

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO (Parvathipuram) : Yesterday you sent it straightaway to the Privileges Committee. A gross contempt has been committed.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI V. KRISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO ; You sent it straightaway to the Privileges Committee. A gross contempt has been committed.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. You are wasting time. I have accepted it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura) : No Member can be deterred from speaking in the House. It is contempt of the House. We are free to express our views in the Parliament.

[English]

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO : Please give your ruling right now. You have ample proof.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Until I see it, how can I do it ? Why are you forcing me ?

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : It is a violation of the Constitution, that is why we are very much concerned.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY (Adilabad) : We strongly feel about it.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : If it is so, I shall certainly look into it, no problem.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : To record our protest against your refusal to give an opportunity to us, we are walking out.

At this stage, Prof. Madhu Dandavate and some other Hon. Members left the House.

12.32 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[English]

SITUATION IN NORTH EASTERN REGION PARTICULARLY BOUNDARY DISPUTE BETWEEN ASSAM AND NAGALAND

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :—

“The situation in the North Eastern region particularly the boundary dispute between Assam and Nagaland and steps taken by the Government in that regard.”

12.33 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : Sir, the situation in the North-East has been generally normal barring a few incidents of violence in Tripura and hill districts of Manipur. Tripura National Volunteers (TNV) in Tripura and National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) in Manipur and Nagaland have been propagating secessionist ideas and have been indulging in violent activities. Some activities of ULFA an extremist organisation have also been noticed in Assam. We have taken various measures to deal with the activities of extremists. The provisions of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, have been utilised in consultation with the State Governments. Intelligence network in the North-eastern region has been geared up. Arrangements have been made for better coordination between the different agencies involved in the operations against the extremists. Vigil on the border has been increased. The strength of paramilitary forces has been suitably augmented where necessary and placed at the disposal of the State Government concerned.

The multi-pronged efforts of the Government in dealing with the situation in the North-East encompass not only the above measures but also foster economic development and political approach and these efforts have started yielding dividends in this region. The Memorandum of Settlement on Mizoram have significant step in this direction. The people of Mizoram have realised that the disturbed conditions of the last two decades had caused serious set back to the progress and overall development of Mizoram and they can derive positive gains by being partners in the overall development of the country. The policy of the Government is to consolidate to the unity of the country in the North-Eastern region by resolving the differences peacefully and Constitutionally and bringing to the mainstream the various groups or misguided elements who are indulging in extremist activities provided they stop their violent activities and abide by the Constitution of India.

The Honourable Members are aware that the development of the North-Eastern region has been receiving due importance. North-Eastern Council was formed for the socio economic development of the North Eastern States. It has undertaken a number of schemes for development of the area. These schemes are in addition to the State Plans and other Central Sector schemes. As against the approved outlay of Rs. 340 crores in the Sixth Five Year Plan, the outlay for the Seventh Five Year Plan for the NEC schemes is Rs. 675 crores. The Committee of Central Ministers for Economic Development of the North East which was reconstituted with the Home Minister as Chairman has also been devoting its time to the monitoring of the progress of major Central Sector schemes and programmes in North East.

I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to the students of Meghalaya who have been agitating since May this year to call off their agitation, as most of their demands have been conceded by the State Government. The people of Meghalaya have always been peace loving. The present situation has caused loss of lives, destruction of property and disruption in the civic life of Shillong and its neighbouring areas.

A number of non-tribals have been displaced and are staying in relief camps. I would request all concerned to make endeavour for ensuring total normalcy and achieving amity and harmony amongst the various sections of population.

As the House is aware, a territorial dispute has been pending between Assam and Nagaland arising from the claim of Nagaland Government to some adjoining areas of Assam on the ground that these were traditionally Naga areas which were wrongfully taken away from the erstwhile Nagaland Hills District by the former British Government by notification issued in 1925. This dispute led to serious law and order situations in 1972, 1979 and 1985 involving considerable loss of life and property. Unfortunately, the efforts made to find a lasting solution to the problem through appointment of Shri K.V.K. Sundaram as Adviser in 1971 have not been successful although various interim agreement were arrived at to maintain peace and harmony in the area and to sort out local disputes through mutual discussions. Under these agreements, central forces like CRPF, Assam Rifles have been inducted under the overall operational control of IGP (Border) Assam in areas which were of the scene of clashes in 1979, while BSF has been inducted as a neutral force in Merapani area which witnessed clashes between the armed police forces of the two States in the 1st week of June, 1985. The Shastri Commission of Enquiry which was appointed to go into the clashes in 1985 has recommended, inter-alia, for immediate appointment of a commission with necessary powers to give an award binding on both the State Governments within a fixed time limit to settle the outstanding claims of Nagaland. The report of the Commission along with Action Taken Note was laid on the Table of the House on 28th August 1987.

By way of follow-up action on this recommendation, the Central Government are in touch with both the State Governments concerned for securing agreed terms of reference and a panel of mutually acceptable names for appointment of an arbitrator whose award/decision would be binding upon both the State Governments. In fact, efforts along these lines are being

[S. Bita Singh]

pursued with the two State Governments since 1985.

Over successive elections, since 1979 Assam Govt. have been objecting to the setting up of polling stations by Nagaland in the disputed areas. However, in the meetings of the senior officials of the two State Governments convened by this Ministry in 1979 and 1984, at the instance of the Election Commission, agreement was evolved to set up some polling stations in the disputed areas by Nagaland. This dispute arose again in the context of the General elections to the Nagaland Assembly 1987. In pursuance of a request of the Election Commission a meeting of the senior officials of the two State Governments was convened to settle the matter. As no agreement could be arrived at, the matter was taken up by me with the two Chief Ministers in the meeting held on 26.10.87. In the meeting the Nagaland Chief Minister offered to meet the Chief Minister, Assam immediately after the Elections with a view to find an early solution to the boundary dispute. Although no agreement could emerge, the Chief Minister, Assam agreed to consider my appeal that as the time was short, the status-quo ante should be maintained as requested by the Election Commission without prejudice to the respective positions of the two State Governments on the boundary question. The position was reported to the Election Commission.

In response to the letter of the Chief Minister, Assam, dated 27th October 1987, I appealed to him that as there was no other feasible alternative to the request of the Election Commission to maintain status-quo ante, he should make this good gesture which will help in creating a conducive atmosphere for a lasting solution to this problem. I reiterated my appeal when a delegation of Political Parties led by the Chief Minister, Assam, met me on 9th November 1987. It was, however, made clear that this will be a purely ad interim arrangement without prejudice to the respective positions with regard to the disputed areas.

The Election Commission have constituted a high level committee consisting of a

supertime scale IAS officer appointed by the Commission and the Chief Electoral Officers of the two States to make expeditious on-the-spot visit of disputed areas to determine whether there are any deviations from the status-quo ante position and make suitable recommendation for correcting deviation, if any, found out. The Election Commission has deputed one of its Secretaries with authority to issue necessary instructions in the light of the findings and recommendations of the Committee.

Under Article 324 of the Constitution, superintendence, direction and control for the conduct of elections is vested in the Election Commission. The directions of the Election Commission in matters pertaining to conduct of elections including setting up of polling stations are binding upon the Government. Civil authorities are required to render all assistance as may be required by the Commission for the purpose of proper conduct of elections.

Adequate para-military forces have been provided for the smooth and peaceful conduct of the poll. The Nagaland Government have been advised to ensure that escort for the polling parties in disputed areas consists of central para military forces personnel only. It is our hope that both the State Governments will abide by the decision of the Election Commission for the smooth and peaceful conduct of the elections. Both the State Governments have been alerted to see that law and order is maintained. A senior officer of the Ministry is damping in Nagaland to provide on the spot assistance, if needed. According to available information the situation continues to remain peaceful.

