

Need to compensate the martyrs of democracy-laid

SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE (BARPETA): The nation is debating over the issue of saving democracy and compulsory voting. But as a nation, what have we done to safeguard the voters who go to polling stations to keep the flag of democracy flying? There have been umpteen number of cases where voters have lost their lives while upholding democracy would like to remind the House that thousands of lives were lost at Nellie and other places of Assam in 1983 while upholding democracy, but nothing has been done so far to honour the martyrs of democracy. No compensation is given to the families of those who lost their lives or any kind of assurances from the government. However, the feeling is that it is only for the electorate to uphold democracy. The government too needs to act in this regard. There is a need to safeguard those who vote. All democratic institutions must be strengthened and no organisation should stand as a hurdle in the democratic process. Therefore, I urge upon the Union Minister of Home Affairs to compensate the martyrs of democracy adequately and set up a system by which martyrs and if any, in future, are honoured and their families taken care of.