

Title: Urged the Government to take appropriate action against the culprits who committed atrocities on minorities particularly on Muslims in Gujarat.

SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI): Sir, today we are all paying homage to the father of the nation, Mahatama Gandhi, who sacrificed his life for the unity and integrity of this country and also for the communal harmony. But I am sorry to say that in some of the places of Gujarat the minorities are being harassed and attacked by a section of people.

Sir, in the wake of the *bandh* call given by the VHP activists, in Surat, there were looting of the houses and shops of the people belonging to a particular community, that is, the Muslims. Six people died there and more than 100 people were injured. There, the loss of property is estimated to be more than Rs.50 crore. Sir, in the wake of *bandh* call given by the VHP, cities like Ahemdabad, Saher Kotda Police Station area, the Khedbrahma town, Lambadiya village (Sabarkantha Distt.), besides Surat city, and Vishramnagar area are affected and day before yesterday also there was communal violence in Modasa Town.

I am very sorry to say that there are activists of various parties who indulge in such atrocities. They may have an ideology of attacking the people. But how the administration, especially the security forces abet such killings, such attacks, such looting, and such atrocities against the minorities or against any citizen of this country? This is disgraceful for the Government that the officers and the lower strata of the security forces do this. Many of the innocent people have been harassed and dragged to the police stations by the ruthless police, State Reserve Police (SRP). Therefore, the people plead for protection. They want protection. Even the police personnel ask shamelessly people of minority community, 'that they are Pakistanis, why do they not go to Pakistan'?

I have with me various press reports, but I do not want to take the valuable time of the House. One of the national dailies, the *Indian Express*, and even the *Asian Age* have also reported it. But nobody is taking a note of it here. It has been widely reported. I would like to know whether the minorities are not the citizens of this country. Should they not be given protection? Do they not have any rights of life and property? I do not know why this is being done. It has happened in various parts of Gujarat. It is not only a matter of atrocities on minorities, it is also to vitiate the communal peace and harmony. This should be stopped. The government should take appropriate, strong, stringent action against the culprits. I hope the Government will take some action against those guilty.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Sir, I associate myself with what has been said. The thing has gone even to Rajasthan. The Government must give some explanation of what they are doing. There is sterile inaction.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right. I allow you to associate yourself with this.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, 1992 is revisited those places in Gujarat...(Interruptions) Surat city is badly affected because of this.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, we all associate and support the views expressed here by Shri Ahamed.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Sir, we had demanded a discussion on communal situation. This discussion is also not coming up in the House.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Today, in the BAC we will take it up.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): We should be told about it. It is now the third week of the Session. On the very first day I had moved an Adjournment Motion and at that time I was told it would be discussed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Banatwala, today there is a Business Advisory Committee meeting, you can take it up there.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: But what about the discussion on the communal situation?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can take it up in the BAC today.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, on the very first day I moved an Adjournment Motion on this subject. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are a member of the Business Advisory Committee. You can take it up in the meeting of the BAC today.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Let us know as to when we are going to take up this discussion. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sir, today at 3.30 p.m. there is a meeting of the BAC.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : It is not a question of today. This discussion on communal situation was slated in the Agenda at various times. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can take it up in the BAC meeting today. We all will be there.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI (AMROHA): Sir, I also associate with him. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri Dasmunsi.