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Title: Issue regarding violation of Article 371 C by Manipur Legislative Assembly.

SHRI NEIPHUI RIO (NAGALAND): Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me time in 'Zero Hour' to raise a very important issue regarding the tribal and hill people of Manipur State on the passing of three Bills in the Manipur Assembly. ...(*Interruptions*)

On 31st August 2015, the Manipur Legislative Assembly convened a one-day Special Session to pass three Bills, namely, Protection of Manipur People Bill, 2015; Manipur Land Revenue and Land Reform Bill, 2015; and Manipur Shops and Establishments Bill, 2015. ...(*Interruptions*)

These Bills were hurriedly enacted by the Manipur Assembly on 31st August, 2015, and on the same day it was passed without proper consultations with tribal leaders, elected members of the Autonomous District Council and even opportunity was not given to the elected Members for discussion in the House. ...(*Interruptions*) This is in clear violation of the Constitutional requirements of prior consultations with tribal representatives elected from the hill areas of the State as per Article 371 C. ...(*Interruptions*) Their voices were suppressed, and the 3 Bills were bulldozed and passed.

It is sad to note that all the North-Eastern States have been affected, but all the modals that are guaranteed under the Sixth Schedule like land rights, community rights and identity rights were denied in Manipur. ...(*Interruptions*) Therefore, the sanctity of the Constitution and the Sixth Schedule should be upheld to protect the tribal and the backward. ...(*Interruptions*)

It is pertinent to note that 90 per cent of land in Manipur is occupied by the hills / tribal people and they comprise 47.99 per cent of the population. ...(*Interruptions*) As regards the proportional representation in the 60 Member House, only 20 Members are from the hills and tribals, and 40 Members are concentrated from the valley. ...(*Interruptions*) Hence, justice was not done as no proportional representation was there. ...(*Interruptions*) Five seats were recommended in the delimitation that was done in 2001 to shift 5 seats to the hills, but it was turned down by the valley people. ...(*Interruptions*)

As a result of the passage of these three Bills, there were spontaneous protests against the three Bills, which led to a volatile situation and the Manipur Armed Police fired on the protestors killing 9 persons besides injuring about 50 people. ...(*Interruptions*) Till today, the dead bodies of these 9 people have not been buried. ...(*Interruptions*)

They have not got a decent burial. The tribal leaders say that unless these Bills are withdrawn, they will not bury the dead bodies. Therefore, it needs the intervention of the Government. There is a protest rally going on in Delhi and those who have been protesting against the incident at this protest rally at Jantar Mantar have completed 100 days of protest, while the dead bodies are lying unburied.

I feel that we belong to the biggest democratic country in the world. We should give protection to the minorities, the tribals and the OBCs. The protesters are demanding that these Bills should be withdrawn, or the Government of India should set up a high level committee to resolve the issue.

Madam, you may be aware that more than one-third of the population in Manipur is the Nagas. The Naga Peace Accord which was signed on 3rd August 2015 should not be in jeopardy. This is not only a problem of the Nagas, but this is also a national problem.

Therefore, this issue needs the intervention of the House so as to look into the matter in an urgent manner and to take immediate suitable action, in whatever manner. I am not against anybody. We have four Naga MLAs there and they have resigned in protest. The tribals need equal rights in this biggest democratic country of the world. Thank you. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri Purno Agitok Sangma is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Neiphui Rio.

...(*Interruptions*)