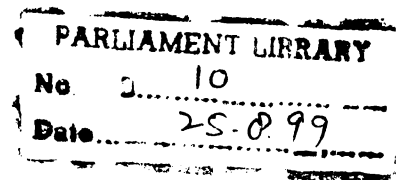


LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Second Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. V contains Nos. 31 to 38)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, July 31, 1998/Shravana 9, 1920 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Papers to be laid on the Table of the House. Shri L.K. Advani.

... (Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai) : Sir, it was agreed that the Report about the CBI inquiry on the leakage would also be laid on the Table of the House. ... (Interruptions) I have asked under the rules ... (Interruptions) What about the CBI inquiry on the leakage of the Interim Report ? That was to be placed on the Table of the House. It was an assurance to the House. What is it that they want to hide ? ... (Interruptions).

11.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (in English version only) under sub-section (4) of section 3 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 :
 - (i) Final Report of Inquiry headed by Justice M.C. Jain to enquire into the sequence of events leading to and all the facts and circumstances relating to assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi (including its Annexures forming part of the Final Report).
 - (ii) Memorandum of Action taken on the above Report.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1441/98]

- (2) Explanatory Memorandum (in English version only) giving reasons for (i) not laying simultaneously the Hindi version, and (ii) not circulating copies of the Report mentioned at (i) of item (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1442/98]

11.03 hrs.

COTTON GINNING AND PRESSING FACTORIES (REPEAL) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act, 1925.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act, 1925."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : I introduce the Bill.

11.04 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government business during the week commencing Monday, 3rd August, 1998 will consist of :

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Consideration and passing of the Export-Import Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 1998.
3. Consideration and passing of the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories (Repeal) Bill, 1998.
4. Discussion on Final Report of Jain Commission of Enquiry and Action Taken Report thereon.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : What about having discussion on the External affairs?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : That is slated for next week.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It should have been indicated in it.

[English]

It was decided that we will take up the discussion on External Affairs on Monday.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Before, you say anything, I have already requested hon'ble Speaker that a meeting of B.A.C. be called next week and discussion on External Affairs should be held. Mr. Vajpayee will give the statement after his return from Sri Lanka. Thereafter discussion on External Affairs will be held. I have already requested the Hon'ble Speaker about what you have mentioned. He would take a decision on that.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Sir, regarding the recent development in Goa (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : There are two more items. I will allow you after that.

... (Interruptions)

11.04½ hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE - Contd.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Rules, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 38(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th February, 1998, under sub-section (1) of section 31 of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1443/98]

11.05 hrs.

ASSENT TO BILLS

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I lay on the Table the following two Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current Session and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on the 17th July, 1998 :

- (1) The Appropriation (Railways) No. 3 Bill, 1998; and
- (2) The Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1998.

11.06 hrs.

RE : NOTICE OF MOTION ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN GOA

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday the whole House was agitated over the incident in Goa. Not only the whole House, the entire nation is concerned over the way in which the Constitution was thrown to the winds by none other than the Head of that State. We have given notice for a motion under rule 184. The best of the defence from the Treasury Benches was that what happened in Goa is similar to what happened in U.P.

Sir, during the U.P. episode, you may kindly recall, what happened was that none other than the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Vajpayee, himself went on a fast against the unconstitutional act of the then Governor. I have read in today's newspaper that the then Governor has stated that he has been vindicated by the stand that has been taken by the Government on Goa incident. I concede that that is the best of their defence; nothing more have they said. Hon. Shri Khurana himself has said that the whole nation should be concerned about this and that there should be a discussion on this issue. Hon. Shri Sangma yesterday said in this very House that during the U.P. episode, when a notice under rule 184 was given by the present *de facto* Minister of External Affairs, Shri Jaswant Singh, that notice was admitted by him. That notice was given on February 27, 1997 and the then hon. Speaker, Shri Sangma gave a ruling. I am quoting from that ruling from the Proceedings of the House :

"The Government and the House owe to the people of this country in general and of U.P. in particular, to assess the situation through an objective discussion. A discussion on the law and order situation in the State is bound, even if indirectly, to lead to a discussion on the conduct of the Governor, which, under the rules, cannot be allowed except on a substantive motion under rule 184. In the circumstances, after giving a careful thought to all aspects of the matter, I admit the notice of a motion under rule 184."

Sir, in a similar incident, which the Treasury Benches themselves submit is very similar to the present one, the then hon. Speaker, Shri Sangma admitted the notice under rule 184, even if it led to a discussion on the law and order and even if it was bound to cause aspersion on the Governor. That is the precedent in this House. In Goa, the Governor has arrogated to himself the powers and the functions of the Assembly. This is most unfortunate. Again, the Governor has given only ninety minutes to the present incumbent ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Kurien, yesterday also we have discussed all these facts.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I shall cut short, Sir. The Governor has given only ninety minutes, whereas the new incumbent is given 21 days. Further, the most important factor is that the very same Government got the Budget and the Finance Bill passed. If the same Government can get the Budget and the Finance Bill passed, how can the Governor come to the conclusion that the Government has lost the majority? This is something which nobody can understand. It is beyond any rationale. In the circumstances ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Swain, please take your seat. You are not supposed to interrupt him.

... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, in the circumstances and in view of the precedence in the House of the former hon. Speaker's ruling, I request on behalf of our party, on behalf of this side and also on behalf of many on that side that a discussion under rule 184 may please be allowed.

MR. SPEAKER : Would the Home Minister like to respond ?

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : Sir, there is my name also. I will complete in two sentences. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDER SINGH (Bhiwani) : What a joke? Two Members of the same party are speaking. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT JOGI : We have given the notice.

SHRI SURENDER SINGH : After Jogi ji, we should also be given the opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Guwahati) : He has given notice. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You allow Shri Jogi to speak.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I request you to please resume your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chetan Chauhan, please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will also allow you, but not now.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN (Amroha) : On Monday, I did not get a chance. On Tuesday, I did not get a chance.

MR. SPEAKER : Today, you will get a chance.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDER SINGH : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, we just don't get the chance. I have to make one submission.

MR. SPEAKER : You make your submission afterwards.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Under Rule 184 we have given a notice through you. I would like to submit before the House particularly before the Treasury Benches that there are certain matters which we have to consider cutting across party lines ... *(Interruptions)*. Our Institutions are the strength of our democracy. If we want to strengthen our democracy then, we shall have to maintain the dignity and sanctity of our institutions. If those who have been given constitutional powers, themselves violate the constitutional powers, step out of their jurisdiction then it would definitely not strengthen our democratic set-up. Such an event occurred in Goa which has proved it. All agree that what happened there, should not have happened at all. The Legislative Assembly has got its jurisdiction so has Parliament, Governor and President. The founders of our Constitution have clearly demarcated the boundaries within which we have to function. Certain things could be done by the Parliament, certain things could be done by the Judiciary and certain other things could be done by the Legislative Assemblies. However, in the ongoing tussle in Goa, the Hon'ble Governor who holds a dignified position in our Constitution, has transgressed these powers. Therefore, my submission is that we all should discuss it in detail and make a serious study of it. Rule 184 which we call substantive motion, a discussion should be held under that rule and as this House is Supreme, we have to give direction to this country, we have to give direction to democracy in the country. We should decide this by discussions that this is Parliament's jurisdiction, this is the jurisdiction of Legislative Assembly, this is Governor's jurisdiction and this is the jurisdiction of the President. And whatever we are feeling, if the Governor of Goa has transgressed his powers and crossed his jurisdiction, then it is our right to recall him under Article 156 of the Constitution and he could be removed from the Governorship of Goa. The Parliament should make use of that right and the Governor should be recalled. We should discuss it rising above the party affiliations, If we do not decide this by discussion, the foundation of our democracy will not remain strong. My submission is that we have given a notice for the motion, you should take a decision on that and a discussion should be held thereon ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : You just read out the motion for our information, since we don't know what is there in the motion ... *(Interruptions)*. Sir, what motion they have moved, what are the contents of the motion, we don't know.

[English]

SHRI AJIT JOGI : I have stated the gist of the motion.

[Translation]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : We should know the language of the motion so as to know what is written in that.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the most senior member of this House Shri Indrajit Gupta has asked for the gist of the motion which we have moved. The motion given by us is ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SURENDER SINGH : Sir, he has already spoken a lot ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He has already given the gist.

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDER SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to make a submission.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is your submission ?

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDER SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whenever any subject for discussion comes up on the House, it is often seen that a detailed discussion has been held on rising prices in this very House and discussion on the issues of public importance have also been held. Sir, you just recall the incident of two days back, the other day when the Congress had held a rally, the Leader of the Opposition made a long speech on price-rise.

[English]

We could easily make out that they wanted to stage a walk-out.

[Translation]

They were making background in a very good manner. If you remember, you allowed him to speak for a long time. Hon. Shiv Shankerji is a senior Member. He made a long speech on Goa, yesterday. Shri Ajit Jogi and other senior members have also spoken today. They have taken much more time for discussion on it than they should have under Rule 184. My submission is that there are junior members too in this House like me. I want to respectfully submit that whenever any issue crops up, you call senior members that they are very senior members. My friend Shri Akbar Ahmad Dumpi is perhaps not present in the House right now, once upon a time he was one of my friends. I regret that when you call him too a senior member, he gives himself airs outside the House. I want to request you that the attitude of

the Government is very cooperative. Khurana ji is the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

[English]

He is so cooperative

[Translation]

when Sharad ji was on his legs, we tried to hoot him that there would be discussion on price-rise. He kept on to make us sit. Yesterday, Shiv Shanker ji was on his legs, we said that this issue has been discussed many a times but we were made to sit again. He is judicious and believes in democratic institutions ... (Interruptions) Many times he opposes us so vehemently that we forget if he is on our side or their side ... (Interruptions). Therefore, my submission is that you should give equal time to junior members too so that at times we could also submit our views.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the developments in Goa do merit a discussion in the House. I have no objection to that. They have been of a nature which call for radical thinking, because issues of this kind are likely to be raised. I wish the discussion initiated by the last Speaker or the Speaker before that on whether the anti-defection law had served the purpose for which it was framed would have led us somewhere. That discussion did not lead anywhere. But that apart, in this particular case, as I briefly mentioned in the House yesterday, this is a decision taken in Goa by the Governor himself under his authority under the Constitution.

Shri Ajit Jogi just said, "let us discuss it in a manner in which people can freely speak out their minds." I think that people will freely speak out their minds, if there is a discussion under Rule 193. They will not freely speak out their minds, if it is under Rule 184. There is a difference between the two. After all, what is the difference between the two ? If it is under Rule 184, then there is voting. The moment voting comes in, naturally, all parties will issue whips to their party Members. So the purpose for which you are emphasising this debate would be defeated.... (Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : This is 'Zero Hour' and, therefore, there can be no point of order.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I have been in this House for the last 27 or 28 years. There have been many occasions in the past where there was always a difference. Even in the Business Advisory Committee, in the meeting of Leaders convened by the Speaker, there were agreements between both the Opposition and the Government that there should be a discussion on this issue, and the difference becomes narrowed down to whether it should be under Rule 193 or 184. Everyone knows the difference between the two. But

ultimately, the decision had been that 'all right, whatever the Government says, let it be accepted.' In this case, we are willing for a discussion, but it should be under Rule 193 ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA (Marmagoa) : Let there be no free discussion, and let there be voting according to their conscience.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : The hon. Home Minister reiterated today what you have said yesterday that it was the decision of the Governor of Goa alone and the Central Government has nothing to do with it. Shri Khurana is nodding his head and, I think, he agrees with it.

On a very similar situation, the B.J.P., which was then a very responsible Opposition Party, did not allow the House to function for days together—I do not remember, but may be, for four or five days together. If I remember correctly, until a decision was taken by the court and the matter was restored to the earlier position, they did not give up their agitation. We have been rightly reminded that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who is now the Prime Minister of India, had started a 'fast unto death'.

Now that the Governor of Goa has taken a decision in Goa, which was similar to U.P., what is the response of the Central Government ?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a substantive difference between the discussion under Rule 193 and under Rule 184. The conduct of the Governor has to be discussed on this question. At the moment, I am not discussing the merits of the conduct of the Governor. If I am to discuss the merits of the conduct of the Governor, I can only do so on a substantive motion. A motion under Rule 193 is not substantive, while the motion under Rule 184 is substantive. Therefore, Shri Advani, who is highly knowledgeable in these matters, should have the generosity to concede the point.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR (Bikaner) : Sir, the Governor's conduct cannot be discussed unless and until the motion is under Rule 184. This is what I wanted to say.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members may recall that I had informed the House yesterday that I have received a notice of motion under Rule 184, which was given by Prof. Kurien and Shri Ajit Jogi, regarding the recent political developments in Goa. I had also informed the House that I have called for a factual note on the matter from the Minister of Home Affairs. The matter is under my consideration, and I will take a decision in the matter in the light of the facts received from the Minister of Home Affairs.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Sir, it is a question of timing because there are hardly two or three days left. Otherwise, we have no objection. If you are going to take a decision today and if you are going to fix a discussion on Monday, then we have no objection.

MR. SPEAKER : Today, I have called the BAC meeting at one o'clock. We can discuss it there.

MR. SPEAKER : Now the House will take up Zero Hour.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (Garhwal) : Yesterday you have said that there would be no 'Zero Hour' today. That is why, we did not give notice. But now you say that there will be 'Zero Hour' ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Today also, I have received 45 notices. If the House agrees, we will take up 'Zero Hour' for about half-an-hour now. Otherwise, we will take up the next item. If the House agrees, we will take up 'Zero Hour' now.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : We were discussing the problems of the North-East. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I want to know to the sense of the House. Is it the pleasure of the House to take up 'Zero Hour' for about half-an-hour now?

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : After finishing the Submissions, 'Zero Hour' will be taken up.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We will take up other matters after Submissions are over.

11.27 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE — *Contd.*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA (Kota) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's business :-

1. Bhadosubdi Dasmi should be declared as "Environment Day" every year in the memory of 363 women, men and children, who sacrificed their lives for the protection of the trees in Khejarti (Rajasthan) and also to signify the importance of environment.
2. Need to regularise the unauthorised colonies of industrial city, Kota in Rajasthan and also to provide Central assistance for providing public facilities to the inhabitants of these areas.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East-Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, about ten months ago a school bus accident had occurred on 18 November 1997 at Wazirabad over-bridge, in which about 28 children lost their lives and 62 others were injured. Besides other reasons, it was also felt that there is need to construct another over-bridge there in view of the increasing

traffic due to rapid growth in population of trans Yamuna area. The investigation officer had also suggested that a temporary bridge should be constructed there because the construction of a permanent bridge may take some time. Therefore a boat pantoon bridge should be constructed immediately so that the public do not face inconvenience and also to check recurrence of such accidents.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to construct both these bridges at the earliest.

SHRI ADITYANATH (Gorakhpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request that the following item may be included in the business commencing from 31st July, 1998 :

Sir, the height of railway bridge constructed near Dharamshala Market in Gorakhpur Metro City (Uttar Pradesh) is very low. This bridge has been constructed by digging the road under it. Even minor rain cause 4-6 feet water logging there which divides the population of Gorakhpur city into two parts as well as the routes to districts Maharajanj and Padrauna and traffic to Deoria, Banaras and Ayodhya via Gorakhpur also get blocked. The Traffic remains blocked for hours everyday in rainy season. It is therefore an urgent need of the hour that an over-bridge be constructed over this railway track to provide relief to the public.

I therefore, demand the Central Government to ensure that arrangements be made for the construction of over-bridge near Gorakhpur Dharamshala market for smooth traffic flow there at the earliest.

[English]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Shimla) : Sir, I request that the following items may be included in next week business commencing from 3rd August, 1998 :-

1. There are certain areas in Himachal Pradesh which have not yet been declared as Scheduled Tribe areas as the population of Tribes people known by the name Hati Community is in a majority in these areas. As such, these areas particularly Sirmour and part of Shimla, be declared as Scheduled Tribe areas.
2. There is need to effect changes in Cantonment Law and the elected representatives of the Cantonment Boards be given more powers.

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Sir, I request the following items may be included in the agenda of the next week :

1. Central Government suppose to strengthen the financial position of the States and make them more resourceful. My submission is that the Government should fulfil its commitment by raising the rates of royalty on minerals in proportion to market rates so

that the financial resources in backward States like Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa can be increased.

2. The developed States get the maximum share in the distribution of financial resources and the backward States are not given their due share as per the present format of the Godgil formula. This encourages regional imbalances.

Thus, the Government should bring some improvement in this matter according to the changing circumstances so that a balance can be maintained between developed and backward States.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the business of the next week for discussion :—

1. Need to cancel the order of closure of Cotton Mills—Kanpur Textiles, Algin No.1 and Algin No. 2 running under British India Corporation in Kanpur and take decision about future course of action by bringing these mills under N.T.C. management.
2. Need to provide air-service facility in the biggest industrial city of Uttar Pradesh, Kanpur having a population of 40 lakh so as to safeguard the industrial set-up of the city.

DR. SUSHIL INDORA (Sirsa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have estimated around 14 lakh, small and big residential sites in the country. These residential areas are spread over from the hills to the plains. The Government have claimed that partial or complete arrangement for the potable water has already been made in around 10 lakh residential areas out of it, so far. According to the definition of the government, around 10 lakh places are those, where the potable water facility is available within one and a half kilometre range. Availability of water at a distance of one and a half kilometre and that to one or two pitchers on head cannot be considered as facility of water. My humble request to the government is to modify the definition by reducing this distance from one and a half kilometre to maximum 10 meters. After that, according to the recent inspection report these facts have come out that 22 percent water gets spoiled in the absence of proper maintenance of water pipes etc. The drinking water arrangements get spoiled. Therefore, the Government should made effective arrangements for the proper arrangements of the present drinking water supply system, so that the ordinary citizen may get continuous benefit of the funds spent on this system. Apart from this a time bound action plan should be announced immediately to provide the drinking water supply system at remaining places.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr Speaker, Sir, the following subject may be included in the next week's agenda :

During the current financial year, the exports could not be increased in comparison to the corresponding period of

the last year inspite of providing all type of facilities alongwith the devaluation of rupee. The Minister of Commerce has himself admitted that the reasons for the decline in the exports is fall in the production. The indications of the fall in the production are clear from the amount of loan provided in the trade and Industrial sector by the financial institutions. The main concern in it is that the cause of industrial slump is the lack of demand, as the Minister himself has also expressed, concern in this regard. Continuous decrease in demand causing the slump in Trade and Industry is a matter of concern. This is a clear indication that there is some lacunae in the economic policy of the country as a result of which the country has been bearing these consequences.

There is the need of timely reconsideration of our economic policy.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha) : Mr. Speaker Sir, the following subjects may be included in the next week's agenda :-

1. Need to discuss the law and order situation arised due to the increase in the nexalite activities in some districts of Madhya Pradesh.
2. Need to discuss the situation arising out of the destruction of Soyabeen and paddy crop due to the drought in Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House will not take up 'Zero Hour'

Prof. Premajam to speak.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara) : Sir, I would like to raise before the hon. august House a very important matter concerning the State of Kerala.

The entire Western borders of Kerala State is lashed by the Arabian Sea and the majority of the people living along the coastal region are mainly marginal fishermen. They are almost entirely dependent upon fishing and allied jobs and fishing is their traditional occupation. Sea erosion especially during the monsoon seasons is causing grave situation and heavy losses, including of human lives have become a regular feature. With the commencement of the monsoon this year, many houses had collapsed, human lives were lost and coconut trees were uprooted. My constituency Badagara also witnesses heavy losses during this season, due to mighty waves and sea erosion.

It is essential that a comprehensive scheme should be envisaged to protect the sea coast as it is of strategic importance also. The Central Government had a scheme earlier to construct sea wall which had been abandoned. I urge upon the Government of India to take speedy measures to construct sea wall along the coast of Kerala.

[Translation]

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN (Amroha) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, everything is discussed in this House but it is a matter of regret that the sports persons are never discussed here.

Through you I would like to raise a very important issue here. Shri Vishwanathan Anand who is a chess player of India and who is not only known in India but also in the entire world, has been awarded the chess Oscar Award last week. I believe that the whole House would congratulate him, with me.

[English]

This is highest international award given to a chess player. This is more creditable because he is not a world's number one player so far, but still, he has been rated as the best chess player of 1997 in the world. I congratulate him.

[Translation]

Secondly, I would like to say that Major Dhyan Chand was an internationally known player of India. His birthday falls on 29th August. It was decided by the Government of India that his birthday August 29, would be declared a National Sports Day. Though it was declared National Sports Day, but no action was taken in this regard. As all of us know that Major Dhyan Chand was a hockey-player who dominated the World of Hockey for almost 10 to 12 years. His hockey-stick was considered to be a magic stick.

Through you, I request the Government that 29th August be declared a National Sports Day and the Sports Competitions should be organised throughout the country at national level, college or school level on 29th August. Secondly, there is a proposal to confer 'Bharat Ratna' Award on Major Dhyan Chand. I demand that the award should be announced and conferred on him. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is present here. He should respond to it ... (Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : Sir, both these proposals of Shri Chetan Chauhan should be accepted by the Government.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, The House agrees to the point raised by Hon'ble Shri Chetan Chauhan, and I will convey it to the Ministry of Human Resource Development and an effort will be made to take a proper action in this regard.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : About Vishwanathan Anand, you should do it. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise an important issue in the House and would like the Government to give reply in this regard. Today, the whole of the North Bihar is submerged. The water accumulated on the mountain due to rains in Nepal is flowing towards this part of the State. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the Central team is sometimes sent to Tamil Nadu, Bengal and Bihar but no study team is sent to North Bihar where the natural calamity has affected the people. Today the dams have burst not only at one or two places but at dozens of places in North Bihar. The population of North Bihar is around 5-6 crore. More than half of the population is sub-merged there. Lacs of people have fallen ill. Lacs of houses have been ravaged; the roads have broken and the railway lines have also broken at many places. The Government of Bihar have been helping the people according to its capacity. I would like to request the Union Government to send a team there at the earliest. The arrears of Bihar Government are there. The amount sanctioned five or six years back has not been provided to the State. The condition of the roads is same as it was earlier. The fund has been announced many times but it has not been sent to the State.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Fatmi, please conclude now. Last week also, we have discussed in the House about the flood situation.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Though the money is allocated by Union Government for the construction of the road, it is not given to State. I would like to request that the arrears of the relief fund should be sent immediately.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Fatmi, let us accommodate others also. Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Besides it, a study team should also be sent to assess the situation there. The water has been flowing in our areas from other country. I would like to request the Government of India to make its stand clear whether it would sent the study team there or not and whether it would release the relief fund, because loss of arab of rupees has been suffered in Bihar. The

Government of India should at least send the relief fund of 500 crore rupees at the earliest.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : The people are affected by the flood. They are living on the roofs of their houses. I request the Home Minister who is sitting here to say something in this regard.

SHRI RAM NAIK : The flood which had hit Bihar ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : The 30 districts including Saharsa, Darbhanga and Madhepur districts have been affected by the flood.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji, please take your seat. The hon. Minister is responding.

.. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are a member of the Panel of Chairmen also, please understand.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do you not want any reply from the Government? Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, do you want a reply from the Government or not ?

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the crops worth crores of rupees have got destroyed... (Interruptions) the roads have been damaged. The traffic system has worsened ... (Interruptions) Therefore, I would like to request the Government of India to provide money to Bihar State from National Calamity Fund so that the flood affected people of Bihar might get relief.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, do you want a reply from the Government or not? Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are a member of the Panel of Chairmen.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : There has been loss of life and property in Bihar. The livestock and the people have drowned. Therefore we request you to provide sufficient amount for the relief of flood-affected people of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. The Government of India should provide assistance from National Calamity Fund to improve the condition in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh so that this calamity may be faced.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bihar has been affected by floods. People of Bihar are facing difficulties. Therefore, we people also share in their woes. I wish that the Govt. of Bihar would also make efforts in this regard ... (Interruptions) The feelings which you have expressed here and the difficulties which you have told about, I will convey them to the Minister of Agriculture so that he could take a proper decision in this regard ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : What is this reply all about? ... (Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want that a Central team should be sent to Bihar for conducting a survey in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Fatmi, this is not good. He has already given the reply.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want that a team should be sent to Bihar to conduct a survey there ... (Interruptions) will you send a team or not? ... (Interruptions) we want to know about it ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Shri Francisco Sardinha.

... (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way to compel the Minister. Last week also we had a discussion on the flood situation. The Minister had replied at that time also.

... (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We have discussed the flood situation many times.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Order, please.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The Government should provide sufficient assistance to Bihar

from the National Calamity Fund and special funds should be provided to Bihar after examining situation there. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA (Marmogoa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, representations have been given to you and also the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs regarding enhancement of the pay and allowances of Members of Parliament. You can not expect Members of Parliament to live on fresh air and water. Even the Class-IV employees receive more payment ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He is raising an important point.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : I would like to know from the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs as to what has happened to the representation given by the hon. MPs. So many MPs have signed and given a representation for the enhancement of their pay and allowances. I would like to have an assurance from the hon. Minister ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : What is this happening? Why the Minister does not give a reply? Nobody hears the Members ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : MLAs of the States are getting more.

MR. SPEAKER : He has raised the issue regarding Members' salaries and allowances. Are you going to speak on the same point?

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Madhepura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you just listen to me. Our Hon. Members have talked about flood situation in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Fatmi has already raised this subject.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Sir, International rivers have been playing havoc. The Government of India should send a team there. Relief should be announced. Hon. Minister is telling that he will convey our feelings. Feelings do not run the Nation. The Government of India should send a team.

Only sympathy and feeling do not serve the purpose. There has been devastation and hundreds of people are being perished.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I appeal to all hon. Members. Is this the way you want the House to be run? This is not the proper way. Do you want the House to be run on these lines?

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : It is a natural calamity. The Government of India are talking about conveying the feelings which will not serve the purpose. Send a team there. It is a natural calamity and people are affected by floods. International river which originates from Nepal is playing havoc. Not only Bihar, the Piparasi barrage but both Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are affected.... (Interruptions) They have nothing to do with that. They want to discuss about black marketeers and profiteers ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Lalu Prasad, you are a senior member of this House. Please sit down. This is not proper.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Lalu Prasad, you are a senior Member. Please, extend your cooperation.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : You send a team there. Feelings will not serve the purpose. ... (Interruptions) They want to discuss about blackmarketeers and profiteers. Farmer, worker and the poor all have been affected ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Lalu Prasad, Please take your seat. I am appealing to all hon. Members to please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : You make them also sit. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are a senior Member. Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You please take your seat now. I am appealing to all the other hon. Members also.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to all the hon. Members not to do this.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : It can't be run like this.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : How it would be run? Will you run the House like this ?

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to Shri Lalu Prasad and Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav not to do this. The hon. Minister is prepared to give a reply.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Madan Lal Khurana may please reply.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I called Shri Khurana to speak.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : The point which Lalu Prasad has raised, I have to say something on that matter. I strongly object to that. I want to say that Lalu Prasad Yadav is not the only leader who should talk about farmers and villages. He cannot address like this. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : He is speaking derogatory and insulting language. ... (Interruptions)

11.57 hrs.

At this stage Shri Lalu Prasad and some other hon. Members stood on the floor near the Table.

11.57 hrs.

At this stage Shri Virendra Singh stood on the floor near the Table.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to the hon. Members to take their seats.

... (Interruptions)

11.58 hrs.

At this stage Shri Virendra Singh went back to his seat.

11.58 hrs.

At this stage Shri Lalu Prasad and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : ... (Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

12.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Lalu Prasad, this is not good.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this?

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All the unparliamentary words would be expunged from the records.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to you. Please resume your seats.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Lalu Prasad, please go back to your seat.

... (Interruptions)

12.02 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Lalu Prasad and some other hon. Members sat on the floor near the Table.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and Shri Lalu Prasad, this is not the proper way.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Lalu Prasad, I am appealing to you. Please resume your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Lalu Prasad, please go back to your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh, this is not the proper way.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, no; please go back to your seats.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Today, we have important business and we have to complete it.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh and Shri Lalu Prasad, I am appealing to you once again.

... (Interruptions)

12.05 hrs.

At this stage Shri Lalu Prasad and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had permitted Ms. Mamata Banerjee to speak and you repeatedly asked to speak. After the name of Ms. Mamata Banerjee was called, the Members did not follow your directive. Despite your repeatedly calling her name, your order was not complied with. The sort of talks and language used in the House and the kinds of threats which were given here in this House that needs to be stopped and some harsh steps need to be taken. We can put down our thoughts and struggle instead of it. We resort to abuses and it does definitely not add to the prestige of democracy but we are for curbing this tendency. Whatever happened in this House, today was like a disgrace to this House. This trend needs to be checked. I am not aware as to what are the views of our Minister of Parliamentary Affairs about it, but he should take some steps in this regard. If the House is conducted in this manner, the business of the House cannot be transacted at all. Those who uttered abuses here should apologise in the House. We shall persistently demand for it.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I fully endorse the view of the Leader of Opposition, either it was done from this side or that side. I am really perturbed at these affairs in the House. As I had also mentioned earlier as well that, we all should sit together and contemplate as to how we can run the House smoothly and in a self disciplined manner.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, the House has got its history and conventions. As far today's event is concerned, instead of

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

commenting on it, I would like to apologise and express my regrets ... *(Interruptions)* please listen to me. When I am tendering unconditional apology from this side, ... *(Interruptions)* I would like to request the leader of opposition to ponder over it. He had spoken about it earlier and took 15 minutes. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has responded to it, thereafter Shri Lalu ji stood up. I wanted to speak after Shri Lalu ji. I wanted to say for his satisfaction whether the Bihar Government has requested the Centre to send such a team? If so, I would certainly speak about it. The Minister of State of Agriculture is not present here. He has gone to Karnal and is expected to return back in the evening. Unless I speak to him, how can I speak about it in the House. I wanted to say whether the Chief Minister of Bihar Government has sent any proposal for help? ... *(Interruptions)* I do not know, Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav ji had been the Chief Minister of Bihar. He is king of Bihar. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : He is not the king of Bihar.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I said that ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajan) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Lalu Prasad ji is husband of the Chief Minister of Bihar, not the King. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : You must understand my satire. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir the word 'Raja' (King) should not go in the records.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : He is husband of the Chief Minister of Bihar and not the King. * ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : He has been the Chief Minister and has also been the Member of this House and is a sitting member also ... *(Interruptions)* because the words which were used afterwards and which later led to provocation. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether he is seeking apology. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Shri Mulayam Singh ji....

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Have you people got freedom to say anything. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned till 1 P.M.

12.12 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirteen of the clock.

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

13.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha reassembled at one Minute past Thirteen of the clock

[SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir I have got the first turn in the zero hour notices. I have given an important notice. I would like to request you that I may be allowed for two minutes. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had given a notice regarding the 'Human Rights Commission' ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, what's about Bihar? ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Minister of Parliamentary Affairs have already made a statement in this regard. Therefore, please do not raise that issue.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : We have not heard anything. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs made a statement that a Central team would be sent there after receiving a request from the State Government.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the Zero hour is over. Now we will take up discussion under Rule 193 in regard to North-East.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : I had given a privilege notice three days before, what happened to that ? ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is under consideration of Hon'ble Speaker.

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad) : Five persons have been killed in a police station in my area. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whether is it a matter to be raised during zero hour?

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All zero hour notices are pending and will be taken on Monday.

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : Not a single person from the Samajwadi Party has been given an opportunity to speak. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Many Honourable members have given notices for the Zero Hour. Now it has been decided that there will be no Zero Hour today. Now the discussion would start under Rule 193.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : My notice was on the top of the list. I have not got the opportunity.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will get the opportunity on Monday.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : Those members, who have not got the opportunity today, whether they will continue on Monday? ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Today's matters would be included during the Zero Hour of Monday.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on the point of order. My notice is on the top of the list and no-one from the Samajwadi Party got an opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Two Hon'ble members of the Samajwadi Party are speaking at the same time, then to whom I should listen?

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Both of you are from the Samta Party. Which one of you should be heard. The Zero Hour is over. I request you to sit down? All the matters to today's Zero Hour, the matters of Saturday and Sunday which you would like to raise be taken up on Monday.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I request you to kindly give me an assurance to hear me on priority basis on Monday.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Alright. Please keep silence and sit down.

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA (Kota) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, taking sense of the House in view of the many important matter to be taken up during the Zero Hour today, I submit that you please re-consider the proposal and we should be allowed to raise the matters today itself.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, those matters would be taken on Monday.

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA : Those who have in the Government are exploiting the poor and giving opportunities to the blackmarketeers.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (Chimur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we want from you this assurance that the members whose names are in the list for Zero Hour, need not give notice again and they would be given chance on Monday.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Giving notice costs nothing.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is not the matter of cost at all. It takes time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble Home Minister wants to give statement about the killings in Doda.

13.07 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Statement Re : Incident of Killing of 16 persons by Militants in Doda district

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : On 27th July, 1998 at about 2230 hours about 10-15 militants descended upon a small hamlet Homa which is located at about 1 km. from village Thakrai to the North-West of Kishtwar in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir. The militants, some of whom were wearing combat dress while others were in 'Salwar Kameez', fired indiscriminately on three houses of a particular community killing eight persons (six male and two female) on the spot and causing injuries to three others.

In another incident, during the same night (early hours of 28.7.98) presumably the same group of militants killed eight persons and injured two others in a similar outrage at village Saranwa which is located at a distance of 9 km. from village Homa.

The entire Doda district including the area where the incident occurred is under operational control of the Army. It is a vast area and the terrain is hilly and extremely difficult. In fact, Doda district is as large an area as the entire Kashmir Valley.

Both these incidents are tragic and reprehensible. These militants have chosen soft targets of innocent persons in isolated habitations for their desperate and inhuman acts. I am sure that the whole House will join me in condemning these incidents and also in expressing our condolences to the members of the bereaved families.

The Security Forces have been put on alert and joint operations have been launched by the State Police and the Security Forces to intercept the fleeing militants and nab them. The militants dispersed in different directions — according to our information, in two groups - but the pursuing Security Forces were able to kill two of them. Efforts are continuing to apprehend the others. Additional forces had been immediately inducted into the specific area to strengthen the joint operations. Some more forces are being sent to the area to strengthen the existing forces. The Jammu and Kashmir Minister for Transport and the Minister of State for Home visited Kishtwar on 28th July, 1998.

The Union Home Secretary, accompanied by DG, BSF, Additional DGMO Army Headquarters and Chief Secretary

[Shri L.K. Advani]

and DGP, J & K also visited the area on the 29 July 1998 and reviewed the security arrangements in the area. As the killings had evoked some sharp reactions from the local people, indefinite curfew has been imposed at Kishtwar and Bhadarwah to avoid any law and order problem. The Union Home Secretary and the team accompanying him found the morale of the local people high with people showing a determination to fight militancy.

All the injured persons have been air-lifted to Jammu for treatment.