The House will appreciate that a lasting solution to the problem can be evolved only with the willing cooperation of the two State Governments. I do hope that the Chief Ministers, Assam and Nagaland will meet at the earliest opportunity after the elections and apply themselves to the task of resolving the differences over the issue. On our part, the Central Government would be glad to render whatever assistance is required in the matter.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, while the immediate provocation for this Calling Attention is the setting up of polling booths for the elections which are taking place in Nagaland today, the territory which Assam has claimed and which according to the Nagaland Act constituting the State of Nagaland, in fact, belongs to the State of Assam. There is no dispute about the fact that according to that Act, this particular Territory where polling booths are set up now belongs to Assam.

The problem of boundary between Assam and Nagaland is one of quite a longstanding period, in fact, ever since the State of Nagaland came into existence. This is now 25 years old. The problem has not been solved. It is not that the problem is known; it is not that the problem has not been gone into; it is not that the solution in broad terms is not known. It is question of somebody going into details and setting out as to what should be the rightful border of Assam and Nagaland. There have been contentions and counter-contentions, claims and counter-claims from both sides. It is not a one-sided affair at all. It is not that Nagaland has no claim to the territory and that they are claiming just because they want to grab some territory from Assam. It is also not true that Assam has totally rejected the claim of Nagaland because Assam has, at times, quite rationally and reasonably, said that they should enter into some agreement with regard to the border problem. There should be some settlement with regard to the border. In other words, Assam has also agreed that there is a dispute with regard to Assam-Nagaland border.

Now, the dispute is a longstanding one. Nagaland says that, in 1925, the hilly district of Nagaland was constituted by the British Government. The then British Government at that time transferred the rightful Nagas' territory to Assam. On the other hand, the Assam Government says that certain territories which had originally been Assamese populated territories have been given over to Naga hilly districts for administrative reasons by the British in the 19th century which have been brought back to Assam when this Naga district was constituted or it was

brought to other districts of Assam and all that. Now, this matter has given rise to violent incidents. This is a matter for which senior officers have been appointed to go into the incidents to suggest certain solutions. Interim solutions agreed upon have not been complied with by both the sides. In fact, there are complaints from both States that they have not complied with the interim solutions which Mr. Sundaram has suggested and ultimately, after the Meropani incident, a violent incident which took many lives, the Central Government appointed a Commission. The Commission was named as Shastri Commission because Mr. Shastri took over the Commission later. The Commission went through it and narrated the whole history of the border dispute. The main function of the Commission was to go into the Merapani incident and it was also charged with the responsibility of suggesting long-term and short-term solutions to the Assam and Nagaland problem. The long-term solution given by the Commission was read out by the Minister and I would mention that in a little more detail. It was :

"To bring lasting peace and tranquility, on the border of Assam and Nagaland, it is necessary that there is no further delay in settling the boundary problem."

This report was submitted, I think, in June 1985...(*Interruptions*). Any way, the Government has given an action taken note on the report. The report was submitted long before and it was accepted by the Government perhaps in August 1987. The Government has taken its time. As a result, two years have passed since the incident occurred at Merapani and the Government has not yet appointed the Commission which the Shastri Commission recommended as the first item for a long-term solution. This is how, the problems which are there for historical reasons, have continued for reasons of negligence on the part of the ruling party or the Government of that time. They did not delineate properly and they did not enquire into as to what should be the correct boundary line between the two States. The problem was created at that time twenty-five years back and from time to time it was flaring up. Incident

[Shri Amal Datta]

have been happening between one State of India and another State of India. People were dying, the police of one State were fighting against the police of another State. It is very tragic, when you take a long-term look as to what is going to happen to India if such kind of cancers are allowed to pester. This is because of the negligence of the Government that the problem is still outstanding. Because of this long-standing negligence of the Government, a position has arrived where elections are being held in a territory which does not rightfully belong to a State whose Assembly is being constituted by elections. In fact, the situation has so arisen, as the report goes, that some people who are voting in these polling booths, are also voting when the Assam elections take place for the Assam Legislative Assembly. In other words, the Constitution is being violated blatantly with the connivance and help of the Government, because they keep their eyes shut. They have kept their eyes shut for a long time. This type of cancer should not be allowed to pester any more and the Government must immediately take short-term solution by seeing that the boundary is delineated, the legal boundary, which the Act of Parliament has laid down. That is the short-term solution. But the long-term solution is immediate appointment of a Commission which will go into all the aspects of the boundary problem for a solution. In the light of this, I would like the Minister to reply to these questions, Is he going to take the short term suggestion regarding obeying the orders which have been set out by the 1962 Act constituting the Nagaland State? And also, is he going to constitute a Commission to go into the long term solution of the border dispute between the Assam and Nagaland?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : A long statement has been made by the Home Minister, Shri Buta Singh. Though the immediate problem is the border dispute between Nagaland and Assam, he has elaborately stated the development measures the Government of India is now taking. Sir, it is a fact that the North Eastern regions have been neglected since long. I remember that in the year 1981 in 7 states of North Eastern regions, 7 railway

lines projects were approved and were sanctioned but the progress of these railway line linking the State Capital with the other regions of different state of North Eastern regions is not satisfactory. People of Tripura have been demanding that their State Capital Agartala should be linked with the railway line. Last year, all party delegation from Tripura came here and met the Prime Minister. But that project has not been sanctioned by the Central Government. Tension is there in various parts of the North Eastern regions. It is also a fact that due to some opportunistic policies of Central Government, the secessionist forces, the extremist forces, were operating in various parts of the North Eastern regions. They are being encouraged and their activities are on the increase. Like the TNV; TNV has links with the Tripura Upjati Yuva Samiti and Tripura Youth Congress (I). We have reported in this House, and we have got documents also, that President of Tripura Pradesh Youth Congress (I) Committee wrote a letter to TNV Chief and wanted to help him by giving weapons and other material in order to increase the secessionist activities in that region with the help of the**

The TNV and also the Tripura Upjati Yuva Samiti, their main demand is to separate Tripura from India and make it a independent State. Congress (I) is having a link and alliance with the Tripura Upjati Yuva Samiti in order to win the in-coming assembly election. Sir, the situation is tense in Tripura.

13.00 hrs.

Now, they are planning to hold Loan Melas in Tripura just on the eve of elections. And this also has accentuated the tense situation prevailing in that area. We met the Home Minister, Shri Buta Singh and he assured us that he would see that on the eve of elections, these loan melas would not be organised there. If they want to help the poor people of Tripura, they can organise loan melas after the elections. Why should they have them just before the elections, when the para-military forces are engaged in preventing the TNV operations in the border areas of Tripura?

**Not recorded.

I now come to the problem of Nagaland-Assam border dispute.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please wind up.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : I will take 15 minutes more.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You try to finish in five minutes. Just give the main points.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Coming to the Nagaland-Assam border tension, this Naga hill district was created long before, during the British period in the year 1866 under the administrative control of the then Chief Commissioner of Assam and a consolidated notification was issued in 1925 which fully described the boundaries of the Naga hill district in north, south and west. In 1957 in Naga Hill Tuensangs Area (NHTA), a new administrative unit was formed under Section 2 of the NHTA Act. Nagaland became a State on 1st December 1963. This border dispute is there from the day Nagaland became a State in the year 1963. Today, the tension has been accentuated because of the decision of the Government of Nagaland to set up some polling stations in the so called disputed area which the Government of Assam claims to be its area. The Election Commission also gave its decision to set up polling stations in that area, which the Assam Government claim to be its own area. A commission known as the Sundaram Commission was set up in 1972 to go into this border question. Mr. Sundaram was the Adviser to the Government. The recommendation of the Sundaram Commission was rejected by the Government of Nagaland. According to the report of the Sundaram Commission, the area under dispute belongs to Assam and not to Nagaland. So, Assam accepted the reports of the Sundaram Commission, but Nagaland rejected the report. Therefore, this tension between the two States of Nagaland and Assam continues.

There are a number of interim agreements between Assam and Nagaland. There were serious clashes between Nagaland and Assam in March and May, 1972. There was a very serious clash in the year 1985 when about 100 people were killed. The Police of Assam and the Police of Nagaland

fought with each other. But the clashes between these two States continued.

