

[Shri Ram Singh Yadav]

block as a unit and the block which has no industry should be taken as a norm. So far, you have been treating the district as a norm, but hereafter, the block which has no industry should be your guiding factor.

I also request you to develop the Gram Panchayat area into an industrial area. With these words, I thank you.

16.04 hrs.

[English]

STATEMENT RE : COMMUNAL
RIOTS IN AHMEDABAD

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : Sir, the House is already aware that since the middle of February, 1985, students in Gujarat started an agitation against the increase in reservation for other backward classes in medical and technical courses. On 18th March, the situation in the walled city of Ahmedabad took a communal turn which necessitated the imposition of curfew as well as deployment of the Army. In this regard, I have already made a statement before this House on 21st March, 1985. The situation subsequently had returned to normalcy. However, reports have been received indicating that once again communal riots have broken out in some parts of Ahmedabad city from the night of 15/16th April following a call for 'Jail Bharo' given by 'Akhil Gujarat tWali Maha Mandal' and some other organisations. It appears that during the night of April 15/16, mobs from NAVAVAS area of the city abruptly started heavy stone pelting towards a locality inhabited predominantly by, a particular community in Gaekwar Haveli Police Station area. The other community appears to have retaliated. During the process, burning rags and acid bulbs are also reported to have been used. Similar incidents continued to take place during the course of the night at different places in the walled city involving use of burning rags and acid bulbs against the houses and shops belonging to a particular community. Police took immediate action and had also to resort to firing to control the situation. Curfew was imposed for an indefinite period from 12.30 a.m. on

the night of 15th April, 1985 in the affected areas. Subsequently, it was extended to other parts of the walled city which witnessed communal incidents, thus bringing most of the parts of the walled city under indefinite curfew.

A total of eleven persons died during these riots including eight in police firing and three in stabbings. Twenty-three people were injured including nine from police firing. So far, 213 persons have been arrested for various offences. About thirteen properties are reported to have been affected by arson. Damage to the property is being assessed by a team of officers from the Revenue and Sales Tax Departments and Municipal Corporation. Immediate relief of Rs. 20,000/-each has been given to the family members of the five deceased. Further relief for the other persons killed and those injured is also being given as per the prescribed standard.

Adequate police 'bandobast' has been made in the affected areas and other parts of the walled city. The situation was reviewed on 16th April and in view of the prevailing tension in the affected parts of the city, the Army was called in to assist the civil authority w. e. f. 2400 hours during the night of 16/17th April. Four companies of Army have been deployed in the city for maintenance of law and order in addition to the existing State forces and other paramilitary forces. Additional four companies of CRPF were air-lifted on 16th April to augment the available forces with the State Government.

From subsequent reports, it appears that the situation has improved to some extent since the afternoon of 16th April. Till this morning, no major incidents were reported though sporadic & minor incidents continue to take place necessitating use of force by the police. Indefinite curfew continues to be imposed in 3/4th of the walled city. The situation continues to remain tense though under control.

Union Home Secretary also visited Ahmedabad on 16 April, 1985 to make a personal assessment of the situation. We are in close touch with the State authorities. I hope and trust that taking into account the present situation,

all sections of people will contribute to the restoration of normalcy in Ahmedabad and also ensure that there is no breach of peace else where in the State.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Cooch Behar) : Madam, it is a very a serious thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No clarification, I don't allow; please resume your seat. This is a statement made by the hon. Minister. No clarification on this.

(Interruptions)

MR CHAIRMAN : Now I call upon Mr. Shankaragowda.

16.09 hr

[English]

DEMANDS FOR GRANT (GENERAL)
1985-86—CONT'D.

*Ministry of Industry and Company
Affairs—Contd*

SHRI K. V. SHANKARAGOWDA (Mandya) : Madam Chairman, I wish to express my sense of gratitude for giving me this opportunity of speaking a few words on a very important subject which involves crores and crores of rupees from our Exchequer. It is a matter of immense pleasure to state that I had the good fortune to work with a close friend of mine who is now incharge of a big Department.

I had the good fortune of working with him as the Education Minister. Now, I have the misfortune of opposing him in this House for various reasons. Anyhow, being a very close friend. I do not think, he will mistake me. On the other hand, I do hope that whatever reasonable argument that I put forth in this House will not vanish in wilderness but will bring out something concrete. With these preliminary remarks, I would now wish to take up the subject, namely, the demands for industry.

Madam, it is not my intention to deal in detail about the various items adumbrated in this particular demand. I wish to concentrate upon only one important item, viz. Khadi and Village Industries. We have read in epic poems about monsters. It is said that

there were man-eaters. I do not know whether such human beings who ate men were there or not. It may be true or it may be a figment of imagination on the part of the poet who wrote the poem. But in the 20th century, I know for certain that monsters are reared. They are none but the big industries in the public sector and private sector. They are eating into the very vitals of the common men in our country. They devour millions and millions of common men in our society. It is really deplorable that most of these unfortunate people either hail from the rural parts or live in slums in the cities. I would like to recall the memory of my esteemed friend to one important observation made by Mahatma Gandhi. That observation runs thus : "The industrial policy of the State shall be in accordance with the needs of the society and not to satisfy the whim or greed of any individual". If my dear friend understands the real spirit and significance of this great observation, then he will really think over or re-think about the costly proposals that he has placed before this august House. In my opinion, many of the big industries are not at all necessary for the survival of our society. Many of them are meant for producing luxury goods, which the common man cannot eat. There is no use or need in investing such huge amounts of money in producing luxury goods in a country like ours, where millions and millions of people are struggling even for a morsel of food. There are millions and millions of our brethren whom we see in rags in the streets. We see people slowly dying of starvation. When such is the condition, are we in a position to invest such huge amounts in luxury goods? Are cosmetics necessary for us? Are colour televisions necessary for us, or are other costly things necessary for us? What is the question before us? What is the problem before us? What is the impact through which our society is passing today? It is the question of acute and absolute poverty, squalor, misery, illiteracy, ignorance and what not. According to the estimate of the planning Commission themselves set up by the Government of India, 54 per cent of our population is below the poverty line. What are the concrete proposals given by the Government of India to lift these people above the poverty line? What is the agency?