As the hon. Members are aware, the situation in Jammu & Kashmir has been gradually improving and the tourist inflows are also picking up. This has obviously disturbed the terrorists and their mentors from across the border, who have intensified their efforts and have been able to succeed in hitting some soft targets in their desperation. They have been trying to concentrate in the Jammu Division, particularly in areas like Doda, Udhampur, Rajouri, Poonch, etc. which have a mixed population apparently with a view to creating a communal divide. Government is vigilant and the security forces are also achieving some successes. While, during the month of June 1998, 76 militants were killed, in the first fortnight of July 1998, 78 militants have been killed. Upto 15 July 1998, 388 militants in all have been killed during the current calendar year, including 65 foreign mercenaries. 545 militants were apprehended during the current year. Of course, this has not been without a cost, as 96 security personnel have lost their lives during 1998.

As the hon. Members are aware, militancy in J & K is sponsored, aided and abetted by Pakistan, and thus it requires sustained and systematic efforts to tackle it. I assure the august House that this Government is determined to take all possible steps to deal with this problem effectively.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no scope for clarification in the rule after the statement of the hon'ble Minister.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : This issue is related to my constituency. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (WB) : Sir, this is such an unfortunate incident that I condemn the incident of killing. But at the same time, I demand that a full discussion on the internal security scenario be held in this House.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : I want to know from the hon'ble Home Minister whether the people who have died or got injured, have been provided with gratia grant or not? Secondly, today's newspapers have reported that dead

bodies are still lying there. We want to get apprised of the factual position.

Thirdly, nobody can fight militancy unless local people are prepared for that and equip them with the arms and provide some financial support. The force which you are deputing there, keep themselves away at a distance of 30 kilometres. Therefore, local people should be provided with the rifles, modern weapons and full financial support to fight against militancy.

In the last, I would like to know what the hon'ble Home Minister has to say about the Ex-gratia grant.

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Idukki) : Sir, this being a very important thing, the hon. Home Minister knows that a high power delegation of the Congress Party met the hon. Home Minister. We made a request that the paramilitary forces in that area are not sufficient. The hon. Home Minister also agreed.

Sir, the people are in a mood to fight the militancy. But as said by the hon. Member that the presence of the paramilitary force was insufficient and the Government had not taken any steps to compensate that. This is a matter of worry. We are happy that the Home Secretary visited that area and steps have been taken. But what about the presence of the paramilitary forces, which is sufficient to curb this kind of disturbances? The Government may assure this House about that also.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai) : Sir, this is an issue which I had raised first. The Kashmiri Pandits have been demanding *Panun Kashmir* from the Home Ministry for a long time. I would like to know has the Home Ministry applied its mind on it.

I want to know whether it is a feasible proposal or not. That is what the Pandits want. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Nothing is spoken about the Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir. If he is abroad, he may be asked to reach Kashmir at the earliest. His absence is very much felt in the State. That is my view. So, the hon. Home Minister may please get in touch with the Chief Minister and he may be asked to reach Kashmir at the earliest because his presence in the State would be useful in bringing normalcy there. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Mr. Chairman, the hon. Home Minister is willing to react. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has heard all the members. He will see to it.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, the hon. Home Minister is willing to react after everybody has spoken. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : If hon'ble Minister reacts, I have no objection over that.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, let me share my views before the hon. Home Minister reacts.

As my hon. colleague has pointed out, when we called on the hon. Prime Minister, we shared some information. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : It would be better, if hon'ble Minister tells about. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : When we called on the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Home Minister was there. We had some discussion with him. We still maintain the hon. Home Minister has himself said this in his statement — this is the first time that Rajouri, Poonch and Udhampur sector is being affected. From 1990-94, in fact I will go up to 1996, this sector was not being affected as such as being affected today. There were incidents in Doda. I am not saying that there were no incidents but the amount of frequency has increased in Rajouri, Poonch and Udhampur. Shri Chaman Lal Gupta will bear with me that this is the first time that this sector — Rajouri, Poonch and Udhampur — is being affected.

When I visited this area, I got the information that coordination was not proper. Today we read in the newspaper that Rashtriya Rifles has done a very good job. I am told that they are reviewing that also.

[Translation]

Whether Rashtriya Rifles is posted there or not.

[English]

Today the hon. Home Minister has said that the Army has officially taken over Doda district. Could the hon. Home Minister clarify whether the Unified Command is meeting regularly or not?

My information — I got this information in Jammu — is that during the last five or six months, the Unified Command has met only once. If coordination is so poor, then the Action Plan cannot be as effective as the hon. Home Minister has said. Could the Home Minister tell us as to what pro-active Plan he has made; whether the policies of the previous Government are being followed or not?

My information is that Shri Javed Shah, MLC of the National Conference has decided to resign his Membership

of the Legislative Council and would be picking up the gun in the national interest. He has said : 'I will pick up the gun for the national forces'. If this is the morale of the people, then the statement of the hon. Home Minister is not right. The morale of the people is very high. I would like to know from the hon. Home Minister whether the morale of the people is really very high or not; whether the MLC is resigning and picking up the gun; and also about Coordination. These are my two questions.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : The Chairman of the command is living in London. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Madhepura) : Hon'ble Home Minister read out the report in regard to the situation prevailing there. According to him the condition is improving. The Minister of Home Affairs, Government of India also hold a direct charge of Jammu and Kashmir. As far as I remember, it is the fourth incident since you took over the charge. Previously there had been a fall in such incidents. We should find out the reasons behind them.

Hon'ble Members are suggesting that the people should be provided rifles. I do not want to refute their proposal but when we provide rifles to rural people, we should also ensure that these rifles should not go into the hands of militants. We should not commit such mistake. Some other way out should be found out in regard to the Jammu and Kashmir. You should also take some more measures to tackle the militancy there. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now the discussion under Rule 193.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (Outer Delhi) : The Home Minister has said so many things. Even today, Srinagar, Rajouri and Poonch are disturbed areas. Has the Home Ministry formulated any scheme to declare the entire Doda area, as a disturbed area to protect it from militancy? The Government should think over it as only then this problem can be checked and Government should not ignore this aspect also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now we will start the discussion under Rule 193. Shri Tapan Sikdar.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, you have to ask him. He might react. He is ready to react. ... (Interruptions) Let him answer some questions. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : The Home Minister is ready to react.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no scope for clarification in the rules, the entire House has heard feelings of Hon'ble Members and leaders. The Home Minister would

contemplate and will take all possible measures to avoid the recurrence of such incident.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : He is ready to react.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : You had allowed us to raise question as a special case.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have expressed your view and concern.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : You ask them if he refuses, then it is O.K.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Government can not be compelled in this way.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : It can be compelled. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : I think he is ready to react. ... (Interruptions)

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Situation in North Eastern Region due to Insurgency — Contd.

[Translation]

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR (Dumdum) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, when I was speaking the other day, I has mentioned two important factors responsible for terrorism in north eastern region. Today also, I would like to speak about the reasons for terrorism in this region.

The tribals of the north-eastern region solve their problems according to their own customs and traditions and observe all their basic rituals. But they got scared when they saw that their culture was in danger due to large scale influx and infiltration of people from east Pakistan and Bangladesh. After the influx of people in such a large number, the original inhabitants of this region, i.e. the tribals felt that their culture and identity would be diluted.

I would like to mention here that the population of tribals in Tripura was previously 58 percent which has come down to 20 percent in 1998. This fast decrease in the percentage of tribals in Tripura has created a fear psychosis amongst the original tribals of this region. Thereafter, some tribal youths were incited by Bangladesh, Myanmar and Bhutan and the political parties in the country exploited this situation. As I have mentioned the other day about Tripura that when the left front was in power a committee was set-up with the

efforts of the Congress Party and we know that the riots of 1980 contributed a lot. But when the Congress Party come to power later on, a new organisation named All Tripura Tigers Force (ATTL) emerged. People say I was also incharge there and we come to know then that our leftist friends have some connection with the ATTL. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : This is totally false they have killed the leftists. One leftist minister has been murdered. You must not tell lies, speak out the truth. One of our ministers have been slain there. They have kidnapped the son of our M.P. and you are saying. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly take your seat. Order please.

[English]

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR : I am going to mention it.

[Translation]

We are aware that Leftist Health Minister and his brother was killed. Not the Leftist Minister alone, atleast four major tea planters were also killed. One Government official who had joined the B.J.P. after retirement was also kidnapped and a ransom of Rs. 60,000 was demanded from him for setting him free. He was not in a position to give that amount so, he was taken to the jungle. When negotiations were being held in the jungle, a terrorist boy came over, touched his feet and stated addressing him as uncle that they were killing people out of compulsions and he further asked his well being. Since the boy's parents were acquainted with him, therefore, they demanded to pay only 20,000/- in lieu of Rs. 60,000 for his release. Our colleague has just said that ATTF people are killing Leftists, this is true, but this ATTF is Frankenstein. It was the creation of the Leftist but later on these people started killing them. We paid a sum of Rs. 20,000/- through the nephew of a C.P.I. (M) M.L.A. for the release of our activist who was kidnapped by them. What does it mean?

However, we must admit the fact that whatever is going on in the North-eastern states whether it is Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram or Manipur, is the creation of the political parties. Those in power form a terrorist outfit so as to counter the opposition parties in the north-eastern states. Our neighbouring countries are exploiting this situation. Bangladesh has set up one training centre at the Chatgaon hills track and there is one training centre functioning in Myanmar also. The previous Government had established through its intelligence agencies that all this is happening there. The Union Home Minister has given a statement that talks were going on with Bangladesh, Myanmar and Bhutan to stop running these training centres. What happened in Assam just two days back. There is similar situation there. The character of the population has changed in Assam gradually. Because of this some political parties and foreign powers are active to incite the youths. Owing to which there was much bloodshed between Santhals and Bodos in Assam the day before yesterday and so many people were killed. This is because terrorism is being supported and abetted

by the political groups. If we want to curb insurgency in the north-eastern states of India then, we should send Central forces there. This is O.K. I whole heartedly support my friend's contention that the Central forces should be sent there. However I would like the Home Minister to ensure that these Central forces should not be misused as these are being misused at present. A proposal is being discussed to remove Assam Rifles from there. Two thousand uniforms of Assam Rifles were stolen. The terrorists sporting these uniforms are killing common people. Therefore, the Central force should certainly be sent there with effective powers. If they are given no powers to use the gun when the situation warrants so and they are required to seek permission then terrorism and insurgency can not be countered. If the Central Government makes sincere efforts for economic, cultural, industrial and infrastructural development then, the terrorism and insurgency can be countered effectively.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI TARUN GOGOI (Kaliabor) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the North-East occupies a very strategic importance in the map of the country. It is surrounded by 4,500 km. of international border and only 45 km of border with the rest of the country. Though this area is very rich in minerals, natural and water resources, yet it is lagging far far behind in the industrial and economic fields.

As a result of that, there is a growing unemployment problem. The biggest challenge before the whole of the North-East is the unemployment problem. There is a great resentment among the younger generation. There is no economic or industrial development. As a result of that, there is unrest also.

There are many reasons behind the insurgency. One of the main reasons is the geographical isolation. Then, the partition also, to a great extent, is responsible because after partition, the whole area was rendered landlocked. It lost lands, roads, rivers and markets also. Earlier, there were trade and commerce in those parts of the country.

Another basic reason is the lack of communication facilities. There are no roads. For reaching a certain area, it takes ten to fifteen days. I am not talking of Assam alone, I am talking of the hilly areas of the North-Eastern region. Even today it takes ten to fifteen days to reach a particular place. There are no rail communication facilities. Even for Assam also, earlier there were no rail communication facilities. All these railway communication facilities were constructed by the Britishers for their commercial interests. Had there been no tea, no coal, no oil, no timber, etc., these lines would not have been constructed by the Britishers. That is why, all these lines were constructed to cater to the needs of the Britishers.

But, unfortunately, in other hilly areas where a majority of the tribal people are living, there is a full of diversity. There are more than 200 tribes and they speak more than 170

dialects. You will be surprised to know that their customs, food and other habits are different from the people of the rest of the country. Besides, these areas were also segregated by the Britishers. They were kept as excluded areas. There was not much administration in those areas also. The inner-land permit was introduced by the Britishers. That inner-land permit was introduced to prevent the raids on the people of the plains and subsequently in order to prevent the people of the plains from intruding into the hilly areas. As a result of that, some psychological alienation was there.

Then, because of the partition, a large number of refugees and other people have come to this area. There was an apprehension of demographic changes. So, these are the reasons.

Then, there is a feeling of deprivation and neglect in all the areas whether it is in Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram or Tripura. Besides, during the British time, the whole area was neglected. It is the freedom movement which brought the different parts of the country into the national mainstream. The freedom movement did touch the plains of Assam, Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya, etc., but it did not reach the interior places of the hilly areas. In fact, there was a movement in different parts of the hilly areas by the local people to bring them under the banner of the Indian National Freedom Movement.

Though oil was discovered in Assam more than hundred years ago, yet we did not get a good refinery. We have got the smallest refinery. We had to fight for it. We had to go to court also. Oil was transported to Barauni. There was a great resentment. The development of the industry should be on the basis of availability of local resources. Earlier, there were also a lot of wood-based industries. Now, they are closing them due to deforestation. As a result of that, a lot of unemployment problem has arisen. Besides all these, Meghalaya, Mizoram and other places do not have rail communication facilities. Even for Assam, till recently, there was no broad-gauge line. Only just a few years back, a broad-gauge line was constructed. When I came to Parliament in 1971, there was only a 100 km broad gauge-line in Assam. There was no broad-gauge line to Guwahati. To come from my constituency, it took about 68 hours. There was no bridge over Brahmaputra. So, we had to fight for a bridge. Today, of course, there is a third bridge and we are going to have a fourth one also. But the rest of the hill areas are far far behind. Even today there are no medical facilities available in those areas. A lot of people have to go to Chennai or to Bangalore or to Delhi. Same is the case with educational facilities. There are no training facilities available. Unless we have proper training facilities, we cannot train up the boys. So, we must have good vocational institutions as well as technical institutions to train up the boys so that they can be self-employed.

Even after the liberalisation of economic policies, there was investment, either from the Government or from the

[Shri Tarun Gogoi]

private sector, and because of that, there is a lack of infrastructural facilities. So, there should be a separate industrial policy and package for industrial development in the North-East. Of course, now the Government has announced it, but it should be implemented in practice. We want that there should be rapid economic development and there should be a separate employment policy so that more employment opportunities are created. For this, the Government has to go in for industrialisation in that area. Because of lack of infrastructural facilities, we cannot attract private industries.

Then, there are the flood problem and other problems. All the insurgents in the North-East are not secessionists. Secessionism is the extreme form of frustration of our people. Insurgency is there for several reasons. It is because of political reasons, because of aspirations for economic development, and because of lack of employment opportunities. Like that, there are many reasons for that. Even in Assam, we have seen tribal groups having different aspirations. Bodos have different aspirations, Kardis have different aspirations, other have other aspirations. But the Central Government today is so callous and so indifferent to them. Recently we have had floods in Assam for five consecutive times. But when we went to the Minister of Agriculture about 20 days back, he did not bother. He said: Floods take place in Assam every year. Then we had to stage *dharnas* and also raise it in the Parliament a number of times. When I met the Prime Minister, he said: Oh, floods are taking place everywhere in the country. Sir, floods in Assam are quite different than in any other part of the country. For the last two months, there are some districts which are under water. There is complete disruption of communication. Still this is the attitude of the Government.

Today, what is the law and order situation there. Last week, more than 30 people were killed in Assam but nobody bothered. The Centre did not bother. The Central Government sends Central teams to many States. Is the law and order situation still not the worst in Assam? I am happy that today the Home Minister has made a statement on the Doda incident. But why not make a statement on Assam also? Thirty-two people have been killed in just less than a week but nobody is bothered. No Secretary has gone there. No Central Minister has bothered to go there. That is why there is insurgency there. Whether it is floods, whether it is communications or whether it is insurgency, in every respect I have seen that though the Centre makes a lot of promises, but those promises are not implemented. So, if they make a promise, they must implement it, otherwise they should not make it. We are simple people. Just because we do not shout, that is why nobody cares for us. Here, only the people who shout, who have strong lung power, are listened. I hope, the Centre will give serious attention to this.

At the same time, I must praise the people of whole of the North-East. In spite of all this, we are today proud to be Indian citizens. Today, a majority of the people of Nagaland want to remain in India. Same is the case with Meghalaya

and Mizoram also, though initially there was a big movement under Laldenga, but today everywhere the people are in the national mainstream in spite of all the neglect. So, I hope, the Centre will take serious steps and will prepare a comprehensive plan for the North-East.

It should be an employment oriented programme. They should also be provided educational and training facilities. All this will go a long way in bringing the people to the mainstream.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Sir, we are specially discussing today the problems of the North-Eastern region. I appreciate the points raised by Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita and Shri Tarun Gogoi regarding Assam and other parts of the North-Eastern region. We consider the States in North-Eastern region as our seven sister State. After this Government came into power, it included Sikkim also as a sister State. Now, it consists of eight States instead of seven States. I congratulate the Government for including Sikkim in the North-Eastern region.

I am interested to speak about the North-Eastern region because ours is a vast country and different types of people, different types of castes and different types of religions are there. Everything is there. I have visited the North-Eastern region and I have gone there many times. We know Tripura. We know Assam. We know Meghalaya. We know Mizoram. Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Sikkim very well because all these States are linked with our Eastern part. The North-Eastern region is the gateway. That is why, we have got the opportunity to visit the place and talk to people there.

The North-Eastern region, in relation to the whole of India, consists of 35 million people out of total population of 916 million according to 1991 census. Barring Assam and Tripura which are comparable with the all-India average density of 265 persons per square kilometre, the average density of population is less varies from ten persons per square kilometre in Arunachal Pradesh to 80 persons per square kilometre in Manipur. It has 4,500 kilometres of international border with China, Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh. I am telling all this because the North-Eastern region is geographically and physically an interior region, but at the same time, it is a very big and vast area. Geographically, It has the biggest areas which are tough also. At the same time, the overall size and strategic location of the region is quite significant and the region deserves to be carefully retained in the mainstream of our country. In the year 1963, a separate State of Nagaland was formed. The State of Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura were formed in 1972, and Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram were formed in 1987. The intention of the Government for forming these States was that the people of this North-Eastern region can join the mainstream. We are proud to say that the people of this particular region are absolutely in the mainstream, but what are the lacunae?

This is my personal opinion. I feel that every Government assures that it will help them economically, educationally, culturally and so on, but the problem lies in

the fact that whenever the Government promises to give some financial or economic assistance to the North-Eastern region, funds do not reach them in time. How will the development work start? Every time, we hear that the Government is giving special financial sanction for the North-Eastern region. Last year also, Rs. 7,500 crore were allotted for the North-Eastern region, but what I heard from the North-Eastern MPs is that it did not reach. If the money is sanctioned, it should reach the region.

I know the North-Eastern region. I am proud to say that it is a women-dominated area. I have seen that the sisters of this particular State are very attractive, active and sincere. They want to work very hard.

But the problem is that the communication system in the North-Eastern region is very poor and the infrastructural facilities are also very poor. We have to appreciate the fact that the North-Eastern Region is isolated from the main part of our country. It is a far-flung area. The lacuna is, though the Central Government is very much sympathetic towards the North-Eastern Region, due to lack of a comprehensive plan of action and proper implementation machinery, proper development is not taking place in that area.

The North Eastern States are situated along the international borders with countries like Bangladesh, Nepal, China etc. We have to protect our border areas. Of course, the Government has the machinery to protect the border areas, but our machinery is not stronger than the other machinery for which funds are coming from outside the country. They are using these funds for creating insurgency problem in the North-Eastern States.

There are no proper communication facilities in the North-Eastern Region and the unemployment problem is very acute there. The students and the youths have great potential there. But their potentiality is not being utilised in a proper way. The funds which are coming from outside the country are being used to influence them in a wrong way. This is my feeling.

Sir, the Central Government had promised that it would create a new Ministry for the North-Eastern Region. Of course, the Government has to fulfil this promise, because that was an assurance of the Government. But I do not think that only fulfilling that assurance would solve the problems of the people of that area. But I feel that there should be a separate Central Secretariat for the North-Eastern Region to properly communicate with these eight States. Its headquarters should be situated in Guwahati so that proper coordination could be achieved with all the North-Eastern States.

Sir, geographically, the North-Eastern Region is a vast area. The Government cannot do much from Delhi for the North Eastern Region, because that is a border area. So, I think, it would be better if the Government chalks out a proper plan of action and create a separate Central Secretariat so that there could be proper coordination between all the North-

Eastern States with regard to solving their problems relating to education, employment and improving the communication facilities.

I think the main problem of the North-Eastern Region is lack of proper communication facilities. So, I urge the Government to give more thrust to improve the communication facilities there. Then, the problem of unemployment is very acute there. The people are very educated there. They do not have good educational institutions also. For getting good education, they have to come either to Calcutta or Delhi or Siliguri or to other parts of the country. It is very difficult for them. There are no proper medical facilities also and to get proper medical care they have to travel a long distance. There is no railway network in many of the areas, but only air link is available and that too only in a few places. So, it is very difficult for the people to come to the main part of the country.

Sir, I have already stated as to how the foreign countries are spending money to misguide the youths in the North-Eastern Region. They are distributing drugs there. Then, there is also the problems of AIDS and smuggling from across the borders. Modern arms are being distributed from across the border to the unemployed youths of the North-Eastern Region. So, the Government should look into all these problems and evolve a proper plan of action to solve them.

Then, there is the tribal problem. In the North-Eastern Region, 166 languages are being spoken. There are so many tribal people living in the area. At the same time, people belonging to minority communities are also living there. In the last five to six days, so many people have been killed there.

In Assam, there is ULFA problem; in Tripura, there is TNO problem; there is Kuki problem, there is Bodo problem and there is Santhal' problem. There is a North-Eastern Council and in order to strengthen it, the Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission should coordinate with it.

Yesterday, 25 people were killed in Assam. In Bodoland, so many people have been killed. In Tripura, people are not able to go to the interior areas. We do not know what is the law and order situation there. It is a border State and, of course, you should give moral support to the State Government. At the same time, the Central Government should not only coordinate but also take this matter very seriously. Otherwise, the feeling amongst the North-Eastern region people is that they are isolated from the mainstream because the Central Government is not paying proper attention to the North-Eastern region. Some people are trying to create anti-Indian feelings in that region. So, if this august House does not take care of this North-Eastern region, there may be a disaster just like in Kashmir. After death, anything that we do will not serve the purpose. Now, the time has come and after this discussion, the Government has to do something for the North-Eastern region.

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

Why do you not include the Members of Parliament from the North-Eastern region, who are public representatives, who know the people's feelings and the grass-root problems, in the North-Eastern Council? Instead of including the officials, please include the public representatives there so that they can deliver the goods. In a period of six months or one year, there will hardly be one single discussion and the Members of Parliament would not get an opportunity. But if the North-Eastern Members belonging to Lok Sabha – if you want, you can include Rajya Sabha Members also – are included because they are public representatives, then they can deliver the goods or they can at least express their views. Sometimes, I feel sorry when the Members of Parliament from the North-Eastern region say that they do get the opportunity to speak. I appreciate the point raised by Shri Tarun Gogoi, who said, "we are peace-loving people; that is why, we do not shout." Yes, this feeling is there. That is why, the Government must try to consider this. I cannot say that the Government must consider this, but since it is in the Government's jurisdiction, my request is that the Members of Parliament should be included so that they can give their views.

Coming to North-Bengal, I want to say that it is the gateway to the North-Eastern region. That is why, there must be communication facilities from the gateway, that is, from the eastern part of Calcutta or Siliguri or Guwahati. Since there is a lack of communication, the message does not reach there in proper time. If you just take up two railway projects that were pending, it would not solve the problem. They have the agricultural land, but the facilities are very poor. If the Government is going to make any policy announcement, then I would request the Home Minister that the youths from this North-Eastern region should be accommodated not only in the sports, cultural and defence fields but also in the Border Security Force and in such other fields. In this North-Eastern region, the unemployed youths can do a very good work for the country.

We do not know why this North-Eastern region should suffer. Sir, I know a little about this North-Eastern region, but the Members of Parliament from that region know so many things. I would request the Government to solve this problem through a political decision. There must be a solution to this problem. If the Government is not going to find any solution to this problem, then the matter would be kept pending. Everyday, there is some ethnic problem like the Santhal problem, Naga problem, Kuki problem and so on. So, may I request the Government to see that this North-Eastern region gets its proper importance?

Adequate financial assistance should be given for the development of North-Eastern States.

With these words, I thank you very much.

[Translation]

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI (Autonomous District Assam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the members of the major parties are

given opportunity to speak. The members of the small parties like ours should also be given a chance.

MR. CHAIRMAN : One Hon. member from each party would speak names of all of you figure in the list. Everybody would be given a chance.

SHRI SALKHAN MURMU (Mayurbhanj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, since Monday we wanted to submit in zero hour that the Santhali people were being killed, and a notice is being given daily for the purpose but being a junior member I have not been given an opportunity to speak. Today also my name figures in the list but I have doubt that being a junior member I may not be given time to give vent to my views.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will be given an opportunity.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Chairman, I don't know how much time we have for discussion on this matter but at the same time I would request and urge that all the Lok Sabha members from the North-East must be given an opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All the hon. members from the North-East would be given an opportunity.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (Chimur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the members from Uttar Pradesh have been given an opportunity to speak but it being a national problem the members of the opposition parties should also be allowed to speak.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Hon. Home Minister referred to North-East, not Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

The problem of the North-East is not connected with many factors, for the unity of the entire India, for the protection of India's boundaries, and to add to the prestige of India in the world, we will have to think seriously over the problem. I have to express my regrets on this point today that the Union Government made important agreement and took decisions in respect of the North-East time to time. The people of that area still have their old complaint that the Union Government meted out step-motherly treatment to them and we don't have any answer to that as on date.

Mr. Chairman, when India was about to get Independence, its three princely States – Tripura, Coochbihar and Manipur became its part and similarly British governed state Assam was also deemed to be its part and that was the part of India. But the manner in which partition of India took place and Bangladesh was formed in place of geographically Eastern Pakistan and despite that a lot of problems cropped up in the North-East India. This problem got aggravated more in our remote states when a committee headed by Barodolajji was constituted and we started framing the constitution of India. The said committee after interacting

with the people of that area, among whom the representations of the tribal people were also there, made a provision in the sixth schedule of the Constitution. And that thing affects them time and again, makes them apprehensive and particular since when the Govt. of the Bhartiya Janata Party is in power at Delhi, their apprehension have become more acute that what will happen to the sixth schedule because this is the only party which talks repeatedly about repealing of Article 370 in respect of Kashmir and the common civil code. Therefore, the Home Minister will have to give a categorical assurance today that their Govt. will not temper with the provision—special right as provided in the sixth schedule in any manner. Such a clear message should be sent out to the people of this country through this House.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the second point which I want to submit is that a number of agreements were reached to date but have not been complied with. Assam State owes eight crore rupees as on date and has incurred six hundred crore rupees under the head of maintaining peace. What were political compulsions for which the Government of India compensated the said amount to other States.

14.00 hrs.

When there arises a question of security in Jammu-Kashmir, the Government of India bears the entire burden of that. It is a good thing. The Union Government generously bore the expenditure incurred to deal with terrorism in Punjab. The Government of Assam has complained that they have also incurred six hundred crore rupees under this head but the Home Minister provided only Rs. 131 crore and said that the said amount is full and final, they would not provide any more amount. We read a statement made by the Hon. Home Minister in newspapers that it would be centre's responsibility to deal with terrorism there. I urge that the manner in which the Union Government assisted Punjab and Jammu Kashmir in dealing with terrorism, the border states are also facing the same situation and double standard should not be adopted in providing them assistance.

Third major problem is that our boundary borders with Burma (Myanmar) and the party with the half of which you have formed Government, people of that party formed a human chain just before elections. They said that the most of drug smuggling takes place through Myanmar via Manipur. And they formed a human chain their along with thousands of people from the entire India. The youths of not only the North-East but youths from the entire North India are engaged in the business of drug smuggling. Some external forces have waged outside interference or undeclared war in our border States the advantage of the unemployed youth and they are taking the advantage of the unemployed youths and they are interfering in our country by that business. The Home Minister should tell us about the effective steps proposed to be taken by the Government of India to check smuggling of opium.

We visited Tripura three years back. The rivers which enter Tripura from Bangladesh bring epidemic prevailing in Bangladesh. We admit that Bangladesh is our neighbouring country, we have friendly relations with them. But the extent to which poverty and unemployment are prevailing there and the way our boundaries are lying open there, you cannot check it that. We have seen ourselves, you can also see as thousands of persons under some compulsion comes to Tripura from Bangladesh and work therefore the whole day and in the evening return to their homes after collecting their day's wages. But in 1994 the break or epidemic through their rivers took a toll of 750 lives in Tripura as per the Government data, but the Government of India did not extend the requisite help.

Whenever the issue of sharing of the Ganga water arises and the Government of India agree to release some more water, you people always oppose it by saying that it is wrong. Whenever the Government of India and Government of Bangladesh sign any agreement to find out a way out to deport Bangladesh's to their country, you always strongly oppose the idea, as a result of which an apprehension is created in the minds of the people today. I would like to request that the transportation is the main problem there. If a resident of Tripura desire to go to Calcutta, then it is easier for him to reach Delhi or Chennai but it would take many days through road to reach to Agartala. The people belonging to the tribal and weaker sections could not afford travelling by aeroplanes, by which means they should travel? Therefore whether the Government of India would take any initiative in consultation with the Government of Bangladesh to find out a way out to connect Tripura with the East Bengal.

Besides I would also like to say that there are certain areas in the North-East like Meghalaya and Vanalaya where planes can not go for seven eight months as these areas remain covered by clouds for four months. After that during the winter season, it is covered by the fog. If anyone goes from Delhi during these eight months and even if the Home Minister desires to fly over there, it is a big problem. He cannot go there. Therefore the maximum railway and road facilities should be extended to these areas. More educational and employment opportunities should be created there. It has been discussed here that today Mizoram and Meghalaya are among the educated states, but whether the Government of India or the respective state Governments have provided any medical and educational facilities there? All these things have been left at the mercy of the missionaries about whom some voices of apprehensions have been raised. We have been having apprehensions for the last fifty years against these missionaries but we have left educational and medical facilities at the mercy of these missionaries. They have done a commendable work in that area. It is really a matter of shame for the Government of India or for any other, Government to entrust the responsibility of providing

[Shri Mohan Singh]

educational and medical facilities to the missionaries in such a vast area and the people of that area appreciating the missionaries there. Therefore, I would request the Government to take the initiative to spread the network of educational and medical facilities in that area.

It has become a regular feature of the newspapers and today also it has been reported that Santhals have killed some 'Bodos'. Yesterday it was reported that Bodos have killed the Santhals. Often we read about Nagaland that Nagas and Kukis have killed dozens of people fighting each other. The Bhutan Border is very close to the Indian Border. Whomsoever is named by the Government of Bhutan as the trouble creator in that country, is constantly chased by the Government of India.

Serious environmental problem has also cropped up there. The terrorism spread amongst the youths there is now taking a shape of abduction, which has become a new source of income. I have read in some newspapers that terrorist Bodo Youths have collected Rs. 600 crore through ransom in the name of their organisation. This is a serious information. Forests are being cut there. The trees covering half of the Kaziranga National Park have been cut by the people in the name of terrorism. Therefore, the Government of India should formulate an integrated policy. Talks should be held with the activist youths. The Government have to frame a policy as to with whom the talks are to be held. Mr. Prime Minister has recently visited that area and he announced there that the Government is ready to hold talks with everyone. Some Minister had also visited that area who had also assured that the Govt. is willing to have talks with all concerned. I would like to say that the Government of India should ask all such elements owing allegiance to the Constitution of India they must lay down arms as a precondition to hold talks with the Government of India. If this condition is not accepted by these elements, I feel that holding talks with such elements would be against the national interests and the Government of India should not take such initiative.

I conclude with these words.

[English]

SHRI C. GOPAL (Arakkonam) : Respected Chairman, Sir, I am very thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion regarding situation in the North-Eastern region due to insurgency. I also want to draw the attention of this Government to the wave of terrorists violence in the North-Eastern States of India.

This is the problem in the region which has been in existence for the past 25 years. This problem has not been solved yet. There has not been any peace in existence in the North-Eastern region for the 25 years. I also want to say that the problem of insurgency in the North-Eastern region, with its multi-faced dimension, has become a national problem.

Sir, I also want to draw the attention of this Government that due to this serious situation existing for the past several years, a large number of civilians and security personnel have been killed in the North-Eastern region and particularly so in the Jammu and Kashmir. Sir, 2,853 houses, 23 bridges, 630 shops, 198 Government buildings and 215 educational institutions had been burnt and damaged by the miscreants because of the insurgency and activities of the underground leaders in the North-Eastern region. Many villages have been burnt. People from many regions have fled to the jungles to take shelter. Many persons have died of starvation, sickness and inhuman treatment.

Sir, there are certain insurgent groups which are in touch with the foreign countries which might like to see India broken into pieces like the former USSR. We have seen the reports in the newspapers that there are camps of the underground leaders in Myanmar, Bhutan and Bangladesh which are being used by ULFA for safe haven sanctuary, for training purposes. Sir, I want to bring it to the notice of the Central Government that the ULFA leaders have procured arms from some South East Asian countries. They are obtaining funds through extortion and abduction in Assam also. Therefore, under these circumstances, what steps this Government has taken to establish peacefulness in that region? To certain extent, the steps taken by this Government should be appreciated by all. Our hon. Prime Minister, just one month ago, addressed a meeting at Guwahati. There he said and I quote :

"To all those who have astrayed from the path of togetherness whether in Assam or other States of the North-East, I extend an invitation. Come forward. Let us discuss. My Government is committed to holding talks to restoration of peace. Let us do so within the four comers of our Constitution."

Sir, he should be appreciated by all.

In the same way, our hon. Defence Minister on April 4, 1998 said that he was ready to hold talks with the underground leaders in the North-Eastern States without any pre-condition and he appealed to them to lay down arms, to bring about peace in the troubled region. I also want to draw the attention of this august House about the speech delivered by our hon. Defence Minister on the same incident addressing the jawans at Assam Rifles Parade Ground. His earlier speech was in Imphal. There Shri George Fernandes called upon the Army and the para-military jawans to look upon the misguided youths with understanding. He also said that 'after all, they are all our children. The security forces should also realise and identify with them.'

Similarly, at a meeting in Tripura, our hon. Home Minister while having a talk with the Chief Minister of Tripura, has suggested measurers to control the growing number of violent incidents.

At a recent meeting with the Tripura Chief Minister Shri Manik Sarkar, our Union Home Minister Shri L.K. Advani is

believed to have suggested that he should use the National Security Act to control the growing number of violent incidents. The Chief Minister has promised our Home Minister that he would consider it. The Chief Minister has spoken that his Government has taken all steps except invoking the National Security Act. I want to suggest, it is my own view, that the Government's top priority must be to restore permanent peace and normalcy in the troubled North-Eastern region. I want to say that the insurgency problem cannot be solved through Army operation. Only meaningful dialogue can help resolve the vexed issue.

