

of cotton by five rupees per quintal in comparison with that during the previous years and has also announced long term cotton export policy. As many as 6 lakh bales of cotton will be exported from the country every year for three years. The announcement of export policy will increase the demand of cotton but there is no effective arrangements made to pass on the benefit of the increased demand to the farmer. The farmers are not in a position to sell their produce in an open market on reasonable price. The Government have not made any effective arrangements to buy the produce of the farmer at the support price. In the circumstances, the farmer has to suffer loss even after producing a bumper crop. He is compelled to sell his produce in the open market at a price less than the support price. I, therefore, request the Government to make such arrangements at the earliest as to guarantee the support price to the farmer and also to save him from the exploitation he is undergoing.

12.24 hrs.

[English]

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Agitation for a separate State by Gorkha National Liberation Front

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa) : 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 arising out of the agitation for a separate State launched by the Gorkha National Liberation Front and the action taken by the Government in that regard.”

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : Sir, The agitation of the Gorkha National Liberation Front is reported to be mainly for the creation of “Gorkhaland” as a separate State within the Union of India and for the abrogation of the Indo-Nepal Friendship Treaty of 1950.

As the House is aware, there have been a number of law and order incidents in the last few months in the Darjeeling Hills area of West Bengal arising out of the agitation of the GNLF. I shall very briefly mention some of the major incidents.

The GNLF organised a 72-hour bandh from May 12 to 14, 1986 during which there were several incidents of violence and one person died in police firing. On May 25, 1986 following the arrest of some persons involved in some cases, GNLF supporters at Kurseong took out a procession violated prohibitory orders and attacked police personnel. Police opened fire resulting in the death of 5 persons and injuries to 2 others.

On July 27, 1986, GNLF supporters burnt copies of Article 7 of the Indo-Nepal Friendship Treaty in various places. There was a violent attack on the police at Kalimpong and the police had to open fire. According to the Government of West Bengal, 13 persons died in the firing and 38 were injured, while among the police, one was killed and a large number injured. From the next day, began a 108-hour bandh in Darjeeling and other areas.

The GNLF announced boycott of the Independence Day celebrations on August 15, 1986 and instead hoist black flags. They also announced blockade of the movement of timber from the hill areas to the plains from August 23, 1986. However, on August 14, 1986, Shri Subash Ghisingh, President of the GNLF, announced the suspension of the agitation for one month.

Since September, 1986, there have been a number of incidents of violence, many of which involved confrontation and clashes between the supporters of GNLF and CPM. The State Government has from time to time requested the Central Government to provide para-military forces and these requests have been promptly attended to. At present, there are 14 companies of CRPF and 2 companies of BSF in the Darjeeling area.

Government of India are opposed to the division of West Bengal and have categorically rejected the demand for a separate State of Gorkhaland. Government of West Bengal

have proposed regional autonomy for the Darjeeling hills area and an amendment of the Constitution for this purpose. Government, of India, however, are not in favour of any amendment of the Constitution.

The demand for the abrogation of the Indo-Nepal Friendship Treaty of 1950 seems to arise out of an erroneous appreciation of Articles 6 and 7 of the Treaty. Under the above Articles, citizens of Nepal in India, though otherwise foreigners, would enjoy certain privileges in several matters as are enjoyed by citizens of India. If the treaty is abrogated as demanded by the GNLF, the citizens of Nepal in India would lose their special privileges and, further, they would have to be sent back to their country of origin as any other foreigner. Similarly, of course, Indian citizens in Nepal, who at present enjoy the same privileges as citizens of Nepal do, would cease to enjoy such privileges. As for Indian citizens of Nepali origin, the Treaty does not adversely affect any of their rights. Indian citizens of Nepali origin have the same rights and will continue to enjoy the same rights as any other citizen of India. In view of this, the demand for the abrogation of the Treaty is misplaced and unwarranted and cannot be accepted.

It may be mentioned that in a statement made on 14th August, 1986 while announcing the suspension of the agitation for a month, Shri Ghising has stated that they wanted their grievances to be redressed within the framework of the Indian Constitution. In a letter dated September 15, 1986 addressed to me, Shri Subash Ghising explained that the GNLF had on December 23, 1983 submitted a memorandum to the King of Nepal setting out their grievances against the Indo-Nepal Treaty and that a copy of the memorandum was also sent to the President and Prime Minister of India. He also explained that about 15 months later copies of the memorandum were sent to the U. N. Secretary, General and Heads of Governments of some countries. He further said :

"We never intended to internationalise our internal problem and to seek a redressal of our grievances outside India. We have no hesitation in clarifying our basic position and regret any mis-apprehension or doubts caused

by our sending the Memorandum to the U. N. and some Governments. We assure the Union Government and through it the Parliament and the people of India of our total Loyalty to India, which is our motherland".

In our democratic system, demands are made by sections of the people for the redressal of their grievances. Many demands, apparently political, have their roots in social and economic causes and a sense of being left out of the socio-economic development process. The socio-economic development of the Darjeeling hills area will go a long way in meeting the felt needs of the people of that area. Development will have to take care of the minimum needs of the people in the matter of drinking water, education, employment, etc. Government hope that the Government of West Bengal will take note of the backwardness of the Darjeeling hills area and make a special effort to promote the development of that area and its people.

Government also wish to make it clear beyond any shadow of doubt that violence has no place in a democratic system, however genuine the grievances may be, GNLF is gravely mistaken if it believes that violent confrontation will advance its objectives. Government condemn the violence that has affected the Darjeeling hills area due to the confrontationist attitude of the GNLF and the CPM. The State Government has the duty to ensure that the perceived neglect among certain sections of the people does not lead to discontentment and violence. The responsibility for maintaining law and order within the State rests with the Government of West Bengal and the Government of India will continue to render such assistance to the State Government as may be requested.

I would request the support and the cooperation of the House in issuing an appeal to the GNLF to give up its misplaced demands and adopt peaceful and democratic methods for the redressal of the genuine grievances of the people. I would also appeal to the Government of West Bengal and particularly to the Chief Minister of West Bengal to show a high degree of statesmanship and initiate a dialogue with the people concerned to remove discontent and bring about order and normalcy in the affected areas.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa) : Sir, with deep anguish and great concern I initiate the deliberation and it may take a little more time and you will bear with me as it was the understanding with the Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER : Yes, there has been an understanding

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Sir, you have heard the statement and I am constrained to say that the statement is most irresponsible. I do not know who writes the statements for the Hon. Minister. And now, Sir, just now you may read the first paragraph.