This dispute is there, since 1963 when Nagaland became a State. A Commission was appointed and a recommendation was made. But this recommendation of the Sundaram Commission was not accepted by Nagaland though Assam accepted its recommendation. What prevented the Central Government from resolving this problem? Due to weakness on the part of the Central Government, this problem is getting accentuated there. When Sundaram Commission failed to resolve the dispute, why did the Central Government not appoint another Commission or Committee?

The Shastri Commission went into the riots which took place in the year 1985 between Nagaland and Assam. Its report was recently presented to the House, They have also recommended that there should be a High-Powered Commission. It should be appointed by the Government of India for resolving the dispute between these two States. So, some solution has to be found out and that solution can only be found out by the Central Government because it is a problem between the two states. No short-term solution will ease the problem there. When you are sending the BSF or the para-military force to organise elections there peacefully, but that will not diffuse the tension there. So, some long term solution should be found out to ease the tension in the border area and that solution can only be found out by the Central Government.

So, while replying, the Home Minister should clarify as to what steps he is going to take to ease the problem and also for a long-term solution of the border dispute between Nagaland and Assam.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we adjourn for lunch and re-assemble at 2.10 P.M.

13.10 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till ten minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha reassembled, after lunch, at Fourteen Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : Sir, I have just one submission to make. During the speech of Mr. Acharia, he mentioned that the Youth Congress president had some connection with TNV—through the** I understand it has gone into the records of the House. It must be deleted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If that is the case, I will go into it, and check up ; and take action if at all anything is there.

Now Dr. Sudhir Roy.

CALLING ATTENTION TO
MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE

SITUATION IN NORTH EASTERN
REGION PARTICULARLY BOUNDARY DIS-
PUTE BETWEEN ASSAM AND NAGALAND—
Contd.

DR. SUDHIR ROY (Burdwan) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir : The entire north-eastern region is in turmoil. You know that a few years ago, there was a proposal for creating a new federal hill State comprising the seven sisters, viz. the States of Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, etc.

Now, we all know that there are slogans of independent Nagaland, independent Manipur, independent Tripura, independent Meghalaya, etc. We also know the operation of the Brahmaputra Project, a project nurtured by the CIA. Why such demands for independent State multiply because the people suffer from a sense of economic deprivation ? They feel that they are not in the main stream of Indian life. If one goes to the north-eastern region—I myself went to that region during the puja holidays—one will find that road transport and the rail transport—it is evident—are simply lacking. Road and rail development accelerates the economic development of a region. But as has been pointed out by my previous speaker, still Kohima,

Imphal and Agartala have no rail links. Not only this, there are poor banking facilities. Take the case of Assam. Assam is rich in oil and natural gas, timber resources, tea gardens etc., but a majority of her people are poor. What is the role of the Central Government ? The Central Government simply hunts with the hunter and runs with the hare. Why ? Because when our people raise some demands, it is said other people, outsiders are responsible for this. If the Khashi students of Meghalaya demand that Nepalis should be evicted that is facetly approved, because they simply try to divert their attention. The real problem is poverty ; the real problem is economic under development. But people are told that the outsiders are responsible for this. In Nagaland, non-Nagas are responsible for all maladies ; in Meghalaya, it is said that the Nepalis are reaping all sorts of benefits ; in Assam, it is said that Bengalis are responsible for everything ; in Tripura, it is said that these Bengalis are responsible for all the ills of Tripura. Therefore, the Central Government should have taken a more cautious approach because imperialist powers are trying to fish out of troubled water. Therefore, the Central Government should not have encouraged such secessionist forces. But, unfortunately, we know that in Tripura, the Congress Party has entered into an electoral alliance with TUJS and the TNV is a breakaway faction of the TNJS. The TNV, from its Bangladesh base, is committing raids day-in-and-day-out on innocent people. My previous speaker, Shri Basudeb Acharia, has already pointed out that a Youth Congress I office-bearer wrote a letter to Vijay Rankhal assuring him all help. I want to know from the Home Minister whether he is going to take any step against the Congress I office-bearer. Not only this, Tripura has huge gas reserves, but, is there any project for gas based power plant ? Tripura can prosper if rubber plantations and tea gardens are given adequate bank loan ; but they are not given. The people of Tripura are raising a demands for extension of railway lines. There was an all party deputation last year, but no attention has been paid to their demand. In Meghalaya also we find that thousands of Nepalis are being evicted. I have with me a copy of the

** Not recorded.

letter which says that these Nepalis are victims of mass fury. The government promised that there should be relief camps in the cantonment area and evicted Nepalis would be brought back to Meghalaya but nothing has been done. As regards Nagaland-Assam border, I beg to submit that the time for taking up calling attention motion is a bit late. Already, the election has taken place. Today is the 18th November. But the Nagaland Government, despite the directives of the Election Commissioner have set up polling booths in the disputed territory. When the State of Nagaland was created on 1st December 1963 we hailed the creation of a new State, because we thought that this would put an end to hostilities in the area and in a federal set up of India every community has a right to live within the political framework of India. But unfortunately these border troubles also started simmering in the last 25 years. Already, we know of the Chungajan massacre and Merapani massacre. We are sorry to know that in Merapani incident both the armed police forces of the States of Nagaland and Assam entered into an armed conflict and in this conflict machine guns, mortars, rifles and rocket launchers were freely used and it lasted for 48 hours. As a result of that 23,000 people were affected.

Now, the Nagaland Government should not have set up the polling booths because there may be Naga people in Assam, but it has no right to set up polling booths because we believe in the Constitution that any Indian has a right to vote, right to settle, right to purchase any property in any part of India. Otherwise we cannot build up a healthy democratic society. Therefore, we also do not support the economic blockade which was launched by AASU. In 1960 there was a terrible riot in Assam and some other political parties and leaders demanded that there should be an economic blockade against Assam. But my party said, "No; there cannot be any economic blockade of any State as we live in a united India. We cannot take steps against the people of another State." Anyway, the Central Government is responsible because when the Merapani incident occurred, then both the State Governments, that is the Government of Nagaland and the Government of Assam were run by

Congress (I). Therefore, they could easily sit round a table and find a solution. The Shastri Commission has been appointed. It has submitted its report. I hope that the Central Government would come forward to defuse the situation and find out a permanent solution. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the economic packages that they are going to deliver for the North-Eastern region. Because, look at the river Brahmaputra. Every year it causes terrible floods in Assam, but its water can be utilised for generating hydro-electricity. Its resources are untouched. Therefore, I would also like to know from the Minister what steps he is going to take against that office bearer who wrote the letter to Vijay Rankhal.

I would also like to know the steps that are going to be taken for the permanent solution of this border problem.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati):
 Mr. Deputy-Speaker, the hon. Minister in his statement has made a broad overview of the entire North-Eastern region and the situation that exists in different States in the area.

I will not like to cover all the aspects and I will not also go into the economic question, the economic deprivation of that region because the time will not permit me to do so. I prefer to take these aspects into account whenever we have some other occasion to discuss the problems of the North-Eastern region. I will confine myself to the immediate problem which prompted me and my other colleagues to give notice of this Call Attention and that is the setting up of polling booths by the Nagaland Government for the election that is going to take place within Assam areas. The whole question to some extent has become academic, because the elections will be over within one and a half hours.

But still the problem needs to be resolved and the problem cannot be brushed aside and should not be brushed aside merely because the elections will be over within one and a half hours. Assam's shares with Nagaland a boundary of 434 KM and the Nagaland State came into

[Shri Dinesh Goswami]

existence by the Nagaland Act of 1962. Earlier, Nagaland was a part of Assam, a district and the boundary of Nagaland was notified as early as in 1925. This is the constitutional position which the Government of India and Nagaland must accept. The Nagaland claims certain areas of Assam. The Nagaland claims not only the ground but certain areas which under the 1962 Act should be within its territory. The Nagaland claims certain territory on the ground that the Nagaland does not accept the 1925 notification and the boundaries as was drawn under the 1962 Act. It can be that there are boundary questions like this all over. For example the question of Belgaum is there. Punjab claims certain areas of Haryana, Haryana claims certain areas of Punjab, but still constitutionally. A territory which is within a particular State, till we amend the constitutional provisions, redrawing the boundaries, remains with that particular State. Legally and constitutionally all these so-called disputed areas are today within the boundaries of Assam. Unfortunately, Nagaland encroached a large tract of 27000 hectares of Assam territory large tracts of forests have been destroyed. What is surprising is that by a notification, Nagaland has taken over 89 villages of Assam. Here is a State which is being run by the party, which is run in the Central Government. I believe that some constitutional sanctity should be maintained by all the States. If a State is permitted to claim the territory of other States by a notification, then you will appreciate what will happen to this country. What the Home Minister says in his statement is very interesting.

