

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1322

ANSWERED ON:05.03.2013

VIOLENCE IN ASSAM

Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre; Hazari Shri Maheshwar ;Jeyadural Shri S. R.;Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram ;Upadhyay Seema;Vardhan Shri Harsh;Verma Smt. Usha

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are reports of violence in Assam during the panchayat elections held recently;
- (b) if so the details thereof along with the number of civilians/security personnel killed and injured during the said violence;
- (c) whether frequent incidents of violence is deterrent to the development of the North Eastern Region of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) & (b) As per report received from the Government of Assam, the State Government had established a Rabha – Hasong Autonomous Council (RHAC) in 1995 through a State Legislation for socio-economic, educational and cultural advancement of the Rabha tribe. The RHAC being under a State Legislation, continuation of Panchayati Raj institutions in the area remained mandatory under Constitutional provisions. When the Panchayat elections became due, the Rabhas demanded elections to RHAC to be conducted before the Panchayat elections. But the Council constituencies were awaiting delimitation. Considering this and other gistical and law and order issues, the State Election Commission decided to hold the Panchayat elections first in the month of February and the elections to RHAC on 30th April, 2013. Accordingly elections to the Panchayat conducted in a phased manner. Out of the eight districts which went to third phase of the Panchayat elections on 12th of February, 2013, polls passed off peacefully in seven districts. But in Goalpara District, it was disrupted by a large group of miscreants who attacked polling personnel as well as the security forces at many places. 25 security personnel and ten polling personnel got injured. The security forces had to resort to firing to control the violence at six places. This resulted in deaths of 14 persons. Other seven persons died due to group clashes.

In order to control the situation Army was deployed in the area. Besides, additional six companies Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) were provided to the State Government in addition to 43 companies of CAPF deployed in Goalpara District on 12.02.2013. Curfew was clamped in the violence affected area and Army flag march was conducted. Another four columns of army were kept as standby. The situation which had the potential to become an ethnic carnage could be controlled in less than 24 hours.

The Government of Assam has announced an ex gratia payment of Rs 5.00 (five) lakh to the next of kin of those died in police firing and compensation of Rs. 50,000.00 to the injured persons. Necessary arrangements for food, shelter, health, sanitation and water supply facilities have been provided to the persons staying in the relief camps. As on 28.02.2013, 10,080 persons were staying in the relief camps set up by the State Government, 8,816 persons had moved to their native places/villages.

State Govt. has instituted a One Man Judicial Commission of Inquiry headed by Justice Sri P.C. Phukan to enquire into the incidents.

At present situation in Goalpara District is under control and being monitored regularly. Curfew has been withdrawn from the affected areas from 15th February/2013. Army has also been derequisitioned from 18th February, 2013.

(c) to (e) The Government has taken all possible measures to control the violence in North -Eastern region ensuring all round speedier socio-economic-educational development of the region.