In order to deal with this problem a study group visited Imphal, Kohima and Guwahati from 28th October to 3rd November 1995 and again in the year 1996. The Chairman of the Committee on Home Affairs presented the 36th Report of the Committee wherein it is stated that instead of holding negotiations and handling the matter carefully, the Central Government sent in the Army in the past and suppressed the people with all kinds of black laws and martial laws. That will not solve the problem in the North-Eastern region. Therefore, I want to submit to this Government that three problems should be solved; firstly the Government should provide adequate protection and security to the business and trading community from all States who are carrying on their business activity in the region; secondly the Government should take steps for the protection of life and property and also ensure immediate compensation and return of business premises to the traders whose premises were ransacked and destroyed; and thirdly the Government should ensure proper allocation of funds for enabling the Autonomous District Councils entrusted with the development of ST and preserving their olden traditions, customs and culture to meet their requirements.

In these circumstances I want to say that these underground leaders in the North-Eastern region were having contacts with the LTTE people also. We know the position here. All the hon. Members of this House know what was the position of LTTE in Tamil Nadu during Shri Karunanidhi's regime from 1989-91. I want to say that the LTTE people were having connections with the underground people in the North-Eastern region. The unity and integrity of the nation are very important for living in this nation.

During our period, that is from 1991-96 when our beloved leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, she had maintained the law and order very well and the State was very peaceful. But during the DMK rule between 1989-91 there was law and order problem. Therefore that Government was dismissed. We were treating Tamil Nadu as a peaceful garden. I want to submit that before this august House. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : They were not ready to file even an FIR. They were not prepared to go ahead with the case.

SHRI C. GOPAL (Arakkonam) : During the period 1991

to 1996, the hon. Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi had made Tamil Nadu a peaceful garden. Her Government maintained law and order. ... (Interruptions)

I would submit that the nation must be united and integrated. Therefore, these miscreants must be eliminated.

With these words. I conclude.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM (Nagaland) : Sir, I have a request. Let not those hon. MPs who do not belong to the North-East speak first. If I speak about Kerala or Tamil Nadu, people laugh at me. Let them not speak about the insurgency in the North-East.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Two hours had been fixed for this debate. But as there are still many hon'ble members to speak, it will be continued for more than two hours. If everyone speaks briefly, most hon'ble members will have time to speak. Members of every party, particularly all the hon'ble members of North-East would like to speak. Brief speech is much better and more hon'ble members get opportunity to speak.

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Madhepura) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the militancy in the North-East region is due to poverty, hunger and illiteracy ... (Interruptions) Sushma ji why are you worried? We will pass your bill ... (Interruptions).

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : I am not worried.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I do not consider the present government responsible for terrorism. When this country achieved independence, we talked lot but did nothing for tribals, poor and minorities. They were not provided food. They were neither given respect nor honour. The tribals of north-east, Chhota Nagpur, Bihar, Bengal and the poor people of the country tried the people of all parties, but in vain. Swami Vivekanand was not a Prime Minister, but he was honoured by the whole world. He was honoured in World Religion Conference held at Chicago. A man does not become great by becoming Prime Minister or Home Minister. The great freedom fighter Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose had raised his army in the North-East region itself. We can't forget the sacrifices made by the Nagas in the freedom struggle. But what is the situation today? Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had made an announcement of a package... (Interruptions) Since you have asked to speak briefly, I would like to speak very briefly. The people of North should speak in this matter because they are better aware of the problem.

When Hon'ble Devegowda became Prime Minister, he visited North East and stayed there for seven days. He was accompanied by the Minister of Railways. Now since you are answerable, you will tell whether the railway net has been laid and the communication net work has been made or not.

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

Even Gujral Sahib also went there and spent seven or eight days there. The Prime Minister who stayed in the North-East for seven or eight days is not Prime Minister today ... *(Interruptions)* Everyone went there. Every leader went there. Mamta ji, the Prime Ministers who stayed in the North East region for seven or eight days have been deprived of their power. There is no point in not going there, because when they went, people were misguided there. We cheated the innocent people, we made false announcement and nothing got materialised.

Our Minister of Home Affairs visits the border and have also become the in-charge of Jammu and Kashmir Affairs but unless we diagnose the disease, we won't be able to give any treatment and in the same manner we can't root-out terrorism unless we recognise the reasons behind that. First of all I want to tell about the condition of the north-eastern people. Feudatories used to rule there. These landlords were involved in forest-wood trade. These poor people do not have any place in the country. They have place only in forests. ... *(Interruptions)* You present only incomplete picture. You please listen to me. We are aware of all these things. You are not apprised of these things.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : Let it go. Both of you can put your points. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : How can we bring the back-benchers, the left-outs to the mainstream? If we do not pay attention to the problems prevailing there like poverty, lack of means of communication, and unemployment, the unity and integrity of our country may be endangered.

In Arunachal Pradesh there is Indo-China border. Business is flourishing at both sides. I do not want to argue with the intelligentia. But I think that no one wants to become terrorists. Nobody wants that we follow the path of violence. Not only our nation but the whole world adopted the path of non-violence of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation.

Due to the terrorism, the killings of the tribals, today no bureaucrat wants to go there on deputation. No officer be it Collector, S.P. or Senior Officer, want to go there. We should understand this fact that we did not give the poor their due respect. 15th August and Republic Day are celebrated with great pamp and show. Naga people come here and exhibit their skills. We watch them. But what we have given to these people. The per capita income of these people and investment is lowest. After independence Union Government have always discriminated against the Poorvanchal in the entire northeastern region. That is why we and the Chief Ministers of north-eastern region also have been raising this point in the meetings of the National Development Council that Gadgil formula would not solve the problem.

We would have to pay special attention to the people, who have been left behind and we would have to bring them in mainstream. A few people have full hold over education. The poor and tribals have been denied education. But the

time is changing now and people amongst them are getting education. When people do not get justice from the secretariat and the judiciary they change their ways. This is the situation prevailing in some of our States and some of them are becoming the so called naxalites. The misled people by stating that they would not get justice from the judiciary, bureaucracy or the Governments, which have feudal character. That is why parallel courts are coming up in the country.

They award justice as per their own laid-down procedure to the persons who commit atrocities on poor. It has rightly been said that only the wearer knows where the shoe pinches. Our sisters, who are present here do not know what type of treatment is meted-out to our tribal daughters and sisters. They earn their livelihood by collecting leaves and making 'pattals' with them. They carry load and collect wood carrying their kids on their backs.

In the very beginning, I had said that Advaniji or his Government are not responsible for that. But if attention is not paid the unity and integrity of our country, particularly to 'Poorvanchal' the situation would worsen more. Swell Saheb, was the member of the previous Lok Sabha. Your party had decided to ban the cow-slaughter. I do not want to go into that debate. That can be your ideology. But Swell Saheb stated that people in the north-eastern region slaughter cows, buffalows etc. and eat their meat therefore, we would have to understand that ours is a country having unity in diversity. The ways of living and dressing of the people are different here. There are different languages and food habits. If we want to bring all in the mainstream, first of all we would have to bring the poor people of that region in the mainstream. Bihar police was sent to Assam and Kashmir. Mahantiji had asked for that. Therefore we sent it there but it could not live-up to the weather conditions there because the potable water there does not suit to it and it may cause malaria. Your Government have promised to provide safe potable water to every person of the country. You should act over it and in addition to that education and medical facilities should be made available particularly to the people of north-eastern region. Apart from that delegation of all parties should go there, meet the people and engage them in developmental activities there. The announcement made there by Gujral Saheb and Devegowda while their visits to the state alongwith the package prepared therefor by Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi should be implemented. What problem is being faced in their implementation. Unless we bring the poor people of our country into mainstream, and distribute the riches and land among them, this problem can not be resolved. We can not resolve this problem just by show of wisdom or calling them naxalites and can not control the terrorism. So intelligentsia should come forward and embrace the poor folk. They should treat them their sons and daughters, then only we can contain terrorism. Since you have asked me to conclude, I am concluding.

*SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH (Manipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you. I will speak in Manipuri.

* Translation of speech originally delivered in Manipuri.

Sir, today the problem of insurgency in the seven north-eastern States is very alarming. After 1980 the number of insurgent outfits in the region has increased dramatically. In the tiny State of Manipur we have 18 insurgent outfits and in the entire north-east region more than 30 insurgent groups are operating. The new recruits of these insurgent groups mainly consist of educated youths and students and they constitute about 80% of the total recruitment. Most of the recruits are below the age of 40.

Sir, the present situation in the entire north-east is worse than the situation in Jammu & Kashmir. Today anti-Indian feeling and separatist tendency looms large in the entire region. Nationalists like us are really suffering and we become their targets. In 1986 while I was on a tour along with my family members the extremists attacked us and my wife and my son were killed.

Sir, the real problem is that the feeling of separatism has been mounting particularly among the youths of the region. The only difference between Jammu & Kashmir and north-east is that J & K is dominated by the Muslims and the later is dominated by the tribals. But the problem is more or less the same.

The attention which is now given to J & K by the Centre in terms of development and maintaining law and order is well known. If it was done 20 years earlier the situation could have been different. If we are not paying proper attention towards the north-east region we can just imagine the situation that would appear before us after 20 years. If we do not care of the prevailing situation in the right manner, Sir, I would like to inform the Hon'ble Members that the secessionist tendency would ultimately reach its zenith; then the people would certainly express their willingness to secede from India.

The most crucial reason that led to insurgency in the region is the economic backwardness. In 50 years of independence almost the entire region still remains underdeveloped; there is no big industry, no good road, no drinking water and no railway. The successive Governments that ruled in the last 50 years are responsible for this prolonged negligence.

Recently economic packages have been announced for this region. Such announcements were made by Deve Gowdaji, Gujralji and by the present Prime Minister. But not a single paisa has been spent so far. This made the people in the region particularly the educated youths became annoyed and felt deceived. Consequently it aggravated the situation.

Sir, when approached to introduce rail lines in the region, it has been turned down on the ground of commercial viability. Again Sir, we requested the Union Government to reimburse the money that has been spent by the State Governments in fighting insurgency, the Hon. Home Minister replied that the matter will be considered by the Planning Commission.

Whereas in the case of Jammu & Kashmir the Central Government had sanctioned Rs. 350 crores at random. They did the same for Punjab. However in the case of north-east they say the matter will be discussed with the Planning Commission. This is the reality and this is the tragedy.

All these lead to further intensification of insurgency movement thereby deteriorating the law and order situation in the entire region. Sir, it is a fact that we have no development worth mentioning; there is hardly any big industry, no good hospital and above all the transport and communications are still in a pathetic condition. We are still a part of India even though the development in this region is almost nil.

If things continue like this for another 20 years the situation would be certainly out of hand. It is very unfortunate that the Government of India intentionally or unintentionally very much neglect this part of the country. In these 50 years people in the north-east felt that they are ignored, neglected and perhaps cheated.

Sir, Manipur was annexed by the Britishers on 23rd April 1891. Manipur remained a British colony only for 56 years. Before the British conquest Manipur was an independent sovereign nation. It was not a part of India.

At the time of signing the Treaty of Yandaboo (1826) Assam was already under the British Rule. Assam remained under the British for about 123 years. Whereas in the case of Bengal and other parts of the country British Raj was for about 200 years.

In 1947, 15 August India got political emancipation and on the same day in the same year Manipur also got independence. On this day Manipur hoisted its national flag at Kangla. This is a historical fact that India, Pakistan and Manipur became free in August 1947 from the British yoke.

Kangla has its own historical importance for the people of Manipur and that is the reason why we repeatedly demanded to remove Assam Rifles from here. After independence Manipur framed its own Constitution and election was held in April 1948 and as a result a new Government came into being. But the Maharaja of Manipur was still the head of the State. The new Government was for about one and a half years.

On 15th October, 1949 the Merger Agreement was signed between the Government of India and the then King of Manipur, Maharaj Budhachandra. The then Home Minister of India Sardar Patel headed the Indian team while signing the agreement at Shillong. This agreement was just like the agreement that took place between the Government of India and the Maharaja Hari Singh of Kashmir.

Sir, the terms and conditions of the Merger Agreement (Manipur) was not fulfilled by the Government of India. The section eight of the agreement says special employment facilities would be extended to the Manipuris. Sir, in this regard nothing had been done so far.

[Shri Th. Chaoba Singh]

After signing the Merger Agreement Manipur became a part of India. But the subsequent treatment meted out towards Manipur was very unfortunate. It was not given the status of a State and as a matter of fact Manipur was treated like a district. The people of Manipur had to struggle for 23 long years to get statehood. Nagaland was given statehood in 1963 and Manipur was given the statehood only in 1972 that too after a fierce struggle.

Sir, again on the economic front the scenario was worse. In the first 5 year plan we got only 1.59 crores. This is amazing. From the first 5 year plan to the fifth 5 year plan Manipur altogether received a total of only Rs. 135 crores. This is peanut. Because of such prolonged negligence today we remained underdeveloped; we have no industry; no factory, no rail link, no good roads. This is the position now. Today the educated youths of Manipur realise the fact that the Government of India had committed a Himalayan blunder towards the region. Such maltreatment is being condemned by these educated youths.

Sir, Manipur which has a population of about 20 lakhs is now having 3.2 lakh educated unemployed. This figure is alarming. This is very much above the national ratio. Nothing has been done to give them employment opportunities.

Sir, I strongly feel that the insurgency movement in the region cannot be suppressed by using force. In 1980, the Armed Forces Special Power Act (1958) was extended to the entire region of the State of Manipur. Thousands of people have already been killed yet the insurgency could not be contained. Perhaps it has aggravated over the years. At present 30,000 troops are being deployed in Manipur in the name of maintaining law and order. Hundreds of crores of rupees are spent on them. Instead, it would be more sensible to strengthen and expand the Manipur Police. This will help our youths to get employment.

Providing ample employment opportunities to their people would certainly scale down the intensity of insurgency in the region. Why should we not try to give employment facilities to the people of north-east in the Indian Railways which is the biggest public sector undertaking?

Then Sir, what is the use of opening the Indo-Myanmar trade without providing the facility of railways?

At present we are having a devastating flood in Assam and we are having serious law and order problem in the Bodo region. But no one dares to go there and see the situation. Such kind of attitude will not help in finding a long lasting solution to the insurgency problem in the region.

Now the time has come to take the problem of north-east seriously as we do for the State of Jammu & Kashmir. I hope the Government would respond in a responsible way.

Thank you Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also want that members of North-Eastern States should be given more and more opportunities. Twenty four members of Parliament have been elected from the seven States of the North-East known as seven sisters. Out of these 14 members are from Assam and the remaining 10 members are from other States. I would not like to repeat those things which the members of these States have already said. The Hon'ble Members have highlighted the basic problems of this area in an effective manner. We people have not been able to march ahead in the field of development, communication, creation of jobs and setting up of industries in the remote area of the country. This is a fact that if you go there and interact with the youth, you may find that they have a feeling of hatred, if it could be called so, for India. Some youths speak as if India is an alien country. When I was the Home Minister, I had an opportunity to go there and I felt it. The reason is that our administrative set up there through which we carry out the administration have some flaws. I do not want to go in these details as there is not enough time. I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Home Minister to one aspect as I have experienced it. During the last two three years, the most powerful terrorist outfit which is putting up a challenge to India, is N.S.C.N. There are other small successionist outfits as well. There is P.L.A. in Manipur, ULFA in Assam etc. But the N.S.C.N. coordinates with all such groups, imparts training so as to carryout the struggle. It also mobilise support and other help from Myanmar and other countries for these groups.

The main leaders of the N.S.C.N. are Shri Muiwa and Shri Saksu. These two leaders have been carrying on the struggle from jungles and hills for many years in the name of freedom. They do not live in Nagaland. They are living in Thailand and Bangkok and the Ministry of Home Affairs has got their addresses and all other details. They send instructions to their activists from there. They are carrying the operation there. Two three months back a reporter of the Hindustan Times conducted an interview of Shri Muiwa this was published in three instalments. The interview contains several questions and answers which make it amply clear as to what leaders want. The previous Government has reached a ceasefire agreements with them two years before. That time they has come on leave they has agreed on certain conditions and their contention was that the same condition should apply on the security forces also. The agreement stated that exchange of firing, murders, kidnappings extortions etc. would be stopped and the security forces would also not use weapons against them. Those who signed that agreement has agreed not to attack the security forces. Both the parties thought that the ceasefire alone would not lead to solution of this long standing problem. In fact some lasting and permanent agreement should be reached in this regard so as to restore peace and normalcy in that area. I think that we should endeavour to bring the N.S.C.N. headed by Shri Muiwa and Shri Saksu, to the negotiation table so as to reach a permanent and lasting agreement, not the ceasefire agreement alone, so as to ensure peace in that area. If it is

materialised, the other insurgent groups in North Eastern States carrying out armed struggle would also stop their armed rebellion.

15.00 hrs.

Today N.S.C.N. provides support and help to them and coordinates their activities and imparts training, we have two rounds of the Prime Minister level talks with the N.S.C.N. When I was the Home Minister, without even taking us into confidence, our intelligence agency had made arrangements so as talks at the Prime Minister level could be held. Today I am compelled to reveal all these things. Once the talks were held in Jurikh (Switzerland) with Shri Devegowda who has gone there for some other purpose.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : We were not told about it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Why should it be told to you? Mr. Chairman, Sir, we had talks with Deve Gowdaji at that time and on return, the information which was received from them is as follows :

15.02 hrs.

[SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU *in the Chair*]

"They said that the Naga people had been waging a war for the last so many years which was for independence right from the beginning. As such, we would not become a part of India. Prime Minister Sahib, you first accept this basic thing, you accept this point that we has never been a part of India. We have fought separately for independence and if this fact is accepted, the issues and matters on which an agreement could be reached, can be discussed. Shri Deve Gowda told them that that would not serve their purpose. You people first accept the basic thing that whether you consider yourself as a part of India or not. This thing should be made clear. Whichever agreement you people want to reach should be within the framework of the Constitution. We are ready for talks but you people say that you do not accept the Constitution of India, we cannot talk with you outside of that? If it is so, it is not possible for us to hold talks because these talks did not bear any special results. The talks broke at that point. They said talks would be held in future." After sometime talks were held once more, but those people did not budge from their stand. As per the trend, they are not ready to consider themselves as a part of India. As of now till the talks are held, the war of independence of the Naga people since the British regime will have to be accepted historically since they say that they kept themselves dissociated with the movements which started in the North-East and so don't try to associate them with these movements.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a difficult question has arisen that we have not progressed further on this issue. Some days back an hon. member from Assam Shri Kalita was asking this question that the Government of India should appoint some persons for holdings talks but such persons have not

yet been appointed. We want to know that how far those talks have reached. I don't know whether Advani ji would be able to tell on this point or not but as far as I know, we have not moved beyond the agreement on ceasefire which has been reached so far and the other common things. Sometimes our security forces also feel uneasiness. Although they have agreed upon ceasefire but they complain that at times the underground insurgents groups in Nagaland, do not follow the terms of ceasefire and spread disturbances here and there. That could be their complaint. But they have also complaints against the security forces. Therefore it is very necessary that some permanent arrangement should be found beyond the ceasefire agreement. And what could be it? They may not budge from their stand or we may not prevail upon them and we may not be able to offer a new proposal to them on behalf of the Government of India and the situation which has been prevailing there, how we will be able to come out of that, I don't know about that. They have some reservation. However, it was decided that talks should be held without any pre-condition. You will also be of the opinion that when they come forward for talks, they should first surrender their arms. They are not prepared to accept it as it is one of the conditions. We can also say that this is also one condition on our behalf that first you accept that we will not accept the Constitution of India, but it could also be one condition that they are prepared to find an arrangement within the framework of the Indian Constitution. They also said that saying that is not fair on Government's part. Come to the table without any condition, you and we will talk with open mind across the table. They say that some concrete proposals should come forward from the Government of India to end this deadlock. They can't say anything at this junction. They also told this point in an interview. They have also put forward a difficult condition that they will talk at the level of the Prime Minister of India. They are not prepared to talk at an officer or a bureaucrat level. They can come to talks, but cannot enter into any agreement on the condition of agreement since they can't trust on each and every person. If the Prime Minister says something to us sitting beside us, they could accept that but if they talk with any bureaucrat and he makes some promise or presents some conditions and backtracks from them later on, it would be difficult for them. This is a point on which the Government of India will have to ponder. Talks are to be held with them at Prime Minister level, this is not easy at the same time it is not impossible too. Talks were held twice but nothing concrete came out of them. Their third condition is this that talks will not be held in India as they are not prepared to come for talks in India. Talks should be held at a place outside India. They have said so because it has happened twice earlier. Mr. Advani I was the Home Minister, at that time but we could not know any thing. It was only after sometime that we came to know.

Mr. Chairman. Sir some of our Government officials had serious reservations in this regard. They argued why should they accept this condition. We are ready to assure them that we would bring them to our country from there. We would impose no restrictions on them and would give them

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

complete freedom. There is no danger to them. They should come forward and talk to us, but they do not agree. They say that venue of the talks, should be some other country.

Sir, besides N.S.C.N. there is one more group involved in insurgency that somewhat weaker than these groups but it is also active. Its leader is Khaplan. He did not participate in the talks because the members belonging to N.S.C.N. were not ready to share the table with him as they think that this group is not effective and have no powers and the Government of India - wants to support them for no use at all. It is being said that the present Chief Minister Shri Jamir has got some connection with the Khaplan group. I do not know the reality whether any connection is there or not but it is being said so. Shri Jamir is the Chief Minister there and if there would be some agreement or understanding with him, they are not going to accept it as they consider Shri Jamir an agent of the Indian Government. After all if there would be any agreement it would require approval of Shri Jamir being the Chief Minister. But they are not ready to accept it at all. They consider him as an agent of the Government of India. That is why they are not ready.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is very serious matter. That is why I am telling all these things. It has become a difficult problem we are repeatedly saying to the people of the North-Eastern States that there is a need of dialogue and we want to solve the problem through the dialogue only. This problem can not be solved by gun. Even though the guns are being there as the situation of insurgency has been created there. The guns are used by both the sides. I regret to say that their training and arms and their fighting sides are better than those of our security forces. Our para-military forces including CRPF and B.S.F. etc. while with them have more casualties. Their modus operandi to ambush is better than forces. They ambush and kill the jawans of our forces and take away their arms. It has happened more than once. Sometimes I feel how our security forces fight with them. Neither our security forces have advanced weapons nor are they so efficient. Being the Minister of Home Affairs I provided necessary funds to help our security forces as it was our duty, but still these forces are lagging behind in comparison to these insurgency groups. We have also enacted Armed Forces Special Power Act and have implemented that Act in the disturbed areas.

Mr. Chairman Sir, as you are aware that we have talks a number of times with the Government of Bangladesh. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh had also assured us that she would not let such activities go on from her country. When they indulge in such activities and the pressure of the forces is increased they go to Bangladesh. They certainly go to Bhutan but they also go to Bangladesh and they hide themselves there we had a talk with them in this regard. Even Shri Gujaral has talks with Smt. Sheikh Hasina and both countries signed an agreement that Government of Bangladesh would not allow her land to be used for activities against India. I think that the intention of the Government of

Bangladesh is good because they did not want to betray us. But seeing the incidents that took place later on, it appears that Bangladesh Government was not fully equipped to handle the situation. It could not control those people. These people have a number of hideouts in Bangladesh. They operate from there. I would like to say that the Government of India and Home Ministry should pay special attention to it. We are talking of dialogue but with whom. If we are not able to find a way out to have a dialogue with N.S.C.N., I think we would never be able to stop the activities which are going on. I have already said that N.S.C.N. is most powerful groups of all. It has enough means. They have means to purchase new weapons and their young boys have been imparted good training.

I have recently received a report, I am not sure whether it is right or wrong, 300-400 that youths have gone to China from Nagaland some days back. I do not know as to why they have left. It may be that they have become frustrated or got disappointed that there is no chance for the agreement here. They have left and I do not know, as to whether they would return or not. I have no information as to whether they have gone there to buy some items or anything else. The Government of India must have some information from intelligence agency in this regard. Many a times, it is seen that the intelligence agency do not get the information at appropriate time. This agency would not gather the information. I have also complaint in this regard. The former Chief Minister of Tripura, Shri Samar Chaudhary, who had spoken earlier here, also gone through the same experience because several times our security forces have encountered this type of ambushes. In some incidents, we are compelled to think over it that we should have prior information about that. This lead to loss of lives and property there.

I do not want to take much time but the problems which have been put forward by all the members belonging to north-eastern region are very much genuine. A plan package was formulated. There is no shortage of funds for that. Sufficient funds had been released under various heads but this is an important aspect as to where this money goes or where it is spent. No account is kept for it. This is not proper to complaint that the Government of India give only assurances and do not release money. You please calculate how much money has been released but work has not been carried out in that proportion. There is too much corruption at state level. There should be a check on the State administrative staff. Now I am stressing this point. I know that the Government of India and Home Ministry are busy in so many other affairs but if they leave all these things apart, it would not make any difference for north eastern region. We have to sign agreement with the N.S.C.N. This ceasefire would not be a permanent one. Home Ministry, External Affairs Ministry and Defence Ministry should discuss and work together to sort out a final solution to this problem. Now the people of N.S.C.N. are levelling allegation against us that we do not want an agreement. They say we stopped after the ceasefire because Government of India do not want to sign any permanent agreement so that peace can be

restored. But this is wrong. This should not be our policy and this is not our policy also.

At last, I want to say and hope that Government of India and Home Ministry would talk over to N.S.C.N. leaders who have got connection with several people. The reporters of Hindustan Times have visited them thrice to take their interview got it published in the newspaper. It is not so, that the people who are living here are not aware of their whereabouts, their addresses. Other people also had met them in Bangkok. So, if we are serious enough about that, then we should talk with them and try to arrive on some decision. I know, that if we succeed in our efforts, this would have an impact on the entire north-eastern region and other insurgent groups would also be discouraged. But it is not appropriate to keep on waiting for it. After all we are speaking on behalf of the Government of India and we must take steps in this regard. I just want to say this much only.

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI (Autonomous District-Assam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, many members have shared their views earlier to me. I would not repeat them since there is paucity of time as you have pointed out. I, therefore, would try to put my point within a short span of time. I am trying to speak in Hindi for the first time. The people of entire India as well as North-Eastern region are with us in our fight against the terrorism there. We have to root-out the terrorism we have to face the problem of terrorism and I want to tell you that the people of North-Eastern region are with the people of India in combating this problem. But our major weakness is that we have preconceived notion and a mindset. We are still continue to be in the grip of these biased prejudices which were there during the regime of the previous Government in fighting the problem of terrorism in the north-eastern region of India. That is our major weakness. Whenever the problem of north-eastern part of India is raised, the people usually say that it is being given support from outside.

[English]

Inspired by missionaries, inspired by imperialist forces.

[Translation]

Sometimes we blame Myanmar or Bangladesh or China for this inspiration. This is the general perception that whatever is being done there. It is being done at the instance of the outside forces. But we never bothered to go into our policies and the basic weaknesses or the very intrinsic factors which are responsible for the problem. We never had only introspection. We never tried to know that there are certain anomalies in the policies of the central and the state governments concerned. Thus, I would request the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs that we have to first change the mind-set and have to adopt a new approach towards the north-east.

As have been said by several members that there is lack of development and this has given rise to terrorism. I do agree that development work is not undertaken there

adequately. Development work should be started there. The required infrastructure should be provided. The money which is required therefor should be provided and there should be no two opinions in that regard. But I don't think that the lack of development is the only cause of terrorism there. You take the example of Punjab, and Jammu & Kashmir where despite terrorism some development work was undertaken.

Now you see in the case of north-eastern India there is the problem of development. If anything has been done in the name of development in north-eastern state it is only in Brahmaputra valley. But still it is only in Assam that secessionism has raised its ugly head. The problem of terrorism or secessionism is not at all there in the hilly areas or in the tribal dominated areas of Assam. ULFA originated in those areas of north eastern India where maximum development work has undertaken. I, therefore, accept that development is the necessary requirement. But it is wrong to say that the cause of terrorism is lack of development. This theory is wrong. I do agree with what our senior member of Parliament Shri Gupta has said that enough money has been provided and account of this money should be kept. Yes, more money should be granted but the money which already has been released is not so meagre. Sufficient money has been provided and the special status has been accorded. 90 percent of the plan amount is grant-in-aid and 10 per cent is loan. The state has been accorded a special status. But the problem of terrorism prevailing there cannot be resolved. In this way, because this money do not reach the common man. It is misused and thus, this problem cannot be solved merely by releasing money. That money would benefit some upper classes and ruling class to some extent. But the masses, and unemployed youths would not derive any benefit therefrom and no development work would be undertaken in villages, backward regions and tribal areas. If you release the money, you should ensure that this tribal area of Assam should be decentralised. Until the Administration of Assam is not decentralised, this money would have no proper use. Thus, I want to say that this is the high time to accomplish the task undertaken by you in the right earnest and if you want to accomplish this task in the every backward region you have to overhaul the administrative machinery and you have to decentralise it because the schedule of the constitution is in force only in the tribal and hilly areas and your panchayati raj is not applicable there. Still there is time, if you want to give some relief to the people then you need to modify the administrative structure there, reorganise Assam and think of establishing administrative structure in tribal and hilly areas of the state. This is nothing new for it. Even there is provision in this regard in the Constitution. I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs towards it. As the article 244(a) of the Constitution provides that an autonomous state can be created within Assam for some specific, hilly and tribal areas without bifurcating the state. For this purpose there is no need to amend the Constitution and nor is there any requirement to make use of the article (3) of the Constitution. There is already provision in the Constitution

[Dr. Jayanta Rongpi]

to decentralise the State administration of Assam. Now it is high time to implement these provisions. The fund allocated by the Centre can only be utilized in a proper way if the administration in hilly Korabe, Anglong, North Kachhar hilly areas and tribal areas is decentralised. Assam being given the status of the special state, 90 per cent grants are provided by the Centre, these funds would reach the backward areas and unemployed people only when administration is decentralised.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now. There are many hon. Members who want to speak. Hon. Members are aware that the time allotted for this discussion is two hours, but we have already spent three-and-a-half hours.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Guwahati) : Sir, he belongs to that area.

MR. CHAIRMAN : My request to the hon. Member is to shorten their speeches.

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is one more item, that is, Prasar Bharati Bill, which we have to take up.

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have allotted two hours, but we have exceeded the time limit by one-and-a-half hours. Please conclude now. From the North-Eastern States, there are many Members. So, my request to the hon. Member is to conclude his speech now.

[Translation]

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : I am trying to be as brief as possible. I strongly feel that allocation of funds alone would not solve the problem. We must keep a close check of the accounts also. The administration needs to be decentralised for making it more democratic and for this there is no need to use article 3. There is separate provision for it in the Constitution. Under the article 244 (a), the developmental process in the tribal areas can be expedited and it will also help in utilising the development grants in a more effective manner.

Now I would like to say something about the accords reached in this regard during the Congress, Janata Dal or United Front regimes at the Centre. I have been elected to Lok Sabha for the third time and I have seen from close quarter the struggle carried out by the common people in the state I have spent 15 long years with them. I have seen whenever a new Prime Minister is sworn in Delhi, he does visit the state along with the Press photographers within two-three months of his taking oath and when he visits Nagaland, he puts on Naga's traditional dress and it is prominently shown in the media & T.V. Likewise when he visits Arunachal Pradesh, he sports the local dress and

participate in the dance with local youths. Thereafter he makes some announcements which are never fulfilled. If these people resort to agitation, all out efforts are made how to weaken their movement. For example, Kuki-Naga issue, some Central agencies have successfully caused a rift between the two which has resulted in formation of several groups like Kuki-Nagas, Kuki-Pate etc. This is all done on the behest of the Union Government with a view to weaken the movement. The Britishers used to adopt the 'divide and rule' policy. The same policy is still continuing leading to several complications. As Shri Gupta ji said that Kaplong, Muewa etc. groups have been formed and are causing great difficulties. Likewise there are two-three groups in Bodos. This further adds to complexity of the problem and thereby problems are not solved. I earnestly request the government not to adopt this policy. This should not be done for political mileage. When we divide agitation there in two-three groups, we got relief for some days but when we try to find a permanent solution, problem arises there as has happened in Nagaland and Assam. Therefore the policy of divide and rule should come to an end. To suppress the agitation, encouragement is given by the different agencies of the Union Government to divide them into two, three groups, that will have to be stopped. Besides that army, para-military forces have been deployed there. Police also take action on the State Governments side. And what happens in these exercises, that I know. 40-50 years have elapsed. Military police has maximum deployment in this region of India. If you could solve the problem of North-East by Police or military force, you could have done so in forty years. Since our armed forces have won war with Pakistan, they have protected our boundaries till date and why the same armed forces could not deliver good in the North-East? Why have they not been successful there? The security forces which can defeat a country like Pakistan in a war, the forces which bring the peace in the Punjab and Kashmir. Why the same security forces could not bring peace in the North-East? We will have to review this aspect. This shows that you can not succeed in this way because in view of the situation prevailing there, forces cannot bring solution to their problem. The problem there is different from that of Punjab. The problem of Kashmir and Punjab was related to religion, emotions and sentiments. The people had religious grievances there.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will say, nothing will go on record. There are many other hon. Members to speak on this subject. Kindly cooperate. I will call the hon. Members of North-Eastern region only to speak. I have given you ample time to speak. Please conclude now.

[Translation]

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Forty years back when army was deployed there and the special Army Act and the Assam North Area Act were enacted, at that point of time there was only one terrorist outfit but today after forty years there are

thirty to forty terrorist outfits. I, therefore, want to submit that forces have completely failed there. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now. After your speech is over, I will call hon. Members of North-Eastern region only. They will cover the other points.

[Translation]

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : I will conclude after making two-three points. The policy which the Union Government have formulated and the people in North-East who wield guns only the voices of such people is heard by the Government. The people who wield guns and the people who are having background of the Western culture and other things which are like that, the Union Government encourage only such people. But common people's voice or the democratic voice is never heard. As long as this policy is continued, you will keep hearing the cracks of gun-fire. You would like to talk more with such people until you hear voice of a common man. Therefore, I request that pay heed to democratic voice also. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. Every time you are saying that this is the last point to make. I have given you ample time to speak. I have extended your time twice. Nothing will go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)*

[Translation]

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : I will conclude after making my last point. You listened to the voice of the Uttarakhand, Vananchal and Chatisgarh. ... (*Interruptions*) Then why discrimination is being done with the people of North-East who are giving vent to peoples' desire ? Why the discrimination is being done with the people of the Bodo area who are raising voice for a separate state for the last twenty years. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please cooperate with the Chair. This is not the way. You have to go by the direction of the Chair. There are many other hon. Members to speak.

[Translation]

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : There should be no discrimination. And talk with the Janvadi Sangathan. ... (*Interruptions*) You are going to bring three four Bills, you please leave the Alfa Organisation. ... (*Interruptions*) and talk with the rest of Janvadi Sangathan's. Those who are taking up arms against the terrorism, would be with you in

the fight against the terrorism. I conclude my speech with these words only.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN (Sheohar) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to extend my gratitude for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion being held under Rule 193 on the situation arising out of insurgency in the North-Eastern region.