“The agitation of the Gorkha National Liberation Front is mainly for the creation of “Gorkhaland” as a separate State within the Union of India and for the abrogation of the Indo-Nepal Friendship Treaty of 1950.”

This is what we got. Now, at the last moment the correction came :

‘It is “reported to be” mainly’.

This is not the first time. In the Press briefing of the meeting of the Prime Minister with the M. Ps there is one thing, very interesting I must say

“As regards the situation obtaining in Gorkhaland”

was written there. How the mind is acting, I do not know. Then about the Dharwar meeting, in Karnataka in the TV the report was first given — I was told, I did not see — that the Prime Minister has condemned the GNLFF agitation. Then a correction came. “No. He has not condemned the agitation. He has condemned the violence from both sides.” What is this? You don’t take a principled stand. And you are totally equating both. We just cannot allow this confusion to continue. Darjeeling is in flames, people are being killed, our offices are being burnt and blood is flowing like anything. We have our M.P. Ananda Pathak. He was attempted to be killed. The office was dynamited. And now we are

being told that both sides are indulging in violence. That means you are condoning the violent people who are leading the secessionist movement. Everything cannot be seen at per. Yes, our people are defending and we are proud for it. But how can you equate both? Somebody is attacking, somebody is defending. Only people with great quality of leadership, they can make such impossible statements.

Now, we call it anti-national; we call it secessionist, we call it divisive. Why? What they are saying now is not the main thing to be considered. How is the movement being conducted? What is the tenor of it? What is the motive of it? That is the main thing. Their attempt is to divide the people. Pit one section of people against another. Without that they cannot enforce their demand for a separate homeland. So, that is the danger. And given the background of our country, the secessionist movement, communal forces those who are trying to raise their head, the imperialist conspiracy, if you try to see this as an isolated question, you are gravely mistaken. And you have committed this type of mistake in the past many times. We are thankful to the Central Government for sending CRPF. He has also said that Bengal will not be divided. What is the sanctity of that statement? I do not know. What is the logic of it? Why Bengal will not be divided? Tell me. If their movement is not anti-national, if they have genuine grievances, and if you feel that West Bengal is unjust to them then why you allow them to languish in West Bengal? The Prime Minister has said that it is not anti-national : if there is anything anti-national, West Bengal Government has to deal with that. So, what is anti-national, that State Government will deal with. What the Central Government will deal to encourage the anti-nationals? What is the argument?

Why we call them anti-national? Now, there is a document with us that has been supplied to the authorities concerned, to the Central Government. They have sent memorandums to the UN Security Council, UN General Assembly, International Court of Justice, European Human Rights Commission and to different Heads of Governments of foreign countries. What have they said in this? What is the content?

"The GNLFF had to be formed to meet the cruel challenge of a series of apartheid and genocide crimes done by the State and Central Governments."

It goes on :

"Britishers themselves have gone back to their own country of England having decided only the fate and fortune of the Hindus and Muslims of Indian origin by creating two separate independent countries of Bharat and Pakistan and the said Gorkhas and their ceded land and territories were left at the cross roads of cyclic stage of self destruction from the date of 15th August, 1947..."

Not only this. Posters have appeared in Darjeeling area appealing to the Gorkha army men to quit army. What do they say in one poster ?

"Brave Gorkha soldiers — hear the news of Darjeeling. Central Government has deployed CRPF personnel in Darjeeling to kill our brothers and sisters...please quit army at once, save our lives and fight CRPF."

It is not anti-national ? Have you ever condemned this ? Have you ever condemned violence by then and not the so-called both sides ? Do not try to confuse things. They are doing great harm.. (Interruptions) It does follow a pattern; it smacks of that kind of movement that was launched in Punjab. About that man who led that extremists movement, the same person, who is now the Prime Minister, in a different capacity, called him the religious leader. And what happened for that, you know. You see what is going to happen in future. Yesterday, you have seen in the press what Gheising has to say. He said : Rivers will turn red by blood... (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur) : Has he permission from you to quote all this ? (Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Are they holding brief for Gheising ?

In this context, I must say one thing. On 18th August this year in Bengal all parties

met including Congress (I). They signed one statement calling it anti-national and asking the people to isolate them. Who signed it ? Among others, it was Priya Ranjan Das Munsi, who is now the Commerce Minister of State Rank. Then what happened ? The Prime Minister went there. I do not know whether they talked with him or not. The party was totally let down. He said that it is not anti-national. They said that they cannot do anything. This is a great example of disciplined party behaviour. Even after going to Calcutta, when asked by Journalists, the Prime Minister said, about writing a letter to the King of Nepal and sending it to others also that Nepalis could very well write to their king. Which Nepali can write to their king ? Those who are Indians, can they write to the Nepali king ? Can they do it ? (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE :
What he has said.....

(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : I only request you to put it on record.....

(Interruptions)**

We are requesting you to record what she is saying.

(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have not allowed anything to go on record.

(Interruptions)**

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Is it being recorded what she is saying ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You better record it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have told you that nothing is going on record..

**Not recorded.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You should record it. We want it to be recorded. Why she is doing this song and dance here? People at least should know that she has been there(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I won't allow. I have not given permission to her to speak. How can I allow her?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : What she has been saying here should be recorded. We want to show that the Congress people, this lady is doing the song and dance for the Nepalese .. .

(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mamata ji please take your seat. He is on his legs. I cannot allow everyone to speak like this. You take your seat. You carry on Mr. Chowdhary. You ask whatever clarifications you want to seek.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : I am very serious, Sir.

Now, Sir, take a proposition. If the leaders of the agitation are not Indian Nepalese, then why do they create trouble here? And if they are Indians, then why do they write to other countries and also operate themselves in other countries, in Nepal?... (Interruption).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Already you have taken more than ten minutes. You put whatever questions you want to put. Other persons have also to speak. You are not the only person, there are four other Members to speak.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, the Speaker has told me that some more time will be given for this discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are four other Members also to speak.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Yesterday the Speaker had told me that the rules are being relaxed for this discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will allow him only 3-4 minutes more.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : No, Sir, that is not right.

