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Title: Need to repeal the Armed Forces (Special) Powers Act (AFSPA), 1958.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (INNER MANIPUR): Madam, I rise to raise an important issue about the repeal of the infamous Armed Forces (Special) Powers Act (AFSPA), 1958. I am supported by the fact that the Justice Jeevan Reddy Committee appointed in 2005 has recommended the repeal of the Act.

Again, the report of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (2007), headed by the former Union Minister Dr. M. Veerappa Moily, has recommended the repeal of the Act. At the same time, the present Vice-President of the country Shri Hamid Ansari as Chairman of the Working Group on Confidence-Building Measures in Jammu & Kashmir has also recommended repeal of the Act. Lately, once again, the Justice J.S. Verma Committee, set up to suggest amendments to laws relating to crime against women, has recommended and I quote:

"There is an imminent need to review the continuance of the AFSPA and AFSPA-like legal protocols in internal conflict areas as soon as possible."

So, now, time has come to revisit the AFSPA. I urge upon the Union Government, particularly, the Home Ministry to repeal this AFSPA, 1958 immediately. Thank you very much.