Sir, I understand, the problem of terrorism in the North-East had cropped up immediately after the independence. At the time of Nehru one lakh army personnel were sent to control the five lakh Nagas, by saying that the army would be called back in few days when the situation is under control. But today it has been proved that we cannot control these people by using guns without solving their problems, and eradicating their poverty and their illiteracy in that region. Now almost four decades have passed after that incident, but neither the army have returned nor the problems of Nagas and insurgency have been solved. Those problems are still lingering on and the gravity of the problem is rather increasing day by day. I hold the Central Government and the previous Governments equally responsible in this regard, as they never tried to find out any concrete solutions to their problem not they reviewed the situation and run the Government by giving false assurance to the people of North-East and adopting the politics of 'divide and rule' and by manipulation and by suppressing the people there through the barrel of the Gun.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I had visited the Mure border about one year ago. On this border smuggling of narcotics is done on a large scale. When Mr. George Fernandes was our leader, we went to the Mure Border protesting against the smuggling of narcotics under the leadership of Mr. George Fernandes. At that time we saw that a parallel government of the smugglers is being run. We had gone there risking our life. There is no law and order there. No police arrangements are there. If we were not accompanied by the Members of Parliament or Members of Legislative Assembly, we would have been killed in broad day light. AIDS is being spread because of drugs. Imphal is called the capital of AIDS in the world. Ten percent youths are suffering from the AIDS in the North-East at present. When it would spread in the cities of Calcutta, Delhi, Patna, Lucknow, etc. the situation would be alarming. This dangerous contagious disease is being spread with the help of China due to despotic Army regime in the name of controlling terrorism through Myanmar.

Hon'ble Advaniji is the Minister in-Charge of Kashmir. I want to tell him that the entire world is keeping a watch on Kashmir. People do visit Kashmir but the real danger to our country is from Pakistan through Kashmir. Nobody can refute this argument that foreign countries are keeping a watch on our country. I want to attract the attention of the Govt. towards the fact that Northern frontier of our country faces more danger from China and military rule in Burma in the form of terrorism than Kashmir. Efforts are being made to cut-off seven-sisters area from the rest of the country. People's

[Shri Anand Mohan]

mind are being poisoned with the sense of hate. They provide people with guns, but now this deal is becoming dearer to them. In addition to that they want to spoil the new generation for ever by bringing the AIDS followed by drugs, injections, hemp, opium and intoxicants like 'Charas' into the country and the seven-sisters area by making them drug addicts. This entire conspiracy is hatched by China, the Government and military rule of Myanmar. Myanmar having a population of about seven crores, does not lag behind us so far as the military preparations are concerned and all this is not done to teach a lesson to Aung-Sang-Suchi instead they are keeping a very close watch on our country. India is facing a chain of dangers.

Sir, I want to convey my feeling through you, to the north eastern people and the youngsters that poor and common men have got full sympathy towards them. We are whole heartedly with them. Whether the Government of India support them or not, but the public of north eastern India is with them. They should not get perturbed. We would certainly appeal them to leave the path of violence and be a part of main stream. We are ready to shower our love on them and embrace them and request the same to the Government that they would take them on the path of love, progress and development, the people of north-eastern region would certainly consider them as an essential part of India ... *(Interruptions)* For the betterment of the country, they would be ready to sacrifice everything.

Sir, our sympathy is certainly with the public of north-eastern region. We are ready to embrace them. We would request the Home Minister as well as Central Government to be careful and understand the conspiracy being hatched by China, Myanmar and other foreign countries against us and take stern action in this regard. In the last, I would conclude my speech with these lines written by Hindi poet, Shri Dinkar Ji :

'Oh Rahi Dilli Jana To Kahna Apni Sarkar Se

Charkha Chalta Hai Hasthoan Se, Shasan Chalta Talwar Se.'

There is no need to bow before them or sign agreement with them. We extend our sense of belonging, our affection for the betterment and progress of our country and toil for that and wish to provide the best package of facilities to our people.

[English]

SHRI P.S. GHATOWAR (Dibrugarh) : Thank you Mr. Chairman, Sir. I have been elected to this House for the third consecutive term. My experience is that this is the first time that we are discussing about the North-East.

When I came to Delhi for the first time, I was discussing with some of my hon. Members of this House about the way we travel. Many Members were surprised to know that we had to fly over a foreign country for travelling to and from my

home. When any disturbance takes place in Bangladesh, the people of the North-East are the worst sufferers. Many people living in the mainland do not realise this position. Many of the hon. Members of the people from the mainland do not know that in the three States of North-Eastern region, the Christians are in a majority. They have got 60 per cent majority in one State, 80 per cent and 62 per cent in the other States. When you talk about the church, you have to consider this point also that there are States where the majority people profess Christianity.

Assam is a State where the 28 per cent of the total population is minority. It comes next to Kashmir. When you talk of these things, people have to take note of these things. There are many people who do not know that we have more than 200 tribes speaking more than 170 dialects. People should know about the North-Eastern region. When we discuss the North-Eastern region, one has to take into account all these things.

I come from Assam. The first railway line was between Sadiya and Dibrugarh. It is the second oldest line in the country. The British laid this railway line just to take coal, plywood and tea out of Assam. That sense of exploitation in the minds of the people dates back to that period. We have to think about those things also.

Why is it so the North-East only? It is not happening in the other parts of the country.

When did the broad-gauge line reach the second oldest railway line ? It was only last year. Sir, only last year, the broad-gauge line has touched my station, Dibrugarh. So, we have to continuously tell that the development of the North-Eastern region is not looked into in a right perspective.

There are many clusters of States. Why do we talk about North-East? The concept of the North-Eastern India started with the partition and Independence of our country. If we go the the history of partition, we will come to know. Many people know that during partition, the Congressmen of Assam went to Mahatma Gandhi and protested about the grouping, under the leadership of Gopinath Bordolai. When many districts were supposed to be given to the East Pakistan, Mahatma Gandhi had directed the Congressmen of Assam that 'you fight. I will stand by you. You do not sacrifice your land.' Then after the partition, there was the General Redcliff Commission. That Commission has given four *thanas* to Assam. This is the history of Assam. Yes, many people are trying to write about the history. But how many people know about this type of history of Assam? The whole North-East has been ignored. So, these are the agonies in the minds of the people of the North-Eastern region.

There are so many other problems. If you see the North-East, we have always in-flow in the population and not out-flow. Why? That is one of the main reasons. The communication difficulty is there. There is connectivity problem between the North-East and the main land. In this

regard I will give just one example. If you take anything from Calcutta to Chennai, it is 1,678 kilometres, the per tonne freight is Rs. 1,600. But from Calcutta to Agartala, it is about 1,700 kilometres, the per tonne freight is Rs. 3,000. Sir, this is the problem. If we do not appreciate this, we will be failing in our duties.

Sir, the growing unemployment is one of the main reasons of the insurgency problems in the North-Eastern region. The number of educated unemployed youth is growing and there is no avenue for employment. One of our hon. Member has rightly said that the highest number of AIDS patients are in Manipur. Why? Their the literacy rate is higher than that of the average rate of whole India. But still this problem is there. The main cause is frustration. So, these problems have to be looked into properly.

There are many other problems also. Many crores of rupees have been given for the development of the North-Eastern region. We agree with our hon. colleague, Shri Indrajit Gupta that yes, money is not being invested properly. So, there should be a proper inquiry into this. There was a scandal about LoC in Assam. The primary investigating agency, the CBI have given the chargesheet against the Chief Minister of Assam. But the hon. Governor has not given his permission. Why has he not given his permission? When the CBI has chargesheeted a Chief Minister, he has to go and get him cleared in the Court. The Central Government has to take note of that. In many other States, when the Chief Ministers are chargesheeted, they have been given clearance by the Governors of their State and they are going to the Court. Many of them had been arrested also. Then why should the Governor of Assam not given permission to prosecute the Chief Minister of Assam? What is the difference between the other States and the State of Assam?

So, I think, these are the reasons, vital issues agitating in the minds of the young men of the North-Eastern region ... (Interruptions)

Most of the North-Eastern States have got higher literacy rate as compared to that of average India. The North-East is endowed with the natural and mineral resources, good climatic conditions and huge potential for border trade but it is still under-developed. It has got under-utilisation of land resources.

At the time of independence this region was one of the prosperous regions in the country with its resources like tea, jute and it was a top foreign exchange earner. In 1951 the per capita income of Assam was Rs. 1174 while the all-India average was Rs. 1123. But in 1996 the per capita income of Assam has come down to Rs. 1693 while that of all-India has gone up to Rs. 2264. So, how can we justify before the educated young men that Assam has progressed and the North-East has progressed? Definitely they will say this was the per capita income of the region which was much higher than the all-India average, but after fifty years we have gone below the national average. This is the question the youth of the North-Eastern region is asking today.

I am not in favour of or support of the insurgency movement there. I, as a member of the Congress Party, have always stood for the national movement. I have a national outlook. More than six hundred people, Congressmen alone, have laid down their lives fighting the underground elements in the North-Eastern region. It is not my statistics; it is the statistics of the Government. So, a national Government, whether it is the Government of the Congress Party or the BJP - led coalition or of any other party, has to look into the problem in a national perspective and giving it the national importance.

When we were in school, I remember that we went to the street demanding a refinery in Assam. We went to the street demanding a bridge over the river Brahmaputra. For everything the people of the North-East have to agitate. Now there are three bridges, still we are fighting for the fourth bridge. The Brahmaputra Board was created in the year 1981. It is a white elephant. What was the purpose of creating the Brahmaputra Board? It was to control the flood situation and to see that the Brahmaputra Board utilises the hydro electric potentiality which is more than 50,000 MW. The minor Huwang Ho has become the main source of prosperity of China from "sorrow of China". But the Brahmaputra river is still the sorrow of the people of Assam and the people of the North-Eastern region. The Brahmaputra Board is still a white elephant.

We have created the North Eastern Council for the development of the North-Eastern region. What is the activity of the North-Eastern region? Every Chief Minister of the region has complained against the functioning of the North-Eastern Council. It is high time to review the functioning of the Brahmaputra Board and the functioning of the North Eastern Council. There is no representative of this Parliament in the North-Eastern Council though it is in operation for the last two decades. I do not think this House has any voice in the North-Eastern Council for the development of the North-Eastern region.

I think, life of more than sixty per cent people is related to agriculture. The development of agriculture in the North-Eastern region is one of the important basic points. The agricultural development is related to the tribal style of life as also the people in the plains, almost a majority of whom are dependent on agriculture. But the lowest agricultural production is from Assam. There is a large scope for horticulture. My friend from Mizoram will tell the difficulties of the cultivator among the Mizos because there is no storage system for oranges and other things. They just throw them away. There are no marketing facilities, communication facilities and storage facilities. These things have to be looked into.

The North-Eastern Council has given several lakhs of rupees to Delhi University to construct a hostel for the students of the North-Eastern region.

[Shri P.S. Ghatowar]

16.00 hrs.

For the last six years, they have not spent the money. They have not put up even a single brick for the construction of the hostel. This money was given in order to encourage the boys and girls from the North-Eastern region. Let them come and mix up with the students of the other parts of the country. The University of Delhi has not done anything. I think, it is the prime duty of the Central Government to look into the problem. This facility must be created for the students who come to Delhi from the North-Eastern region for higher studies,

About insurgency and other problems, many hon. Members have made various suggestions. Shri Indrajit Gupta has given his suggestions as the former Minister of Home Affairs. I think, the Central Government must give them priority. It is not only the duty of the underground elements to come forward. It is the duty of the Government of the day to take the initiative and bring them to the discussion table. The former GOC has said that this is not a law and order problem and that it has to be solved politically. The present GOC, Lt. Gen. Kalkat said, 'We cannot control these insurgent people'. ... (*Interruptions*)

I request the Central Government to obtain an overall picture of the North-Eastern region with all its peculiarities. There were many commissions that the Central Government had set up. I would request that another commission should be set up to study the reports of those commissions and to try to implement them. The Central Government have to bringing these insurgents to the negotiating table and solve the insurgency problem of the North-Eastern region.

I conclude with these few words.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar) : Respected Chairman, Sir, and learned friends hailing from different parts of the country, first of all, I would like to convey our affluent stream of respect, love and affection and good wishes to all of you and to the nation as a whole. At the same time, I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs and other concerned Ministers, and all the learned members of this august House to listen to my points with great seriousness, sincerity, and patience.

First of all, I would like to strongly condemn all kinds of violence, killings and counter-killings, fratricide, unwanted disruptive activities and express serious concern over the turbulent situation going on within the proposed 'Bodoland' State territory. I would like to express my deepest sense of agony and sadness before this august House because of the indecisiveness and indecision or lack of decision on the part of the Government of India in regard to the mounting situation in the 'Bodoland' area. I do hope, you will respect my sentiments.

If you are all the real worshippers of Lord Krishna, you are now listening to either your father-in-law or your brother-

in-law to speak about the agony and tragedy of the great Bodo people. I say so because 'Rukmini' happened to be a Bodo Princess.

On many occasions, I spoken a lot about the agony and tragedy of the Bodo people and other sections living within the proposed 'Bodoland' territory. I may not be given much time today. So, I shall be brief. I would like to point out only certain major aspects. I do not like to go into the other points which are related to the other States of the North-Eastern region since some of my friends have already mentioned them.

Now I will explain why some elements of insurgency and militancy have emerged within the 'Bodoland' territory also.

The Bodo Accord was signed on 20th February, 1993 during the Congress regime led by Shri Narasimha Rao. That Accord has not been implemented. That Bodo Accord has totally failed to fulfil the genuine hopes and aspirations of the Bodo people because of the negligence and apathetic attitude of the Government of India and the Government of Assam. In spite of that Accord, a lot of innocent Bodo boys, fathers and brothers were killed. Between 1993 and today, around five hundred Bodo people were killed either by the security personnel or by some Bodo militant activists and other extremist elements. That is why I would like to appeal to the Government of India to take a very clear cut and positive policy decision for resolving the burning Bodoland tangle. A solution could be found to this problem. Only by granting a separate State of Bodoland within the Indian Union on the lines of Uttaranchal, Vananchal and Chattisgarh.

Here again, I would like to appeal to the Government of India to implement article 244 (a) of the Constitution of India in the case of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills for creation of a separate autonomous State. The Bodo Cachar is of Karbi Anglong have to be included in the Scheduled Tribe (Hills) list. Two autonomous districts have to be created on the southern bank of river Brahmaputra under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. We are being neglected, discriminated against and exploited in every manner and in every aspect. I can not find the precise words to express our tragedy. There is no development, there is no industry, there is no irrigation system and there are no major job opportunities there. All kinds of injustice, all kinds of atrocities, all kinds of betrayal, suppression and oppression are taking place in the Bodoland.

Here I would like to mention one more serious point. Most of the tribal families in Assam are now reduced to landless families. In Assam there were forty-five tribal belts and blocks. Out of these forty-five tribal belts and blocks, more than three lakh *bighas* of land was discheduled. The problem of landlessness, the unemployment problem and the ethnic genoside, the domination, suppression, exploitation, insecurity, atrocities and uncertainty in life and state terrorism have let the Bodoland youths to go

underground. When we signed the Bodo Accord, the then Government asked us to first experiment the concept of Autonomous Council with maximum autonomy. The then Government assured us of statehood if the Bodoland Autonomous Council failed to fulfil the aspiration of the Bodos. Shri Rajesh Pilot himself is sitting here. He had also assured us like that. I would like to appeal to the Government of India to implement the commitments and assurances made by the previous Government. Justice and secularism should not be of double standards. While the Government is conceding separate States to other regions or like Ultranchal, Vananchal and Chattisgarh, then why not Bodoland? Why did the then Government of India concede a separate Statehood to Andhra Pradesh? It was because a Gandhian sat on a fast-unto-death. Of course, he died. Because of that fact only, Andhra Pradesh was created. But in the case of Bodoland, more than 2,000 Bodo people were either killed or butchered so far either by the security forces or by some planted agent provocateurs or due to some militants' action. Then, where is the justice? Bodoland is linked with our blood. The demand for an autonomous State is linked with the blood of the people there. Until and unless, the Government of India asserts its authority in regard to Bodoland in the North-East, it can never bring permanent peace. It can never bring all-round development. All these slogans and special economic packages will do nothing. They will remain mere dreams.

I would like to appeal to the Government of India to concede the demand of a separate State of Bodoland without any further delay. Here I would like to appeal again to the Government of India to start a meaningful political dialogue with the democratic Bodo groups and also with the interested militant sections.

[Translation]

Whether they belong to Bodoland or Assam or other parts of North-East, whosoever want to talk within the provisions of the Constitution, those people should be called and detailed discussions should be held with them.

[English]

Until and unless a separate state of Bodoland is created, you can never win over the minds of the Bodos. Bodos are always with the rest of the country, Bodos are nationalists. They want to coexist in India as dignified Indian citizens with their district linguistic, ethnic and cultural self-identity.

I would like to appeal to all the learned hon. Members of this august House and the Government of India to share our agony and tragedy for the well-being, security and development of the North-Eastern region and of the country.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to seek a clarification from the hon. Minister of Home Affairs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will give a reply later on.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Let me put a question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no; it is a discussion under Rule 193. You can ask the question later on, that is, when he replies.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: He has raised an issue. I want to put a question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please ask the question at the time of his reply. I will give you a chance later on.

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI (Barpeta): Mr. Chairman, Sir, whenever the topic of the North-East comes, being deprived of very many things compared to other parts of India, we feel like discussing all the points regarding our grievances. Naturally, today, the major points is about backwardness, and the question of development and communications. But the Motion before the House was to discuss the situation in North-Eastern region due to insurgency. So, we perhaps could not go very near the main issue.

Why has the North-East region been deprived? Why is there insurgency? Is it because of non-development? Then, why was insurgency there in Punjab? These issues came up and we could not get a definite answer. But what is the primary thing in our country? As we are guided by the Constitution, there may be contentious issues and differences of opinion. But we should not have a fight over it as we do sometimes in this House.

Sometimes, the rules and procedure of the House are not followed. Even the established political Parties cannot be exonerated from this blame. We, the new Members of this House, always feel neglected. We have no grudge. Today also the speakers, who usually speak, made their speeches and we learnt very many things from them.

Sir, the primary duty of the hon. Home Minister today is to maintain the law and order in the country. The question of law and order, of course, primarily is the concern of the State Governments ... *(Interruptions)* We know that ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga): Sir, the Prasar Bharati Bill was to be taken up at 4 o'clock ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. Members agree, then the hon. Home Minister can reply to this debate.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Sir, the Prasar Bharati Bill has to be passed today ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : You assured us that it would be taken up at 4 O'clock ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : If all the Members are interested, then the hon. Minister will reply to the debate.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Sir, I would like to request you to kindly bear with me for a few more minutes.

Sir, our main point is that what the State Government was supposed to do, could not do ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, for today, it was decided that the House would be adjourned till Monday at 6 o'clock in the evening and the Prasar Bharti (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Bill, 1998 would be passed before it, but it is already 4 o'clock and still the discussion is going on the situation arised due to the insurgency in the North-Eastern region ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Sir, the time of the House could be extended... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. I am requesting all the Members from the North-Eastern region to please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : Sir, we have been raising this issue in the BAC for taking up this discussion in the House for about two weeks ... *(Interruptions)* Now, if you could extend the time for discussion on this subject for another half-an-hour or 45 minutes, then a few more Members from the North-Eastern region could also participate in this discussion ... *(Interruptions)* It is a rare occasion ... *(Interruptions)* The Members from the North-Eastern region should not be denied of this opportunity ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Sir, it is a national issue ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Sir, spare at least some time for us... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Just one minute. Let me hear Shri Jaipal Reddy.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar) : Sir, it is the problem of the nation ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it

is being repeatedly emphasised here that all the Bills should be taken of and passed, but the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had promised to take up the Bill to raise the salary and allowances of Members of Parliament in this House but now the present session would last only for three days but it has not been moved till now. I urge that the assurance given by hon'ble Khurana ji should be fulfilled and the Bill for the increase in Salary and allowances of Members of Parliament should be taken up at the earliest ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the issue. Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now we are discussing a sensitive issue here.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Please do not by-pass the issue here... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will give you chance. .Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Sir, I have not completed ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will call you later. Please sit down. Yes, Shri Jaipal Reddy, what would you like to submit?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahabubnagar) : Sir, for the first time in many years, a debate is taking place on the North-Eastern region. Therefore, I suggest that it cannot be disrupted. Let it be completed ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we want that the discussion being held on the North-East, be continued, but in between the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Bill, 1998, may be passed by suspending this discussion for same time and later on the discussion on the situation of North-East may be continued ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Let the House come to a consensus, then we will take it up.

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDER SINGH (Bhiwani) : Mr. Chairman Sir, my submission is that the discussion on the North-Eastern region should continue, as Mulayam Singh ji has also said, but it may be suspended for some time and Prasar Bharti (Amendment) Bill, 1998 may be passed. I think that this matter had already been discussed at length in both the Houses and everyone has agreed to it. Therefore, now there

should not be more discussion on it and the motion should be moved to get it passed ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member is speaking. Please cooperate.

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDER SINGH : Mr. Chairman Sir, both the Houses have unanimously passed it. Even today, we are going to pass it again... *(Interruptions)* if you would take it up first ... *(Interruptions)* we would pass it unanimously too ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him first complete his speech.

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : CRPF, BSF and other paramilitary forces were brought in to maintain law and order in Assam. We are going by stages and killings are going on. From 1993 onwards, killings are going on. There are massacre. In 1996, the AGP Government, which was always opposed to bringing in the Armed Forces, agreed to bring in the Armed Forces. To coordinate the activities of military, CRPF, BSF and other Forces, there was a Joint Command. Now, the paramilitary forces are operating there. Why are there killings? What do people say in the lower Assam districts of Barpeta, Bongaigaon and Kokrajhar? The military makes a flag march and the people say that it is a fluke march as they do not go to the interiors. People ask some high officials connected with the law and order machinery in the State, how these extremists operate. They have camps in Bhutan. Respected Shri Indrajit Gupta has also said that they have camps in Bhutan. After the raids, they go away to Bhutan. Are we to understand that the Government of India is helpless to look after the border?

The other day, the Foreign Minister of Bhutan came to New Delhi and a statement came out in the newspapers that the Government is not in a position to control the extremists camps in Bhutan. I have a feeling that perhaps the Home Ministry has been contacted to have some discussion to have joint operation there. People still feel that there is a Government. People, being homeless, are in temporary shelters and their camps are being raided. The other day nine Santhals were gunned down in the camps. In retaliation, the Santhals killed nearly 20 persons.

I would request the hon. Home Minister to do his primary duty. How will this insurgency problem be solved politically, whether through a talk with ULFA or NSCN? ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : I will take one minute more.

The Government should have a direct involvement and see what the forces are doing. The Government should monitor whether the law and order situation is being looked after by the forces which it has deployed there. One can hope for a political discussion only if the law and order situation is contained.

I thank you for giving me the time. I would request the hon. Home Minister to monitor whether the forces are being utilized properly or not. I wonder how these raids could take place. Innocent people are being killed and they are not able to catch hold of the extremists. With these words I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am calling Members from the North-Eastern States.

SHRI RAJKUMAR WANGCHA (Arunachal East) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are many reasons for the insurgency in the North-East. The root cause is the lack of development. The demands of the people of the North-East have been neglected for long. The attitude of the Government has not been positive in solving the problems of the North-East. The people have crossed the limits of tolerance and that is why they have taken to arms. I do not agree with the idea of solving the problems of the North-East with force. It should be done with mutual trust, understanding, and transparency. There should be seriousness of purpose. Then only the problem of the North-East can be solved.

The seeds of insurgency in the North-East were sown in the days of the British rule when the North-East was grossly neglected. They did not build any infrastructure in the region. They were confined to only a few sectors like tea gardens, mining and extraction of oil in Assam. They enacted the Bengal Eastern Frontier (Regulation) Act, 1873 which was commonly known as the Inner Line Regulation which isolated this region from the mainstream. The British were least bothered about problems of the North-East. They did not want the outsiders to come in their way. To keep the outsiders away from this region they had adopted the Regulation Act. Only punitive expeditions were made only to serve their purpose and to see that outsiders do not harm their interests. However, this very Act has been quite effective after the Independence of the country. This very particular Act has served its purpose in many tribal areas. I wish to say that it should continue in the years to come.

As a fall out of the partition of the country in 1947, a large number of refugees from East Pakistan came and settled in the North-East which had adversely affected the demographic structure and the economy of the region. The opportunities slipping into the hands of the outsiders made the youths in the region frustrated and forced them to take to these methods.

Sir, I would only suggest one or two points for serious consideration of the the Central Government. I suggest the Central Government to invite the leaders of the banned outfits and all other political parties without any reservations, and have discussions to come to an understanding in their the

[Shri Rajkumar Wangcha]

concept of sovereignty through a package of development assistance including their rehabilitation. It is a national problem. The Central Government should provide a realistic package of development for a speedy growth of industries, agriculture and employment opportunities through technical knowhow and expertise development activities. The Central Government should develop an efficient marketing system and put in place other requisite infrastructure so that the youths in the North-East can be brought back to the mainstream.

In respect of the State of Arunachal Pradesh, we have been approaching the Central Government for the last 15 years in regard to the refugee problem. Chakma and Haajam refugees had come in large numbers from Bangladesh in the year 1964. However, no positive step has been taken by the Central Government in this regard.

So, we would like that the Central Government should have a discussion with the Government of Bangladesh to deport these refugees and to solve the problem amicably. In those areas, our indigenous people have been reduced to minority and it has become a crisis of identity.

With these words, I would like to extend my thanks to you for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI SALKHAN MURMU (Mayurbhanj) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I thank you for giving me time as I had been trying hard to get an opportunity to speak since last Monday.

About 300 people have been killed and about one thousand people have been seriously injured in the communal riots which have been going between Santhals and Bodo people since 1996 in the Kokarajhar area of Assam and about 30 thousand people are still facing many difficulties in the relief Camps. There is no proper arrangement of drinking water, food, medicines and shelter for these people. They feel that the Assam Government is not doing anything for them. Recently, many Santhals were killed in the relief camps on 24th which proves that the innocent women and children living in the camps are being killed. In yesterday's incident Santhals killed Bodo people. The news has appeared in the newspapers that the Santhals raided the village because Bodo people had displaced the Santhals from the villages where they had been living earlier. No concrete step has been taken by the Government for the last two years despite occurrence of a number of such incidents due to which lakhs of people are facing a lot of difficulties.

These people had come from Jharkhand area to work in tea gardens more than hundred years ago. They still work in almost 848 tea-gardens and help the country to earn valuable foreign exchange. But, unfortunately, these people have neither been included in the list of Scheduled Tribes nor empowered with other constitutional rights which they should be. As soon as the Government of Shri Prafulla Mahanta came into power, this killings started there.

Thereafter, a Committee under the chairmanship of Justice Huque was constituted on 6.9.1996 which was to submit its report within six months in regard to solution of communal riots there. But that Committee has not submitted its report so far. Besides, such news is appearing that the Assam Government helps in the killings of these people so that these tribal people should kill each other and be displaced from that place, the number of non-tribal people should be more there and they should own the land of tribal people and occupy the forests also.

I would like to narrate one more incident. These people have been residing on this land for over last hundred years yet they do not have ownership rights of that land. They are also facing difficulties in the matters of rehabilitation.

16.34 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

The list prepared by them and that by the Government do not tally. The Government are just unaware as to how many people are being killed there. The families of those who got killed were also not getting the compensation package and other facilities.

All the Government laws – the Minimum Wages Act, the Child Labour Abolition Act, the Plantation Labour Act etc. are not enforced in the area. The Assam Government has not acted on the matter of according recognition to the language of Santhals and extending equal rights to them. In these circumstances, the life of people in Kokarajhar, Budhaigoan, Dhurbi districts has become difficult. It appears as if they are not citizens of India. They do not have any security and also do not know as to where they would ultimately land up. Thousands of these people came to Sahibganj and Dumaka in Vananchal region but they were ousted from there too by local people saying why had they left 100 years back. I would earnestly urge upon the Government that we should not let them feel that they are not citizens of India. They should not feel that the Governments do not have any concern for their security and protection of their rights. Otherwise this bloodshed would continue. Their future is perhaps not safe under the Assam Government. I would request the Union Government to immediately constitute a highpowered Committee to study their problems and suggest ways and means for solutions thereof.

Last time, Shri Advaniji had made a statement regarding solution of problem of Assam. He had also stated that the Union Government provides military and paramilitary assistance as and when required but the news and information received from there is that the Assam Government misuses that. A similar incident occurred on 9th May. As many as 16 Santhals were killed in Bodoweel village. The S.H.O. of Gosai village Shri Khondkar and the S.D.O. were aware that such an event may take place yet they misguided the military and para military forces deployed there. They went to Bodo village and had gone on the booze

and when they heard burst of gunfire. they did nothing for security and safety of Santhals. Next day they visited the place and hide several dead bodies. Such incidents are taking place there quite frequently. North eastern region is infested with several problems and there are problems in Kashmir also but Doda is not the only place where such incident have become a routine matter. There are Dodas in other areas also. Our country faces the problem of insurgency and the Government must pay attention towards it. This is very unfortunate that lakhs of people are living in India without any sense of security which is deplorable. I do hope that Union Government would put pressure on the Assam Government and would also take some prompt action in this regard. It is sad to learn that people are dying in the relief camps for want of medicines and food and even relief camps are being attacked.

With these words, I would like to conclude that people residing in the disturbed areas, tea garden areas and those who migrated from Jharkhand area, should be made to feel that if the Assam Government is not taking any steps for their security then, the Union Government should come forward to ensure their security and safety.

16.39 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE : BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that as per the decision taken in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee held today, 31.07.1998, after the discussion on the 'Situation in the North-Eastern Region due to insurgency' is over today, the House will take up the Prasar Bharati Broadcasting Corporation of India (Amendment) Bill, 1998 for consideration and passing.

The discussion on problems of SCs and STs will now be taken up on 4th August, 1998.

16.40 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY SPEAKER

Re : Inculcating Parliamentary values of Decency and Good Behaviour

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I make this observation with great pain and anguish after seeing the morning incident.

Hon. Members, the House was witness this morning to ugly exchanges between senior Members of this House.

Such incidents and use of intemperate language not only bring this House into contempt, odium and ridicule but they also erode the dignity and prestige of the House.

I feel that while each one of us in his individual capacity, is responsible to abide by the rules and to uphold and enhance the dignity of the House, a slightly more onerous duty is cast on the Leaders, Chief Whips and Whips of parties and groups to keep their Members in check. While some new Members may not be aware of the Parliamentary etiquette and decorum, their leaders, whether they be in the Opposition or in the Treasury benches, should educate them properly so that they inculcate the parliamentary values of decency and good behaviour.

But when Leaders themselves indulge in unparliamentary behaviour including use of abusive language, I am at a loss to find words strong enough to condemn such behaviour.

Members may recall that during the Special Session of Lok Sabha to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of India's Independence, the House had unanimously adopted a Resolution, resolving *inter alia* to preserve and enhance the prestige of Parliament by maintaining the inviolability of the Question Hour, refraining from transgressing into official areas of the House and from shouting slogans, etc. in the House. Unfortunately, this Resolution is not being followed neither in letter nor in spirit. The result is that the House, and the entire nation for that matter, is witness to unruly scenes in the House almost every day. Rushing to the Well of the House on slightest provocation, staging a *dharna* in the Well of the House, shouting slogans, having a running argument with the Chair and not heeding to the directions from the Chair are acts of grave indiscipline which I strongly deprecate.

I would request all sections of this House kindly to ponder over the deteriorating standards of functioning in this House and search their souls to find a solution to this problem so that all of us may strive together to enhance the prestige of this House, without the Chair being driven to take drastic measures.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : I agree to the observation which you have made and I welcome that and thank you for that. But I must say one thing whenever we are on our legs to speak, we are addressed as murderers and traitors in this House and by what name they do not address us. When Somnath Chatterjee and Lalu Prasad Yadav ji stand to speak, four five hon. Members always interrupt them. We see that interruptions have become a regular feature in this House. Of course there is no personal attack in this regard. Today by saying senior Member, the reference has been made to Lalu Prasad Yadav and me. We welcome the decision taken by you but at the same time I would like to ask as to who is responsible for compelling us to do so? For instance, what happened today? Who had compelled? Lalu Prasad Yadav ji did not mention

anybody's name ... (*Interruptions*) but he was called a fodder thief ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, this observation is to all sections and not to any individual. Please understand this.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Many people were chargesheeted but we did not refer to anybody. We call them Atal ji and Advani ji and they call us Lalu Prasad and Mulayam Singh. My submission is if you are going to hang us in this manner we would accept that but here one-sided remarks have been made. Anyhow we would accept all this but I regret and I am really sorry for that. They do not address in a dignified way. What do they think of themselves? If they have come here by winning the elections, we have also been elected. We are also leaders. Whenever we are on our legs to speak, we are called names like 'fodder thief'. Just tell us the name of a person who has not ever been chargesheeted? ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : This observation is to all sections and not to any individual. Please understand this.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Why this observation was not made when we were called a traitor and murderer and Lalu Prasad Yadav ji was called a 'fodder thief'? Why such observation was not made at that time? I feel sorry while following your directions. We have to accept that justice is not being done to us. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Fatmi, no please.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir when you gave me an opportunity to speak on the flood situation in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and I was about to conclude while the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs was replying and he was likely to concede the point, four five Members from the treasury benches, I do not want to name them, used derogatory words. The Members of the treasury benches always stand at their seats daily just to demoralise us. Mulayam Singh ji has rightly said that they should also search their souls so as to realise who is thief or who is honest.

I want to tell that when there was discussion on judiciary the name of Advani ji was also mentioned. I had said at that time merely filing a chargesheet and figuring one's name in

any diary do not make him a guilty person. I had given concrete evidence. But now people are indulging in character assassination. Political leaders are being pulled up. I speak with your permission. Sir, our forefathers have been subjected to humiliation since ages. People have been abusing them. Khurana ji made a statement that Lalu ji warned him in his chamber, which is totally baseless. I never used any such word that he felt threatened. Gone are the days when a poor of helpless man he will slap ten times ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Those observations were meant for all the hon. Members and not for any individual Member.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : He will be slapped ten times in this country. That time has gone. You gave your ruling and name of a senior leader was mentioned. They have been regularly subjecting us to humiliation in the name of decorum and intelligence. Whether Khurana ji comes or not, this is not our responsibility. They have to run the Government. If something has been said following pressure from somebody, this is the biggest tragedy. We know better as I had been the Chief Minister. I have been a member of Parliament since 1997 and one of the leader of the opposition parties. I want to ask why have we been subjected to such a humiliation and what for? We have not said anything wrong. When we are attacked and abuses are hurled on us, we cannot tolerate that. We have not come here to be attacked or humiliated. I want to tell you that everybody should keep it in mind in future that if we abuse somebody, he would also be abused. But if they abuse us or stop us, whosoever he may be, we are ready to pay in the same coin. We know that, this forum is being used for the purpose ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, those observation were meant for all the hon. Members and not for any individual Member. Kumari Kim Gangte, please.