Now, Sir, even the economic demands and backwardness and all that has been referred to, the Prime Minister has been saying often about this. What is the contention about this? I request you to see Gheising's interview in *Front Line* of August 9-92, 1986. What he has replied is: "We demand Gorkha Land not for the *dal* and rice".

Q. What is the economic demand of Gorkhaland? Have you anything to say on the contention that funds allotted to the hill areas have not been properly spent or have been misutilised or even misappropriated?

Ans. We don't want any hill development. We don't want our roads to be paved with gold.

Q. You mean there is no economic content to your demand for Gorkha Land?

Ans. No, our voice is not against any economic mismanagement of allocated funds or for money or for creation of more jobs."

Now, you are saying they are backward. Backwardness is there everywhere, but that cannot be a plea to launch anti-national agitation. Why are you holding brief for them-backwardness, backwardness? Every area has backwardness. There are twelve districts in West Bengal that are more backward than Darjeeling. I understand Nepali people's genuine grievances that have to be taken care of. That is another thing. But you just should not condone this.

Then he is saying the Demands are "within the framework of the Constitution". I have this letter of Gheising to Mr. Buta Singh some days ago where he had said that out of desperation they wrote to the Government of Nepal and sent copies to other countries. Even in that he says, "We would like to point out to various ethnic and other organisations in India and elsewhere to address communications on their grievances and on the issue of human rights to the U.N. and other international organisations, and

conventions." He reserves this right. Do you understand where the seed is being sown? And you are going to give them a certificate. That is very wrong and you won't be able to stick to what you are saying to-day. It is not the law and order situation that you create and by your action you abet them and the situation becomes more furious. Then, you talk of Article 249 and after that you say dismissal of the Government. It is not the way. Things are not to be done on party political lines.

Indo-Nepal relations—some important aspects are to be mentioned here. This has been demanded—abrogation of Article 7 of the Indo-Nepal Treaty and all that. It is going to spoil our relations with Nepal. There are people who are active to endanger our relations with Nepal. You know what are their motives and how it is being linked with Gorkha land demand and the demand that will ultimately lead to the division of the country. This is how Gheising said :

"After the full declaration of Nepal as a zone of peace the Indo-Nepal treaty stands rejected and nullified. The Indo-Nepal Gorkha Troops agreement will also be rejected, domiciled status of of 1950 and reciprocal agreement will be rejected...After the rejection of all Indo-Nepal Treaties, we the 60 lakh Nepalis (in India) will be nowhere. Later on, perhaps, 75 lakh Biharies and Hindustanians (people in U. P.) may be expelled from Nepal."

You see the conspiracy. How is the zone of peace connected and all that? What is the zone of peace advanced by the Government of Nepal? Does our Government support this? Don't we take it that it is a ploy to take Nepal away from India? Does our relationship that is there affect them? Do you not understand that? (*Interruptions*)

You say, no, not good relationship with Nepal, that is there with us. But you don't see the danger. This is how you take this problem.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You put the question.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : I refer to the Article written by Dr. Satish Mishra in the Link on 5th October, 1986.

"Nepal Government has been trying to revise the 1950 Peace and Friendship treaty and various overt and covert tactics have been applied to attain this objective. GNLF demand is latest step."

Then there is this attempt to distort history. Nepal is being connected with Darjeeling. Was Darjeeling a part of Nepal? It is not historically true. How are they connecting? We know that demand is already there for creation of Greater Nepal. How is it internationally connected? We have to understand that. We should not be naive in our behaviour. How they are trying to operate! I have seen in papers that Uttarkhand Kranti Dal has been formed to have a separate State comprising Kumayun and Garhwal Hills and they have links with GNLF. What is it that Gheising said in *Frontline* interview?

Q : "If your Gorkhaland is for the protection and for affirming the Indian identity of Indian Nepalis, how is that you have started your agitation here not in Assam and other areas of North East?"

The answer is :

"The agitation will soon begin there also. We now have a Chief Convenor of Seven States."

We have to understand in this perspective. This is what he has said. He bothers little about what you say. Are you going to appeal to them? I am so surprised and you have said that the Chief Minister of West Bengal and people of West Bengal have to show statesmanship. What they are doing till now? Are they behaving like a bull in a China shop? By this you are really endangering the integrity of our country. By this they are getting encouragement. (*Interruptions*)

There is a silver lining, I must say. Those who are fighting them—the attackers, the secessionists those who are fighting them, they are our Nepali brothers. They are organising it on democratic principle. Who have been demanding recognition of their mother tongue, their regional autonomy? (*Interruptions*).

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : What is this? Double standards he is adopting. What does he mean by autonomy?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Anil Basu.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Now, Sir, we have to see, though it is not very well connected with this agitation, it has to be dealt with politically and firmly. By giving regional autonomy you cannot stop this movement. That is another question of democratic principles as to how to mobilise public opinion. That will be done naturally. But I must say that is the Nepalese brothers who are fighting these secessionist elements and that it is the silver lining and here I demand of the Central Government : Help them categorically, forth rightly, not confuse the issue by saying violence from both sides. It is totally irresponsible, it is harmful and detrimental and it will lead to greater disaster. If you repeat things like that, it came as a tragedy, now it is coming with juvenile stupidity leading to a greater disaster. We have to check it immediately.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while participating in this motion, at the very outset I recall the deep concern expressed by this august House so many times over the unity and integrity of this country.

Sir, this august House expressed its desire and it stood like a rock against the secessionist and divisive forces in any part of the country. And, Sir, you may recall that this august House expressed the desire that the unity and integrity of the country cannot be compromised whether there is a threat from inside or whether there is a threat from outside of the country. But unfortunately, the Ruling Party for its narrow political gain ...

AN HON. MEMBER : Is it the Ruling Party in West Bengal?

SHRI ANIL BASU : The Ruling Party at the Centre. Here you are all present. But unfortunately the Ruling Party at the Centre for its narrow gain is neither learning lessons from history nor has it the intention so far. And what heavy price the whole

country is paying and continues to pay for the narrow political gain which the Ruling Party sought to achieve by encouraging communal, secessionist and disruptive forces in this part or that part of the country? (*Interruptions*). There is the instance of Jammu and Kashmir. What is happening there? Now there is a coalition of Farooq and National Congress and the Ministry is swearing in. In the earlier period you know that happened there. There was a defection from the National Congress. Who encouraged that defection? Who supported the formation of Khaleda-Shah's National Conference Ministry there? It is you, Congress people, who supported them and later on you know, the fundamentalist forces gained the ground in Jammu and Kashmir and now you are compelled to form the Ministry with Farooq there. I say, you have not forgotten the lesson of Punjab also. The person who is the Head of the Government now at the Centre, that person was an M. P. at that time and was the General Secretary of the Congress Party. He gave a clean certificate to Bhindranwale saying that he was a religious figure, and you know what price the whole country paid for that, including the Congress (I) Party.