'As the House is aware, a territorial dispute has been pending between Assam and Nagaland arising from the claim of Nagaland Government to some adjoining areas of Assam on the ground that these were traditionally Naga areas which were wrongfully taken away from the erstwhile Nagaland Hills District by the former British Government by notification issued in 1925...'

Nagaland wants to undo what has remained — from 1925 till today, the good year of 1987—a part and parcel

of Assam. Even that claim can be there. I cannot say that one cannot claim. Till the claim is finally adjudicated by a proper authority and the constitutional changes are made, these are a part and parcel of Assam. I want to point out this concept of traditional areas. If we act upon this concept of traditional areas, we will create insurmountable problems in the North Eastern Region because every State of North Eastern Region can claim the territories of other States in such concept. You have the claim of Greater Mizoram. Arunachal will have its claim. If this concept is given some credence, then it may destroy the foundation of this country, and we will reopen the very question of boundary virtually in all the States.

I hope the Minister will agree that Nagaland has violated the agreements entered into between the two States to maintain law and order and the two incidents have already been mentioned—one in 1979 Chungajan and another in 1985 Merapani—where more than one hundred people were killed. Now the Assam Government has shown its willingness to resolve this problem, because we believe and strongly believe that if the North Eastern Region is to prosper and progress, then it is only possible if there is coordinated efforts of all the States together and harmony amongst the people of the North Eastern Region.

We do not want that in this boundary question there should be differences between the people. What can we do? The Sundaram Commission was appointed by the Government of India. The Commission has given its recommendation. We have accepted this recommendation. Whether the recommendation is in our favour or not, since an independent body has given a recommendation, we have accepted the recommendation. There was a decision to demarcate the boundary by an agreement between Assam and Nagaland with the help of the Central Government by the officials of Surveyors of India with security afforded by the Government of India forces. We accepted it. The demarcation of boundary was started. Then suddenly Nagaland stopped it. These are certain things on which, I believe, the Central Government should firmly clarify its position.

Coming to the question of polling booths, in 1980 and 84 elections, Nagaland Government wanted to set up some polling booths within the territory of Assam on the ground of administrative convenience. The Nagaland Government wrote to the Assam Government in the past election that because some of their voters wanted, it was difficult to set up polling booths—because of geographical location or otherwise, I do not know—they may be permitted to set up some polling booths within our territory. As the request came at the last moment, the Election Commission also requested that let this election be passed and allow these booths to be set up. This was permitted by the predecessor Government but on certain specific grounds and conditions. The first was that this had been permitted because of a formal request made by the Government of Nagaland to the Government of Assam. It was made absolutely clear that arrangement was purely temporary and for that occasion only and would have no binding effect for the future. That was done as a good gesture. It was made very very clear that it would not be made a precedent. But unfortunately, every time before elections you come up and say: "For this election you permit us." Three elections have passed. Was it not necessary that after 1976 elections, 1980 elections and 1984 elections this thing was settled?

What the Nagaland Government did this time was that the minimum requirement of requesting the Assam Government to set up these polling booths was not complied with. They came and wanted to set up the polling booths as if this is a part of their own territory. On that we approached the Home Minister and the Election Commission that when these are admittedly within the territory of Assam, constitutionally Nagaland cannot set up any polling booth because the constitutional requirement is that the polling booth may be set up only in the territorial jurisdiction of that state where elections take place and voters of that particular state only participate in the Assembly elections of that state. I belong to Assam. I have no right to participate in an election of Bengal or Bihar. That constitutional position was very clearly taken. What did the Election Commission do? The Election Commission assured—I will read

it—that status quo ante will be maintained only for the seven polling booths for which there was earlier agreement. We even did not agree to that proposition. According to us the earlier agreement cannot have any binding effect to it. The earlier Government of Assam agreed but this time we do not agree. Therefore, we do not agree to the setting up of polling booths, even those seven polling booths to which the Government of Assam agreed on an earlier occasion making it explicitly clear that it would have no binding effect on future. But the Election Commission issued a press note which says that the Commission's approval vide its letter to the Chief Electoral Officer, Nagaland, Kohima, to the polling stations proposed to be set up for the purposes of general election to the Nagaland State Assembly, was given subject to the presumption that no polling station other than those agreed to earlier be the two State Governments, have been proposed to be set up in the disputed area. I am quoting from a notification from the Election Commission. By the same letter vide endorsement, the Commission has also requested the Chief Secretary of the Government of Assam to allow Government of Nagaland to maintain the status quo ante in the matter of setting up of polling stations in the disputed area for voting for the ensuing elections. The Chief Election Commission has promised to verify as to whether the polling stations that are proposed to be set up in the disputed area in connection with the ensuing election to the Nagaland Assembly, involve any deviation from the arrangement as agreed to by both the State Governments i.e., the status quo ante position. That is to say, the *status quo ante* position. We made it very clear. Our position has been that we do not agree even to this proposal of the Election Commission. But what has happened? The Nagaland Government is trying to set up 44 polling booths. Even if the Election Commission's instructions are taken into consideration—because there are very clear instructions—"the Commission desires that the list of polling stations—again I am quoting from a letter of the Election Commission the Chief Electoral Officer—of constituencies falling in disputed areas should invariably be checked and verified physically by the District Election Officers con-

cerned to see that no polling station is set up in disputed areas; apart from those already agreed by both the State Governments of Nagaland and Assam." That is to say, the status quo ante regarding the agreed books should be maintained in setting up of polling stations. Unfortunately, the Nagaland Government has not even accepted and acted on this advice and have tried to set up 42 polling booths. I would like to know from the hon. Home Minister whether he has any information to that effect.

Now, a Committee was set up. When the Committee went there, we said: "Kindly verify these area on the basis of the Survey of India maps, or bring in officials of the Survey of India to find out or make the physical verification." The Committee said: "No. Neither we are taking the help of the Survey of India officials, nor of the Survey of India maps". How are you going to physically verify whether a polling booth is within territory of Assam, whether that polling booth was actually there in the earlier election, whether that is the polling booth which conform to one of the seven agreed polling booths? Unfortunately, nothing to that effect was done and no effort was made to find out whether there was any deviation. My information is—and that is what the Government of Assam has strongly protested—that now they have changed it. Now they have said not seven polling booths, but we will set up polling booths in seven villages. Earlier, the Election Commission's instructions were clearly for seven booths only. When you say that it should be 'ante', it meant seven polling booths. The Government, the Election Commission—unfortunately, I am to remark—have taken a partisan attitude all throughout. Now the hon. Home Minister says that the Government of Assam requested for both CRPF and BSF. We did. Because under the tripartite agreement, the patrolling of the border is the duty of the para-military forces. But the agreement says that the para-military forces must act to protect the border of both the States. The para-military forces, in the name of elections, cannot be used to violate the territorial sanctity of one

State. What is being sought to be done today is that the para-military forces are being used to violate the territorial sanctity of Assam and to hold elections in the Assam in the Assam areas, in total violation and disregard of the Constitutional provisions. And this is the strongest objection that we make. Of course, we are not surprised because Assam has the unique experience that in 1983, in the name of Constitutional compulsion that it compels the holding of elections, and election was held with these forces, resulting in the death officially of 3,500 people and unofficially of 7,000 people. I had the occasion of stating it in the Rajya Sabha...*(Interruptions)*.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV); What about the Shastri Commission's Report?

