

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : If the hon. Minister does not do so, we shall have to bring a matter of Privilege and Priority. He should give a clarification here...*(Interruptions)*

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : The statement which he has given on a T.V. channel has appeared in newspapers...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : When the House is in Session, he should have given clarification here. It is not a good tradition to keep the House in dark.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This is not a policy statement...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please allow him to speak. Now, Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Then, everything will come to the House...*(Interruptions)* That will also be announced in the House. This is not a policy decision.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : The hon. Law Minister is very much here. The whole country wants to know whether he confirms it or not. He has given it on a private channel...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please allow Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev to speak. I have already called him.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : I am on this point.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : We want your ruling to the effect that whether House is in Session, the statement on some important matters should be given first in the House or outside.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your view point has been taken, now you please sit down.

[English]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : The Chief Justice of India and the Prime Minister met...*(Interruptions)* The speculation and the misgivings were there...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please allow him to speak. Please sit down Mr. Lodha.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : If he does not speak anything, it gives a wrong signal that whatever he has said on the T.V. channel is not authentic...*(Interruptions)* You are the custodian of the House.

SHRI ABDUL REHMAN ANTULAY (Kulaba) : Sir, in all humility, whatever little knowledge I have of parliamentary procedure and practices, I believe and I am convinced and can therefore say and submit that if

what the Minister say was the reverse of what the hon. Minister is reported to have said, it would have been then only construed a statement of policy. But continuation of a routine matter of what has been going on. This practice by way of implementation is not a policy matter; Change of that, is.

What the hon. Minister has said is so obvious. This practice has been there. It is going on for decades; namely appointment of Senior most judge as Chief Justice. We will recall that when Supersession had taken place and Senior most judge was not appointed but Justice Ray was appointed; That was departure from the past practice or policy; hence a chance. When it happened, there was a furore. There was a lot of noise. Therefore, what the hon. Minister has now said is not at-all a matter of policy. When the House is in Session, to make a statement of policy outside the House may amount to breach of privilege; but this statement is no statement of Policy.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on 29th November, at 5 a.m., two explosions were there in a place called, Binjuli Ghat in Ulabari village of Nalbari district. The 1,400-Km. pipelines, running from the refinery of Assam to Bongaigon as well as Barauni, was disrupted.

It was owned by ULFA extremists that they had done it. They had mentioned why they had done that. This is the day when Army operation was first started against ULFA in Assam. They have said that this has been done in order to lodge our protest against the exploitation of the resources of the State by the Indian Government. This stretch of 1,400 kilometers oil Pipeline is supposed to be guarded by the security forces of the Indian Oil and Oil India and supplemented by the forces of the State and Central Governments. I do not intend to blame anybody here. Many hon. Members here have mentioned that the extremist activities which were happening in Punjab are spreading to various parts of the country and they are trying to create a law and order problems and spread panic among the people.

The distribution of an oil refinery pipeline is a very dangerous thing. According to the Government of India spokesman at Guwahati, the loss incurred on account of blast and fire, till yesterday, was to the tune of Rs. 20 crore. Apart from this they are threatening that other Central Government installations would also be blown off. When I spoke in this House on the IMDT Act, I said that the law and order situation is likely to deteriorate. I would like to humbly request the Home Minister and the Leader of the House, who are present here, to take some positive steps by calling the representatives of the State Government here and by discussing the issue with them so that such things do not recur. If extremists do such things and go scot free, then they

would do such things in other spheres of activities also, like disruption of railway services. There has been no incident of rail disruption since this Government has taken over. But according to the news reports of today, they are planning to disrupt railway services also.

The Chief Minister of Assam called a meeting of the editors of the newspapers and sought their cooperation. The editors, in their subsequent editorials have condemned the Government of Assam for not having taken up the issue of law and order seriously. They have said that the State of Assam has already gone back by some thirty years because of continuous agitation. They have appealed to the ULFA extremists to give up the idea of anti-India activities. The hon. Prime Minister during his visit to the North-eastern region had also appealed to the youths asking them to come for a round table conference and discuss the issue of their demands without any condition. They should accept it. This is the issue. The hon. Home Minister and the leader of the House is present here and I would like to request them to make arrangements for not only restoring the pipeline immediately, but also for proper guarding of the other such installations in the whole of the North-eastern region so that this type of things do not recur. At the same time, any lacuna, which is there should be set right. This is the request I would like to make to the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan ji, and Shri Indrajit Gupta ji.

I have read in the newspapers that the Home Minister has taken some action in this regard. But I would like to emphasise that further action is necessary. He himself, in reply to a Starred Question today, has said that there is a shortage of the para-military forces. I think, the idea of the Oil India having their own security arrangements is much better than the Government of India always deploying forces there. He should call the representatives of the Ministry of Petroleum and discuss the matter with them. I appreciate and support his contention about the Oil India Ltd. having their own security arrangements as is the case in the tea gardens. There are less incidents of this nature in the tea gardens today. It is because the Central Government has provided some security to these tea gardens. So, I would request them to take immediate action in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Home Minister, would you like to respond to it?

THE HOME MINISTER (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : Sir, we share the anxiety and concern of the hon. Member. This is not a matter pertaining to a particular State. It is a threat to the national economy in what these people are doing. We are in constant touch with the authorities of the Oil India and the State Government in Assam. We are taking whatever measures we can take.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House now stands adjourned to meet again at 2.10 p.m.

13.10 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till ten minutes past fourteen of the Clock.

14.16 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at sixteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We will now take up Matters under Rule 377.

14.16½ hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to review the decision regarding acquisition of further land in Car-Nicobar, Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Andaman and Nicobar Islands are having two administrative Districts - Andaman and Nicobar. Nicobar District is inhabited by the Nicobari tribals who are a peace-loving and disciplined people. Car-Nicobar is the headquarters of Nicobar District which is a small area thickly populated by the tribal people. Time and again, it was represented to resettle some of the families from Car-Nicobar to Little Andaman and about 300 families have already been shifted to Little Andaman. The livelihood of these Nicobari tribals is coconut plantation and they live on horticultural operations. Unfortunately, in spite of repeated requests, the Government have not allotted the promised quota of land to the Nicobaris already shifted from Car-Nicobar to Little Andaman. Every now and then, for the Government requirements lands are acquired at Car-Nicobar and already this has reached the saturation point when there is no further scope to provide any more lands for other purposes. The Air Force authority have acquired a substantial land at Car-Nicobar for the runway, etc. Even some of these acquired lands are going into encroachments by non-tribals in the tribal area. I am approached by the tribal leaders that again the Air Force is forcing for acquiring more lands, which will create a serious situation in that part of the small and peaceful island.