

Title: Regarding attempt on the life of Chief Minister of Nagaland.

14.13 hrs.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM (NAGALAND): Thank you, Sir. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to a very important matter.

This morning at about 5.30 a.m., there was an attempt on the life of the Chief Minister, Shri S.C. Jamir by some unknown insurgent group whose identity has not been known. A series of bomb blasts were there when his motorcade was passing through the main National Highway between Dimapur and Kohima. About 14 powerful time devices were exploded, but his life was saved. But, immediately following the blast, mortars were showered on the motorcade and the firing continued for more than half-an-hour. In that incident two people were killed, three cars were blown up to pieces. It appears that the situation is very grave.

Now, in Nagaland, as we all know, extortion and kidnapping are going on by certain groups. More than 400 lives have been lost and on top of that, after the cease-fire, entire civilian population is put under threat. So, I would like to call the attention of the Home Ministry that more attention should be paid and Chief Minister's security should be beefed up. Even a few years ago, several attempts were made on his life in the heart of the Delhi city. (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : So, I think that this is a very grave situation which is prevailing in the North-East, particularly in Nagaland. I would like to ask for security not only for him but even for many of our leaders as the situation is very grave. Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs that immediately following the Kargil war, the people in the border areas were just left to fend for themselves. There was not a single Army person, not a single member of armed forces and they were guarded by village guards who had muskets which were out-dated and obsolete. They are paid only Rs. 200 p.m. So, such a situation is prevailing there.

I would like to request the Government that some serious measures should be taken in this regard. We are open, naked to this kind of an insurgent group. We can be attacked any time and attempts can be made on our lives. So, I think, this situation should be taken very seriously. The people, who have done wrong, should be brought to book.

Sir, with these few words, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Sir, the Government is here. The concern is expressed by the hon. Member following this episode. It has been a bad episode. After all, the Chief Minister of Nagaland was travelling in a convoy of four or five vehicles from Dimapur to Kohima and at a place about 40 kilometres from Kohima he was ambushed and there was a heavy firing in which two jawans of the Kohima Armed Police lost their lives because the Chief Minister was there ... (Interruptions).

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : It is Nagaland Armed Police and not Kohima Armed Police...(Interruptions).

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: It is Nagaland Armed Police. The Chief Minister was taken to the nearby Assam Rifles Camp. He is safe. But this episode certainly causes concern and the Government will take due note of it.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA): This is not enough, Shri Advani. I will take only one minute. The situation in the North-East, particularly in Tripura and Nagland, is deteriorating. Let us accept that. The internal security is weakening in that part. Talks are going on with some groups like NSCN and the nation has a right to know. For last two years the cease-fire has been declared, but indirectly the groups are strengthening themselves. They are buying arms, their cadre is going up. Let us have a discussion on internal security in the North-East at a length. (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Rajesh Pilot, I gave him the chance as a special submission. The Government has already responded.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : The Government can agree for a discussion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You give a notice.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, our idea is not to just bring to the notice of the Government; we want a solution for it. So, let us have a discussion under rule 193 whenever the Government agrees as the matter is serious ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You give a notice and then the Business Advisory Committee will have to find some time, not now.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA): The Government just goes on saying that they will look into it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Government has already said that.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, the situation in North-East is very alarming and the Government should agree for a discussion. Thy should tell us about whatever discussion or talks are going on.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : Sir, we are the representatives from that State and we do not know what is happening...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, they should take the House into confidence.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let us take up the business now. Matters under rule 377 be treated as read and be laid on the Table of the House.

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