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I had the occasion to state in the Rajya Sabha that whatever might be the causes 7,000 people died, and I had the occasion to state that if the Constitution is such that it compels the killing of 7,000 people, it is better that we have a fresh look to the Constitutional provisions. Therefore, I strongly resent and express my view against this partisan attitude. But still I will say that at some point of time the matter needs to be resolved. As I said at the beginning, we cannot allow this to continue to the North-Eastern region. We want to live in peace. Now, the Shastri Commission says: have another commission. The Central Government set up the Sundaram Commission, the Shastri commission wants setting up of another commission. That commission will give a recommendation. What is the guarantee that that commission's recommendations will be accepted by Nagaland? Why not a settlement is sought to be arrived at on the basis of the Sundaram Commission's recommendations itself? Why this cannot be made the basis of a discussion? After all, Sundaram was not an officer of the Government of Assam. Sundaram was an officer who was asked to investigate and that was on the instructions of the Government of India. Therefore, I will submit that on the Government of India's initiative...*(Interruptions)*.

S. BUTA SINGH : He was not a Commission.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Then, what was he ?

S. BUTA SINGH : He was only finding the facts. It was not a Commission. You are mistaken. He just went to study the situation there. That is all.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Will you kindly read the recommendations ?

S. BUTA SINGH : There are no recommendations. He found the facts and brought them out.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMY : Then why are the bindings ? Are there no findings of the Sundaram Commission ? Mr. Chairman, there are clear recommendations of the Sundaram Commission. Let the Home Minister place it on the Table of the House. Let him do it. Why does he not ? After all Sundaram Commission was brought into existence not by the Government of Assam, but by the Government of India and the Government of India is not accepting the position. Then exactly what I state is that it is a partisan attitude of the Government of India. Because there is the Government in Nagaland which is their own Government, everything that they are doing is in favour of the Government violating all constitutional provisions. But still I submit that serious efforts must be made to resolve this boundary problem. I will request the Government of India to take the initiative immediately after election to see that this boundary problem is resolved because this boundary problem may set in motion, forces which may create explosive situation in the North Eastern region and I for one believe that the people of North-Eastern region must live with harmony, must live with understanding and must work together for the betterment and economic prosperity of this region. Therefore, my question to the Home Minister will be : will you kindly place Sundaram Commission's Report, whatever its recommendations are or whatever the document the Sundaram Commission has given to the Government of India ? Will the Government place it before the House ? What steps the Government of India propose to take in concrete terms to help in

the demarcation and settlement of this question so that in the election which will be coming in 1990 or earlier, you should not then say that the Nagaland Government, the Government of India and the Election Commission asked the Government of Assam that within the Assam areas allow polling booths to set up and given an assurance that your para Military forces will not be used for the purpose of violating the Constitutional sanctity and the territorial sanctity of Assam.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Ghazipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in his statement, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs has presented a detailed description of the situation in the North-East. There can be no two opinions about the view that the situation in the North-East is tense. Although as a result of the efforts of the Central Government and of the Home Ministry in particular, the situation today is much better as compared to what existed 4 or 5 years ago. Such incidents are still occurring in some area or the other time and again leading to a tense situation.

Certain incidents have occurred in Tripura recently which indicate that terrorist activities are again on the rise. There was comparative peace in Tripura for many years but since some months, innocent people are being killed by T.N.V. guerillas. News to this effect are pouring in these days.

Similarly, Meghalaya was a peaceful State in the North-East and incidents of this kind were rare there. But now the people who are not the original inhabitants of Meghalaya are being attacked. The Nepalis, the Bengalis, the Biharis and people from various other communities who have settled in various parts of Maghalaya, particularly in Shillong, and are engaged in business or service are being attacked and tortured. These incidents are rapidly increasing in this State since recently.

In Mizoram, there is comparative calm and the credit in this respect goes to the Accord signed between our Hon. Prime Minister and MNF leader Shri Laldenga as a result of which it seems that no problem is arising there at present.

[Shri Zainul Basher]

In Manipur also, there is a terrorist group operating and terrorist incidents are frequently occurring there and people are being killed.

The situation in Assam which is the largest State in the area is much better as compared to the years gone by. It has been possible largely due to the Assam Accord signed between the Hon. Prime Minister and the leaders of Assam. Although peace has returned to the State, yet the minor incidents which are still occurring indicate that all is not well in this State. The attitude of the Assam Government is not proper towards the non-Assamese, Bengalis and others who have settled there from outside. During the Assam elections, I had the opportunity to stay in the district of Dibrugarh. A few days ago, a delegation from Dibrugarh came to me to complain that their district has been affected by floods in the river Brahmaputra. There is an area called Chhal in this district which is situated on the banks of river Brahmaputra. Chhal area is thickly populated and majority of the population consists of Bengali farmers. This area is frequently submerged under flood waters during the monsoons. The residents of this area shift to other places during these days. This year they were not allowed to return to Chhal after the floods receded. They were stopped from going there.....(Interruptions).....Assam Government stopped them; who else can do so.

Similarly, there are several areas in Assam where people from other regions have settled since 50, 100 or 150, years and injustice and excesses are being committed on them at the Government level. Assam Government is responsible for it and we are constantly getting reports to this effect.

SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN (Barpeta) : You should give an account of the number of people that are being looked after by the Government of Assam as well.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : If you want, I will surely provide those figures as and when I get them. Right now, I want to provide those figures which are available with me

You are well aware of these things. A terrorist group has come into being in this state also which is attacking the linguistic and religious minorities in particular. The Chairman of the United Minorities Union was shot dead recently. Such incidents of terrorism are occurring frequently and it clearly shows that the situation in the North-Eastern region is not normal. The situation is tense and unfortunately some State Governments also have a hand in the creation of tension in these States.

SHRI GOKUL SAIKIA (Lakhimpur) : You have spoken a white lie.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : Take the example of Tripura.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

You kindly listen to me..(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No interruptions. No Intervention.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : I do not want to intervene. Every member has the right to speak. But I only want to point out that we do not accept his allegation. It is baseless. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : I would like to speak about Tripura. The Government of Tripura is taking action against the TNV extremists under normal laws. The terrorist activities are very serious there. In a single incident, 15 or 20 persons are being killed and so far as I am aware, the Anti-Terrorist laws are not applicable in Tripura. An Anti-terrorist laws are not applicable in Tripura, the TNV Terrorists who are apprehended are being released on bail and they are indulging in similar activities again. (Interruptions) I would like to ask the hon. Home Minister as to why Anti-terrorist laws have not been invoked in Tripura where terrorist activities are continuing and such activities are increasing? Why are Anti-terrorist laws not being invoked in Tripura? Is the State Govern-

ment not to blame for this? Why is the State Government not invoking anti-terrorist laws in the State whereas terrorist apprehended under normal laws are being released on bail and proper action is not being taken against them? The hon. Home Minister should look into it as to why this is not being done.

So far as Assam is concerned, I would like to say that the main intention of the agreement which was signed with regard to Assam was that there should be peace between Assamese and non-Assamese. There should be a feeling of fraternity between various communities. But such incidents are happening almost daily and non-Assamese are being evicted from their land. At least during floods one should adopt human attitude, but even while giving flood relief, flood victims are being discriminated against.

(Interruptions)

[*English*]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : I strongly repudiate this allegation. It is entirely untrue. If my friend wants to make the allegation, he can do, but it is totally false.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : Even during the floods, the Assamese and non-Assamese are being given relief on a different scale. And as I have said earlier that the people of Chhal area in district Darang are not being allowed to return to their homes. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether many such complaints have been received in the Ministry of Home Affairs? If so, what action has been taken on them? Some people are being harassed by saying that they are foreigners. I was there at the time of elections and I had seen that the people were being harassed unnecessarily.

(Interruptions)

So far as boundary dispute between Assam and Nagaland is concerned, it is really a matter of serious concern. There are boundary disputes between many States,

but it is very strange thing that a State for which boundary has been fixed legally, should set up polling booths in another State. It has not been seen anywhere else. I have come to know that this has happened there earlier also and people of that area have voted also. An agitation was launched in Assam also that people of that area should not vote in the elections of Nagaland, but even then 70 or 75 per cent of people have exercised their franchise in the Nagaland elections. I think that people more or less to the same extent might have been voting in Assam elections also. It is not a good thing that same people should vote in elections of Assam and Nagaland both. You should resolve this issue.

