

**Title:** Demand to check the killings of the persons by ULFA terrorists and to improve law and order situation in Assam.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (JORHAT): Mr. Chairman Sir, the law and order situation in Assam is fast deteriorating. Many of us have been raising this issue on the floor of the House. We asked the Central Government to assist the State machinery and if necessary, launch joint efforts to get the situation improved. But it appears that both the Central Government and the State Government have failed. People still are being killed secretly and both the Governments, the Central and the State, have no clue to this spate of killings.

Sir, there are armed gangs moving about freely in society and they are law unto themselves. I understand that if any group or any citizen is threatened by the terrorists, the Government must give full protection. And Government have long been deploying Army and Para-military forces for this purpose. But, is the Government that inefficient that they now allow and encourage these armed groups armed with licensed as well as unlicensed weapons, particularly most sophisticated guns to protect themselves and thus making the civil administration irrelevant? At the top of it, these groups are now responsible for secret killings of peaceful citizens, extortion and intimidation.

I would like to know whether we are selling a civilized society to the forces of violence and bloodshed. Why I raise such an issue is because there is rampant violation of human rights at the hands of these groups, terrorists and the law keeping forces.

Sir, in two months' time, Assam is going to polls and in such a scenario if violence continues at this rate, I am afraid, this election will be one of the bloodiest.

I want to know whether the Central Government has no responsibility. Has the Election Commission no role to play? I understand, why the Central Government is silent on this because they want to shield the failings of the State Government.

So, once more I demand that the Central Government must intervene and see that these killings are stopped and elections are held peacefully in the State.