Coming to the situation prevalent in the district of Darjeeling arising out of secessionist and divisive agitation for a separate State launched by GNLF which adopted unbridled violence and hooliganism in that part of our country, only to fulfil its objective, the creation of a separate Gorkhaland, the question has been put forward by none other than the Prime Minister of the country and other Ministers and high ups in the Ruling clique that the said movement is not anti-national. Here is the latest press release of the Congress (I) Parliamentary Party, and with your kind permission, may I quote that press release?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, it is not necessary, Mr. Anil Basu.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : It is a party issue. How is he quoting this thing, Sir?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, she does not understand. This is the Press release.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What the contents, you can just say.

SHRI ANIL BASU : The Prime Minister wants to say that this is only a law and order problem and the said agitation is not anti-national. What does it mean ?

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, running commentary must be stopped on such an important thing.

SHRI ANIL BASU : It is nothing but unbridled violence and hooliganism. It is not just a law and order problem. Sir, it is a political movement. It is a political movement launched by the GNLF supported by imperialist forces. (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Kindly control her. (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are once again repeating the things. The Minister has already said this. What is the use in repeating ?

SHRI ANIL BASU : It is a political movement supported by the imperialist forces, with the sole objective to destabilise the unity and integrity of the country. That is revealed from the letter of Ghuishing to the King of Nepal, to the other heads of the countries and UNO. He wrote that letter on 23-12-1983 to the King of Nepal. Until today, he has not withdrawn that letter unconditionally. That letter is still there. He in that letter :

...your Majesty to take a bold step for historical decision and your Majesty's *selomonic* judgement."

He further says :

"Now the verdict lies with your Majesty."

This letter is dated 23.12.1983. Is it not an anti-national letter ? If you think that it is an anti-national letter, then you should condemn it and you should tell him to withdraw that letter unconditionally. But till today, he has not withdrawn that letter

written to the King of Nepal, to UNO, to all heads of the foreign countries. That letter is still lying there.

What is the speech he has made on 2.6.1985 in the general body meeting of GNLF at Kurseong ? He said :

"In spite of our repeated recommendations, and reminders, we the Nepalese could not get justice in the Indian Union. Only the Marwaris, Biharis, Punjabis, Bengalis got the justice in India."

And later on, he continues to say :

"Today everywhere in the world many tiny countries are being created "micro-state". UNO is recognising these countries as separate sovereign countries. They have to pay only 55,000 dollars to the UNO."

That means, they are ready to pay \$55,000. That is the content of the letter, speech by Gheishing on 23.12.1985 at the general body meeting of GNLF. It means, thousands of dollars are available in their hands. They are getting dollars from the imperialist forces, that is dollar imperialists. That has been expressed by Gheishing himself.

Now, I do not know, what is anti-national. One of our Cabinet Ministers, as has been published in the Press, Mr. Asoke Sen, the Union Law Minister told the reporters—which has been published in the Calcutta dailies—that during our freedom struggle we sought help from outside. Now, what is wrong if GNLF takes help from outside the country ? What is wrong in that ?

13.00 hrs.

You see, the attitude of the Central Ministers. See the attitude of the Central Ministers. He is maligning our freedom struggle. This is the attitude of the Central Government. No what is the demand of the GNLF ? They want abrogation of Indo-Nepal treaty. They want creation of a separate Gurkha land. What is the purpose ? The Law Minister is not here to condemn this. The house of Shri Anand Pathak, a senior Member of this House, was burnt. His life is at stake and his house has been burnt. Neither the Central Government nor any

Ministers of the Central Government have expressed concern over this incident. Mr. Buta Singh has said in answering the Call Attention Motion that there is violence on both sides. He is equating those who are attacking and those who are attacked. That is way, we are saying that only sending of CRP personnel will not help. We appreciate on this thing that you have done. We appreciate this point on your side. But this is a political point. This is a political question which needs political solution. That is why, the solution to the problem of minorities may be ensured within the framework of the given State. Safeguards to the language and culture of those minorities should be made. Arrangements for making them participants in issues solely concerning them and not others in the State, should be made. That is why, the Government of West Bengal including all the parties even in the year 1953 were raising the demand of regional autonomy for Darjeeling and the Government of West Bengal has sent the proposal of West Bengal Legislative Assembly to the Central Government and also there was genuine grievance of the Nepali speaking Indian citizens for inclusion of their language in the VIII Schedule of the Constitution. You can easily amend Article 244 Schedule VI of the Constitution. You can easily include Napali language in VII Schedule of the Constitution. West Bengal Government is doing its duty. Now it is your duty.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing goes **on record. There is no point. Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia will now speak.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA (Sangrur) : While making a comparative study of the statement laid by Hon. Sardar Buta Singh and the information relating to the issue, being published in pamphlets and newspapers and also from the speeches of worthy colleagues, I am convinced that there are genuine grievances which exist in many parts of the country due to imbalanced development and unemployment etc. There are some problems of language and some religious problems in many parts of the country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You want more time. You can continue after lunch.

13.05 hrs.

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

— — —

The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunch at ten minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

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

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

—(Contd.)