Whenever a problem to solve the boundary dispute between two States arises before us, the Government appoints some commission. The commission submits its report also, but one or the other State does not accept the verdict. I would like to ask if there is any law or not under which the verdict of a commission on the border dispute should be acceptable to both the States? I would like to ask the hon. Home Minister if any such provision has been made in the law or not? Because we have seen that in the case of Punjab and Haryana, three Commissions were set up and the reports given by these Commissions were either rejected at one time by Punjab and at another time by Haryana and some time by both the States. Similarly when a report was given in respect of Maharashtra and Karnataka, it was rejected either by one State or the other and some time by both the States. The hon. Minister says that Sundaram Committee was not a Commission, but Shri Swamy claims that it was a commission. Whether it was a commission or a committee, it had given some findings and these findings were rejected by the Nagaland Government. If the States are not bound to accept the findings of a Commission in this manner, I think that boundary disputes can never be resolved. It should be made binding on them. If you set up any commission for deciding the boundary dispute, you would have to make a provision that the report of the commission would be binding on both the State Governments, because whenever any such commission is set up, it would be

[Shri Zainul Basher]

neutral, In the Home Minister considering to set up any such commission or Panchayat with the concurrence of both the State Governments of Assam and Nagaland? Would you appoint any such person who could give his award which might be acceptable to both the State Governments? However no such thing has happened before. The late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi had given an Award in respect of Chandigarh, but it was not accepted. Similarly Awards were given on many issues, but even these Awards were not accepted. There has been only one case in which the Award of Trivedi Commission was accepted by U.P. and Bihar both. Though sometimes some defects are observed and some incidents take place, but as a whole, the Award of Trivedi Commission has been accepted by both the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. I would, therefore, like to ask the hon. Home Minister if he is thinking to make any such provision?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the end, I would like to say one more thing with your permission. In Tripura and especially in Meghalaya, the situation is very serious. In Assam people are being deprived of their property; they are being evicted and they are becoming homeless, but they are not being killed. But in Tripura and Meghalaya, there is a risk to the lives of a large number of people who have settled there from other States. The terrorists are looting them and killing them. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what steps are being taken to check these terrorist activities?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the hon. Minister will reply.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMY: I want a clarification. The hon. Home Minister just now said about Sundaram Commission and that it was merely asked to do something. I would like to ask a specific question. Is it not a fact that a meeting was held on 11th December, 1979 at the instance of the Union Home Minister in the presence of Chief Ministers of Assam and Nagaland in which it was decided that an expeditious

permanent solution to the differences regarding the border between Assam and Nagaland should be found and, that the report of Shri K.V.R. Sundaram should be made available to the Governments of Assam and Nagaland, that those specific aspects of the study with which the State Governments do not agree will be listed out by them, that the reasons for such disagreement will be set out and that these comments of both these States should be made available to one another?

15.00 hrs.

Therefore, in 1979, the Sundaram Committee's report was made the basis by the Union Home Minister for a settlement of the Assam-Nagaland problem. I want to know from the Union Home Minister today, but for political motivations, what other grounds does he have at his command to say that the Sundaram Committee's recommendation is not acceptable?

(Interruptions)

S. BUTA SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me at the outset dispel the impression that is being sought to be created by Shri Goswami. He himself has not mentioned that Sundaram was either a Committee or a Commission....(Interruptions). You have read it and in that it is only mentioned that the Sundaram's report should be made available to both the State Governments....(Interruptions). Therefore, what I have said was that it is neither a formal Committee nor a formal Commission. Mr. Sundaram was asked by the Central Government to go and find out the facts to enable both the Governments to come to a conclusion. He says that the report was made available. My information is that what Mr. Sundaram had brought as facts from there were made available to both the Governments.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I have not said that it was not made available.

S. BUTA SINGH: Both the Governments have not taken any decision on that. As a matter of fact, subsequent to that I understand that this Shastri Commission was appointed because whatever findings of Sundaram were there, they were not acceptable. Therefore Mr. Shastri was sent as

a Commission to make a report to the Government of India and that I have dealt with in my speech.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : That is not mentioned in that Shastri Commission's report.

(Interruptions)

S. BUTA SINGH : This is my problem ... (Interruptions) Without understanding, without reading the matter, he comes here and makes all kinds of speeches and innuendoes.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : That is not correct. Shastri Commission was constituted to enquire into the incidents of Merapani. As I have already pointed out, for this purpose, in 1979, the Sundaram's report was made the basis.

S. BUTA SINGH : It is subsequent to Mr. Sundaram's study and also to some incidents that took place, Shastri Commission was asked to do this. That is what I am replying. Unnecessarily, he is trying to bring in some politics. Where is the politics here ? He says it is politically motivated.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI (Kaliabor) : Yes.

S. BUTA SINGH : Your saying 'yes', will not cut any ice.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Neither yours.

S. BUTA SINGH : There is no political motivation. Let me tell you that we have no political motivation. Please try to understand. (Interruptions) Let us face the issues, instead of accusing each other. This will not help either Assam or Nagaland. (Interruptions) No. You must be dispassionate. You must be objective in finding a solution to this problem. (Interruptions) By raising the voice, by creating postures, by shouting, by blockading the economic supplies to one State, you cannot solve any problem. I agree with Dr. Sudhir Royji. He says that he condemned it ; resort to blockade of any highway or any economic

blockade is detrimental to the national interests. I appreciate the feelings and the sentiments expressed by Dr. Sudhir Roy. No Government, no political party should try to blockade essential supplies, specially in the difficult terrain of our North-Eastern Region.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : He should congratulate the Government of Assam because the Government of Assam took the initiative...

(Interruptions)

S. BUTA SINGH : Do you want congratulations ? Do you want it for blockading the essential supplies for Nagaland, for seven days ? I condemn this with all the force at my command. (Interruptions) This is the tendency. By starving the people of a State, you want a certificate from this House ?

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Unfortunately, Mr. Buta Singh either does not understand English or he intentionally misreads. (Interruptions) What I am saying is mis-read. (Interruptions)

S. BUTA SINGH : We should blame the Assam Government. How can we praise it ? That is the problem. I want to ask : who put up the blockade ?

(Interruptions)

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati) : Sir, the Home Minister, instead of cooling down the situation, is creating a problem.

(Interruptions)

S. BUTA SINGH : It is a matter of great concern that an economic blockade by an organised Government is not condemned by you. What kind of representative are you ?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please order. He has listened to all your points. If there is any dispute, at the end, you can raise that.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, no. I cannot allow.

S. BUTA SINGH : In this respect, we must be guided by the national interest. And the national interest always says that we should...

(Interruptions)

S. BUTA SINGH : I heard your Member Sudhir Roy speaking *(Interruptions)* If you don't want, I cannot.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Not only regarding blockade but I am also condemning your inaction for the last 25 years.

S. BUTA SINGH : You want to accuse my fore-fathers. Go on. If I am held responsible for what my fore-fathers have done, you are also equally responsible. This House is jointly responsible. If I am responsible, you are also responsible. Therefore, let us come to the problem. The Members of Parliament must approach the national problems very dispassionately. That is what I am saying. There are three aspects.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Listen to what he says.

S. BUTA SINGH : Three major things have been highlighted in today's Calling Attention. One is, most of the Hon. Members have said that the Centre is neglecting the North-Eastern region. I would like to devote...*(Interruptions)* Kindly listen. Either you listen or I have to wind up and finish the debate. If you have asked for information, kindly be prepared for that. *(Interruptions)* I cannot oblige him for what he wants me to say. I have the facts with me. Whatever is the facts are with me, I will place it before you.

