

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to resolve Indo-Myanmar boundary dispute.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (INNER MANIPUR): Thank you, Madam. I rise to state about one controversial issue. The current controversy and anxiety over the claim that border pillar number 81 marking the international border between India and Myanmar at Kwatha Khunou sector in Manipur is unfortunate. It is alleged that it is being shifted. It must be investigated and settled at the earliest. The concerned Deputy Commissioner of the Government of Manipur alerted the incident of what is believed to be a case of this particular pillar being shifted by as much as three kilometres into Manipur territory which was also being confirmed by the villagers. Now after kicking up the public controversy, the Government of Manipur seem to be backing out, endorsing what the Union Home Minister of State said during a visit to the State, that there is no boundary dispute between India and Myanmar. The people of Manipur are very apprehensive of the bitter experience when Kabaw Valley was seceded to Burma in early 50s.

Madam, I draw your attention that Manipur got Independence on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 1947, one day before India attained Independence. Manipur remained an independent nation till 1949. Then it got merged with the Union of India on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 1949 with its own sovereign territory of about 23,000 square kilometres. In the merger agreement which was very controversial, Manipur was defined as dominion just before its merger to Union of India. Now, the territorial dominion area of Manipur is found to be shrinking to about 22,300 square kilometres.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government and the Ministries of Home Affairs and External Affairs to immediately intervene and resolve the Indo-Myanmar border boundary dispute and

the dispute of boundary pillar number 81 along the Manipur border, in particular, for all times to come. Thank you, Madam.

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri Thangso Baite is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Thokchom Meinya.