kindly intimate the names of the States.

[English]

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY : Sir, at the present moment I am talking of the 20-point