... (*Interruptions*)

16.49 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Re : Situation in North-Eastern Region due to Insurgency – Contd.

[*English*]

KUMARI KIM GANGTE (Outer Manipur) : Sir, a lot of my time is being taken.... (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

If I am not mistaken, this is the first time that a time has been allotted to discuss the situation in the North-East. I cannot but look back to those long 50 years, what had been done and what is happening today in the North-East. We keep accusing one another but the people keep suffering. I think the presence of each Member in the House today is very, very important. It is in the interest of the nation, I feel that enough time should be given to us so that we can bring out the problem that is besetting the North-East which ultimately affects the national security. But it is very sad that a time frame of just a few minutes is given to everybody within which he cannot even have the time to think and speak. As one Member has said, we are not computers. So, enough time should be given to us so that we can bring out the problems, provided we are really interested in solving the problem of the North-East which is really the nation's problem.

Sir, the North-East is rich in minerals, rich in water resources, rich in forests and rich in all the natural resources. But why is the North-East so much backward today mentally? I want to say that we are not mentally backward but economically we are backward. I am sure that the hon. Members have the information that literacy is very high, especially in Mizoram, Manipur and some of the North-Eastern States. But why are those States of the North-East so much backward today?

I think our discussion today is aimed at solving the problems of not only of insurgency but others. Why are we talking about insurgency? What is the reason for the mushrooming of insurgency?

I want to say that I am against the statement or the contention of Shri Tapan that more Army should be sent into the region. I will give the reason. Sending more Army will not solve any problem if you are really interested in solving the problem. Because I will cite one example. It was in 1958 that in Mizoram the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act was imposed and under the Act many people have been killed apart from the insurgents. I am just saying that our attitude towards the North-East and the insurgents should be changed. They are our brothers, they are our sisters and they are our children. Once I think this mentality and attitude change, then I think we will know how to solve the problem. As long as we are looked at as enemies I think the problem will increase.

Even before the insurgency came into being in about 1958 the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act was already in force. Why? My question is, why was it there? Last time when I said 'if some hon. Members objected to my saying 'if. But I will say it again today. If we are really a part of India and we are Indians, that is the reason why I am speaking here today. If that is the case, why is it that the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act not removed and a conducive atmosphere created so that our children will have a chance to come and talk to us? But if you ask the Army people to keep on chasing them, kill them wherever the Army finds them, how will they come to the negotiating table?

I have with me here many photographs showing how women have been killed, children have been killed, boys have been killed and students have been killed by our Army personnel. Can I kill my own brothers and sisters? If anybody wants to see they can see these pictures; everyone can see them. Some are of students. It is very sad. Our women have been killed. How many women have been killed? Anybody can come and see the pictures. How many women have been shot at? And you may ask me where were they shot at. What about the insurgents killing the innocent people? The insurgents are outlaws. They are above the law. But the Army personnel are under certain rules and regulations. And I am talking about them because they are bound by some rules and regulations. Just because the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act is there, why should they take the law into their own hands and harass anyone or kill anyone, shoot at anyone and put them in jail?

My heart is very heavy when I talk about this. On the 22nd July what happened to three boys? The name of one is Boboy, that of the second one is Joy Chandra and that of the third one is Roy Kumar. The boys aged 7, 8 and 10 had gone for fishing. They were made to have oral sex by the Army. This is too much in our country. This should be taken note of. Not only this, but a lot of other things are also happening there. If it is a part of this country, why is there a Restricted Area Permit in Manipur? The Restricted Area Permit should be removed so that foreigners also would come and we can promote tourism, thereby creating more employment avenues.

Why is this in Kashmir and Punjab? I am not going to answer it. I want each Member of this august House to think over it. Fifty years have passed. It is too long a period. What have we done? Why are we accusing each other? What has been done for the last 50 years?... (*Interruptions*)

I take unemployment problem. As I have mentioned, in the North-Eastern region, in particular Manipur, the literacy rate is very high. We have about 59 per cent literacy rate. There are more than one lakh youths who are without employment. They come back home. There is no job. There are no industries, no factories, and no mills. The youths cannot find jobs and without jobs, they have to survive. There are more than one lakh refugees in Manipur. What has been done for these poor people?

We talk about insurgency. You kill all of them, but you cannot do it. Should we agree to kill all the insurgents? Are not they any more our brothers and sisters? This will not help. If you kill one insurgent, three or four more will come because the insurgents have got their brothers, sisters and other relatives. We should love them, insurgency.

I lost words because I have been working with the downtrodden, poor and the womenfolk. Today, they are looking at us. What are we going to do for them? What the Government is going to do for them?

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, please wind up.

KUMARI KIM GANGTE : Sir, I have got some suggestions for solving these problems. I think, accusing the Government and the Opposition will not help. We are looking at each of the hon. Members as leaders and I think, each Member should possess national character. I am looking at the North-East in particular because it is far behind 50 years now.

Sir, I have got some suggestions. Remove Armed forces Special Powers Act immediately and create a conducive atmosphere.

Recruit anyone who wants to join the Army or the Armed Forces without much problem because many boys came to me asking me if I could help them to get them recruited into the Armed Forces. I think, the Government should take note of this and recruit as many boys as possible, who want to get recruited.

17.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : Now please wind up.

KUMARI KIM GANGTE : Sir, I am giving only my suggestions. I have got just two or three more suggestions to make.

The Shukla Committee's recommendations should be implemented; employment opportunities should be created by establishing village industries, mills and factories; Restricted Area Permit should be removed so that tourism could be promoted; tribals' lands should not be snatched in the name of conserving or preserving forests; alternative arrangements should be made for these tribals; merger agreement should be implemented; and information centre should be established so that what the Government is providing for these people should be known at the grass-root level and they can have access to it.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, much has been said about the lack of development in the North-East. Since it has been widely covered, I will not go into that. I am on a different track.

We must not lose sight of one significant point that all these developments, as announced by three successive Prime Ministers in a span of two years, are sought to be hurried off to end the sense of alienation that has gripped the people of the region. The state of insurgency and terrorism is not only a manifestation of that alienation but has triggered off the pervasive hostility towards the establishment. Insurgency and terrorism, in the ultimate analysis, is a state of mind. In politics, however, there is no quick-fix solution. If we argue that since alienation is the cause of insurgency and terrorism and, therefore, pump in more money to end alienation and ultimately to end insurgency and militancy, I am afraid, we run away with a fallacy. All these packages are for rebuilding in the future, the future of the North-East, so that corrective action is taken and such neglect of a region is prevented and it is never done in such a way. But, Sir, even a dozen more packages

like this will not put an end to the sense of hostility, we should bear that in mind, unless we fashion out some changes in the basics of the law and order administration.

Whenever the situation goes beyond control, the Government summons the Army. And since the Armed Forces are trained to fight the enemy to its logical conclusion, there naturally lies the danger that unless they are effectively checked, excesses are bound to be committed. With the police force ill-equipped and ill-trained to meet an extraordinary situation, I do understand the compelling circumstances of the Government to fall back upon the Army. But why things went wrong? They went wrong because of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958, as amended in 1972, as has been said by the hon. lady Member. Which gives unlimited power to the Armed Forces operating in the insurgency-prone North-East, was never examined to assess that this could degenerate into a Draconian piece of legislation. This is clear from the powers given under Section 4A of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958, as amended in 1972.

It reads and I quote :

"If he is of opinion that it is necessary to do so for maintenance of public order, after giving such due warning as he may consider necessary, fire upon, or otherwise use force even to the causing of death".

Sir, an Army officer armed with such a power to kill, and an immunity under the Act is naturally instigated to invoke such powers right from the word 'go in a confrontation'. If fighting terrorism is a state of mind, then causing deaths, while tackling the terrorists, is also likely to be registered on an Army Personnel's state of mind. So, it is a fun of paradox: Government deploys the Army to fight the terrorists for the protection of the citizens, but it is the common men and women who are caught in the cross-fire and suffer the most. So, the Act needs to be suitably amended. I understand the feelings where brutal operation were conducted under the Armed Forces Act. It is true that the scars on the soul cannot be bartered away with economic packages.

Yet, let us forget the past. Let not the past hold us back. I do not deny that atrocities have been committed by the terrorists. About 1,000 political workers belonging to my party, the Congress Party, have been killed. But what we from that region want is peace.

Sir, dialogue is the only answer. Let us talk with the terrorists. Today, the hon. veteran Parliamentarian Shri Indrajit Gupta raised this question. Of course, he has rightly said that there are certain problems. But let me also place certain facts before you, before this august House and before the hon. Home Minister. There are instance in the past when late Phizo left India leaving the issue of Naga sovereignty unresolved, the representatives of the Government of India continued to be in touch with him in the U.K. and whatever truce we later had largely depended on the discussion that was held with late Phizo. It may be

that the situation in Nagaland has deteriorated now, but there was a time, a long spell of several years when there was normalcy in Nagaland. Even I can say that when the hon. Prime Minister was the Minister of External Affairs between 1977 and 1979, he met Shri Phizo in U.K. in 1978. Then, later in the case of Shri Laldenga who left India for Europe while the Mizo insurgency was still burning the talk between him and the Government representatives still continued and ultimately he came back to New Delhi in 1980 for a formal talk when late Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister. The talk failed at that time and Shri Laldenga left India, but even then, the talk did continue, and ultimately, he was persuaded to come to Delhi when late Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister. That time, the talk was fruitful, and the Mizo Accord is one of the most effective Accords that we have had so far, and Mizoram is now one of the most peaceful States in the country.

But how long will it remain peaceful, when the climate of insurgency is building around the State? Why the representatives of the terrorists met our former Prime Minister, Shri Devegowda, at Davos in Switzerland. So, let us keep an open mind. Already, our hon. Member, Shri Indrajit Gupta, talked about this. He has doubts, but let us keep an open mind. If possible, let us have a preliminary talk. Who knows, it may be in a third country. But if it gives us peace, let us go in for that.

Before I conclude, I would like to refer to a development which might aggravate the insurgency situation and ethnic violence or clashes in the North-Eastern region where the situation is already surcharged. We should bear in mind that all the terrorist situations in the country must not be clubbed together. That was the mistake we made earlier. Every terrorist situation has a character of its own, and the situation in the North-East, unlike in some other parts of the country, is not mixed with religion. I raise this point because when this discussion was initiated, hon. Member Tapan Sikdar, I do not know whether he is present or not, has raised certain points. In reply to that, I want to say something. As reported in a section of the Press, I have got the press-cuttings with me, a serious situation arises out of a threat held out by some communal outfit — I am sorry, it has been named "the Vishwa Hindu Parishad" — that it would soon carry out mass conversion propaganda in the seven North-Eastern States targeting 30 per cent of the 30 million people of the region. These 30 per cent people are all Christians. This outfit has taken an obnoxious plea that the Christian missionaries aid and abet insurgency in the region. This threat will, in fact, create a situation leading to a physical and theological war in a majority of States which are predominantly Christian, and in other States too, where there is a sizeable Christian population. There are an estimated 40,000 Churches in this region. That is why, we apprehend an alarming dimension to these ethnic clashes and terrorist violence, which had already assailed the region. We have reasons to apprehend because the reported episode of Bible burning at Rajkot and organised attacks on Christians and Muslims in Gujarat as reported in the Press — again, I have

got that cutting — corroborates our apprehension that the threat held out by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad is real.

While concluding, Sir, what I would emphasise is that the situation in the North-East is not just a law and order problem nor any developmental packages will end the insurgency immediately. The basic question is, how to restore the confidence of those who have taken to guns. It does not matter what their numerical strength is. The common people are also watching.

At the moment, I am afraid, a section of Army personnel sometimes behave as if it is an occupation Army. Reported raping cases, in spite of protests all over the region and in spite of many PILs pending before the High Court on this matter, still continue. Fake encounters, torturing of innocent people, even old and teenagers, for eliciting information about the terrorists, all these things give the impression that a section of Army officers or personnel is callous to the sentiments and feelings of the people.

Sir, when the National Human Rights Commission was constituted, it was decided to educate and motivate the Army, paramilitary forces and the police on human rights and what psychological damages it will cause when these rights are violated. I am afraid, the matter has been taken in a very perfunctory way. The Government should remember that unless human rights are upheld and respected by the law and order enforcement machinery, even the amendment of the Armed Forces Act or the prospect of development for an uncertain future, will not be able to put an end to this massive sense of alienation that the people of the North-East are stricken with.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH (Shillong) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy to make a few observations today. This is a discussion which cuts across party lines. This problem of the North-East should be regarded as a national issue. The problem is that North-East suffers from a sense of isolation, not only geographically, but psychologically and after the partition of India in 1947, the bulk of the area went to Pakistan. The entire region is connected only by a narrow land bridge of 22 miles width. More than that, it is surrounded by a huge boundary, China, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Bhutan which has a land boundary of 4,868 k.ms which is one-third of 15,361 k.ms land border of India. This speaks of the isolation of the North-East. Apart from that, it is also a region which is the most misunderstood and under-informed in the country. I can give you a few instances here. Even today, if you send a letter to the Capital of one of the States, it will take 10 to 12 days to reach while a parcel takes more than 15 days to reach. In Meghalaya, even today there is no railway line and it is not connected to railway station. Even the Shillong airport is not operational even though it has been in existence for more than three decades now. The most important thing is communication. With the advanced technology of communication, I see no reason why North-East should not be brought into the mainstream of communication. It is because of this, there is a sense of alienation which is entrenched in the minds of the people

[Shri P.R. Kyndiah]

that this region is far away from the mainland and a sense of remoteness is very much a part of the feeling of the people of this North-Eastern region. Even as late as two years back while the debt of Punjab to the tune of Rs.3,000 crore was waived off by the Centre, such magnanimity is not yet extended to the North-East. There are a number of instances which I can cite, that the region is neglected economically.

It is against this background that I agree with our former Home Minister, Shri Indrajit Gupta that NSCN (IM) is the fountainhead of insurgent groups and must be tackled effectively to bring them to dialogue but, at the same time, we face the problem of insurgency in Mizoram. I was Governor for five years in Mizoram and I know the problem of peace and violence there. Shri Swaraj Kaushal was there before me. I know the problem there.

There is a way out. Mizoram did show the way out. Now, he can do it. On the one side, I agree that the military option is not the answer. But it is the human factor that is the answer.

I welcome the move to have an emissary to meet the NSCN. But, at the same time, I would like to request Shri L.K. Advani to see that the emissary takes into confidence the people of Nagaland through their elected representatives. As I know today, the Government of Nagaland has to be taken into confidence. There are also certain organisations which play a very important role in the furtherance of peace. This also has to be taken into consideration and they should also be taken into confidence. I do not like to be drawn further into other details. The most important point that I would like to bring to the attention of the House is the need to instill a sense of confidence. Let us not allow a sense of diffidence to control us.

Three Prime Ministers starting with the then Prime Minister Shri H.D. Deve Gowda, visited the area. On 27th October, 1996, he came to the North East. I met him. We discussed many things about the North-East. He made an announcement of a new initiative for the development of the North-East. The amount that was given to the North-East was about Rs.6000 crore. Later, the then Prime Minister Shri I.K. Gujral came to Mizoram. We discussed certain things. I believe that after the discussions with a number of leaders of the region, the amount was revised to about Rs.7300 crore. Then, the Shukla Commission was constituted to clear the backlog. A sum of Rs.9396 crore was granted in terms of deployment in minimal basic needs and services. Then, again, an announcement was made to earmark 10 per cent of the Budget allocation from each Ministry for the region that would form the Non-lapsable Pool Fund. These are the three components.

I say that this is the commitment of the three Prime Ministers. To the people of the North-East, to the common man of the North-East, the Prime Minister of the country at present is an Indian. Today, if this commitment is not reflected either in the Budget or in certain other ways to improve the material existence of the people, then the people

of the North-East will lose faith not only in the Prime Minister but in the country as a whole. So, this is the point that I would like to bring home here. We should make an attempt and we should take all steps to see that these commitments are implemented. Otherwise, there will be a backlash of diffidence. I am afraid that it may lead to more frustration.

I am a man of peace. We have fought our own struggle for Meghalaya through a *satyagraha*. Shri Purno A. Sangma knows about it. Today, in the North-East, there is a new mood for peace. A majority of the people of the North-East want peace. They are a peace-loving people. It is only a small minority that believe in violence. Therefore, I feel that today is the time for us to entrench peace in the region.

The other point that I would like to make is that let us not club the entire North-East as a insurgency-infested area. There are some areas of peace... (*Interruptions*) There are so many areas of peace even in those States where insurgency problem is there. Our duty is to enlarge the area of peace and restrict and constrict the areas of violence. Peace is the key that needs to be opened up so that the North-East can really march ahead with heads held high in building a modern India.

SHRI H. LALLUNGMUANA (Mizoram) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is my first chance to speak in the House. Even after five months, this is my maiden speech. I was almost tempted to feel as though I have no say in this House; I have not been a part of the Parliament since I could not be given any chance to speak. No one else speaks about Mizoram because I am the only MP who has not yet been given a chance to speak. This is a very important day that I have been given a chance to speak.

When we talk of the North-East, we all know, that there have been insurgencies almost in every State of the North-East – Nagaland, Mizoram, Assam, Manipur and Tripura. Why is there insurgency after insurgency? What is the root cause of insurgency in the North-East? How can we find out the real cause of the insurgency in the North-East? What is the solution or the remedy for this? What will be the answer to this trouble?

17.27 hrs.

[SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU *in the Chair*]

There may be different kinds of factors bringing about insurgency in the different States. There must be a root cause common to all.

During the British period, most of the North-East areas had been outside India. It was not within India. But with the Independence of India, these parts were brought under the Indian Union. Now we are celebrating the Fifty years of our Independence. All these Fifty years of independence, the North-East people, particularly the Mizos have been trying to learn to become Indians. They have totally failed. What do we see in the North-East? We see only insurgency. Why? There must be a root cause for this. The main cause of this insurgency is the feeling of being insecurd in the minds of

the people of this land. They have a sense and feeling of insecurity and isolation. Even till now, most of the people in the remote areas do not know whether they are inside India or outside India as there is no positive role of the Government of India. I do not totally blame the Government of India. I have to blame even the State Government also to some extent. I do not have to hide anything. We do not expect lip sympathies but we accept the reality. Shri Kyndiah has spoken about Mizos.

In 1966 insurrection and insurgency broke out in Mizoram. What was the real cause of that? A spark neglected, burns the house. There was a great famine in Mizoram in 1959. But the people were very much dissatisfied with the treatment that they got from the Assam Government. So, there came a sort of an association like Mizo National Famine Front. No timely treatment was given to it. Because of that, the Famine Front turned into the MNF, a rebel organisation, demanding full independence from India.

But fortunately after 20 long years...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI H. LALLUNG MUANA : Sir, this is my maiden speech. Please give me some time. There is no one to speak from Mizoram except me. Within five months, it is the only time I am getting. Please understand.

When the Peace Accord was signed in 1986, the people rejoiced. The Government of India was also very happy. We, the people, were also very happy expecting some reality from the Peace Accord. But the unfortunate thing is that the fulfilment of the provisions of the Peace Accord, till now, is not coming true. People are expecting something real from the Government of India.

For example, a separate University for Mizoram, has not come even after 12 years of the Peace Accord. There is no separate High Court in Mizoram which was a promise in the Peace Accord. There is no effective border trade even till now. For all these things that we are receiving now, the people are very discontented and very disappointed. So, the situation in Mizoram — even though it is the most peaceful State in the North-East and even among the Indian States — there is no progress or development at all. There is no infrastructure. The educated people are jobless. There is no employment opportunity for them. Of course, Mizoram stands the second highest in terms of literacy in India next to Kerala. It has got about 86 per cent literacy rate. But many educated people are jobless there. It is a hilly region. Agriculture could not be done very properly. They remain jobless. They remain doing nothing. So, they attempted to do something. Even it is not good, it will be a bad one.

But till now, it is very fortunate that we remain peaceful. But if the situation regarding employment and other things remain like this, I am afraid, a day may come when the youth who have not experienced the effect of the insurrection, will

resort to take arms and rebellion. So, something is to be done now. The solution lies not in increasing the number of military people.

Let me tell you one experience of mine. During 1974, I was teaching in a college. Then, military operation during the mid night was there. My door was kicked by the military people and they forced to enter into my house. I did not allow this. I said, "Unless you bring some witness, you will not be allowed". Then they challenged me. They threatened to kill me. I said, "If you want to kill me, you kill me. I am a Class-I Gazetted Officer. I will not allow anybody who is against the Constitution". Then he said, "What did he do wrong?" Then I said, "You have the right. About your special act, I know. But you do not have the right to enter my house without two witnesses. You bring only one witness". Then he said, "Military people can do anything here in Mizoram". Then I said, "I do not see anybody who is able to do anything. Even the Prime Minister or the President of India cannot do anything he likes. If he does so, he is beyond the law, he will become outlaw. If you can do anything you like here, you become outlaw. You are the enemy of India. I will tell you. These people never see what is India. They do not know what is India like? You are the representative of India. If you do not follow the rules and acts of procedure or the Indian Penal Code, then India is the country which never respect any human rights here. How can you win the hearts of the people?" This is what I challenged him. Then at last, he could not refute.

Now, the solution lies in the heart-winning policy, in the confidence-making policy of the Government of India. Let us give employment, let us give something to do to the youth now. This is the solution.

Another thing, which I want to point out is that on the part of the State Government, there is a great misuse of money in the North-Eastern region. This is also the cause of trouble there. So, the Central Government should follow a little bit rigid and strict financial management.

Do not give forgiveness or too much of condonation or such sort of things to the existing administration. Even as such corruption is too rampant. The beneficiaries should be reached with any amount sanctioned for them. Unless these measures are taken, how can we have the feeling of greatness for India? Let us show a good India to the people of the North-East. Then only will we win their hearts and real peace will come through the development.

[Translation]

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM (Nagaland) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me opportunity to take part in this discussion.

[English]

I would like to thank the hon. Members of this House for paying full attention to the discussion on the North-East in regard to insurgency. I would like to talk about the state

[Shri K.A. Sangtam]

of Nagaland as most of the speakers have centered around their discussion on Nagaland and if I was an examiner today, I would have given hon. Member Shri Indrajit Gupta hundred per cent marks for what he stated today on the issue of Nagaland. Because this insurgency problem has been centered around the State of Nagaland, the genesis, as our MP Shri Kalita said the day before yesterday, has originated from the State of Nagaland. Therefore, the State of Nagaland which exists today is the State which was formed as the 16th State in the Indian Union with the agreement signed in 1963 between the people of Nagaland and the Government of India, known as the 16 Point Agreement. The State of Nagaland was formed out of political necessity and it was also understood that this State would not be an economically viable State.

The State of Nagaland had its first upheaval in 1929 during the Simon Commission period. As it passed through the independence day in 1953, the upheaval was at its peak. There was a problem because the Army which had been sent there to contain the law and order had mismanaged the entire situation and it was out of control. The Army had gone in and committed a lot of atrocities. On the other side, the radicals had taken up arms and started a guerilla warfare. For a period of more than ten years there had been a conflict. In 1994 a cease-fire was declared between the Government of India and the Naga Federal Government. This talk had been taking place for six to seven rounds. On the one side there were the underground leaders and on the other side the Government of India led by the Prime Minister, the then Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi, was there. But the peace talk failed after two years and the situation was very tense. One and a half decades later three factions were formed in the State of Nagaland which consists of NSCN (IM), NSCN (K) and NNC which has the Government known as the Naga Federal Government.

A series of talks have taken place between their leaders and the former Prime Ministers Shri H.D. Deve Gowda and Shri I.K. Gujral. I believe Shri Gujral has also met the leaders of the NSCN (IM) in Geneva. But today this dialogue has been handed over to a few people who are I think the nominees of the Government of India. I think, a proper approach should be made because it has already been said by many Army Generals and politicians that it is a political problem which cannot be solved by the Army. Right now, we have more than four corps, each consisting of three divisions but till today, for forty-five years, this insurgency problem has not been contained. There are only a handful of five thousand to six thousand insurgents, who are highly trained but they are getting increased in numbers today. Therefore, how do we find a solution?

The younger generation should be given more attractive jobs because small jobs like chowkidars which are sponsored by the Government of India are not helping. The jobs are advertised in some other States, appointments are made there and people are posted there. On top of that,

there is no industrial activity. There is no economic development also because every time something come up for development, they are sabotaged by the insurgents. The Government of Nagaland is facing another problem because people who have surrendered have been accommodated in the Government service as peons, chowkidars, etc. We have a very heavy backlog of salaries as the Government of India is also giving only a small amount which cannot help pay up the salaries of the police personnel in the State.

In the Sixteen-Point Agreement, in point 2, it has been stated that the Ministry-in charge of Nagaland shall be the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India. Now, it has been brought under the Ministry of Home Affairs. This is flouting the agreement. Then, in point 11, there is a provision for financial assistance from the Government of India to supplement the revenues of the Nagaland. There is also a provision for the Government of India to pay out of the Consolidated Fund of India under 11 (1) a lump sum each year for the development programmes in the State of Nagaland and under 11 (2) a Grant-in-Aid towards meeting the cost of administration.

If the Government of India is really keen to solve this problem, I think, we have to look at it this way. I will now quote what the hon. Prime Minister has recently stated about the State of Jammu and Kashmir: 'The massive unemployment of the youths in the State of Jammu and Kashmir: 'The massive unemployment of the youths in the State of Jammu and Kashmir has been a contributory factor in the growth of militancy'. If this is so with the State of Jammu and Kashmir, it is the same with the State of Nagaland. Therefore, it cannot be bifurcated. This is the same problem which we are facing.

One aspect that I would like to point out to hon. Members is that the problem of Nagaland is quite unlike the Kashmir problem in that we have no tug of war between Pakistan and India. This is a problem of secession. They want to secede from this country. So, if we want to keep this State as part of the big nation that is India, I think, we should look into the development programmes and give adequate funds.

There are two or three points that I would like to add. Some Corporations have been existing since the inception of the State. A lot of people who have surrendered have been accommodated in these Corporations. Today, the State is not able to pay up the salaries. They are not able to run these industries. There is a heavy backlog of liabilities and they have taken loans from the banks and private borrowers. Recently, the Supreme Court of India has put a ban on movement of all forest products. There is a Corporation known as the Nagaland Forest Products Limited, Tizit in Mon District which is really building up a huge liability. I think the Government of India should quickly come to its rescue. The ban has resulted in piling up of huge stocks of raw material and finished products. The business of the Corporation has come to stand still. For several years many workers have been rendered jobless.

The Centre should give financial assistance to pay for the huge liabilities. The amount that is due to the Government of India should be waived off as it happened in the case of Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir so that the State Government is able to function and contain the law and order problem.

With these few words I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri P.A. Sangma may please speak now.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar) : Mr. Chairman, why are you not allowing us to speak? After all, it is a national issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please cooperate with the Chair.

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA (Tura) : Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. I am not going to deliver a speech. I will give only four suggestions.

The whole approach to the problem of the North-East has to be peace through development. It is because in Delhi there are certain people who take a position that unless peace is restored, no development work can be done. But I do not believe in that. In fact, it has to be the other way round. You have to achieve peace through development. Peace through development should be the concept of the Government of India. That should be the approach of the Government of India.

As far as development is concerned, so many points have been raised. I would only request that the packages which have been announced by the three successive Prime Ministers must be implemented and implemented effectively. The decision taken by Shri Deve Gowda, the then Prime Minister, that every Ministry of the Government of India should earmark ten per cent for North-East should be implemented.

It would be good to have more and more of Central Government agencies directly investing in the North-East, especially in the area of plantation, commodities and horticulture. The agencies like the Central Rubber Board, the Tea Board, the Coffee Board and the Spices Board can play a very very big role in changing the economic scenario of the North-Eastern States. It is because the North-East is suitable for cultivation of all these goods.

Infrastructure, of course, is very bad. Some more investments have to be made in the infrastructure sector. I do not know what is the stand of SAFTA. I do not know whether this issue was discussed in Colombo. It is a very relevant issue. I do not know what is the stand of Pakistan after the nuclear tests. But SAFTA is very very important from the point of view of economic development of the North-East. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Home Affairs if he has got any information whether SAFTA will come into operation by 2001 or not.

Next, I would request the Central Government to give full support to the State Governments. I am saying this because some of the smaller functionaries of this Government keep on saying a few things which are not at all helpful.

There was one aspect last year during the general elections. The underground people in Nagaland gave a boycott call and they said that the election should not be held in Nagaland. I think, we must be grateful to the Chief Minister of Nagaland, Shri S.C. Jamir, who took a very very firm stand saying that, 'come what may, election will be held'. Suppose election was not held, then, it would have been a victory for the underground elements. But the Chief Minister took a firm stand and said that the election would be held; and election was held. Of course, in many areas, people did not come to vote; that is a different matter. But the courage that has been shown by the Chief Minister himself in conducting the election is great; and the nation should be grateful to such leaders. It is from this angle that I am saying that whoever runs the Government of India, as far as the North-Eastern States are concerned - whichever Government is running the State in North-East, it may be a Congress Government, I have not worded it at all—the Centre must give full support and backing to the Governments in the North-East who are fighting against insurgency.

The third point that I would like to make is, what should be the role of Army. We have heard many unpleasant things today. I also firmly believe that Army should not be used to counter insurgency in the North-East. I was very happy to have seen the statement of the Defence Minister, Shri George Fernandes who has given his reasons also. It is better that we strengthen the local Governments and we get the cooperation of the people themselves there. Through Army or through Military, I do not think, there can ever be any solution.

Therefore, solution has to be through a dialogue; and I will appeal to the Government to start a dialogue with them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, reply by the Home Minister.

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : After reply, I will give you a chance.

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only after his reply.

... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Sir, I would say that after reply, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting should be allowed because she has been waiting here for a long time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. It is not for that. I may allow them, if there is any small clarification to seek.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARI (Kokrajhar) : Sir, I do not want to have any clarifications. I want to make one point. It is regarding two serious incidents which took place on the 29th July. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. The Home Minister is already aware of that. Please sit down. Now, the Home Minister.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the discussion, which was for two hours, lasted for five hours, and it has been very useful for the Parliament and the Government. I am grateful to Shri Bhuvneshwar Kalita ji and Shri Samar Chaudhary, who had started this discussion and particularly to two senior Members of this House, Shri Indrajit Gupta and Shri Sangma Ji, who by participating in the discussion have increased importance thereof. Shri Sangma put his viewpoint on a very brief manner towards the end. He placed his point only in the form of a suggestion. I generally agree to all of his suggestions. I have got some reservation on this point only that more and more agencies of the Central Government should be posted there because the State Governments may take this step as intervention in their jurisdiction. I think Shri Sangma ji also did not intend to say that. He must have intended to say, which was stated by many Members and Shri Indrajit Gupta also that this question does not belong to this Government and if this perception prevails that the North-Eastern region is neglected in the financial matters and comparatively less financial assistance is extended to it, it is not right.

If I compare it from one aspect, perhaps Orissa is equivalent to the North-East in terms of area and population and many parts of this State are lagging far behind than that of the North-East. Despite that I have got some figures which are of 1990-91 and 1996-97 and not of today. During the six years, 42,000 crore rupees were spent in the North-Eastern States, whereas, 17,000 crore rupees were spent in Orissa during the corresponding period. This is a relevant fact. I want to stress the point that this is not true that problems cropped up due to meagre financial assistance. But this is true that sentimental detachment has increased which is responsible for that. I will not say anything in this regard. But this remains a fact. I have just gone through the text of speech of the Prime Minister which he delivered in the meeting of the Chief Ministers of the North-Eastern States in which problems of development were considered. A sentence said by the Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in that meeting has a point. That does not amount to criticism of anybody. He has said that

[English]

" When people in New Delhi think of the North-East, they usually think of the geographical distance which translates itself into mental distance. When people in the North-East think of New Delhi, they usually think of the developmental distance which translates itself into emotional distance".

[Translation]

The people of New Delhi treat the distance of Mizoram and Meghalaya and from both the angles since Mizoram and Meghalaya are quite far off from Delhi, the people sitting in Delhi regard the people of these States that they are lagging behind. On the other hand when the people of Mizoram and Meghalaya think of development of their area and they feel that Delhi is quite developed whereas their States are quite backward because they don't have proper roads. Whereas Delhi and its surrounding areas, which are shown on television and the details of which are given on radio are quite developed it seems that roads in our area are not in proper condition and there are no trains. Aeroplanes are the only mode of Transport but how many people can travel by air? It was also discussed. This lack of development confirms the mental distance. This distance is a big reason. The hon'ble Member who delivered his maiden speech earlier was expressing his mind. Today's discussion is about insurgency but Mizoram is such a State in the North-East which once upon a time was affected by insurgency but today there is no insurgency there as is the case of Arunachal. Whatever Kyndiah ji has said that there is insurgency in the entire region, is not correct. There are areas of peace and we are to develop those areas and the areas of insurgency to be checked. He was saying that they were trying to be Indians and doing efforts in this direction. Indrajit ji has rightly said that sometimes the people there, specially the educated youth do not get jobs due to this long distance and they say sometimes that it happens in your India, as if they belong to any other country. Suggestions were given to the Government which came to power, to the political leaders or to the political parties, who think about the North-East to reduce this distance, which is the biggest work before them. Right now, Sangma ji has rightly said that peace through development should be there and three Prime Ministers have announced and assured and as far as I remember the present Prime Minister had said that two packages had been announced and now I would not announce a new package. But I feel that the present Government or any other Government is a Government in continuity.

18.00 hrs.

Therefore the assurances given by the earlier Prime Ministers have become our responsibility. We cannot say that the assurances were given by them so we are not responsible for the same. Sometimes it happens as Sangma ji, Deve Gowda ji or Gujral ji had raised the issue of 10 percent reservation.

[English]

It was announced in 1996. That means, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda was there. It was announced by the then Prime Minister in October, 1996 that a North-East Sub-Plan would be set up in all Central Ministries/Departments.

[Translation]

In all the Ministries of the Government of India North-East sub-plan would be made and out of the total budget allocation made by the Parliament, 10 percent would be for the North East. The announcement was made and I think that at that time the interest of the North-East would have been in his mind. I hold responsible all of them. But it would not have come to their mind that there are several Ministries in which if an allocation of 10 percent is made for the North-East then how would that be utilized? What would the Ministry of Space do with that allocation? Therefore, the Planning Commission analysed the declaration/announcement and found that there are 22 such Ministries where imposing such a ban means that the allocation would go in waste. But despite that in deference to its basic principal I announce in the House that hence forth.

[English]

Ministry of Surface Transport, Ministry of Steel, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Food and Civil Supplies, Department of Electronics, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Commerce, Department of Posts, Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Ministry of Water Resources

[Translation]

will make an allocation of 10 percent for the sub-plan of the North-East.

