

nt>

Title: Insurgent activities in Cachar districts of Assam.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Home Minister and demand a statement from him on the following points.

From 2nd March onwards, continuous fight is going on between Dimasa and the Hmar extremists. It began in N.C. Hills where DHD militants attacked Hmar villagers, killing, injuring and abducting many persons. In retaliation, the Hmar militants counter attacked the Dimasa people living in the isolated pockets of my parliamentary constituency, Silchar. These attacks led to the killings of more than thirty people and rendering thousands of people homeless.

Tea gardens of Barak Valley are located in isolated pockets in the foot hills of surrounding mountains. These are soft targets of different militant groups. Large number of Tea executives are abducted from time to time by these militants and they demand huge price as ransom, as cost of their release. This has created a serious crisis in the Tea Estates affecting the economy of the area.

This alarming situation has developed due to the void created in the security cover as a result of the withdrawal of large number of paramilitary forces from the extremist affected areas. The figure of the paramilitary forces deployed there will reveal the actual picture.

The Assam Government is seriously trying to cope up with the situation but the minimum strength of armed police force, who are having obsolete weapons, cannot match the sophisticated weapons of the insurgent group. Moreover, the terrain of the area of operation is very difficult to manage.

Consequent upon the above situation, large number of innocent people living in remote areas became panicked due to inadequate security cover. They have now taken shelter in different camps established by the Assam Government.

In the face of the above situation, I draw the attention of the Home Minister and would like to know the steps he is contemplating to provide food and security to the affected people. I consider that a team of counter insurgency experts should be sent to my constituency to take stock of the whole situation. This is to be followed by the posting of sufficient number of paramilitary forces and Army in all the isolated pockets to nab the culprits because I apprehend civil strife between different ethnic groups may become unmanageable very shortly.

Further, it is known to all that so far no insurgent group from any ethnic community has emerged in the Cachar districts but it has become a safe sanctuary for the insurgent groups of neighbouring States. The ethnic conflict between different groups is alarmingly spreading to Cachar due to lack of adequate security cover. Previously, there was some BOP in the Border areas but its withdrawal has given scope to the extremists. It should be restored. Of late, the NH-44 as also the Rail connection with outside areas was safe routes but now they have also become targets of the extremist attack. I request the Minister to take care of the whole thing. Thank you.