

[Sh. Shikiho Sema]

Burmese Government? I would like to impress upon you that it is a very serious matter in this part of the country. I request you to take up this matter to at least check the trafficking of these drugs in this Burma-Naga-Manipur border.

Thank you.

17.17 hrs.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER

Communal situation in Gujarat

[English]

MR. DEPUTY- SPEAKER: Mr. Upendra to make a statement.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): Sir, in the morning, several hon. Members wanted to know about the latest situation in Gujarat. Though the Business Advisory Committee... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DHARM PAL SHARMA (Udhampur): We want to know what has happened to the fate of the kidnapped persons because the deadline is over now. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Through the Business Advisory Committee has allotted some time for the discussion on the Gujarat situation later this week, yet for the benefit of the hon. House, I am giving a statement on behalf of the Home Minister about the latest situation in Gujarat.

Sir, Gujarat has recently witnessed a number of communal incidents in some districts. These incidents, unrelated to each other, are the result of the machinations of anti-social elements. The State Government

has taken effective steps against such elements. I would like to re-assure this august House that the sinister designs of communal and divisive forces will not be allowed to succeed.

2. The first of these incidents in Gujarat occurred at Patan in Mehsana district on the 10th March, 1990. A clash between some Hindus and Muslims on a minor issue of black-marketing of cinema tickets led to a communal riot which resulted in the death of 5 persons and injuries to 41 persons. The situation was brought under control by the State Government and peace was restored in the area. On 25.3.90, another communal incident took place, at Baroch, after an incident of alleged misbehaviour against a girl by a few persons belonging to a different community. Anand and Bhalej towns in Kheda district witnessed communal disturbances from 27.3.90 to 31. 3. 90 in which two persons died and 16 persons were injured. Baroda and Palanpur had communal problem on the 6th and 7th of April, 1990, as a sequel to rallies organised in connection with incidents in Kashmir. Ahmedabad which had remained peaceful suddenly witnessed communal tension following a fatal stabbing incident on 3. 4. 90. There was a sharp spurt of violence in Ahmedabad which resulted in 32 deaths and injuries to 126 persons. The total number of deaths in Gujarat due to these communal incidents is 48. 230 persons have been injured in these communal riots.

3. The State Government has imposed curfew in sensitive areas both in Ahmedabad and Baroda. 364 persons have been arrested. Patrolling in affected areas has been intensified. Army columns have staged flag march in Ahmedabad and Baroda. Massive combing operations to detect illegal weapons have been launched. Preventive arrests of anti-social elements have been made. Provisions of Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act have been invoked in some cases. Deployment of police and para-military forces has been augmented. The Central Government has also rushed in additional forces to Gujarat.

4. The State Government has also taken steps to ensure maintenance of essential supplies in the affected areas. Relief and rehabilitation work has also been taken up. Assistance of various voluntary organisations has also been taken in maintaining communal peace as well to supplement the work relating to relief to the riot affected families.

5. I am in constant touch with the Chief Minister and all possible help and assistance by the Central Government to maintain peace and harmony is being provided. It has been urged on the State authorities to restore normalcy immediately. I need hardly mention about the firm resolve of the Government that elements trying to vitiate communal situation in the country will not be spared. The vast majority of our people in Gujarat or anywhere else in the country want to live in peace and have displayed communal amity. I am sure, this august House will join me in making an earnest appeal to all citizens to eschew violence, shed distrust and work whole-heartedly for the restoration of communal harmony and normalcy.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ (Baramulla): His statement is all right, but could I know the whereabouts of the Home Minister? When are we discussing it?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: The Business Advisory Committee has allotted some time.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Firstly let me know where is the Home Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, that is not a point.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: The Home Minister is in the other House because as I said that bill is going on.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: When are we discussing it?

[Translation]

SHRI P. UPENDRA: It is being taken up on 11th.

17.21 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)
1990-91

Ministry of External Affairs-Contd.

[English]

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurduars): Mr. Deputy Speaker, the non-alignment policy is a very good policy. But this policy has lost its previous strength.

[Translation]

The old military alliances are breaking down. It is necessary that the Indian foreign policy should be such that we are able to win over maximum number of friends. How many friends we can take along with us depends on our foreign policy. We have observed that the socialist countries have been our good friends. Whenever, there have been difficulties, they have come forward to help us. But now the socialist block has also been divided. New permutations and combinations are taking place. Now the system has undergone a change. U.S.A. is drawing nearer the Soviet Union and China's relations with the European countries are improving which can be attributed to the foreign policy followed by these nations. Thus under the changed circumstances, we have to make more friends and appropriate steps have to be taken for expansion of the trade. The Missions which we have had for the past 40 years, have been total failures. Our country has a very low rating and we are not able to look after the health of our people abroad. The fat allowances which the Mission people are carrying should be accountable. What is the accountability? Why cannot they expand the trade? Why are we not able to provide proper health care facilities for our people abroad? This matter requires to be examined.