I am thankful to Shri Indrajit Gupta ji, Kyindiyah ji and all others who took the decision during the last years regarding N.S.C.N. Had Indrajit Gupta's participation in the Government been full then his opinion with regard to the minute details could have been different. But he made his point very frankly and finally remarked that there are a large number of militant groups. Dr. Jayanta ji pointed out that there were 18 groups. Somebody said that there were 40 groups. But it is still not known how many militant groups are operating there. But there was hardly one group 15-20 years back but today their number has increased. N.S.C.N. is strongest of all the groups which has connections not only with neighbouring states but also with outside States, and with which the previous Government had started a dialogue.

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore) : The ULFA is bigger.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : ULFA is also there. But I do not want to compare it with any other group. I am quoting Mr. Indrajit Gupta who knows and is a senior member and the charge which I am holding at present has been held by him in the past. A decision to make cease-fire was taken on 1st August. This cease-fire was for a period of three months but this period was increased to three months first, then to

three months and three months thereafter. Today is 31 July. Tomorrow on 1st August, three months will be completed.

[English]

It happens that we are getting on that date.

[Translation]

Therefore, I think it is necessary to announce in this House that.

[English]

The Government of India and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) had mutually decided to announce further extension of the current cease-fire for a period of one year with effect from 1st August, 1998.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I fully agree with Mr. Indrajit Ji. I do not want to argue whether the word 'cease-fire' should be used or not, since it has its own implications. I accept that our Government might have said it. But as there is peace prevailing in Nagaland and nearby areas of North-East, it is our responsibility to maintain it. Even though the peace is not a solution in itself, we will have to find out a solution to this problem. Therefore, it was written in the agreement that.

[English]

Both sides agreed that with the extension of the current cease-fire, political discussion should start. The agreed ground rule shall be strictly implemented during the cease-fire period.

[Translation]

There should be a political discussion over it and its political solutions should be found out. I agree with all on the point that all things will have to be done together. It is not right to assess the problems from a single angle. Somebody said.

[English]

Both sides agreed that with the extension of the current cease-fire, political discussion should start.

[Translation]

I do not agree with it, If I had agreed there would have been no insurgency in Punjab. It is not so that there is no unemployment there. The unemployment is prevailing there but Punjab is comparatively prosperous. Insurgency and militancy were created in Punjab despite the development there. If there is insurgency and militancy anywhere, it should be looked from all angles ... (Interruptions) I would like to tell my friends that the party politics should not be used at all in dealing with the questions of this type of insurgency.

When my colleague said that all the insurgencies in the North-East are due to the parties which are in power at

[Shri L.K. Advani]

present, it is not necessary to say that they deliberately caused it. There is some truth in that but even then if we want to solve the problem, we will have to see the things beyond party-politics. I would like to say that even if Kalita ji and Samar Choudhary have started the discussion formally but Shri Indrajit Gupta said that North-East must be discussed. No matter any other issue is discussed or not. He has been repeatedly asking Mr. Khurana for the last two weeks as to what happened to North-East? It is as a result of that that we are discussing it today.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, many questions have been raised here. I cannot mention all. I appreciate the view of Mamata ji that it would be better to associate North-East-Council with Members of Parliament. Today, I see that there are atleast seven Chief Ministers, seven Governors and perhaps three more persons in the North-East Council. There are 25 members of Parliament of Lok Sabha including one from Sikkim. Perhaps there are seven members from the other House. There are total 32 MPs. I feel that it would be useful to associate them or their party to North-East Council because their role is the same as that of a Chief Minister. I fully agree to Jayanta Rongpi's point that all the problems prevailing there are due to ISI there. I.S.I. has base in Bangladesh or gets training there or Myanmar also gives them assistance. The problem will not be resolved, if one analyses it so simply. I think that I.S.I. cannot do anything if there is no resentment among the people. I.S.I. and other enemies of the country may succeed in their attempts only when there is resentment among the people. It is the duty of all of us to find out the cause for the resentment and Central Government and State Governments are equally duty-bound to resolve their problems. Several members have stated here that the money which is released from here does not reach the people. Where does it go? Only the Governments ruling the States are blamed for this malaise. A Member from Mizoram has just stated.

[English]

"I am not going to blame only the Government of India. I would blame both because there is a lot of corruption".

[Translation]

There is a lot of corruption. This corruption may not be so harmful as in other States as it is in North-Eastern States. We should keep all these things in mind and work in this direction.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our friend Shri Bwiswmuthiary ji has raised a point several times about Bodo Land Problem and specifically linked it to the question as to why this Government do not want to form the Bodoland when they intend to form Vananchal, Uttaranchal and Chhatisgarh. Now this demand is not raised by these people only but it can be raised by all the members of various parts of the country, where such demand to form separate state has been raised.

Our friends from the Congress Party ask me quite humbly as to why the state of Vidharbha is not formed. They also say that I am also a supporter of Vidarbha State.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Why not Mithilanchal?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : They are talking about Mithilanchal as to why they do not create it?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, India is such a big country where there are so many diversities that every part is a separate unit. It is not necessary that it may be a geographical unit. If these parts are somewhat different in nature, culture and language, they feel that it would be much better if a separate state is created. Bihar despite being a Hindi speaking State has several rich languages which have their own importance. You cannot call them dialects. If anyone calls Bhojpuri a dialect, I will not agree. It is a very rich language. Maithili is also so rich. Despite all these things or keeping all these in mind, I would like to tell you about the commitment of the Government. When we were preparing National Agenda; we had two options that the division of the present India or the map that exists at present is very artificial one. It includes very big States like Uttar-Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra which have been created on the basis of language. These States were formed on the basis of linguistic reorganisation which were proper anyway. Nobody was concerned about as to how the development work would take place in these States or only Hindi language would be there but these States have various languages. Telangana and coastal regions have their languages. All these things were discussed. It was also proposed to constitute another State Reorganisation Commission.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : This is no argument at all. Uttar Pradesh is a big state and so is India. Will you divide India for the sake of development?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was telling you about concerns. We had two proposals before us. The first State Reorganisation Commission adopted language as a main criterion for creation of States. Many years have passed since it was constituted. Should we constitute a second States Reorganisation Commission to meet the demand to create separate states being raised in different parts of the country at present? I think, this point carries weight. But then I thought that today, when various types of elements are active in the country and enemies outside the country are also on the look-out to take advantage of the situation prevailing in the country. We should not talk in the manner which may lead to opening of the Pandora's box and that is why the Government have stated that they would lay emphasis on the creation of only those states about which there exists consensus and the Legislative Assembly of those States have passed a resolution unanimously to that effect. By adopting this criteria, we have decided that Government of Uttar Pradesh, no matter whatever they say today, he demanded Uttaranchal at that time also when he was the Chief Minister.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : If Udhm Singh Nagar is left with the Uttar Pradesh then we agree for creation of a separate Uttaranchal State. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : The recommendation for creation of a separate Uttaranchal state was made by the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly of Bihar had recommended for creation of Vananchal ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Bihar Assembly has not made recommendation... (Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : You call it Jharkhand. I don't have any objection to it. Our Government would give up the issue of name. The Madhya Pradesh assembly has made recommendation for Chhatisgarh State. We should put forth our views about these three States only. Meanwhile our attention has been drawn to the resolution passed by the Pondicherry assembly for according Statehood to Pondicherry. We have stated that we are prepared to include it. Therefore, I would like to assure all Bodos that we are very much conscious of all their grievances and would try our level best to readdress them.

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar) : It is a very genuine issue. It can be resolved only by granting statehood to Bodos. You have already opened the Pandora's Box.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today Jammu and Kashmir and some north eastern States are in the grip of insurgency and some years back insurgency was at its peak in Punjab, but not to the extent as this is in North East and I can recall that whenever I visited Punjab, I would always feel that things would not improve but today I am glad that we could improve things in Punjab and decide on certain issues... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Idukki) : Mr. Chairman, it is already 6.15 p.m. and you have not taken the sense of the House to extend the sitting.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is decided in the Business Advisory Committee that the House will sit till the Prasar Bharati Bill is passed.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I will conclude in a few minutes.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : It is not that we want the hon. Home Minister to cut short his speech. At six o'clock, the Chair should obtain the consent of the House to extend the sitting. Otherwise, it is not in the order of the things. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nobody has raised that issue.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : I had already raised it. ... (Interruptions)

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (Garhwal) : Sir, we want that the sitting of the House be extended till the Prasar Bharati Bill is passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It was decided in the Business Advisory Committee that the House will take up the Prasar Bharati Bill after this item of business is over.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : The Home Minister was replying to a very important topic and we did not want to disturb him. We were listening to him. But it is the responsibility of the Chair to ask the House at six o'clock whether the sitting of the House can be extended or not. Whatever may be the decision of the Business Advisory Committee, it can be followed only after taking the sense of the House.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Sir, now that the issue has been raised, I advise that the House be extended till the Prasar Bharati Bill is passed.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : We will decide on it after the Home Minister completes his speech.

SHRI RAM NAIK : All right.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was mentioning as to which areas the terrorism spreaded in and Punjab was one among them. Not only innocent people were being slain but such a atmosphere was created that people were scared to come out of their houses. However, we overcame that situation. I would say that the credit for this does not go to the armed forces or the para military forces but it mainly goes to the masses, the administration and the state police. In fact, main credit goes to the general masses which have shunned altogether any sympathy for militants. In the initial phase, it appeared that a major section of society had some sympathy for them. However, it gradually ended. Secondly I would like to say that if there were certain people in administration having any sympathy, they either left from there or the public, local police and administration have the major role in it. I feel that the current state of insurgency in north eastern states would also be tackled by these three factors. It is true that every state has its own different situation. But had the masses not been against militancy had the administration not been enough adept ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : The Army and para-military Forces have a special role. They have made sacrifices. They face the challenges there.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am dealing with that.

[Translation]

I would request those who made certain remarks against the armed forces, not to criticise the armed forces. Our armed forces and para military forces are working in very difficult conditions. I am not supporting them. If somebody in armed forces or para military forces has committed any excesses against the women or any rape, then he should be dealt with sternly. Hindustan is among those countries which have set up a human rights commission. Complaints of such excesses can be lodged with them. They always probe into the complaints made to them. Whatever complaints against the armed forces or para military forces have been registered, have always been probed into and punishment has been meted out to those who committed any excesses.

Though it is quite true that Shri Handique and Ms. Kim has stated that army should be sent wherever demands are raised but I do not agree with it. There is no need to send army there. I think if it is not required to send army to the states then, our boarders would be safer. The armed forces should not take up such assignments happily ... (Interruptions) But I know that several states lodge complaints that the armed forces, BSF, C.R.P.F. etc. have not been sent to them. A holistic view needs to be taken in this regard. I strongly believe that we shall be able to end insurgency in Jammu & Kashmir and north eastern state as we have been successful in Punjab.

[English]

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM (Nagaland) : I would like to ask the hon. Home Minister a question. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : A detailed reply has been given by the hon. Home Minister.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : I would just take a minute. In the light of what Shri P.A. Sangma said regarding Shri S.C. Jamir's Government in Nagaland, in the last elections, he has resisted the boycott given by the NSCN (IM) and conducted the elections successfully. Are you contemplating the dismissal of Shri S.C. Jamir's Government in Nagaland?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : No. We have not received such a proposal.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : A statement has been made in the newspaper ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please leave that newspaper statement. The hon. Minister has categorically stated about that.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : He said that this Government would dismiss S.C. Jamir's Government... (Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Who said it? ... (Interruptions)

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Mr. Chairman, the hon. Home Minister has declared the policy of creating new States. He has said that the Government has decided to create new States in those areas or in those States where there is a general consensus, which was expressed by a Resolution of the Legislative Assembly. That was in regard to creation of new States and that is clear to us. But, I want to know categorically from the hon. Home Minister about the policy of the Government on the areas where there is no demand for creation of a separate State but there is a demand for more autonomy which is explicitly and exclusively provided in the Constitution under article 244(a). The said article provides that no new State but an autonomous State within the State of Assam, without bifurcating the State, could be created. Therefore, a Resolution from the Assembly is probably not required. I would like to know from the hon. Home Minister about the stand of the Government on Assam, wherefrom this type of demand is being made.

Secondly, I would like to make a point with regard to the ceasefire. We have seen the last ceasefire agreement....

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, again you are making a speech. We have already taken five hours on this. Please understand the mood of the House. Again you are asking so many questions.

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Sir, I would like to know whether this ceasefire is restricted only to Nagaland or the ceasefire comes into effect in other areas of operation by the NSCN; and whether the Khaplan Group is also included in this. Thank you... (Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Sir, as far as creation of new States is concerned, I have clarified the Government's approach. So far as problems relating to certain sections of any State are concerned which can be accommodated within the Constitution as it is – within the present political map – we will certainly examine them ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. This matter is over now.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the House will take up the Prasar Bharati Broadcasting Corporation of India (Amendment) Bill. Before that I would like to have the sense of the House.

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I request the hon. Minister to move for consideration of the Bill.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have no objection to the moving and passing of the Prasar Bharati (Amendment) Bill, 1998, but I want to know that as per today's

List of Business, discussion is to be stated on the problems of the scheduled castes/scheduled tribes and instead of initiating discussion on this subject, the Prasar Bharati (Amendment) Bill is being taken up... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have already agreed that it would be taken up on 4th. It was decided in the meeting of the BAC.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the problems of dalits and tribals in the country are very serious and this is very important question. Discussion should be held on this ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

It is listed for today.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Sir, Ajit ji, if you could please sit down, I beg to submit that those who were to initiate discussion on this, have agreed to hold discussion on it on 4th August... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not make noise.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Speaker has already announced when it would be taken up.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the question on the problems relating to dalits and tribals seldom find place in the list of business and that to occasionally and despite that the defer it to next date, which is not a good thing. This is against the interests of crores of dalits and tribal people ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will take it up on the 4th of August. Hon. Minister, Please.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Ajit ji you please sit down. I tell you that Shri Ram Vilas Paswan who was to initiate this discussion today, he himself had said that he did not want to initiate discussion at 4 p.m. Therefore, it was decided in the B.A.C. to take up this matter on 4.8.98 ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kumari Kim Gangte, that matter is over now. Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Jogi ji, let me tell you that Shri Ram Vilas Paswan who had to take up discussion on this subject had requested in the B.A.C. that he did not want to initiate discussion on the problems of dalits at 5 p.m. He wanted rather to take it up the next morning. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, not only Ram Vilas Paswan ji wants discussion on the problems of dalits ... *(Interruptions)* but the entire country wants discussion on this issue... *(Interruptions)* you kindly tell us on which date it would be taken up... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : It will be taken up on 4th. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ajit Jogi, please cooperate with the Chair.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Chair has already given a ruling on this.

... *(Interruptions)*

18.31 hrs.

PRASAR BHARATI (BROADCASTING CORPORATION OF INDIA) AMENDMENT BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990, be taken into consideration".

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, do you want to say something?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : I am speaking. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Bill which has been moved by hon

Minister of Communications Shrimati Sushma Swaraj is already passed by both the Houses. Therefore, there is no need for discussion on this. Let it be passed.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahabubnagar) : That is not our opinion. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Jaipal Reddy, the hon. Minister wanted to speak. After that, you can react.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sir, you have allowed Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav to express his opinion. Please hear us also. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : After the Minister's speech, I will allow you.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Idukki) : I am not on what she is going to say. I am on what Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav has said. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Chacko, what do you want to say?

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sir, the proceedings of the House are going in a half-hearted manner. We are concerned about the proceedings of the House. You must protect it. This is not the way. After the List of Business has been received by us, you cannot change it without the consent of the House. Whatever may be the discussion in the BAC or in other forums, when you are changing the List of Business, you must take the sense of the House. When certain adopted principle is being violated, the Chair must protect it.

The next item in the Revised List of Business is discussion regarding problems of SCs/STs. Unfortunately, the mover of the discussion is not here. Sir, it is a question relating to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Their plight in the country is an important issue. ... *(Interruptions)* Sir, whatever decision you finally take, we will abide by that. Please understand our anxiety also. Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the rules are being violated, you must protect it.

A suggestion has come from Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav that there need not be any discussion on the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Bill, 1998. First of all, we do not agree with that. We want a full-fledged discussion on this Bill.

Sir, this Bill was passed in 1990 and now we are in 1998. So many things had happened in between. When this Bill was passed and an Ordinance was promulgated by the former Minister, Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, the whole country welcomed it. If we are going back today, we should have a discussion on that. ... *(Interruptions)* We are not going to pass the Bill without any discussion. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your Chief Whip is aware about the decision of the BAC. With the consent of the Leaders, the Chair has taken this decision. Please hear me first.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Chair has already given a ruling on this.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Hon. Chairman, Sir, a serious mistake is being committed unknowingly. The BAC is not above the House... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Fatmi, I will allow you after Prof. Kurien.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have allowed Prof. Kurien to speak.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Radhakrishnan, please sit down. I will allow you.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I submit that today the matter was discussed in the Business Advisory Committee. It was decided that after the discussion regarding the situation in the North-Eastern region, Prasar Bharati Bill would be taken up. Two hours' time has also been allotted for this Bill. Earlier, four hours' time was allotted but for lack of time, we reduced it to two hours. This was the position in the Business Advisory Committee. The question raised by the hon. Members is that in spite of that, this should be announced in the House, then the consensus of the House should be sought. My humble submission is, please take the consensus of the House. There is no problem. We will stick to the decision. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not make noise.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : We are not going back on the commitment given in the BAC. Only a technical question was raised. The Chair may kindly address that question.

My second point is regarding the point raised by my hon. friend, Shri P.C. Chacko. Regarding the extension of the time also, what has been suggested by the hon. Minister is that the time may be extended till the Prasar Bharati Bill is passed. That is not an extension. Extension should be limited to time. So, the extension may also be limited to time. Let there be discussion. After discussion, we can pass the Bill. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Madhepura) : He will explain to you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will allow him.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, Shri Radhakrishnan has raised a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will allow him later.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the Business Advisory Committee meeting those issues were discussed in detail which are to be taken up today and next week. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : The proceedings of the Business Advisory Committee cannot be discussed here. ... (Interruptions) You just go through the rule.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : All right. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has some work. He is not present here. And whatever decision was taken, was taken in his presence ... (Interruptions) The Prasar Bharati Bill should be passed today by all means ... (Interruptions) . He has decided that it would be now taken up on 4th of August. Therefore, I appeal that the Prasar Bharati Bill may be passed today, other matters should be taken up afterwards.

[English]

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : The proceedings of the BAC cannot be discussed in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We are not discussing the proceedings of BAC.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Sir, what Prof. Kurien has said is very correct. There is a technical lacuna. Please resolve that lacuna. Whatever decision the Business Advisory Committee had taken and if the hon. Speaker has announced that, we must follow that. It was a decision of the Business Advisory Committee. Let us not discuss what went inside in the BAC because that is not supposed to be discussed in the House.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sir, a point of order has been raised.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will allow him.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : We are not called in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee. I don't know about the stature of the leaders who are in that Committee. And what is decided there, we don't know about that also. Meanwhile I went there to enquire whether the Member's Salary Bill would be introduced or not. At that point of time all these leaders and intellectuals were discussing about the condition of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes? Are we not the members of a party? You should hold

discussion in the matter of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and we are in favour of passing the Prasar Bharati Bill without any discussion.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : It has been notified that the Bill would be taken into consideration. That is the understanding I got. But in this particular case it is a peculiar legislation because the provisions of the original Act have to be validated. In the meanwhile there was an Ordinance; the Government did not do anything and allowed the Ordinance to lapse. Now they are trying to get the Bill passed without a discussion. I say that there should be a full-fledged discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order.

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore) : My point of order arises out of Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha which says that the business which has been set for the day cannot be altered. What Shri Ajit Jogi, Shri Chacko and Shri Hannan Mollah have pointed out is not a simple question of putting off the Discussion under Rule 193, which must have been taken up, which Lalu ji says that intellectuals were discussing. It is a very sad commentary that the discussion about the most weaker sections of the society, the people who have been exploited has been treated so shabbily by this Government.

If this agenda was to be altered the hon. Members should have been taken into confidence. And you, as the Chairman, are duty bound. You cannot allow this thing to happen because it is a procedural matter and you have to guide the procedure of this House. You should have announced in the House that this has been altered with the permission of the Speaker. That has not been done. Therefore, the hon. Members have raised this question. It is not because they want to stall the proceedings. We have to proceed according to the rules. Kindly regulate the proceedings in a manner that an impression does not go out to the country that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are treated shabbily. Kindly give your ruling.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Buta Singh, based on the decision of the BAC the Speaker has himself made this observation and announced it. The Mover of the Discussion under Rule 193 was on the BAC.

Now Shrimati Sushma Swaraj.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Chairman Sir, I am very much thankful to Mulayam Singh ji and Lalu ji who have moved this motion for passing this Bill without discussion based on the argument that this Bill has been passed unanimously by both the Houses. It has to be decided by the House and your goodself. If this Bill has to be passed without discussion then I would move a motion directly to pass this Bill without discussion. Voting should be conducted

[Shrimati Sushma Swaraj]

to get it passed. If you want to hold a discussion then also I am ready to take part in the discussion. Kurein ji was saying that two hours have been allotted for it. Now if you want the discussion may be conducted for two, four or eight hours. I would be present in the House throughout and I am ready to answer each and every question asked by you. If it is to be passed after discussion then I would like to lend my ears first and then give the reply, if it is to be passed without discussion ... *(Interruptions)*, Our colleagues from Congress and Shri Rajo Singh ji are saying that it should be passed without discussion.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : From this side, please do not make noise.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Sir, a lot of discussion have taken place both in the House and outside the House about the Women and the Women Reservation Bill. The people have shown lot of sympathy. The hon. Minister is also a women. She is going all around with a request to get it passed without discussion... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Such a serious matter should not be taken in this way... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Radhakrishnan, if you want to speak, I will give you a chance.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Radhakrishnan, I have given the floor to Shri Chacko.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Madam, if you want to speak, I will give you a chance. The Business Advisory Committee has decided about the time and other things.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Sir, if the discussion is to take place, then please fix up the time. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sir, I have one request. The hon. Minister is very kind enough to sit even for four hours or six hours. She is not bothered about the Committee's decision. This being such an important matter, I will come to the importance of it which has necessitated the discussion at this point of time. So, in that kind of a situation, I hope the suggestions made by Shri Pathak and other hon. Members may not be insisted upon because this House is basically meant for discussion. The hon. Minister is well prepared to reply any questions. That is what she has said.

Sir, there are many questions which went unanswered for the last so many days. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Business Advisory Committee has recommended for two hours. If you want to speak, you can speak.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : If you are getting it passed without discussion then do so, if the discussion is to be conducted then I would like to submit while moving as to what about the Bill is ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister is on his legs.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Madam, you yourself have agreed for a discussion. So, kindly show patience. Already I have started. Hon. Chairman has called my name, so I am on my legs... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Then let me move the Motion... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Chacko, please sit down.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Sir, there is a proposal before the House that this Bill should be passed without discussion. You have to take the sense of the House and then act accordingly. We are going to the same position. That is wrong.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : I have already moved the Motion.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : Sir, the Business Advisory Committee has fixed two hours for this Bill. Now the Minister has moved the Motion and you have called Shri Chacko to initiate the debate ... *(Interruptions)*

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No, no.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED (Anantnag) : I am only asking him whether we are going to sit here. Before I say anything, do not jump to any conclusion. What I am asking is whether we are going to sit. That is the only thing I am asking.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : Sir, you will have to take the sense of the House. There is a majority opinion in the House that there shall not be any discussion on this Bill and that without discussion this Bill should be passed. That is the majority opinion in the House. So, you will have to take the sense of the House ... *(Interruptions)* You may please take the sense of the House ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Jaipal Reddy.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have given chance to Shri Jaipal Reddy. Please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahabubnagar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, majority comes into play when it comes to voting; majority cannot be invoked with a view to blocking discussion. So, you please go ahead with the discussion. The Government and those who vote for the Bill will be judged at the bar of history, but then we would not like to go ahead on record without submissions.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sir I will go by the sense of the House, but the sense of the House is not the majority decision. Sense of the House means, the opinion of the House. Majority of the Members feeling one way is not the sense of the House. So, kindly see that it is a unanimous decision of the House.... (*Interruptions*) Sir, the change which has been suggested is even crossing the decision of the BAC. The BAC has decided two hours for the discussion. So, any change is not even according to the BAC. The Minister has agreed for a discussion ... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I humbly submit that there have been precedents ... (*Interruptions*). I am speaking only to help you. Sir, there have been precedents in this House where suggestions have been made to pass a Bill without discussion. There is no harm in doing that ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : How can you say that? Such an important Bill is being discussed ... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Please do not do like that. Let me complete first.

Sir, because there were interruptions, so I am repeating. There had been suggestions in the House for passing the Bill without discussion ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Dhananjaya Kumar, why do you interrupt him?

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Do not suppress discussion. It is very unfortunate, Sir. Let me have my say ... (*Interruptions*)

I am saying that there is no harm in that suggestion. But when such suggestions are given, there was no occasion in this House when those suggestions were passed by majority; those suggestions were accepted if there was a complete unanimity. Even if one Member objects and says that he wants a discussion, the discussion has to be allowed because consensus means unanimity and not majority.

Now, let me come back to this issue. There is nothing to discuss about this. It is already announced that discussion for two hours will be there. After allowing the discussion, all those who want to oppose or support the Bill, let them have

their say. After two hours, the House may be extended sufficiently for one and a half hours or two hours or whatever may be the period. After discussion, this Bill may be passed. This is all I want to say. ... (*Interruptions*) Even if one Member objects, they cannot do that. What do they want? They want to pass the Bill without discussion. What is this?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMESH CHANDRA DWIVEDI (Banda) : It has been discussed earlier.

[*English*]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Shrimati Sushma Swaraj came to the BAC and requested that this Bill should be allowed to be discussed and passed. She gave an assurance on the basis of which we all agreed that this Bill may be brought, discussed, and passed. If today they take a decision that the Bill should not be discussed, we will boycott. There is no other way, and they can do anything.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Sir, the suggestion not to discuss the Bill and to pass the Bill without discussion came from important leaders like Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and Shri Lalu Prasad. That is why, the point came when she responded saying that if they all agreed, the Bill could be passed without discussion. Otherwise, she said that she would first have her introductory speech and then the Bill could be discussed. We are prepared for the discussion. But when we say take the sense of the House, it does not necessarily mean unanimity.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : It would have been passed by now.

[*English*]

SHRI RAM NAIK : That is what I also wanted to say. If a section of the House wants to discuss it, we have no objection in discussing it. You may take the sense of the House and decide. We have no objection. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will go by discussion. The hon. Minister will first move the Bill.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I had introduced the Prasar Bharati Bill during the last part of this session. It has been moved for consideration by the House today. While moving the Bill, I would like to say a few words because several misconceptions have been and

[Shrimati Sushma Swara]

are being spread about it. Before having any discussion on the Bill I would like to say a few words about the background of this Bill so that a proper discussion can be held in the House in the light of that background.

As Mulayam Singh Ji has said and everyone knows that it is not a new Bill. This Bill was passed by both the Houses unanimously after detailed discussion in 1990 but it could not be notified even after 7 years. When our Government came to power in 1996 and I was entrusted with the responsibility of Information and Broadcasting Ministry, while enumerating my priorities, I had made it clear to notify the Prasar Bharati Bill but that Government fell after 13 days and I could not notify it.

19.00 hrs.

Later on Shri C.M. Ibrahim became the Information and Broadcasting Minister in Devegowda Ji's Government, even then this Bill could not be notified. When Shri Jaipal Reddy became Minister in the Gujral Government, he notified this Bill fulfilling his old commitment as he used to be a signatory on the memoranda submitted by the hon. Members of Parliament for notification of this Bill. Today, Shri Jaipal Reddy is present here in the House and he is witness to the fact that when this Bill was notified, I was in the opposition and also the spokesperson of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Being in the opposition and spokesperson of the B.J.P., I has appreciated and had also extended my heartfelt congratulations to him. One lady correspondent, while interviewing me, had gone to the extent of saying that it appeared I was speaking from the treasury bench and was more glad than the hon. Minister himself to which, I had responded that according autonomy to the media was our commitment and I myself wanted to fulfill it but for certain reasons I could not do so. Since my colleague Shri Jaipal Reddy Ji had notified this Bill therefore today he deserves all appreciation. Though I am part of the Government now yet I appreciate him. I am sorry to state that Shri Jaipal Reddy had notified this Bill in 1990 but when the time came to implement this Bill he brought an ordinance amending it's vital provisions.

I would like to submit here that of course we wanted to give autonomy to the media but not freedom. It is because of this reason that when this Bill was moved in 1990, amendments to this Bill were brought by the Congress and were accepted by the C.P.I., C.P.M. and the B.J.P. This Bill was passed during the V.P. Singh's Government and Shri P. Upendra was the Information and Broadcasting Minister then. Such provisions were made in this Bill through the amendments to fill the dual purpose that while maintaining full autonomy the Prasar Bharati should also remain responsible and accountable to the Parliament and the nation as well. It was provided that there would be a Committee of 22 Members comprising 15 Members from the Lok Sabha and seven Members from Rajya Sabha. This Committee would look into and review whether the purpose for which this Bill was brought is being fulfilled by the Prasar Bharati or not. This amendment has been brought with a view to

make the Prasar Bharati accountable to the Parliament. There was one more provision in that Bill that a Broadcasting Council should be there.

Often, you hear both in side and outside the House that a particular programme has many obscene and violent scenes or it depicts unnecessary sex and there are some programmes or advertisements which have a bad effect on the minds of the children of tender age. Keeping in view, its accountability towards the nation a provision for Broadcasting Council was made comprising two Members from the Lok Sabha, two from the Rajya Sabha and ten eminent persons from various fields. It would be a forum for the children. The people would be able to approach this Broadcasting Council to complain that particular programme is not upto the mark and it should be banned. The Broadcasting Council would take a decision by collective wisdom so that the obscenity or violence can be banned.

Sir, they have abolished the Parliamentary Committee and the Broadcasting Council both. There was a provision in the Act of 1990 that the maximum age limit for the C.E.O. would be 62 years.

At that time there were also such proposals that the age limit should be 58 years and this was proposed by none other than Mr. Chidambaram, but age limit of 62 year was fixed. In every corporation the age limit is always fixed for the constitutional functionaries but they removed that age limit by the ordinance, it was not raised but removed completely, it means you can appoint an executive officer of any age, whether he/she is 70-80 or 90 years old.

Sir, there was a provision in the 1990 Act that the members of the Board would be appointed by rotation as it is being done in the Rajya Sabha so that the continuity could be sustained with the changes. After every two years two members would be replaced by the fresh ones and four previous members would remain so that the modern trend and the continuity of the old thing could be sustained.

They have abolished it also by this ordinance. Mr. Chairman, Sir, there was a provision in that Act, as the property worth crores of rupees was being transferred to the Prasar Bharati, from the Government, that there would be a full time Member (Finance), who would see the financial aspects of all things. They have abolished his full-time membership also. They have kept him only in the capacity of Director and abolished the post of full time Member (Finance).

Mr. Chairman, Sir, 40 thousand Government Employees were being transferred to Prasar Bharati and that was a transition period. Whenever such number of employees are transferred from one department to another, it creates a lot of problems in regard to salary, emoluments, grades and their cadre etc. therefore there was a provision of a full time Member (Finance), but they have abolished that also. Why they have taken this decision, only they can explain, but I have got an answer but I do not want to pre-empt the

discussion. If I give all the answers, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, who is quite disturbed since morning, would get more disturbed. Therefore, I would reply after this discussion comes to an end. But I have got the reply as to why this change took place.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, they have made 6 changes through the ordinance and I would also like to tell you that these ordinances were brought forward when the Parliament had been summoned. When Mr. Jaipal Reddy was in the opposition he had been opposing the ordinance and had been repeatedly demanding the government that the country should not be governed by the ordinances and specially when the Parliament is summoned. But Mr. Jaipal Reddy himself made all these changes through the ordinances being a Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

Mr. Chairman Sir, their government collapsed after that. Congress withdrew its support. That was the Care-taker Government and being a care taker government they re-promulgated the ordinance. But when this Government came to power and before that in our manifesto and afterwards in National Agenda we clearly mentioned that we would restore the accountability of the Prasar Bharati, bring the old Act and we would allow this ordinance to lapse. Therefore as this question arises many times that it is a hidden agenda of the government, Mr. Chairman Sir, I want to say on the floor of this august House that this is a written agenda, an open agenda. We had promised the people of this country that we would restore the accountability of the Prasar Bharati and we would allow this ordinance to lapse and the old Act of the Prasar Bharati would be brought back.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I have been entrusted responsibility of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting again and the commitment made by us under the National Agenda of Governance has been fulfilled by allowing the ordinance to lapse. Just now Mr. Radhakrishnan Ji was saying that we allowed the ordinance to lapse, as per our decision, taken under our National Agenda, we therefore allowed the ordinance to lapse. When this ordinance got lapsed a question arose as to whether the old Act got automatically revived. I sought legal opinion in this regard. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to share this point with the House that I received two legal opinions. The first opinion was that the Act has got revived right after the ordinance got lapsed and you need not do anything else. You can go ahead under the old Act. But the second opinion was that the Act has got revived but there is ambiguity about some actions of enduring nature taken under that Act. Therefore, it would be better if the Act is re-enacted and thereby it would become clear that the intention of the Government is to bring back this Act.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had both the alternatives and perhaps the easier alternative was to accept the first one and go ahead right after the ordinance got lapsed but I did not choose the first option.

When I say that the Government intends to re-enact, we will express our intention again and we will not go ahead

without enacting this Act. I had two options for the second measure which I have adopted, one option was to issue an ordinance which was chosen by Shri Jaipal Reddy. The government could also promulgate an ordinance. This is same as a Bill and there is a provision of ordinance in the constitution. I could also promulgate the ordinance by taking the second option but I did not like to opt for that. I thought why I should not go before the House, why I should not present my case there, why I should not take the House into confidence and take the consent of whole House. I did not adopt the course of promulgation of an ordinance. I brought the bill and as soon as the session commenced, I introduced it. Previously they did not allow us to introduce the Bill when this session commenced and as soon as the finance business was over and Railway budget and general budget were passed, I desired that this bill should be introduced. I got this Bill listed on 21st so that it may be introduced and discussed in the House. But you saw the ruckus and a lot of hurdles were created. I brought the Bill again by requesting the Speaker. Even today I requested Shri Chakko Ji that I have brought the Bill. In my motion nowhere I have said that Bill be passed without discussion. Such proposal came from the opposition. Mulayam Ji and Lalu Ji felt if the Bill is passed by both the Houses there is no need to have a discussion on it again. While responding on that I said that if the whole House wants that the Bill be passed without discussion, then it can be passed otherwise I am ready for the discussion.