[English]

Agitation for a separate State by Gorkha National Liberation Front

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Ramoowalia.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after making a comparative study of the reports published in various sections of the press and the statement read out by the Hon. Minister Shri Buta Singh in the House, I see that reasons for certain dissatisfaction in some areas of the country had always been there; due to the prevailing unemployment and imbalance in development, there had been certain problems and there are certain problems. The aspirations of the people were not met because of certain reasons—paucity of funds, overpopulation in the country and many other reasons. The situation in the Darjeeling area of West Bengal is causing concern to everybody. Reasons may be there. India has a firm belief in unity in diversity. There are regional aspirations, regional sentiments for regional entities, and they must be preserved, they must be honoured. Such feelings will remain everywhere. This House and this country has to seriously see that these feelings are satisfied to the maximum but with great caution. That is, it must be seen that the leadership does not go into the hands of those people who have yet to clear themselves that they can prove to be responsible leaders. In the Darjeeling area, the Gorkha National Liberation Movement

**Not recorded.

says that they are fighting for liberation. Here I have an objection: liberation from whom? Keeping this kind of slogan-catching name is not good. It smacks of certain doubts. I also feel from my own experience—because in our State also I have experienced—that, whenever there is a confrontation between the Centre and the State, whenever there is a misunderstanding between the Centre and the State, problems instead of getting solved get further complicated. I will urge upon the West Bengal Government and the Central Government that there should be maximum understanding to solve the issue facing the whole nation. Problems are there and they will be there. But the problems must be solved within the framework of the Indian Constitution and on this land of India only. Nobody should be allowed to seek outside help in any form from any neighbouring country for the solution of our internal problems.

The Hon. Minister, in his statement, has said that Mr. Gheising wrote a letter on 15th September, 1986. Can I ask the Hon. Minister to place it on the Table of the House or produce that letter in this House so that the country could know what Mr. Gheising has written to the Government of India...

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Along with the Minister's reply; both the letters.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA : Yes, both the letters.

Government have given two or three assurances, I am convinced to some extent. I welcome these assurances in which it is said that the division of West Bengal has been categorically rejected. It has also been said that amendment to the Constitution will not take place, I welcome these assurances also. I also welcome the statement that the demand for abrogation of treaty is unwarranted.

On the one hand this is being said. Put I will say that the Government of India should in no way give a slight impression that forces which are anti-India, can get, any type of sympathy from the Government of India or should an impression go to the

people that Government of India can think otherwise on these issues.

I would humbly suggest in the end that while dealing with the situation, the country, the whole nation and all the political parties should stand like one man to protect, the sovereignty, integrity and the unity of India and protect the mutual harmony among the people of this great country.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, I am very much depressed at the statement given by the Minister. I know you will not be giving me much time; but please give me enough time to express my depression.

Firstly, the description of the movement as has been given in paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this statement, shows that either the Government do not know the reality or they do not want to reveal it. I would like to ask the Minister whether he knows that many of the leading functionaries of our Party, the CPI have been threatened, their houses have been burnt and they are also being asked to join the movement; otherwise their existence will be at stake. That is what they are being told all the time. Not only the CPI, the CPI(M) you should also know that those who would not agree with the Gheising business, all of them are being threatened all the time. Do you know that even to board a bus you need the permission—whether you are a GNLFF supporter—if not, at gun point you are not allowed to? Do you know that to board a taxi you need the permission, otherwise at gun-point you are not allowed to, unless you are a participant of the movement? Has the gravity of the situation come in your description here? I don't think it has come. Nor has it come that arms are being smuggled through the Mirik border all the time. Have you made it a point here? Why not? Whom are you trying to protect?

Secondly, I am extremely disturbed at the paragraph 9 of the statement where it makes a mention that in a letter dated September 15, 1986 addressed to him, Shri Gheising explained that the GNLFF had on December 23, 1983 submitted a memorandum to the King of Nepal setting out their grievances against the Indo-Nepal

treaty and a copy of the memorandum was sent to the President and the Prime Minister of India. There is no condemnation of his sending this letter. Nor has it been revealed as to what was there in that letter. Is it not true that in that very letter Mr. Gheising while referring to the conduct of the Britishers referred to the question of plebiscite for the Gorkhas, that is, whether they should be in Nepal or in India. That point of plebiscite writing to King of Nepal happens to be in this very memorandum. How is it that it has escaped your notice? So far as my knowledge goes the Government of West Bengal have sent you the whole thing and surely you yourself would have a copy of it: Is this not a very suspicious thing? I would like to know why are you soft on this question?

I would also like to remind the fact that it is a border area and a sensitive area. It is not a place for political game. I would also like to remind that the question of Gorkha State, etc. is not being floated now only. When John Hope Cook of USA was the Queen of Sikkim as wife of the then Chogyal she was canvassing by publishing Articles etc. for a united Nepali kingdom comprising Nepal, Sikkim and Darjeeling. At least one of her Articles appeared in the National Geographic Magazine of USA. Have the Government gone into all this? Do they not think that there are elements who can raise their heads on this question? Is it not that this kind of movement has a very dangerous potential in it?

I would also like to seriously refer to the House that the behaviour of the ruling party and also its very responsible executive including its head has given an encouragement to this movement. It cannot be denied. After the statement made by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi at Calcutta saying that they are not anti-national, etc. there was an immediate flare up. Whatever may be one's opinion one should be really cautious as to what would be its repercussions. When all-party meeting took place at Calcutta and all of us were present it was the Congress (I) representative Shri Das Muni who wanted this word anti-national to be included in the statement. The statement said about divisive and disruptive forces, etc. but this very word was introduced by them and not

by us. The very next day Mr. Rajiv Gandhi said that they are not so and also there was no word of condemnation. So is it not encouragement? Let me also tell you that the entire Congress (I) of the Darjeeling area has joined GNLFF. I would also like to tell you that Kurseong radio in its Nepali bulletin everytime is giving out news as to how many people have defected from other parties to the GNLFF. Why? Is that to be encouraged? Is it that what they should say? It is a matter of great concern as to what is happening.

Now I come to the last point. It is very interesting. I draw your attention to para 7 read with para 10 of the statement.

"Government of India are opposed to the division of West Bengal and have categorically rejected the demand for a separate State of Gorkhaland."

So far so good. Then:

"Government of West Bengal have proposed regional autonomy for the Darjeeling hills area and an amendment of the Constitution for this purpose. Government of India, however, are not in favour of any amendment of the Constitution."

Let us read it with paragraph 10, which says:

"...Many demands, apparently political, have their roots in social and economic causes and a sense of being left out of the socio-economic development process. The socio-economic development of the Darjeeling hills area will go a long way in meeting the felt needs of the people of that area."

Mind it, it is not only economic demands, but it is being said, it is socio-economic demands. What are the socio-economic demands of these people?

