

Regarding peace in Manipur

DR. ANGOMCHA BIMOL AKOIJAM (INNER MANIPUR): Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Government of India to the crisis that Manipur has been experiencing for the last 14 months.

Sir, a peace effort has been made and there was an agreement achieved between the two communities in the district of Jiribam on 1st August mediated by the security forces. But unfortunately, it is subverted by communal, divisive and sectarian forces and they started attacking the villages and so on. Sir, I think the Government of India must take stern action against these communal and divisive forces which have created havoc in the State for the last 14 months. I would like to remind the Government of India and this House that the Government of India has a historical, political, moral and legal responsibility to defend Manipur as an entity that existed before the commencement of this Constitution as stated in the Schedule I of the Constitution.

In fact in the Instrument of Accession signed by the then Maharaja of the State on 11th August, 1947, the Defence of the State was handed over to the Government of India and, therefore, the Government of India must take stern action against these divisive forces aided by the foreign elements and we need to take necessary steps to delineate citizens from the non-citizens because we have foreign elements and illegal immigrants who are creating havoc with these divisive elements within the State.

I appeal to this House as well as the Government to make sure that the Article 19 works in the State of Manipur and people have the capacity to move freely on the Highways as well as territories within the State of India. It should not be restricted because one belongs to one community or the other.

In the end, I would like to conclude with this remark that the properties of internally displaced people must be protected. There have been images of houses being blown up and villages being wiped out in order to subvert the peace process and they want to destroy the villages. As a result, you cannot just go back. This has been happening. I think the Government of India must take immediate action to

ensure that the properties of the displaced people are protected in the State of Manipur.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.