Sir, it is wrong to say that Centre is neglecting North-Eastern region. The fact is that the total plan outlay in Sixth Plan was Rs. 2,727 crores in which Central assistance was of the order of Rs. 2014.50 crores. Whereas now, as compared to Rs. 2,700 crores, the total outlay for the Seventh Plan stands at Rs. 145 crores of

which Rs. 893 crores is the Central Assistance. This is a big leap, a big jump in the allocation for the North-Eastern region so far as Central allocation is concerned. Hon. Members are more educated than me and can find out that this allocation is a substantial jump from the past Five Year Plans to the Seventh Five Year Plan.

Some Hon. Members have asked about the backwardness of the North-Eastern region with regard to the railway lines and the development of railway works in that area. Sir, I have with me five projects which are substantial projects. One is Dharmanagar Kumarghat in Tripura. The distance is 33 Kms and the estimated cost is Rs. 37.10 crores, and the expenditure is Rs. 36 crores. The 22 kilometer line from Dharmanagar to Pechartal has been opened in March 1986. The balance will be completed by December 1989. The work is going on as per schedule.

Next is the Silchar Jiribam Assam-Manipur railway link. Its distance is 49 kilometers and 52% of the line is expected to be completed in December 1989. The next project is Lalabazar-Bhairabi in Assam-Mizoram which is 48 Kms. long. 55%, i.e., 30 Kms. from Lalabazar to Jamira is expected to be opened by February 1988; the balance will be completed in the year 1990. The next project is Balipara-Bhalukong in Assam-Arunachal Pradesh which is 35 Kms. long. 47% work is expected to be commissioned by December 1988. Similarly, on Amguri-Tuli line in Assam-Nagaland 20% has progressed. Works have been taken up and will be completed as per the scheduled time-table drawn by the various authorities.

I would like to mention some of the other very very important projects which have been taken up; I won't take the time of the House in enlisting how the five year allocations have been raised. But I would like to mention a few very important decisions which the Government of India took. The very fact that the Prime Minister himself has appointed a Central Committee in which most of the central ministers are members and whatever department is concerned with any project in the north-eastern region, that department is involved

in that Committee, itself shows the concern of the Central Government. The Home Minister is heading the Committee and monitoring the programme of implementation in the north-eastern region.

Some of the projects are the Ranganadi Hydel Project with an estimated cost of Rs. 312.78 crores, the Regional Mining School in Nagaland with an estimated cost of Rs. 3.22 crores, the establishment of 5 MW Gas Turbine Set at gas based thermal power station at Baramura in Tripura with an estimated cost of Rs. 5.26 crores, the Mechanical Cargo Handling Plant at Pandu with an estimated cost of Rs. 6.56 crores and also a Road Bridge over river Brahmaputra at Bhomoraguri near Tezpur has been commissioned at a cost of Rs. 89.14 crores.

As a part of the commitment made to the Government of Assam, an IIT has to be established. A Project Advisory Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Shri Niten Bhaya, Member, Planning Commission. Apart from IIT there is also a proposal for setting up of a Central University in Assam.

In order to improve the cement supply to North Eastern Region, the Ministry of Railways will move an average of 35 rakes per month. The earlier average was less than 30 rakes per month.

Similarly, to further improve the supply of foodgrains, more FCI godowns are being constructed in the region. Transport subsidy has been liberalised and it has been raised from 75% to 90%—unprecedented.

Similarly one more technical consultancy organisation which is IDBI sponsored will be set up for the north eastern states. The Government of India have approved re-revised cost of Kopili Hydel Project at Rs. 212 crores. 132 single circuit KV line linking Kumarghat and Aizawl had been completed by North Eastern Electric Power Corporation. The construction of 132 KV Jiribam-Aizawl line is going on and is expected to be commissioned in 1987-88. With the completion of this line, the constraint on flow of power to Mizoram, Tripura, Barak Valley districts of Assam will be removed.

The construction of 132 KV line linking Gohpur in Assam and Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh at a cost of Rs. 2.40 crores has been approved for transmission of power to Arunachal Pradesh from Assam. The North Eastern Council has commissioned the National Institute of Urban Affairs for a detailed study on the problems of urbanisation and urban development of the north-eastern areas.

These are some of the very very important projects taken up at the national level and are being monitored by the Central Committee consisting of very very senior officers. Ministers are themselves involved in this and the hon. Ministers in their own respective departments make very frequent visits to the north eastern zone so as to see that the projects taken on hand are implemented without any loss of time.

Some of the hon. Members made certain political charges. They are ill-founded and motivated, I should say. Sir, if I touch upon any subject the hon. Members will rise. They want their own voice to be heard and they do not the other side of the picture to be put before the House. I would like to say in all humility that let us take the issue of elections in certain disputed areas. How the whole thing developed? Shri Dinesh Goswami would not let me have the privilege of initiating the move. I requested both the Chief Ministers that Central Election Commission wrote to us that there should be some arrangement since election is going to take place. We started the process with the respective governments. When we found that the respective government officers are not coming to a final decision I contacted both the Chief Ministers. They came here. We held the meeting. In that meeting we made all the proposals. The Chief Minister of Nagaland, myself, Chief Minister of Assam, their cabinet colleagues and other officers were present. We had a big meeting. In that meeting what Shri Goswami said was respected. I appealed to Shri Mohanta in the national interest that since you have allowed three earlier elections and the time left at our disposal is short so please help us. Only a few days are left. CEC has published the list of polling stations. So please help us. It will be a goodwill

gesture on the part of the Assam Government and without any prejudice to the claims and counter-claims and also without setting any precedent...

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : But this has been repeated for the last three elections. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Why every time we have to do the same thing ?

S. BUTA SINGH : I was saying as Mr. Goswami said that earlier also it was mentioned 'without precedent' so I requested the Chief Minister of Assam that I will take responsibility that after this election I will not wait for any State or any party. I will take the initiative myself. I will call a meeting and we will see that this situation does not arise for the next election. It is humanly impossible for anybody to say that on such and such date both the States will agree. After all they have to agree. I can only persuade them and plead with them. They can even come to some understanding and decide the issue tomorrow itself.

Therefore, I requested the Chief Minister of Assam that I on behalf of the Government of India appeal to you that I will take up myself and initiate the process and try to bring both of you together and based on certain previous things—the Commission's report or whatever is available we will place before them. Now Shastri Commission has made positive recommendations. There are two recommendations—one is short-term and the other is long-term. In the long-term approach the Shastri Commission has mentioned : To bring about a lasting peace and tranquility in the inter-State border of Assam and Nagaland immediately we should appoint a commission with the powers to give an award binding on both the State governments within a fixed time-limit to settle the long outstanding claim of Nagaland on some of the areas included in the reserved forests of Assam. Government has requested the two Chief Ministers to evolve an agreed term of reference and suggest panel of mutually acceptable names for appointment of an arbitrator/mediator whose

award or decision would be binding upon the States. This is what we are following. After the Shastri Commission report came we have got in touch with both the State Governments. They have not been able to tell us whatever was required under the recommendation of this Commission. I promised to take it up myself. We will sit together and find out the mutually acceptable dates and then start the process. In the same meeting Shri Mohanta mentioned that earlier it used to be the practice that the Chief Minister of Nagaland will write formally. I immediately asked the Chief Minister of Nagaland. He said that I am prepared to give it in writing. You dictate a letter and we will have it.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Why a counter-proposal was not put that instead of setting up election booths within Assam which is un-Constitutional kindly remove these booths a few kilometers away... and put it in Nagaland so that we may have a constitutional election.

S. BUTA SINGH : There are thousands of voters. Had it been one polling booth, perhaps it would have been possible. This point was also discussed with Shri Mohanta and his colleagues. It was found impossible to carry that large number of voters from one place to the other. It was not found possible. Moreover, it is a prerogative of the Chief Election Commissioner under the Constitution to set up the polling stations. Therefore, no Government could deviate from the election process which is controlled and guided by the Chief Election Commissioner. This idea was also mooted. It was rejected. Therefore, the Chief Minister of Assam did not accept this proposition. He said, "No, I cannot take this letter." Then, towards the end of the meeting, when I asked him (he was here) what should be concluded, he said, "I will give you our reaction little late after the meeting." Then, he went back. In the meantime, the Chief Election Commissioner also called a meeting of the election officers of both the States. He drew a programme and finalised the list of the polling stations.