Our party when it was undivided took a stand. May I also remind you that it is not only a question of our party. As early as 1957, when the then Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru visited that area, at that time, the representatives of the Congress

Party, Communist Party, All India Gorkhaland League—those were the three major parties of the area—representatives of Bengalis, Lapchas and Bhutias, all M.Ps and MLAs of the area and fifty MLAs belonging to the plain submitted a memorandum for regional autonomy. Later on, the West Bengal Legislative Assembly passed a unanimous—let me repeat, unanimous—resolution demanding regional autonomy. A stitch in time saves nine. If this regional autonomy was granted long time back, I am sure, these elements could not have this opportunity. You have denied that to this date and of course, you do not want partition of West Bengal. So far so good.

The socio-economic development can be planned. Is it a matter of just giving a few crores of rupees? I say, I thank you, Buta Singhji, you give us as much money as you can and we will spend that over Darjeeling, if that would solve the problem. I say, it would not. You should give us money in a bigger way, not only for Darjeeling, but to solve the socio-economic problem in all the areas. But that alone would not help. Constitution amendment for regional autonomy was to be done.

If the Government do not consider this movement as anti-national, why are the Government rejecting all the demands including the demand of regional autonomy and including Nepali in the 8th Schedule? How do the Government of India visualize the socio-economic development of Darjeeling? How do you intend to solve the problem?

I do not think, this statement will solve the problem. If anything, this is a signal to go on and create more trouble.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati): Sir, the Prime Minister has stated that the GNLF Movement is not anti-national. But it is, no doubt, anti-national. The writings of Gheising on 15 February 1984 to the Prime Minister of Nepal and also on 12 March 1985, sending a delegation to Nepal and meeting ambassadors of different countries such as USSR, UK, Bangladesh and Pakistan—all these things force us to admit that this movement is totally anti-national. A letter was also sent to the United Nations stating that they should be recognise

as an independent nation. Probably, our Home Minister might have received that letter's copy. All these activities prove beyond any doubt that this movement is anti-national. I do not agree with the statement given by the Prime Minister in his Parliamentary Party meeting that the GNLF movement is not anti-national. I condemn that statement.

Anyway, I appreciate the West Bengal Left Front Government for taking effective steps to control the situation. It is only because of the provocative statements of the Congress members on the other side, that this agitation is going on today.

The main factor of the agitation today is that the Nepali language should be recognised as a national language by amending the Eighth Schedule of our Constitution. I do wish that the Government of India would make an amendment of the Constitution on these lines and try to solve the problem.

People in this particularly area are mostly unemployed. They have an apprehension that employment opportunities and benefits of the Darjeeling area are mostly accruing only to the Bengali people. Secondly, the Government is collecting nearly Rs. 30 crores as revenue mainly from teak, tourism and tea. Most of the people residing in this area are of Nepali origin and they feel that not even one per cent of the revenues collected is reaching them and they are collectively of the opinion that only Bengali people are enjoying the fruits of the revenue.

Coming to the functioning of the Government of India, people of this area, particularly those of Nepali origin feel that they are not getting good coverage in the media, i.e. All India Radio and television. And no doubt, it is a fact. Because of the incompetent handling and incompetent policies of the Government of India, people are getting this sort of nations. They think that the Bengal people are getting 100 per cent coverage, whereas people of Nepali-origin are getting only 3.18 per cent of coverage in All India Radip. As far as television is concerned, these people feel that the Bengal people are getting 100 per cent coverage and those of Nepali origin are getting only 0.3 per cent coverage.

Coming to Article 7 of the Treaty between the Government of Nepal and Government of India in 1950, people of Nepali origin think that they are still being treated as immigrants. They feel that they are not included in the mainstream of the nation or in the nationalist movement.

Finally, I am of the opinion that all this is only due to the divisive tactics of the Congress (I) Government to win the coming Assembly elections in Darjeeling area. All this is happening only because of the provocative statements coming from Government of India.

Here, I would like to suggest as to how we can solve this problem of Gorkhaland Movement. I would suggest that the Government of India should come out with an amendment to the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Secondly, those people who are inducing in anti-national activities in the name of this movement should be properly dealt with. Thirdly, I would like to suggest that the Government of West Bengal should try to reorganise the district of Darjeeling so that people of Nepali origin will have a separate district with all facilities and opportunities. The Government of West Bengal should come up with a District Development Board so that the concentrated population of Nepali-origin will feel happy. With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, please allow a full discussion on this subject.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I cannot allow. This is a calling attention motion. I cannot allow anyone. If I allow you, I have to allow others too. We cannot have a full discussion. Please sit down. No please. Not allowed.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I cannot

allow anyone. The Minister is on his legs. Please take your seat. You have no rights.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is not a full discussion.

S. BUTA SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have very carefully listened to the prepared speeches of some of the Members of the CPM...

(Interruptions)

They had nothing to say on my statement. They have brought their own points unrelated to the issue.

(Interruptions)

Sir, while he was pouring his speech in this House, I was keeping quiet. Sir, the very limited issue, through this Calling attention is, this.

Now, you see the wording of his own notice. The whole thing should have been confined to the wording of the notice.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : It is not his own wording.

(Interruptions)

S. BUTA SINGH : The wording of the notice of the Calling Attention enjoins me as Minister...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You listen to him what he is saying. He has not finished. Let him finish first. First you listen to him.

S. BUTA SINGH : Sir, now I have to confine my reply to my statement and my reply to relevant points made in regard to that. The wording of the Calling Attention Notice is a mandate for me and I cannot go beyond that. Therefore, I thought the Hon. Members would at least carefully read my statement and seek clarifications, if they so desired, I would have really met the points in all sincerity. But except Smt. Geeta

Mukherjee for whom I have great respect and regard, no Hon. Member, seems to have read my statement. She read it.

(*Interruptions*)

My own words, she quoted from the statement. Shri Balwant Singhji Ramoowalia also read in portions, but I must say wholeheartedly I agree with him in his appeal to the countrymen that we must stand as one man on the issues of unity and integrity of the country. I congratulate Shri Ramoowaliaji and also Dr. Chinta Mohan, when he said that the Government of West Bengal must reorganise the administrative set up, must establish the Boards for the development of the area.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Board is there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is commenting on Dr. Mohan's statement.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You should have told him then and there, not now.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is telling what Mr. Mohan has said.