I had said in one sentence earlier that the autonomy, with some restrictions should be given. Today, eight months have passed since the Prasar Bharati came into effect. As many times as the question regarding Prasar Bharati are admitted M.P.'s get agitated while asking question and a large number of complaints are made. I regret to say that Prasar Bharati is of the thinking that if the complaints are received from all quarters it shows that the government is impartial. But it is a negative approach. If nobody has any complaints, it does not show impartiality. If all the people have complaints then it shows arbitrariness, not impartiality. I would like to assure my colleagues that this Bill is an important step to redress all those complaints. If there is no accountability, it not only brings unrestrained freedom but also gives way to arbitrariness and some times leads to autocracy. I am talking of system only wherein the principle of accountability is very important whoever the person might be. If there is absence of accountability, even the best person becomes autocrat. But the principle of accountability makes one sober, impartial and responsible. Therefore, I would like to say that all the ambiguities which have remained in this Bill should be removed once for all. The principle of accountability should be followed again. The Broadcasting Council should be restored. The age limit for the C.E.O. should be fixed again, the provision for the rotation of Board which is a symbol of continuity and change should be restored. Member (Finance) and Member (Personnel) should be made full time so that the Members of Parliament may see through Parliamentary Committee whether the purpose for which the Bill was introduced, is being fulfilled

[Shrimati Sushma Swaraj]

or not? Therefore, I would like to tell all my colleagues all these points regarding principle of accountability to restore it before the discussion starts.

I would like to make one more point which will come up for discussion. It should be discussed first. When I tried to make consensus on the Bill, I talked to all. I had a talk with Jaipal Reddy at his residence. I also had a talk with Floor Leaders of the Congress, CPI and C.P.M. I also had a talk with Comrade Indrajit who is sitting here. I talked to all and all were satisfied with my points. I cannot say what stand they would take. But one question has been raised that I am introducing the Bill just because I want to bring B.J.P. and R.S.S. people in this Board. In order to remove this apprehension I would like to say, that there is no room for this. The Act says that a Selection Committee would make all appointments of Prasar Bharati Board from ordinary member to Chairman and this Selection Committee has been constituted. There are three members in this Committee *i.e.* Chairman of Rajya Sabha or the Vice-President of India, Chairman of Press Council who is also neutral and one member nominated by the President. All these three persons make selections together. I want to make it clear that the Government is not asked to submit any panel. It is also not mandatory for the Committee to select the members out of the panel submitted by the Government, the Committee is free to ask for names from any quarter, it is free to name any member and may select any member.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to clear this doubt. This is baseless and is being propagated by some vested interests. As there was no way to scuttle this Bill, that is why this rumour is being spread that BJP and RSS people will be filled in this Board in order to terrorise people. It is totally baseless. Therefore, I would like to submit that I have cleared the initial doubts. I would make my effort to give reply to the questions to be raised during the discussion as far as I can. With these words I would like to request you to allow us to start discussion.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved:

'That the Bill to amend the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990, be taken into consideration.'

Shri Chacko to speak.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahabubnagar) : Shri Chacko, would you yield for a moment?

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Since, Shri Chacko has yielded, I call upon Shri Jaipal Reddy to speak.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : At the outset, I must thank Shri Chacko who has yielded his time.

This Government is destined to be short-lived, Mr. Chairman. But I am afraid, because of this Government,

some of my long-lasting friendship will be diluted, if not destroyed. I had this very unpleasant experience the other day when we discussed the Maruti Deal. My good old friend Shri Sikander Bakht lost his temper. I am afraid, I lost a bit of his friendly feelings towards me. I hope, my friendship with Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, which has been genuine and which has lasted for years, will survive this debate.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : It will not be diluted.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Before I go into the merits of the Bill, I must place on record one strong suspicion of ours. Our suspicion is that the law making process would be subverted ... (*Interruptions*) I never came in the way of the speech of Shrimati Sushma Swaraj. Our law-making process could be subverted through by-passing Rajya Sabha. But Shri Madan Lal Khurana, on behalf of the Government, assured me and assured all of us that the Bill would be taken to Rajya Sabha and if both Houses give approval to the Bill, who has the power to stop it.

This Bill was moved for consideration on the 6th June. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj conveniently slept over the Bill. She kept on having indefinite rounds of discussion without convincing many people. She pressed for it towards the end of the Session, that too, during the extended part of the Session. It only confirms our suspicion. I will be very happy if she can clarify categorically that this Bill will be taken to Rajya Sabha and not given effect to through the Ordinance which she has so strongly condemned.

Now what about this Bill? In my considered view, it is a reprehensible Bill. It seeks to remove one individual.

May I tell Sushma Ji, it is a black day in the Parliamentary history of our country?... (*Interruptions*) We have never said anything when she was making comments ... (*Interruptions*)

In the Parliamentary history of our country, never was a Bill brought to displace an individual. The only object of the Bill is to displace an individual. It smacks of nauseating personal vendetta. In my views, the prestige of Parliament is plummeting on account of this process. Prasar Bharati Board took its birth a few months back. This gracious lady is delivering the dead blow to Prasar Bharati Board even during its first few months. It is very unkind of her. She brought forward the Bill now. Her intention was never to bring forward the Bill. She was under the naive impression that mere allowing of the lapsing of Ordinance would automatically lead to nullification of appointment of the Chief Executive Officer. She is, of course, a trained lawyer. I am not one. When she discovered that her assumption was untenable, she began to assume a sanctimonious posture and say, 'Look, I have come to the House with a Bill. I have great respect for parliamentary forms and norms.'

Autonomy is a concept to which free India has been committed right from the beginning. It was in 1948, when Pandit Nehru speaking in the course of debates in the Constituent Assembly said that his ideal was, some day Akashvani -- then Doordarshan did not exist -- should

become as autonomous as BBC. That was the statement of the dreamer, the first Prime Minister, way back in 1948. We are in 1998 now. I do not have to go through the slogans raised during JP Movement or about the report submitted by Mr. Verghese.

She referred to 1990 Act. Does Madam want to be a Rip Van Winkle who went to sleep for 20 years and came back to find out as though nothing has happened. Eight years have passed by. The Constitution of India which was drafted by the best of brains in this country, whose drafting required deliberations extended over four years, has been amended more than 80 times. She thinks, that the legislative vision of 1990 would and should remain frozen.

Well, of course, I am not surprised. BJP's vision is frozen. It is frozen before the Christ was born. They are suffering from antediluvian vision. Therefore, I am not surprised.

When the Ordinance was promulgated on 29th October, 1997, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj was an able, active and articulate spokesperson of the BJP.

Did she say a word against the Ordinance? I challenge her to show a single piece of paper in the country in which she made a statement against the Ordinance. True, I am grateful to her for the vacuous verbal support she has extended to my measure during the early phase. But what happened to her current objections when the Ordinance was promulgated? How come no party in the country opposed it?

May I bring to your notice and through you to the notice of the House how the media reacted when the Ordinance was promulgated? I have some paper cutting. 'An act of freedom' was the description by 'The Outlook'; 'Welcome Ordinance' by 'India Today'; 'The Business Standard' said, 'All credit to Jaipal Reddy' and I am rather embarrassed; 'The Financial Express', 'An agenda for autonomy'; 'The Asian Age', 'Good news, at last'. These were all said about the Ordinance.

'An act of freedom', said 'The Pioneer'. Madam, that was the description by 'The Pioneer'! I am not reading out from the Hindi newspapers and magazines because I am not very fluent in that language. 'Some steps forward but media autonomy needs to be fiercely guarded' was the editorial of 'The Indian Express'. It thought that, the autonomy which I granted through the Ordinance, which according to her would lead to autocracy, was not adequate. The editorial of 'The Times of India' was: 'Towards autonomy'. May I read the first sentence? Madam, you seem to be suffering from selective amnesia like your party. The first sentence of that editorial says: 'The Information and Broadcasting Minister, Jaipal Reddy, has presented a welcome Diwali gift to the nation'. Madam, this was what 'The Times of India' said and you are the Minister of Information now.

'A Welcome Ordinance', said 'The Free Press Journal'; 'Prasar Course Correction' was what 'The Tribune' from Chandigarh said. This was all about the Ordinance only. These were the reactions not to the notification but to the Ordinance! 'Autonomy in fact' commented the first editorial of 'The Hindustan Times' on the 1st December. 'The Economic Times' commented: 'Well done Jaipal but do something more'. ... (*Interruptions*) The hard autonomy which I gave was too much for her to stomach.

The heading of the two-column editorial of 'The Hindu' was: 'Reddy for change'. If I read the editorial, of course, Madam will have to bury her head in the sand of shame ... (*Interruptions*) I have one difficulty. ... (*Interruptions*) It is said of ostrich that it hides its head in the sand. I am saying that Shrimati Sushma Swaraj is adopting an ostrich-like attitude.

That is what I mean when I said that.

The description of 'The Deccan Chronicle' was, 'The Media Unbound', recalling the famous phrase from 'Prometheus Unbound'. So, I can go on ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will give you a chance. Please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I must say in fairness to Shrimati Sushma Swaraj also that she did not oppose the Ordinance. I repeat it because it bears repetition. When this Board was constituted, our Government was entering its last days. But that was not nonetheless an illegitimate act because the Government wrote to the Chairman of the Committee on 1st of December, if I am not wrong about the date, to make the selection. And the selections made by the Committee under sub-Section 4 of Section 4 of the 1990 Act was final. No Government had a say in the matter. Now, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj has allowed the Ordinance to lapse. If she had the courage of her convictions, she would have placed the Ordinance on the Table of the House, moved official amendments to the Ordinance to bring it in line with today's changes, ground realities and spirit. She did not. Now, the Ordinance has lapsed. She has been deluding Members of Parliament into believing that if this Bill is passed which has now just now been moved there will be a Committee of 22 MPs. When the Ordinance lapsed, the Committee was revived. The Committee of 22 MPs was revived. How come you did not take any steps to constitute that Committee of 22 MPs?

Mr. Chairman, you may ask me as to why I did away with the Committee of MPs. Did I believe in autonomy sans accountability? No. When this Act was adopted in 1990, we did not have the system of Standing Committees. The system of Standing Committees came to be introduced when Shri Shivraj Patil was the Speaker. Now, this Prasar Bharati Board would be subject to scrutiny by the Consultative Committee, by the Standing Committee, by the Committee of 22 MPs and by the Broadcasting Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. You have already taken fifteen minutes.

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is why I have already asked Shri Jaipal Reddy to conclude.

... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : I do not want to interrupt you. But in the process of making your comments, you have belittled the Standing Committees and the Consultative Committees. It was not your intention; but an impression has been created – from your speech – that you are not valuing these Committees.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : That impression is unfounded.

Nitish Sengupta Committee which was constituted after this Bill was passed, had recommended the abolition of the Committee of 22 MPs in view of the fact that the system of Standing Committee had come into being. It had also recommended the abolition of Broadcasting Council and replacement of the Broadcasting Council by a single member judicial ombudsman.

So, these changes were made, keeping these things in view ... (Interruptions) I can put up with Shri Lalu Prasad. He is known to me and I am known to him. There is no problem. He can comment. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Madhepura) : Mr. Chairman Sir, we are sitting here. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapur) : Why are you speaking then? Why are you doing this? ... (Interruptions) Again, you are provoking him. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Why are you feeling uncomfortable? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : What uncomferts you? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : We were just sitting. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I have yielded to him. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Why are you speaking like this? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Because I cannot speak like you... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wind up.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I shall talk while sitting. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : You should see as to who is angry and who is hungry.... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, this Committee of 22 MPs was not dispensed with without proper background nor was the Broadcasting Council dispensed with without proper background. Earlier to the Ordinance, we had referred a Broadcasting Authority Bill to the Joint Select Committee. Some powers of this Broadcasting Council were to be transferred to the Broadcasting Authority. That was part of the reason why the Broadcasting Council was dispensed with.

Now, when this Board was constituted, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj made a comment as a spokesman. She called it 'Politburo'. I am only bringing her comments on record. She says now that appointments are made by the High-Powered Committee. This was her comment on the appointments made by the High-Powered Committee on which she wants us to rely now.

Another spokesman of the BJP called it 'Prachara Bharti', that means, 'propaganda'. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wind up.

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Time recommended by the BAC for this was only two hours. There are so many other hon. Members who want to speak.

I have given you a lot of time; Shri Jaipal Reddy, now you may wind up since there are many other hon. Members to speak.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Sir, he has already taken a lot of time; he should wind up.... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Please understand that someone else is controlling the House. Who are you to control the House?... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Chacko, please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : My humble request to you all is not to waste time.

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Jaipal Reddy, please conclude.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, after the Prasar Bharati Board was constituted, the BJP alleged that Prasar Bharati Board was working in favour of the Congress Party. The Congress Party and the United Front also alleged that— Shri A.B. Bardhan made a statement on behalf of the UF— Prasar Bharati was working in favour of the BJP. But nobody alleged that Prasar Bharati was working in favour of the United Front ... (Interruptions) No... (Interruptions) During election time, the time is allotted by the Election Commission and not by the Prasar Bharati... (Interruptions) Shrimati Sushma Swaraj says that the Government does not have any power. Government has the power to call for any information from the Prasar Bharati. Government has the power to call for any information from the Prasar Bharati. Government has the power to issue policy directives. Government has a lot of power. She was pretending as though the Government did not have any power at all. She knows it. It is very difficult to enlighten the enlightened. So, my point is that, we cannot simply go back to 1990 in 1998. You refer the Ordinance and the Bill either to the Standing Committee of Parliament or to the Select Committee. Let one of the two Committees consider the matter *in extenso*. If we get this Bill passed, it will be a bad precedent and I think Shrimati Sushma Swaraj would like to be known as a supporter of autonomy. I am afraid that she will go down in history as an enemy of autonomy of the media.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : I am standing before this House to oppose the Bill presented by Shrimati Sushma Swaraj. Sir, intolerance was shown by the ruling party ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Fatma, please do not disturb.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga): Mr. Chairman Sir, My name is Fatmi and not Fatma ... (Interruptions). If I am called Fatma, I will have to sit with Smt. Sushma Ji, ... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : What a heavy Fatma ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : I thank you for your intervention also which helped to a great extent for facilitating a discussion on this important Bill today in this House. Whatever was my objection or opposition to the style of functioning of the BJP, I was under the impression till this evening that at least the senior Members of the party would

welcome a Parliamentary debate. I was astonished to watch today that the whole ruling party was reluctant even to discuss a Bill of a serious magnitude ... (Interruptions) Yes, it is a fact. We have seen the impatience which was shown by your party Members half-an-hour before in this House. You were all watching... (Interruptions) You cannot simply wish it away. This is something which happened in this House just 40 minutes before. You just cannot wish it away. I am not saying that Shri Ram Naik or Shri Khanduri or somebody is not in favour of discussion. I am talking about the impatience which was shown by this party and that is the reason for which I am opposing this Bill... (Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : You people showed your impatience and not the Members from our side ... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Try to understand, my dear friend. Why do you disturb everybody like this?

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (Garhwal) : Shri Chacko, would you yield for a while?

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Yes.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : I just want to clarify one point. Members from our side were reacting to a proposal. But as far as the question of interest in this debate is concerned, you can see the number of Members on your side and the number on this side ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Chacko, please come to the subject.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : I am coming to that. This is about the Bill only and not anything else. After a lot of dillydallying, they have now finally come before this House. What would have happened, had the House adjourned yesterday according to the original schedule? This Session was called up to the 29th of this month. This is the extended period in which she has brought forward the Bill. They should not say about their commitment to the Bill. We know how the Government is functioning. They have issued a whip. That is why most of the Members, who are least interested in the discussion, are sitting behind you ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : That is not proper ... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : At least do not quarrel over my opinion... (Interruptions) kindly allow me ... (Interruptions) Why can you not face that criticism? It is a directive from the leadership of the party. ... (Interruptions) I am not speaking anything against him. I know that he is interested. ... (Interruptions) I am not speaking anything against him but the signal which is going from the leadership. The Members were raising their hands and saying, "No discussion; no discussion. Pass the Bill".

[Shri P.C. Chacko]

What is there in the Bill?... (*Interruptions*) I am happy to say that whatever is the final outcome of this discussion, whatever is the final decision after the voting and whatever is the final decision of this House today, I feel proud to stand along with Shri Jaipal Reddy. I support this draconian legislation. It is going to become one of the blackest legislations passed by the Parliament of India for the history to come.

What is the reason for this concern? Shri Jaipal Reddy has already mentioned about it. I do not know a single Member on the Prasar Bharati Board. I do not know the Chief Executive. I do not know any of the Directors. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, a very notable Member of the ruling party and a very efficient Minister of this Government, has brought forward this Bill. What for? It is only to tame the Chief Executive of the Prasar Bharati. Is the Government not ashamed of this? Is this powerful Government, who claim that they have a mandate of the people, not ashamed that this piece of legislation has been brought to handcuff one individual? Is this the purpose of this august House? I was finding the people of India betting for every minute and every second. They are losing this opportunity. In this House, they have the majority. They want to see that somebody is controlled and their vanity is satisfied. If that is the case, the despotic attitude behind this Bill is something which I will oppose with all my voice even if it is passed by this House.

Here some points have been framed by the hon. Member. There is nothing new. Not a word is new in what Shrimati Swaraj has said other than what has already been reported in the last few days in her Press Conferences, in her meetings and in her briefings.

What are the additional things? The primary Bill was originally passed. I have been going through the debate of the House. Some of the very prominent Members of the then Opposition, that is, from Shrimati Sushma Swaraj's party, were advocating autonomy. I still remember about the ruling party. When the seat changes in this House, it changes the opinion of some of the Members. She must go through the debate which took place in 1990. What was talked about by some of the stalwarts of her party? Some of them are here today as Members of this House. They were raising an accusing finger against the Congress Party. They started saying that the media was being controlled by the Congress Party – the then ruling party. Then, probably, they never thought that they would go to that side. But today, fortunately or unfortunately, whether they have a majority or a made-up majority, they have managed to be there. Then, their opinion is changed. They are claiming to be the biggest party.

Here, autonomy is a concept. I agree with Shri Jaipal Reddy that autonomy is a concept. There are some elements which just cannot digest the concept of autonomy. So, here I come to the point of autonomy whether it is necessary or not. Here, some hon. Members said that the

Parliamentary supervision is only for autonomy. There would be a 22-Member Parliamentary Committee to oversee the functions of the Prasar Bharati. This morning what happened in this House? What is happening in this House? I have the least disregard or disrespect for the authority and supremacy of this House. But if different Members representing different parties constituting the Board of the Prasar Bharati or the Control Committee of the Prasar Bharati are going to control, what will be the shape of things in Prasar Bharati?

The potential of the electronic media has gone up many times. This electronic media in this country now is going to be controlled by a group of Parliamentarians. Basically, the duty of the Parliamentarians is not to become a part of the Executive. I differ on this... (*Interruptions*) I am not yielding. If we are asked to work as a watchdog in a Parliamentary Committee, it does not mean that we become a part of the Executive. What is the work assigned to a Parliamentary Committee? The job of the Executive is not the job of the Parliamentarians. The fact that the Parliamentarians are the watchdog of democracy does not mean that they become a part of the Executive. Here the Government wants to execute the function of a Committee. The Parliamentary Committee was to oversee the functions and decide on what should be there and what should not be there. It was to decide on the quality.

Sir, finally, the cat is out of the BJP's bag. What is the quality of the programme? What is the objectionable part in the quality of the programmes? I would like to inform the hon. Minister that the world is changing. The signals in the electronic media are received from the outer space and it is beamed through various channels in India. The Government cannot stop it. The Government is not going to control anything. How is the Government proposing to control the channels, which are being beamed in India, by this Bill? What are the objectionable programmes shown on the Doordarshan, which are going to be controlled by this Bill? This Bill is not going to have even the weight of a paper. A revolution is taking place in the electronic media. People are free to receive any channel and see any programme. In this scenario, what kind of a quality control Committee is the Government going to constitute? This is being used as a medium of propaganda.

Sir, I would like to question the intention of bringing this Bill now. As has been referred to by Shri Jaipal Reddy, originally this Bill was scheduled for a date 20 days before than this particular date. The hon. Minister was then not insisting on this Bill. She was not raising this issue in the Business Advisory Committee. The Government then was not at all interested in taking up this Bill on a priority basis. It is because, lobbying for this was going on here. It was very interesting to see that. What was happening in the last 25 days? The hon. Minister was working overtime to convince the various Party leaders in the lobby; in the Party offices. She was putting in too much labour. I do not know if she has got the right intentions. If the BJP believed that this was the right issue, then they could have got it passed in the Parliament itself. Why had the Minister then to go to

the Party offices and convince people? The study classes by the hon. Minister were not necessary for the political Parties to understand the reality behind this? ... (Interruptions)

Sir, I know the BJP has got many friends and they are relying too much on them. Shri Ram Naik is very amusingly relying on the support of his new friends. I am very happy about it. Let them have the support. But the problem is that we have seen the kind of conversation that had taken place in the last many days. If the Government had the courage and conviction, then they need not have gone in for this kind of a brokery. The Government should have come before this august House, representing the people of India, and convinced us about the necessity of this Bill.

Sir, probably this is being replaced because of the stipulations of retirement of one-third of the Members of the 22-Member Parliamentary Committee and the Council which were to decide on the quality, and four to five other provisions which were amended in the Ordinance. If it was a Bill of standing, then what was the role of this Government, or the other Ministers or of the Party in passing the Bill in 1990? Those who opposed the Bill at that point of time are now for a personal vendetta; purely for personal inconvenience, and purely for satisfying their personal interest are using this Parliament to change and amend the fate and destiny of this country.

Sir, the Governments are changing. We all know that no more we can think that one Party is always going to be the supreme Party in this country. The people are supreme in this country. They sometime order us to sit in the Treasury Benches; and it is they again who command us to sit in the opposition. We know that with the change in Governments, the Parties in power also change. But the freedom of the electronic media should not be affected by this. It is because we know the kind of influence they wield on the people. Whatever the Government might do, the people are watching them. When this Government came to power, all the vital portfolios were adulterated and infiltrated by the ideologies of this Government. Who does not know all these things?

The Delhi Government one day came out with an order banning the school girls wearing skirts and blouses and instead prescribing a uniform for them. Next day when there was a protest, the Government came out with the withdrawal of the order. What is happening in the country? Be it Maharashtra or any other State ruled by the BJP, one-by-one its authoritarian approach is coming out openly. Wherever the BJP can have its say, can get on with the majority, it is always resorting to suppressive measures. The Government wants to get away with the Bill; People have invested about Rs. 50,000 crore in this electronic media; Akashvani and Doordarshan. It is not a small sum. It is the money of the people. I fully agree that this money of the people should not be misused by any group of people. Madam, you are not opposing either Shri Gill or the present Directors. I think the Government's attempt is to cut the throat of autonomy, the very basic concept of autonomy.

Perhaps you, Madam, did not know that your party is against giving autonomy to media. This is what the Government is going to do. Madam, you will have to face the criticism of the people. I am sure, this is going to happen.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wind up. We have already taken two hours.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : The other day there was an interesting development in the House. A very interested question was raised by one of the Members from the BJP. I should not say that it was a sponsored question because that would amount to disrespecting the Member. That question was very convenient to Shrimati Sushma Swaraj. The Minister was very happy with the question as though she was waiting for a Member from BJP itself to ask it. She said, " I am helpless. You help me to control them. They are not doing things properly. So, you help me to control them". These sort of things have been going on in the House for last so many days. This is not the way to get the things done. I think the Minister does not have the experience but we do have. We have sympathy for the Minister. This is not the way the Government should carry out its business everyday. The Government is breaking the democratic set up of this country in a piecemeal manner. The Government is cutting at the throat of the basic concept of autonomy.

This Bill is the product of the negative attitude of Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, the personal vendetta of the Minister and the narrow approach of the BJP towards the concept of giving autonomy to the electronic media. I oppose this move and would request the Government – I know the Minister is generous to stand any criticism – to withdraw it. If the intention of the Bill is good, then what is wrong in referring it to the Standing Committee? We would like to examine it. On the contrary, the hon. Minister wanted to pass the Bill without discussion. Most of the Bills are referred to the Standing Committees. It is good. Posterity will say that the Government should have referred this Bill to the Standing Committee. My humble submission to the hon. Minister is, not to rely on the temporary support of anybody and everybody. The Minister may see to it that this Bill is referred to the Standing Committee. This is the will of the majority. This is the sense of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Madhepura) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I mentioned earlier, this Prasar Bharati Bill has already been passed in both the Houses. If we do not have faith in both the Houses then, it is a fraud on the country? Do not clap like a juggler's boy... (Interruptions) You are fortunate enough that you are chairing the proceedings of the House. Shri Raju Babu, our enemy is sitting besides me ... (Interruptions) Since our colleagues belonging to both the Houses have passed it, there is no need to have any further discussion on it. We people, understood this fact. In fact, the basic thing is when Shri Reddy was Minister, I was in jail and I found that he got the Prasar Bharati Bill passed and brought the Ordinance immediately.

[Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav]

20.00 hrs.

I do not know who Mr. Gill is? I do not doubt any one's character and integrity. Perhaps, it was relating to age that one can serve as Chairman upto the age of 62 years. When Shri Gill came to know then, it was demanded that no age limit should be prescribed for the appointment of Chairman. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj would tell more about it as she knows better. I do not know as to what is going on in the country in the name of autonomy, we are giving up our rights. There was long Congress rule in the country and the news about us was never broadcast on All India Radio. It was government controlled body, therefore, things were suppressed. Radio and T.V. carried on false propaganda. We had demonstrated at the Doordarshan Kendra to telecast the truth. As I said that only one sided picture was given. I find that these days autonomy has become the buzz word but the image of the Members of Parliament and that of Government is being tarnished. The executive and the judiciary have to function in harmony but today this harmony is being disturbed due to lack of credibility in the name of autonomy. This is all because of the intellectuals. Delhi is the abode of national and international level intellectuals. It has to be seen as to how to keep them in good humour and where to adjust them. We politicians are only talking amongst ourselves and the R.S.S. People will occupy the position, there in Doordarshan. If the R.S.S. controlled station indulges in false propaganda then, the country will not tolerate it. We have seen the autonomy of the Election Commission. Our former Union Home Minister Shri Indrajit Gupta is sitting here in the House and I hold him in high esteem. When I was in jail, a T.V. set was installed in my cell, if charges are framed against any candidate for MLA or MP, this news should not come out and he should be disqualified. The autonomy of the Election Commission is misused in this manner. If 90 percent votes are cast in any polling station, the Election Commission orders repolling at that station. All the Collectors are made returning officers in Parliamentary elections and the Election Commission seizes all rights for four months and issues the order that there should be no transfer and no posting. Despite that the public elects us. MPs, Ministers and everybody are sitting here. Everybody knows what has been happening in the country in the name of autonomy. No minister, M.P. or a candidate can stay in the guest houses. The Bihar Niwas is situated in Delhi. If journalists accompany us during elections, it is ordered that no Press Conference should be held there. Then we went to the Tata's Guest House, we were not allowed to stay there also. Then somebody in the Election Commission made a call telling us that the guest house in which government money has been invested, we cannot stay there, then where should we stay? At that time Khurana Ji was not the Chief Minister so we could not stay in his house. All these things are happening in the name of autonomy. Should we arrange fodder for them here. What is our condition? In the name of CBI autonomy, Army was called, are these right things? Like Supreme Court, the Human Rights Commission has also been giving orders for making payment to the tune of three lakh rupees. Summons

and notices are being issued. And this is happening everywhere. If I were in power and I will be, very soon, I will abolish all sorts of autonomy. You should have power in your hands. If the Supreme power rests in Parliament, no Bill could be better than this. If we have doubts about the President and the Vice-President, as Sushma Ji has rightly said that there would be three persons in the Selection Committee. Today, they are in power and may be we might not be here. What I want to say that why are they having doubts about MPs? There is a provision. There should not be any discrimination against the members of both the houses. And likewise guidelines and functioning should also be same. Indecency should not be demonstrated. If somebody is violating the guidelines issued by the Government be it in a village, small village, the Parliament has a right to remove such person ... (*Interruptions*)

If we are in the ruling party, they cannot provide the members of the financial Committee. Indrajit Babu is the Chairman of the Election Reforms Committee ... (*Interruptions*) You know it. Members of Parliament of all the parties will be elected through single transferable vote to the M.P. control Board. Chacko Ji, I appreciate you, you should not feel irritated at what Jaipal Ji had said, we do not appreciate him. We are the enemies who are sitting on that side. What sort of economy they are talking about? Today they are in power, there may be another Government tomorrow. I want that the Government should run smoothly. You should not believe in T.V. or Radio news. In yesterday's 'The Jansatta' on the front page the newsitem is—"Laloo Yadav Gunde" they are humiliating us to this extent, still we are quiet. We are not speaking anything. There should be control over the electronic media. There should be Financial Control over it. There should be a knowledgeable person. You should also make the provision of reservation.

The same policy of reservation for SC, ST and OBC should also be in the services of the corporation as is applicable to Central Government Services. You should ensure that the people of these categories should get 50 per cent reservation and to ensure this an official of S.C. or OBC should also be present at the time of the new recruitment to these corporations. The corporations which are set up, Government's money is involved in them. Therefore, there must be reservation in them also.

Mr. Chairman, Sir we are totally against the autonomy. If people speak in the name of autonomy what can we do. Now the Bill has been introduced I had said in the beginning what we have to do in this, whether to pass it or not. It is already passed. We had to say that thing, so the anger of Jaipal Ji is natural. Jaipal Ji is our well-wisher. Many people opposed and used us in the Janata Dal. But Jaipal Ji used to speak in my favour. He had done many good works. But now he is helpless. He made Gill the C.E.O. What can we do ... (*Interruptions*) My point is against Gill Saheb. It is the supremacy of the Parliament that if any Member who does something wrong and diverts, then, the Parliament has the power to have a check on him. Therefore, this Bill is almost passed and we are speaking just because it has become

mandatory for the passing reference otherwise all the Bill brought by them against the public, and affecting the country, the backwards, the poor and the minorities would not be passed and sealed by us. This Bill stands passed and therefore a good seal should be put. Howsoever much Jaipal Ji speaks, this Bill should be passed with full support.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a very important issue is being discussed here today. Taking it in a lighter vein cannot avert the danger. The one who had the ability would understand its danger otherwise if taken casually there is no danger. Later on the people would remember about the danger.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I oppose this Bill as the previous speakers have told that the intention of the Government is not clear about it. Their way to bring it in extended time and then the effort to get it passed without discussion makes it clear that their intention is not clear. There is a rumour outside that after getting it passed in Lok Sabha it would not be got passed in Rajya Sabha and the time would be killed in any way. Later on it would be said that once Lok Sabha has passed then what is the need to get it passed in Rajya Sabha and in this way the ordinance would be issued, this is what is going on outside. The hon. Minister should make it clear as to whether it is their intention or not. My second point is that the Solicitor General has suggested that their intention would not bring any fruit with the coming back of the ordinance. The one whom you want to sack will not be sacked with the lapse of the ordinance. When the Solicitor General Shri Deepankar Gupta Ji suggested this, the hon. Minister Sushma Ji came to know that it would not be helpful in their intention. They have brought this Bill willingly at the last moment. This makes the intention of the Government clear.

Age has been mentioned in it. Is the age of the Chairman of Press Council fixed? Is the age of the Chairman of the Telecom Authority fixed? We feel that the age barrier is unnecessary. It is not good. The age barrier is being put to sack a particular person. It is unnecessary. The charges are being levelled by saying so. It is not good to defame him by saying so. Efforts have been made to remove him for political reasons. They are trying to remove someone without any reason. Therefore, this Bill has been brought at the end, to get it passed. This tentamounts to doubts at your intentions.

Sushma Ji has said that their own people would not be adjusted. The nominees of the President would be the nominees of the Government. You would make all efforts to bring your own people. Many points can come to the minds of the people. Likewise efforts have been made to overpower the I.C.C.R. The people who were adjusted there also creates doubt on their intentions. The provisions have been made on the basis of the recommendations of Shri Nitish Sen Gupta for the constitution of the Parliamentary Committee and Board. The Director there, does not get one hour to sit in his office. He sits in the house of the Minister for half day. After coming out from there, he goes

to the house of the Secretary. He remains busy in pleasing the members of the Committee. All of his time passes away in pleasing his bosses. That is why he cannot take right decision at right time. There is a need to take all the decisions immediately. Due to delay in taking decisions, the danger remains there. Nothing important has been said for constituting the Committee. It is the duty of the Parliament to control the economy but we have seen here that the demand of 7 lakhs and 14 thousands crore has been passed within three minutes. The Parliament does not have any control on it. These circumstances should be taken into consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you please conclude.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : It is an important discussion. If you want it to be concluded early then why the discussion on it was allowed... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is an important Bill. That is why, I have given chance to you. Shri Hannan Mollah, please hear me. It was the decision of the Business Advisory Committee. The time allotted for this Bill is two hours. I want to distribute this time to all the parties.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : How much time is given to our party? Keeping that in mind, I am only making some points. Here, we do not want to discuss it. We are not discussing. Only we are raising some clarifications to which the Minister will reply ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you want to speak for three hours, I will allow you but, only two hours' time is available. I want to distribute this time to all the parties. Then you think of how much time you will get.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : I am not responsible for that. Who wasted the time of the House? ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

This Bill has been brought to remove just one person. There is no other intention behind this Bill. The time of the House is being wasted to remove just one person. It is like belittling the dignity of the House. Besides, I would like to submit that some people do not want autonomy, which is a feudal mentality. They want to run it by 10 persons. They are not ready to listen to others. Today, going against autonomy would be against the interest of the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you know that there is unity in diversity in our country since there is a federal system. If all the States cannot be given representation in this Board then at least two or three States should be given representation. Each State should be given representation by rotation. It would help each State to give suggestion. If the regional board is constituted, it would be able to participate in that. Such sort of regional boards could help in development.

[Shri Hannah Mollah]

Keeping in view the shortcomings mentioned by Shri Reddy in this Bill, you are requested to take back this Bill in this shape or refer it to the select Committee. I do not agree to all the points. Therefore, opposing this Bill, I conclude.

SHRI SURENDER SINGH (Bhiwani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Mr. Jaipal Reddy and one of my old friend Mr. P.C. Chacko had started their political career in the same year. Today their arguments pained me a lot. They have thoroughly gone through the editorials and news reports published in the Newspapers, but they were unable to convince us in the House that the steps taken by them were correct and in accordance with the laws and the sentiments of the people of India. He stated that the press would criticise the Minister for getting the Bill passed.

This Bill was passed in the year 1990. At that time I and Mr. Jaipal Reddy were the members of Rajya Sabha. If I am not wrong, he was repeatedly asking the Madam that when he issued the ordinance, whether she had given any reaction on it being the spokesperson of the BJP. The day, when this bill was passed unanimously in the Rajya Sabha, I was present there. Mr. Jaipal Reddy had not said a single word against this bill. This bill was passed unanimously in the Lok Sabha too. Today, Mr. Reddy says that if this bill is got passed, and the ordinance got ineffective the press would be losing its autonomy.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in democracy, both the Houses of Parliament are supreme. Can the government move a bill to remove one person. I want to say one thing after looking at the bill and the ordinance that he got the old bill passed from both the Houses to appoint a particular person on the post of Chief Executive Officer. The bill, which had been passed unanimously by both the Houses of the largest Democracy of the world, and to which the President had given his assent and was notified and later on the ordinance had been issued after one and a half month.