Sir, Shri Goswami is either trying to confuse me or he is himself confused. He

is not making a difference between 'polling station' and 'polling booth'. There can be more than one polling booth in one polling station. There can be four polling booths in one polling station. So, he was trying to mix up the number, of 14 polling booths with 7 polling stations.

Just now, I have got a report of the study team which was sent under the directions of the Chief Election Commissioner. It has reported that there is no deviation—not even to a comma—in the practice which was prevailing in the last election. The same polling stations were established this time.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : The Election Commission's order was that polling booths should be put up only in those booths where both the Assam Government and the Nagaland Government agreed. The agreement was in relation to 7 polling booths. Now you are trying to deviate and say that whatever polling booths were put in the last election, the same will be repeated. The case of the Government of Assam clearly is that there is a deviation because the Government of Assam, in the past, agreed to 7 polling booths but 42 polling booths have been sought to be put up this time.

S. BUTA SINGH : That's why I say : He is again confusing 7 polling stations.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Who is confusing whom, I don't know.

S. BUTA SINGH : You are trying to confuse me. I refuse to be confused.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : I cannot confuse you.

S. BUTA SINGH : Seven polling stations in seven villages. The same number in the same number of villages have been commissioned this time. Not a single more station has been established. Not a single more polling station has been opened by the Nagaland Government. This is the report from the Election Commission's team about which I am trying to inform the House.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Election Commission itself has deviated.

S. BUTA SINGH : There is no deviation. I have to take the decision of the Election Commission in this case. I am sorry, I cannot be led by the decision of a particular State Government.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : I have not tried to confuse him.

S. BUTA SINGH : It seems he will disagree. But what I am stating is a fact that the team, which went on the ground, has reported that there is no deviation from the number of polling booths which were there in the last election. Let us agree on that. Therefore, there is no problem.

Until half-an-hour before, my report was that the elections in the area have gone on smoothly. There is no problem on the ground. The problem is only with Shri Goswamiji.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : You should congratulate the Government of Assam that it has created no problem.

S. BUTA SINGH : Let us come to the end of the day. When the election is complete, I will give my appreciation for a good work done by the people on the ground. If the Assam Government has cooperated, I will definitely extend my appreciation. I am not that miserly, I will definitely congratulate. Therefore, the limited issue of holding an election there is nearly coming to a completion without any hassle.

Other points raised by some of the Hon'ble Members opposite—Shri Amal Datta and others—relate to certain elements in Tripura. Tripura unfortunately is hotting up because the elections are approaching. Therefore, whether it is the ruling party or the opposition party, they are trying to level charges against each other. I do not think the Members will expect me to disclose what the CPM has been doing with TNV. Mr. Rankhal has given a loan. My information is that the CPM tried to give some kind of solace to

Mr. Rankhal who is the head of TNV. He took some loan, stayed for a few days and went back. He was even given a petrol pump. Sir, only the other day... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI AMAL DATTA : He himself is very much confused.

S. BUTA SINGH : You cannot confuse me. The other day while replying to a Starred Question, my distinguished colleague, Shri Chidambaram informed this august House that ten known hard-core TNV people who were arrested by the CRP were enlarged on bail by the Government. This is against our advice. We advised the State Government not to do this, it is a dangerous thing for the security forces, it is dangerous for the people of that area but our advice was not headed to and they were released. Who is helping whom? What is the use of hurling charges over here? What is happening on the ground? Now, the people are being intimidated. They are not allowed to paste their posters and they are killed in large number. This is the state of affair. The matter was so serious that I had to travel all the way. I had to go there. I went to Tripura. I held a meeting of all the parties in which no party member from CPM levelled any charge against TUV. It is only in this House that I am hearing the charges. We held a meeting there and nobody refused. Now the election is hotting up and they must find some charge and it is usual for many parties to do such things.

Therefore, these are baseless charges and I refute them. We have to go to the people. Let the people decide whether they want to carry on with this party or change the Government. Why should they be harassed or intimidated or prosecuted? Sir, we warned the State Government that the 15th October is a 'black day' for the TNV. Every year they come and kill the people on that day. This time our warning was not heeded to. It resulted in killing a large number of people. The Government is not taking strong measures which was agreed in a joint meeting that Anti-terrorists Act will be applied and that people

will be booked for anti-national activities. This Act is not being applied. What can we do? They want to mix with these extremists forces and win their favour for winning the elections at the cost of national security... *(Interruptions)* Therefore, we cannot ignore the facts. These facts have a bearing in national security. With great difficulty, we were able to bring the Chief Minister of Tripura for declaring certain areas, disturbed areas which he agreed... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : CPM is engaged in terrorism in Tripura. Do you mean that?

S. BUTA SINGH : This is for you to decide. I am placing the facts before you.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : What is the fact?

(Interruptions)

S. BUTA SINGH : In a meeting it was decided that the Anti Terrorist Act would be used, that area would be declared as disturbed area, that TNV party would be outlawed and that we would supplement the force and we have done all that. *(Interruptions)*.

You do not know that. It was said in this very House. The Chief Minister had a meeting with us. Here in the Parliament I shared this decision with the House. We replied many questions on that. It is very convenient to forget things which one does not like. These are the agreed decisions. We requested the State Government to implement those decision, but unfortunately, these decisions have not yet been implemented. But I shared this with the House. Therefore, it no use levelling charges here. Once you level a charge, it has to be met. I am not levelling any charge, but what I am saying is that certain decisions were taken and the decisions taken in that meeting are not being implemented. That is my complaint. If I cannot tell the House that the decisions are not being implemented, I am not worth the salt... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : You may level any criticism against the Tripura Government, but do not make allegations that CPI and CPIM are encouraging terrorism in Tripura. We are paying there with our lives. (*Interruptions*).

S. BUTA SINGH : Sir, the situation in certain parts of North-East is precarious. Wherever extremist activities are there, these have to be tackled. Whether one party's Government is there or the other party's Government is there, it does not make any difference, because the security of the nation, security of the people is concerned. What I am trying to drive at is that we should work jointly, see that these anti-social forces, extremist organizations did not play hell with the lives of the people. Unless we implement the decisions that we take, it is not possible either for the State Government or for the Central Government to deal with the situation. That is what I am trying to derive at...(*Interruptions*).

They made many allegations and I am trying to tell the facts, but they are not prepared to listen. That is the position. In the larger interest, in the national interest, let us forget about party affiliations, so far as anti-national and terrorist menace is concerned. They are doing well with us in Punjab, CPIM and all other parties. (*Interruptions*).

S. BUTA SINGH : You are trying to build up atmosphere for the elections. Our motive is not elections. Elections are there...(*Interruptions*). Your motive is the elections, our motive is not the elections. Our motive is much larger. We want to have the integrity, unity of the country at heart. Elections are very material, but not that material. We would like to win the elections, but not through these methods. These methods go to weaken the fabrics of the unity. We should not allow these methods to come in.

Now, I can assure Shri Goswami and the august House that now the elections will be over and irrespective of the fact that the Assam Government did not cooperate with us, I will definitely take an initiative, I will initiate the process to see that both the State Chief Ministers are brought together and based on the earlier

recommendations, or whatever papers they want to bring, an amicable settlement is found to the Nagaland and Assam border dispute and it could be settled in the national interest so that peace and tranquillity is established in that area.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : We are not satisfied with the answer. We find that in this matter a partisan attitude has been taken by the Ministry and in protest, we walk out.

Shri Dinesh Goswami and some other hon. Members then left the House.

15.34 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Forty Third Report

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY
AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT):
I beg to move :

"That this House do agree with the Forty-third Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 16th November, 1987."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Forty-third Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 16th November, 1987."

The motion was adopted

15.36 hrs.

[*Translation*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) **reed to take steps for social integration.**

***SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS** (Jaipur) : We are living in an old and

*The speech was originally delivered in Oriya.