S. BUTA SINGH : I have not said anything from my side.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What the Minister said was about what Dr. Chinta Mohan spoke. He is commenting on that. He is not giving his views now. He is commenting on his views. That is all. His reply is on his point.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Here is the Home Minister of the country who should not...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Are you not interested in listening to the Minister's reply? Are you interested in listening to him or not?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is all right. Listen to me. First let him finish his speech. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : He is saying that the development councils already exist. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him complete it. If he is wrong, you can raise a privilege motion. Nobody is opposing that. If he is wrong, you can raise it. Don't interrupt him. Don't interfere. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Balpur) : Any loose talk by the Home Minister will be misinterpreted.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum) : He is not doing it. How can he? He cannot do loose talking. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : These development councils already exist there.

(*Interruptions*)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will not allow.

(*Interruptions*)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are not going on record. I will not allow. The Minister is on his legs.

(*Interruptions*)**

14.42 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. I will myself take care of this.

S. BUTA SINGH : Please be seated now.

MR. SPEAKER : In any case, you are not going on record. I will look into the matter. Take your seats.

SHRI A. CHARLES : The words 'loose talking' should not go on record.

**Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : I will see that nothing goes on record which is not.... I will see that nothing goes on record which is not proper.

SHRI A. CHARLES : We want your protection.

MR. SPEAKER : I say I will look into it. You don't worry. I will look into it. I will see to that.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : He said that we should reorganize the Board. I want him to tell us how to reorganize the Board, and whether the movement will stop with that or not.

MR. SPEAKER : Let us see...please sit down. We have heard you. Let us hear him.

S. BUTA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know precisely what I am saying. If all the Hon. Members yell at me, even then they cannot deter me from the points that I have raised. I must make them.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : But properly.

S. BUTA SINGH : Very properly I will do it.

MR. SPEAKER : High tempers will not serve any purpose. Let us have a calm, quiet discussion.

S. BUTA SINGH : I have a right to reply, under your orders Sir; and I will complete my reply. I just recalled to the House what the Hon. Member Dr. Chinta Mohan had said, and I repeated his words. I do not know why Amal Datta Ji and my friends object. (*Interruptions*) I have not said anything from my side. I have yet to comment on it.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : What did you say ?

S. BUTA SINGH : I have not said anything myself. I was just repeating what Dr. Chinta Mohan had said. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Don't interrupt him.

S. BUTA SINGH : I will have no quarrel if Dr. Mohan says that he had not said this. Let him say so.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you carry on.

S. BUTA SINGH : They are unnecessarily ... (*Interruptions*) They must face the reality of the situation. That is the problem. The reality of the situation is.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATES IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : We cannot have running commentary like that Sir.

S. BUTA SINGH : The reality of the situation, as my Hon. colleague Mrs. Geeta Mukherjee said a little while ago, is this. I am sorry I am only quoting Hon. Members who have spoken. Why are you putting their words into my mouth ? I have every right to reply.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : But you have to be pertinent

S. BUTA SINGH : No I know a little more than what you know, about your State. If you want me ... (*Interruptions*) if you want, I will read out the facts which will definitely put you into a very uncomfortable position. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Amal Datta, you are again doing it. It is a very bad habit.

S. BUTA SINGH : It is better to keep within the rules of the House. Let us be bound by them. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You please read out those facts.

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

MR. SPEAKER : No.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : This calling attention has been tabled to elicit information.

MR. SPEAKER : That is what we have been doing.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : But the Minister is threatening to suppress the information.

MR. SPEAKER : No. Now can you say that ? I think you are trying to suppress what is trying to come out.

S. BUTA SINGH : Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee cited certain instances of the conditions prevailing in that area and she said if I am not misquoting her; she is present here—that if somebody has to get into a bus, he has to get permission of GNLFF people; only then he can get in to a bus. This only speaks how poor the district administration and the local authorities are. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Are you allowing this to go on ? The country will go to dogs. *(Interruptions)*

S. BUTA SINGH : May I ask a question from Smt. Geeta Mukherjee ? Does she want that the Home Ministry should go there and they should also help the transport authority to enable the passengers to enter into buses ? Is this not the failure of the local administration, Sir ? *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : You have to protect me. Your statement upto this paragraph does not reveal the seriousness of the GNLFF movement and its aggressive action. *(Interruptions)* Had you felt it seriously, you would have written differently, because you want to be soft towards...*(Interruptions)*

S. BUTA SINGH : I am happy to report to the House that the only member who had read the statement thoroughly was Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee, and I am sorry, she missed para II, in para II, I have very clearly emphatically, with all the command and all the force at my command, stated that government also wish to make it clear beyond any shadow of doubt that violence has no place in a democratic set up, however, genuine the grievances may be. The G.N.L.F. is gravely mistaken if it believes that violent confrontation will advance its objective. What more do you want me to say ? *(Interruptions)* All the action of maintaining law and order squarely lies with the State Government through its district authorities. Do you want we to change this arrangement ? You kindly tell me how can I change this arrangement under the Constitution of India ?

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : If the ruling party's behaviour conflagrates, who will be responsible ?

S. BUTA SINGH : I had never intervened when you were speaking. Of course, Saifuddin Sahib never raised any questions, he had read his speech. I need your permission. Now in a lighter vein, will you kindly permit me, because, otherwise, they will say that I am trying to speak casually. In a lighter vein, I want to say something, and there is a lesson in that. While we were small children, in the villages, we used to listen to gramophones and if the playing record got stuck if used to continue saying one word on which it was stuck, and now it seems, CPM's record has completely broken in West Bengal, now they are saying, Congress-I anti-national, Congress-I anti-national, Congress-I anti-national, and they want somebody to pick them up and keep them going. Now, this is the attitude of the CPM. They want to put this word into the mouth of everybody including the Congress President.

(Interruptions)

Now, Sir, please now, let met race the background.

MR. SPEAKER : Do not interrupt please.

S. BUTA SINGH : Some time back the West Bengal Government submitted a bunch of papers and they wanted the opinion of the Government of India. Those documents were examined both in the Ministry of Law as well as the Ministry of Home Affairs. How, when you have to examine all these things in a constitutional framework, according to the law of the land, you have to interpret them under certain provisions of the Constitution. According to their information the conclusion was that this particular number of documents submitted by the West Bengal Government do not indicate anything which can be described as anti-national. Now, after that there was a meeting in Calcutta in which the Hon. Prime Minister, the Hon. Chief Minister and also I had the opportunity to be present.