[English]

...not to the tune of his satisfaction, but to the satisfaction of the person, who was going to get this job.

[Translation]

He would have read the entire bill.

[English]

I can presume. I have nothing against him.

[Translation]

He presumed after reading the entire bill that if there would be a Parliamentary Committee.

[English]

I will be responsible to them.

[Translation]

If this Broadcasting council would remain the danger would be looming large on me and not only this, they are giving Central assets worth Rs. 80,000 crore to a man and you are removing the independent financial member. You are going to give employment to 40,000 people, transfers are taking place and the member (personal) is not independent. What worse can be done to throttle democracy? Can Mr. P. C. Chacko forget that four days before Mr. P. Shivshankar had demanded in this House that Sonia Ji had organised a big programme, she visited the flood affected areas in Gujarat but that has not been telecast.

[English]

Do you expect under such circumstances, from the hon. Minister to reply on behalf of the person who does not bother about Parliament and the Government.

[Translation]

During last days an honourable member raised an issue that this programme is not being telecast on the television. My friend Mr. Chacko had referred to the electronic Media. Why the Doordarshan does not compete with those in the present circumstances? Because such people have got hold on it. The spirit of this bill came into existence in the year 1977, when the All India Radio used to be called the Congress Party. I was also the member of the same party and was the member of Legislative Assembly. The way this bill has been passed unanimously and turned into an ordinance and one person has been empowered in such a way that he can guillotine or use the money or employees, as he wished. Such kind of Dictatorship cannot be possible in any democracy. My opinion was that as the Attorney General or whosoever has given the opinion that there is a need to go to the Parliament, the ordinance would get lapsed on 6th May and the old bill would become an Act. There was no need for it. To pass the bill unanimously and to turn it into an ordinance for the sake of a single person is to throttle the democracy ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMCHANDRA BAINDA (Faridabad) : An enquiry should be conducted in this regard ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SURENDRA SINGH : With these words, I request my colleagues to pass this bill unanimously today itself.

[English]

SHRI R. MUTHIAH (Periyakulam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thought that I need not speak on this Bill since we insisted to have the Bill passed without any discussion. Since Shri Jaipal Reddy has said something, I also want to say something. What type of autonomy was there in those days in Loordarshan and Akashvani? On January 14, viz. on Pongal festival day of Tamil Nadu, Doordarshan Kendra, Madras had announced a special programme. On the same day, a leading private T.V., 'Sun T.V.', owned by the colleague of our Shri Jaipal Reddy, Shri Murasoli Maran's son, had

also announced a similar special programme on that T.V. Unfortunately, on the day when this special programme was fixed by both Sun TV and Doordarshan Kendra, from early morning, all the telephone lines of the Doordarshan Kendra, were jammed.

No programme had been televised on that day by the Doordarshan Kendras. They telecast some of the programmes of the Delhi Doordarshan Kendra. But no action had been taken for that sabotage and no complaint had been made with any police station on that day. They were afraid of the ruling party people in those days, so they did not make any complaint with the police station or with anyone else. After this Government took over charge on April 14, the New Year Day of Tamil Nadu, on the same lines as the Sun TV had announced a special programme, Doordarshan also announced a special programme. On January 14, all the telephone lines had been jammed and on April 14, they had cut away the cable of the lines leading to Doordarshan Kendra, and that too on the main road of Chennai, i.e., Mount Road. Even about that sabotage, the Doordarshan people never cared to make a complaint to any police station. After that, we asked them what action they had taken on January 14. Being afraid of these people, they never cared to prefer a complaint with the police station on January 14, and on April 14 also they did not care to prefer a complaint with the Sun TV people. After that only, we have known that in the name of autonomy, Shri Jaipal Reddy and his Colleagues have appointed some royal servants in the Doordarshan Kendras. Shri Reddy is pleading to continue with that scheme, to continue with those royal servants to be there and do favour to some of the private TVs, like Sun TV in Chennai. It is nothing but a benami feature of Sun TV and all such people are still working as royal servants of their old kings.

AN HON. MEMBER : Old masters.

SHRI R. MUTHIAH : I cannot say old masters because in the name of autonomy, how can these people be masters?

So, Sir, this type of autonomy is there and to correct it, the hon. Minister has come forward with the Bill. In the name of autonomy, we do not want these royal servants to continue in the Doordarshan Kendras and the Akashvani Kendras. They should be accountable to the Parliament in one way or the other. For that, this Bill is having some provisions and because of that, we support this Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Sir, we had extended the time of the House by two hours at 6.30 PM and now it is 8.30 PM. So, we can extend the time by 10-15 minutes more.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We can extend the time till this Prasar Bharati Bill is passed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I have risen to support this Bill. There are so many reasons to support the bill. There is a historic reason to support this Bill. When we were lodged in jail for twenty months during emergency, we used to listen to BBC news secretly in toilets and would pass on the correct news of the country to our colleagues lodged in jails with us under 'MISA' and 'DIR'. At that time the government claimed that the Akashvani was the medium to disseminate and propagate government's policies and we thought that the Akashvani was being run on public money and it should reflect people's news. We also alleged that it was not 'All India Radio' but 'All Indira Radio'. It got discredited and lost the people's faith at large. Therefore, there are historical reasons and a history of long struggle behind supporting this Bill. Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the National Front Government was formed in 1989, both Houses of Parliament had passed this Bill unanimously.

I would have appreciated if the Prasar Bharati Bill which has come in the form of an ordinance, would have been moved with the Action Taken Report delineating on its functioning and performance since its constitution ten months ago. Had all the details regarding its functioning and the objectives with which it was constituted, been before the government, then, a free and frank discussion could have been possible. But I am sorry to say that it has not yet been presented and several Hon'ble Members including Shri Jaipal Reddy and Shri Chacko Sahib were mentioning that this Bill has only been introduced targetting an individual. Hon'ble Members may recall the 10th Lok Sabha when the Parliament had called the Advocate General of India to ascertain as to what action could be taken against the Chief Election Commissioner. When an institution is degenerated by one individual, it is incumbent upon the Parliament to take cognizance of it. If this is an allegation that an individual is being targetted then, I do not find much substance in it. If an individual makes any attempts to destroy an institution which has got five thousand crore assets, an annual budget of 350 crores with far reaching impact on the society then, it is very improper and wrong to exempt it from accountability to Parliament in the name of accountability and also it is against spirit and tenets of democracy. This should not be allowed. This Bill seeks to reestablish accountability, therefore, I support this Bill.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to give some suggestions. Firstly, during the last ten months as many as 1700 employees have been ousted from Prasar Bharati and during this period not a single meeting of the Prasar Bharati Board has taken place. Its members have been humiliated and members stopped going to it. If it has to go like that then

[Shri Mohan Singh]

you will have to think over it. The BBC is an autonomous body but it also functions within a well defined policy framework. No institution, in the name of autonomy, can be allowed to go against the policy laid down by the constitution and if it goes, then who should monitor its functioning. It can just not be left with the government alone. However, I strongly feel that this responsibility should be entrusted to the Parliament. The governments would come and go, but the Parliament should be supreme in the parliamentary democracy. Therefore, whether the autonomous body is functioning within the laid down policy framework, should be entrusted to Parliament alone.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would urge you that 60 per cent of this job is carried out by the electronic media. It is the responsibility of the Prasar Bharati Board to preserve and protect the civilization, art, literature and education. I am sorry to say that we people concentrate our debate and discussion only on the news telecast by it.

The Parliament should be apprised as to how many people associated with literature, art and culture have been neglected during the last 10 months. It is quiet unfortunate to say that the artists, musicians and other connoisseurs associated with art and literature were given patronage even in the times of monarchy. But after the abolition of the princely states, the Akashvani took up this job to provide sustenance to the musicians and artists. Our Shahnai (Clairnet) maestro Shri Bismillah Khan who is the pride of the nation has been associated with Akashvani. Several such artists, musicians and literateurs are the products of the Akashvani. You are trying to finish it through media. We need to think over it and when we are going to pass it. We should decide on the policy framework and also determine as to how media should usher in a beginning in this regard.

I would like to say a few more things. The government should pay attention to the agitation being carried out by the announcers of the All India Radio. The government should also address the grievances of the employees of the Doordarshan. When the debate on electronic media is being carried out, we must cover the print media in it. The government should also pay attention to it... (*Interruptions*) I would take a minute to conclude my speech.

It is quite unfortunate to say that the print media has become the puppet in the hands of a few industrial houses. The Government of India allotted land to the industrial Houses on easy instalments for running print media. When that land's prices and the rent of the buildings constructed on that plot soared, they are leaving that plot and are seeking to acquire land on easy instalments and are constructing their houses on that plot. This needs to be thought over. Our print media supported the entry of MNCs in the Indian market. When the entry of foreign print media was discussed, they opposed it vehemently. Whether the newspapers and the reporters have ever thought as to when the Minimum wages Act would apply over them. The journalists are working on contract basis. The big media

houses are keeping the journalists on the contract basis. We need to adopt an integrated approach towards electronic media as well as print media in view of character of media. Then we people will behave as a matured and civilized society.

With these suggestions, I conclude my speech and support this Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Kurien, Please be brief and take only three minutes.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Sir, from our Party, we have given only two names, that is, the name of Shri P.C. Chacko and myself. If the Chair allows me, I will speak. Otherwise, I will not speak.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, he should be allowed to speak.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : So kind of you and thank you, Madam.

Sir, I will not take much of your time, but I may go beyond three minutes. However, I will try to be brief and to the point. I am not going to refer to any controversial issue. But I have certain concerns which I would like to express. I would like to know as to how the hon. Minister is going to address those concerns.

I am not against autonomy, as referred to in this Bill or in the previous Ordinance. There is no need for going into that because much has already been said about that. So, I am not going into that. But I would like to know what you are going to do in respect of what I call as 'cultural invasion' which is undermining our very basic tenets today.

As Shri P. C. Chacko has said these electronic beams can be bombarded from anywhere outside into our country and these are totally alien to our culture. The result is that our younger generation also become alien to our culture. There are a number of channels and all that. I do not know which one of them you can switch on and see with your family and children. I am very sorry to say that. There are lot of TV channels, CTV and all that. I have not allowed those to enter my house.

SHRI RAM NAIK : They are going into other houses also.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : That is what I am saying. I have not allowed those to enter my house because I know that if you switch on especially in the nights, what is being broadcast is nothing but vulgarity and obscenity and what not. I may have some difference with the hon. Minister on many things. I may have difference of opinion with the hon. Minister on this point also. But I am one who welcomed your statement when you became the Minister that you will have some control on this kind of media propaganda.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to request the members who have expressed their views that they should remain in the House to hear the reply.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Madam, Dinner may also be arranged.... (Interruptions)

[English]

Let me complete. Please do not disturb me. What can I do? They are giving running commentaries.

I would like to know how you would ensure and address to this concept which I have expressed whether this Bill has autonomy or Ordinance has autonomy. This is the first point I would like to know. How do you ensure that the programmes which are through the Doordarshan at least are those which will emanate and generate some kind of pride among our youths? Is there any way by which you can control these alien, vulgar, obscene media bombardment that is coming to this country? How do you ensure that? Please address to this question.

The second point which I would like to make is this. The hon. Minister said that she is one who does not want to bypass Parliament. She wants the Bill to come through Parliament. I welcome and I am happy that in the Business Advisory Committee also, this assurance was given that Parliament will not be bypassed and that the legislative process that has been set in motion today will be taken to its logical conclusion and that the Bill will be passed by Parliament only if it is passed in the Lok Sabha, then taken to Rajya Sabha and passed there also. So, it was assured to us that the process will be adopted and that no shortcut method will be adopted. Please ensure also, as you said that you want the Parliamentary process and that you do not want a shortcut method and, for that matter, you criticised your predecessor Shri S. Jaipal Reddy also.

Therefore, I hope she will stick to that assurance. I would also further like to clarify one point. We said that we may have differences of opinion in respect of the Bill but we would allow the Bill to be passed. So far, there were objections and all that. But we will allow that the Bill be passed. That is why, my dear friend Shri Khanduri, I have not issued a whip and ensured the presence of my Members. It is not that our Members are not interested. I did not issue a whip because I want to honour the commitment given to you. But let me see you also honour the commitment given to us.

The third point which I would like to make is that much has been said about the hon. Minister Shrimati Sushma Swaraj's discussion with the opposition parties. I have also had the privilege of having a discussion with Shrimati Sushma Swaraj. Some offer was made. That was about the constitution of the Selection Committee. I thought that she would move an amendment to the Bill with regard to the constitution of the Selection Committee. I do not know

whether she has gone back on that offer. About the offer, I need not spell out here. Madam, you yourself know what is the offer to enlarging the Selection Committee ... (Interruptions) Please have some patience. This is such an important Bill. If I am not making a sense, then I sit down ... (Interruptions) They should know. It is I who said that two hours' time can be extended to complete the business. It is to cooperate with them. But they do not understand.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Kurien, please conclude now.

... (Interruptions)

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : If they do not understand what is cooperation, then, I am Sorry ... (Interruptions)

Coming to my point, I thought that the hon. Minister would bring forward an amendment expanding the Selection Committee. I would like to know whether she sticks to that or she goes by this.

Sir, these are the only three questions which I wanted to put. I hope the hon. Minister will reply to these questions.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a total of eight members have participated in this discussion. First of all I would like to thank all of them.

While some points have been collectively raised some have been repeated and some have been raised separately. I would like to reply to them all to the extent possible.

First of all, Jaipal Reddy initiated the discussion from the other side. Though I have heard good speeches of Jaipal Reddy and have appreciated them too but he was so much frustrated and disappointed due to withdrawal of support particularly from Lalu Prasad Ji and Mulayam Singh Ji that I also feel disappointed after listening to his speech today. The first part of his speech was totally false and a bunch of lies and in the second part he has tried to glorify himself. As he stood he wanted an assurance from me that I would not scuttle the Parliamentary procedure and would introduce this Bill in the Rajya Sabha. When Jaipal Reddy Ji was speaking it reminded me of the following quartet from Ramayan 'Par upadesh kushal bahutere, Je acharahin te nar na ghanere'. You neither introduced the bill in the Lok Sabha nor in the Rajya Sabha. Parliament was summoned. An ordinance was promulgated by the caretaker Government. Now you were... (Interruptions) with me here. It was caretaker Government. I can tell even the date when you promulgated the ordinance. Your Government was no more in power ... (Interruptions) Yes, I am saying repromulgation. I am raising the right word. Now you want an assurance from me that I would introduce it in Rajya Sabha. All of you are aware that I had listed the bill for introduction in the Rajya Sabha on 21 July. The bill was listed in the list of business for 21 July. You could have discussion on 22 and 23.

[Shrimati Sushma Swaraj]

Session of Rajya Sabha continued till 5th, it would have been certainly introduced in the Rajya Sabha. But you opposed it in BAC. You insisted that the bill should go before the Standing Committee. Thereafter I got this Bill referred to Lok Sabha. If B.A.C. of Rajya Sabha has got time, they should decide about it. How can I give you an assurance because this session will go on for three days. If the Chairman of Rajya Sabha assures it then it is all right. I will bring this bill before Rajya Sabha there only after having it passed by the Lok Sabha.

They have to fix the time. If they would have time, then only the bill would be introduced. But you want this assurance from me that I would take it to the Rajya Sabha. Had my intention not been good, I would have introduced this bill on the last day. You have told one more lie that I had introduced it on sixth June and then I slept over it. It is good that number of MP's present in the House are less. But it is for the better that Prof. Kurien is present here. Prof. Kurien is witness to what I said. I told you that we should get this bill passed in the first reading itself, otherwise break of 21 days would come in the way. I tried my best to introduce and get it passed during the last session. But every attempt was made to scuttle it. This time also it was insisted upon that this bill be referred to the Standing Committee and should not be brought before the Parliament for discussion. I stated that instead of referring it to the Standing Committee which have only 10, 20 or 45 members, it would be better to bring it in the House which have 540 members. I was ready to have it discussed in the House. You are alleging that I intend to scuttle the proposal to refer it to the Parliamentary Committee. Had you got the bill passed on 22-23 by introducing it on 21, it would have certainly been referred to the Rajya Sabha. I cannot say as to the BAC of Rajya Sabha does have time for this bill or not.

As I had stated that two or three members stated two or three points and the reply of Shri Jaipal Reddy is covered thereby. Shri Hannan Mollah had also said the same thing that your intention was not clear and while taking his seat Shri Kurien had raised this question. I am resolving the queries of all the three members.

So far as your this question is concerned that I have scuttled the efforts to refer it to the Parliamentary Committee because Standing Committee was not in existence at that time. But now it has been constituted. Shri Ram Naik is a very keen observer and he got a point and stated while intervening that you had tried to belittle the Parliament a bit. It is correct that your expression were reflective thereof. You stated that standing Committee would be appointed in that regard, consultative Committee would be constituted in regard to Prasar Bharati and one more Committee would be constituted.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : How many Committees?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : I am trying to tell you the number of Committees. Consultative Committee is not supposed to do this task. You are a veteran parliamentarian. As far as the question of standing Committee is concerned. You know that standing Committee is a combined Committee of I.B.M. and communication. If it starts taking care of Prasar Bharti also, perhaps it will get only one day in a year to spare and that too only one hour.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Why is it so?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : It is because that I.B.M. has got many wings and Communications has more than that. One joint Committee has been formed for these two which has been entrusted the task of analysing budget and demands for grants during the budget session. If one after another issue is taken up, then Prasar Bharati would get only one chance in year. It is, therefore, not correct to say that this standing Committee would be sufficient. You must be aware of this fact that when the proposal of Parliamentary Committee was mooted, Upendra Ji had stated that a Parliamentary Committee should be accorded separate status and it should not be under 'COPU'. This proposal was from that side but it was taken as moved from our side. At that time they used to sit this side. But the proposal was moved by the Congress and supported by the BJP, CPI and CPI(M). At that time, this Parliamentary Committee was in existence which you scuttled in the name of standing Committee. I think you have got the reply to your question. You have greeted me for the Editorial and I will provide you these editorials in future also so that you may go through that.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as the question raised by Shri Chacko is concerned perhaps I never heard such type of cheap discussion. It is quite painful for me to see that they are behaving so cheaply. They began it saying that ruling party is trying to skip the discussion. You are all witness to it that I have not even once stated that this bill should be passed without holding discussion. This suggestion was from that side. It was from the opposition, from the two leaders. I stated while responding that if the House desires so, I am ready to sit here for eight hours for discussion. Nevertheless, they have started with this statement that ruling party does not want any discussion. And afterwards such circumstances are created. Shri Jaipal Reddy belittled the House only 5 per cent whereas you have belittled 99 per cent. I want to tell you that these members are sitting because of the whip. They are not interested in discussion.

[English]

It is a reflection on your fellow colleagues.

[Translation]

The members who are sitting here are listening to the discussion with rapt attention. They have given their names to participate in the debate.

21.00 hrs.

[English]

You say that they are not interested in the discussion.

[Translation]

Whereas they have given their names to participate in the discussion. You have said that they are sitting because of the whip and the Parliamentary Committee was used as a tool for propaganda medium. It happened to be good that Mohan Singh Ji spoke. I want to ask whether the speech of Mohan Singh Ji had manipulated support? Whether the speech of Lalu Yadav Ji had manipulated support? You have accused that support was mobilised through manipulation by approaching party offices. Will you tell me the name of the party office to which I approached? You talk about consensus. You say that on every controversial issue one should go ahead with consensus. To carry on that spirit of consensus. I called the floor leaders. Whose party office I approached? I called Shri Sharad Pawar because he is the floor leader of the Lok Sabha. I called Manmohan Singh Ji because he is floor leader in the Rajya Sabha. I called Sangma Ji because he is the senior leader of the Congress and I called Upendra Ji as he is now in your party but it was he who brought this Bill. Is this manipulation? I called Shri Somnath Chatterjee of the CPM because he is their floor leader. I talked with Viplav Das Gupta because he is a leader there. I talked with Shri Indrajit Gupta of the CPI because he is their floor leader. I talked with Gurudas Dasgupta Ji because he is floor leader there. I called all of them for talks. I never went to any party office. I did not seek support of anybody. I called leaders of all the parties in room No. 62 appealing for consensus where I put forward my views and you people say that this is a manipulated support. When Mohan Singh Ji was speaking, he was speaking from the hearts of his heart. He was speaking with sincerity. Will you teach me a lesson of autonomy? I am not going to learn a lesson of autonomy and that too from Shri Chacko Ji. I am not going to learn a lesson from the congressmen sitting on the opposition benches.

The Bill which was unanimously passed by both the Houses, was kept in cold storage by your Government for seven years. Was that bill a motivated one for which Jaipal Ji and I were running from pillar to post? Today, you want to teach me lesson of autonomy. Today, you people want to tell me about the commitment of autonomy of media. I want to tell Jaipal Ji that autonomy of media is not originated from your party. This idea of autonomy came to the fore in 1977, at the time none other than Advani Ji was information and Broadcasting minister of India. There was Bharatiya Janata Party's Government and the point which Surendra Ji said with a little hesitation that was expressed clearly by Mohan Singh Ji later on when we joined the agitation launched by Jaiprakash Ji to end emergency. Our aim was to free the media from the shackles of the Government. This idea dates back its origin since then. Advani Ji had christened it then as the Prasar Bharati. Your Government ruled for

thirteen years and when the non-Congress government came to power, this Bill was passed. But as soon as the non-Congress government was ousted and your party came to power, the said Bill was not notified. You sat over the Bill for seven years. Your spokesman's statement is also on record that media should not be given autonomy in today's circumstances at all when the satellite channels have come. Jaipal Ji and I were present during that discussion. Gadgil Ji says categorically that autonomy should not be given to the media. And the remaining people of your party also say so. There is nothing like that – I do not honour that idea.

[English]

I can agree to disagree.

[Translation]

If it is your view that the Government's control on Akashvani and Doordarshan should remain, it could be your views. You have full right to have such views. Lalu Yadav's view about autonomy has changed, perhaps he has been the victim of misuse of autonomy.

He can have his own views but people should not stand against autonomy and at the same time they should not teach a lesson of autonomy. My commitment and that of my government towards autonomy have come to the fore with the passage of time.

[English]

Autonomy with accountability.

[Translation]

I want to give autonomy with accountability. That is why this Bill has been introduced. But people have doubt that I want to dilute autonomy, nobody should have an iota of doubt about it. I have said about Lalu Yadav Ji, he has been the victim of misuse of autonomy. I want to thank him that he has supported this Bill. I want to give reply to a question raised by Shri Hannan Mollah. He has asked as to what is the age of superannuation of the Chairman of the Telecom Authority? You have asked about the term of the council. I want to tell Shri Hannan Mollah that there is no age limit for the Chairman of the Prasar Bharati. This discussion is all about the age of the Chief Executive Officer. As far as the Chairman is concerned, there is no justification for his retirement age. The age of Shri Nikhil Chakraborty, the Chairman of Prasar Bharati was 85 years. Not a single word was said about his age. The CEO is the employee of corporation. Tell me about an employee of any institution where there is no retirement age for him. Similarly there is also retirement age for the CEO of the corporation as its employee. There is no age limit for the Chairman here also. That is why you are not understanding it as there is also no age limit for the Chairman of the Prasar Bharati, you told about Nitish Sengupta. Shri Jaipal Reddy knows that the report prepared by Nitish Sengupta was not discussed at all. There is no question of not accepting it. Had this report

[Shrimati Sushma Swaraj]

been discussed, the draft of this ordinance would have been different, not the one like this.

You have said about state's representation in the Board. It seems to me that the Selection Committee will definitely keep this thing in mind that there should be representation of all regions in such a body. So far as Surendra Ji is concerned, I thank him that he fully extended his support to this Bill.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : The names of these members should be mentioned who have supported.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, I am already overwhelmed by the speech made by Mohan Singh Ji. He was speaking with mental agony and from the core of his heart. But I want to make one thing clear. You have been provoked at the slightest thing that assets worth three hundred crore rupees only in five thousand crore. I want to tell him that the annual budget is of two thousand crore rupees and assets worth more than Rs. 40 thousand crore have been transferred.

As far as the questions raised by Prof. Kurien are concerned, he has asked three questions. Reply of one question which was related to the Rajya Sabha, I have given reply to that while replying to the question raised by Jaipal Ji. I am surprised that the members of your party also do not share your first and foremost concern. Chacko Sahib did not say this how satellite channels would be dealt with but jeering at the Broadcasting council, he said what was the need of constituting the council. Nothing could be prevented from telecast in the age of information. Whatever will happen, will be telecast. I want to tell Chacko Sahib that this Government is not helpless. But that telecast will be stopped. How it will be prevented, I want to tell you about one provision that we have for the purpose. Not only on Doordarshan but on satellite channels also cultural telecast would be stopped. You have said about cultural invasion. I am just transcribing that in Hindi as "Sanskritik Pradarshan". But Chacko Ji thinks there is nothing like cultural invasion as such.

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Idukki) : Madam, you are talking in Parliament. Why do you promise what you cannot do? ... (Interruptions) It is impossible. I know very well that you cannot do it.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : It will be impossible for you but it is not impossible for this Government. We will make it possible. Prof. Kurien, we are bringing Broadcasting Bill wherein there is a provision for mandatory uplinking. Jaipal Reddy Ji also knows this thing. Those satellite channels which will come under mandatory uplinking, will have to uplink with Indian soil, when it will be uplinked with Indian soil, they would be governed by our advertisement code and our programme code. Those who will violate our

advertisement code and programme code, this government will have right to cancel their licences. And the matter will be taken to the courts in India. Therefore, I have been sharing your concern right from the beginning. I have expressed that concern in the House and also outside the House.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Will you yield for a moment?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Yes, I will.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I do not have any question on this Bill.

In the 1990 Act, the role of a regulator has also been conferred on the Prasar Bharati because at that time nobody could envisage the mushroom growth of private channels which the 1990s witnessed. Later, we all felt the need for a Broadcasting Authority about which you have not taken any step whatsoever. Do I therefore assume or conclude that the Prasar Bharati will also be a regulator?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Shri Jaipal Ji, as I have told you, if I do not have to bring the Prasar Bharati, I would have brought Broadcasting Bill this time itself, which provides for Broadcasting Regulatory Authority. You know that last time your Broadcasting Bill was referred to JPC and there was a lot of evidence in JPC but only a little of it could be recorded. Before the discussion could start, Lok Sabha got dissolved. Therefore, now I am modifying the Bill on the basis of that evidence. As far as the Broadcasting BRAI is concerned, we are putting the things together and trying to present the Bill in the next session. That's why the Bill has not been settled.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : My doubt is, since the 1990 Act is being restored to its pristine shape, the role of regulator will be retained in the Prasar Bharati. In the Ordinance I have removed all such things that conform regulatory power to Prasar Bharati.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : This will continue as long as new Broadcasting Bill does not come up, when new Broadcasting Bill will come up and new Regulatory Authority will be functional, then these two things will bifurcate. I think that now I have answered all the questions... (Interruptions) You have asked two questions—One you have asked about Rajya Sabha and second about satellite Channels ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the Minister complete the reply.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : These were the questions. There was not any other. Yes, you have asked one more question. When we had talked, I had offered something. You have asked whether I am bringing the amendment or not. First of all, I should correct you that I had not offered. I just responded to your offer. You have asked whether the Selection Committee could be expanded and the Leader of Opposition can be included? I replied that if the leader of Opposition will be included then the leader of the House will also be included. You said it is O.K. After that you had a fight in your own house and a separate power group for the Leader of Opposition was formed, another power group was formed separately. You dropped the offer thereon and you never came to me and talked to me about this offer again. I have also told you that as far as amendment is concerned, 'you bring the amendment. I will accept it'. But later on your own people started saying that this amendment should not be brought. If Leader of Opposition will be included, this particular person will come and we do not want him to be there. Therefore, power struggle on your side prevented that amendment. You had to bring the amendment and we had to accept it ... (Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Why should I come to you again when you have already accepted my suggestion? You yourself have brought the amendment.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : You bring the amendment. I want to say in the House ... (Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : You have said that you have accepted that suggestion.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : I am saying that if you had brought the amendment I would have accepted it. I had talked to all my leaders that if the Leader of Opposition brings amendment ... (Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : You have accepted my suggestion ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Yes, I had accepted it.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Than you should have brought the amendment yourself.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Why should I bring the Government amendment... (Interruptions) Your partymen said that now this is not our offer, we have an internal bickerings, now we do not want the Leader of Opposition. That's why I did not but forward the amendment.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahabubnagar) : I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the Minister complete the reply.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Chairman, Sir, if that amendment had been brought ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot raise a point of order during the course of the reply. I will give you a chance later.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : If this amendment would have been brought by Prof. Kurien on behalf of the Congress than definitely I would have responded and I am telling you that I had talked with everybody belonging to our side. I would have responded positively but you did not bring the amendment. Therefore, the question of bringing any amendment from my side does not arise.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, after replying to all the questions now I expect everybody to pass this Bill unanimously whether someone has spoken against the Bill or not.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Jaipal Reddy, what is your point of order?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : My point of order is this ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your point of order?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I would like the hon. Minister to note this. In the course of the discussion in the House, no Minister or a Member is supposed to quote a private conversation ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : He only quoted. I did not quote ... (Interruptions) I only said.

[Translation]

That I had offered you to make it open whether you are bringing the amendment or not. Later on also he told that you have not restored.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Whosoever has done it, it is wrong.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : He has done it. I have only responded.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Anyway, you may note it.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I did not say about any offer. Let me clarify. What I said was, some suggestions for enlarging the Selection Committee. I was asking for her reaction. I did not say about any offer.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : I reacted.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : You said about some offer.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : No. You said that.
... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Sushma Ji, we without being contacted either by you or your office are passing this Bill. You told that the Leader of Opposition and the leader of The House should be the member of the Select Committee
... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : He told this.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Whosoever said. When these two fell apart, we are very much sitting here.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Okay. Now, we shall take up amendment to motion for consideration. Amendment No. 1, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan. Are you moving your amendment?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Yes. I am moving.

Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 7th September, 1998". (1)

I moved my amendment because let the public have a say in the matter, since it is a question of autonomy. I press my amendment also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri A.C. Jos - Not present.

Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy - Not present.

Shri Anand Pathak - Not present.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall put amendment No.1 to the Motion for Consideration, moved by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill to amend the Prasar Bharati (Broadcas-

ting Corporation of India) Act, 1990, be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is an amendment by Shri Suresh Kurup.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) Sir, I move my amendment and I also want to speak.

I beg to move :

Page 3,—

for lines 26 to 28,—

substitute--

"(i) three representatives of the employees of the Corporation of whom one shall be elected by the engineering staff from amongst themselves, one shall be elected by the programme staff from amongst themselves and one shall be elected by the other employees from amongst themselves". (18)

... (*Interruptions*) Why are you so impatient?

Sir, there is a provision in the Bill for electing two representatives from the staff of AIR and Doordarshan, one from amongst the engineering staff and another from the rest of the staff. The programme cadre is the most important factor in both AIR and Doordarshan. Since they are in a minority, they may not get elected to the Prasar Bharati Board. So, my suggestion is that the number of representatives of the employees should be there, one from the engineering staff, another from the programme cadre and the third from the rest of the staff.

It seems that Shri Jaipal Reddy had earlier given an assurance to the employees to that effect. So, my request is that the Government should accept this amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I shall put amendment No. 18 to Clause 3, moved by Shri Suresh Kurup to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clause 5

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Radhakrishnan, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I beg to move :

"Page 4, line 19,—

for "sixty-two years"

substitute "sixty-five years" (2)

"Page 4,—

omit lines 20 to 25". (3)

"Page 4,—

omit lines 34 and 35". (4)

Lines 20 to 25 are not essential and so, they may be omitted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Subbarami Reddy, Prof. Rupchand Pal and Shri Banatwalla are not present.

Now, I shall put amendment Nos. 2, 3 and 4 to clause 5 moved by Shri Radhakrishnan to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 5 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

Clause 6 to 9 were added to the Bill.

Clause 10

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Subbarami Reddy and Shri Banatwalla are not present.

The question is :

"That Clause 10 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 10 was added to the Bill.

Clause 11

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Radhakrishnan, are you moving your amendments?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I beg to move :

"Page 8, lines 13 to 15,—

for "oversee that the Corporation discharges its functions in accordance with the provisions of this Act and, in particular, the objectives set out in section 12 and submit a report thereon to Parliament".

substitute—

"advise on policy matters" (5)

"Page 8, line 17,—

for "Speaker of the House of the People"

substitute "Central Government" (6)

I am moving my amendments because it is stated that the Parliament Committee nominated under the statute is to oversee the functions of the body. It shows that it will have to supervise and the autonomy will be curtailed. That is my view. For that purpose, I want to remove "oversee" and insert "advise on policy matters". The Committee that is constituted will have the powers of advice on policy matters and not to supervise the function because it is a matter concerning technicalities. Broadcasting, televising, etc. are included under technicalities. It will not be proper for the Committee to advise on technicalities. They can advise on policy matters. So, my amendment is that the word "oversee" or to supervise must be deleted and the words "advise on policy matters" must be substituted in its place. 'Oversee' means to completely supervise ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : She does not believe in autonomy. Why are you trying to persuade her?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I press my amendment.

Sir, the Speaker of the House of the People need not be dragged on to this process. In that place, the Central Government may do this function. It is not feasible.

Why should the Speaker, who is non-party person here, be dragged on to this process? So, the Central Government should take up the responsibility and not leave it to the Speaker who is above party considerations and other matters. Whether you agree or not, but I am sure that it will be agreed to in future.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I now put amendment Nos. 5 and 6 to clause 11 moved by Shri Radhakrishnan to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 11 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 11 was added to the Bill.

Clause 12 was added to the Bill.

Clause 13

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan. Clause 13, Amendment Nos. 7 and 8.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I beg to move:

Page 9, line 36,—

after "default"

insert "even after due notice" (7)

Page 9, line 38 —

for "thereof"

substitute "with the reply received from the

Board, if any" (8)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now I will put amendment Nos. 7 and 8 moved by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That Clause 13 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 13 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 14 to 18 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill".

The Motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed".

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill be passed".

The motion was adopted.

21.27 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE: BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have to inform the House that as per the decision taken in the meeting of Business Advisory Committee held today, the 31st July, 1998, the following items of business will be transacted on 3rd, 4th and 5th August, 1998:

3 August, 1998

- (i) Discussion under rule 193 regarding recent developments affecting India's foreign policy on the statement to be made by Prime Minister on SAARC Summit.
- (ii) Discussion under rule 193 regarding deportation of certain people by Maharashtra Government — to be taken up at 4 P.M.

4 August, 1998

- (i) Discussion under rule 193 on problems of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes;
- (ii) Discussion on Jain Commission Report — To be taken up at 2 P.M.

5 August, 1998

Further discussion on Jain Commission Report.

Besides, other items of Government Business, if any, will also be taken up on these days.

Now the House stands adjourned to meet on Monday at 11.00 a.m.

21.29 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, August 3, 1998/Shravana 12, 1920 (Saka)

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