After that meeting there was a Press Conference to which a reference was made almost by every Member from West Bengal

including Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee. In that Press Conference I was also present. One of the correspondents put a question to the Hon. Prime Minister on this issue and he gave this reply that on examination it has been found on the advice of the Law Ministry and the Home Ministry that there is nothing in the documents so far presented to us, that this demand is anti-national. And he added also, he said, so far, these documents have not established it. But he said, I even if some of the Press correspondents sitting in that hall can produce additional evidence or an additional document which can prove that this movement is anti-national according to the Constitution of India. I will take the sternest action on that. What more can be said on this issue? Why do you want to put the same thing, again and again, again and again? I would go point by point, one by one. Otherwise, we can carry on this marathon discussion and we do not reach anywhere.

MR. SPEAKER : I am going to do it now.

S. BUTA SINGH : The purpose of either discussion, calling attention, or questions in this august House is that we must try to sort out the issues most dispassionately and then we can arrive at some conclusions.

Now the very fact is that, and I want to state categorically on the floor of this House, that after I assumed the office of the Home Minister, I was constantly in touch — I am in touch — with the Hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal. At no occasion I have allowed any complaint or any grievance from the West Bengal Government on this particular issue. We have been cooperating with each other to the best satisfaction and we have been trying to meet the situation.

Now all the Hon. Members from Opposition, they have most of them, barring Shri Ramoowalia and Dr. Chinta Mohan, they have made an allegation that the Congress (I) is trying to make this is an election issue. Now, I will not claim more knowledge than Shri Amal Datta in this case, but who stands to benefit from this issue, in West Bengal? Can you tell this House? How many seats are there in that area? How many seats are there? That is a simple question.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Because of your folly they are likely to benefit.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : There is another point. Let it be clarified. It is not the question of who is going to benefit, if there is counter reaction. Everybody is not a Marxist in Bengal! What will happen? It is the interest of the country that is at stake.

AN HON. MEMBER : Oh!

MR. SPEAKER : Enough. We had enough of it.

S. BUTA SINGH : Precisely, the shoe is on the other leg, Sir. In this issue the shoe is on the other leg, Sir. If there is anybody who is trying to make political gain out of it, I can say, with all humility, notwithstanding what Prof. Dandavate has to say in this, ... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I had to state that you are making a counter-productive statement and you are going to lose votes because of this. Lord Curzon divided Bengal once and you are going to divide for a second time.

S. BUTA SINGH : I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I in this case, Prof. Dandavate is completely ignorant. He does not know much about this issue.

Therefore, Sir, my humble request is that let us not seek political mileage out of it which precisely seems to be the attempt after the speeches and statements of the Hon. leaders of the West Bengal Government ... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You are doing that.

S. BUTA SINGH : We are not. We are only trying to place the facts before the country and the facts before the country are very well clear. We will not be cowed down by the violence either from this end or that end.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : What is 'this end and that end'?

(*Interruptions*) **

**Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing doing; not allowed.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. This is not the proper way.

S. BUTA SINGH : What I am indicating I have stated in my statement.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed. Please order. How can we run the House like this ?

*(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER : Do you think it is in order for you to rise every minute.

S. BUTA SINGH : Violence, as I said in my statement, has to be condemned and condemned very squarely. Use of violence cannot be allowed and shall never be allowed. I have stated in my statement : "Government condemn the violence that has affected the Darjeeling hills area due to the confrontationalist attitude of the GNLf and the CPM"

(Interruptions)

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur) : Is it a debate or what ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. There cannot be any dialogue and no counter questions. You have only to answer questions raised already. Please sit down. I cannot allow you like this.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have done your job. Now let him answer.

S. BUTA SINGH : Sir, I have with me the statistics — if you want I can read out the statistics — in which the CPM and GNLf have been found to be using violent methods. *(Interruptions)*

This violence has ended in the death of innocent people.

The other day, my distinguished colleague asked me as to why I did not condemn the attack on our Hon. colleague, Shri Ananda Pathak. I did it.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : When ?

S. BUTA SINGH : In Calcutta. But our misfortune is that they have so much pressure on the press in Calcutta that even if we make a statement in their favour, the press people will not pick it up. Only CPM statements are published. *(Interruptions)* Here and now I wish to go on record in expressing my deep sympathies... *(Interruptions)* Kindly permit me to express my sympathies with Shri Ananda Pathak, who had lost his house and whose life was in danger. I have my full sympathies with the Hon. Member sitting opposite.

15.00 hrs.

(Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down Mamata Ji... *(Interruptions)*

S. BUTA SINGH : In the past about four months, the statistics have shown that in the area, the violence initiated by these two elements in that area... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Tell him to sit down... *(Interruptions)*. We do not want to hear his reply. *(Interruptions)*,

MR. SPEAKER : You ask for it...

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHARLES : Who is he to ask him to sit down ?... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Should I withdraw my Calling Attention ?... *(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : He has said 'sit down' to the Minister ... *(Interruptions)*. What authority he has got ? ... *(Interruptions)*.

** No recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : You continue.

S. BUTA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, much has been said about the memorandum given by Mr. Subash Ghisingh and my letter. I have no hesitation in placing that letter on the Table of the House. That letter was also discussed with the Hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Which letter ?

S. BUTA SINGH : The letter which is written by Subash Ghisingh to me, and also the contents of the letter which I wrote acknowledging his letter. The Hon. Member must know that I have a very close rapport with the Chief Minister of West Bengal... *(Interruption)*.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : And also with Ghisingh.

S. BUTA SINGH : No. Whatever messages came to me, I shared with the Chief Minister of West Bengal and he also agreed with the course I had taken. Unfortunately, the Hon. Chief Minister, while he was in Delhi, said that I wrote the letter after I came back from Calcutta. This is not the fact. Perhaps some of you must have misled him. The letter was acknowledged by me before I went to Calcutta. Now, Sir, when the whole issue has been very squarely discussed here, Hon. Prime Minister has made very categorical statements on this issue that no division of West Bengal will be allowed, no amendment to the Constitution of India will be allowed on this issue... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Why not ?... *(Interruptions)*

S. BUTA SINGH : Now, Sir, here is the catch. On the one hand they say it is anti-national and now they want to accommodate him. Why amend the Constitution ? How can we do that Geeta Ji ? You cannot play... *(Interruptions)*.

Now, they want to amend the Constitution to accommodate him. Wonderful,

wonderful. This is a queer logic to which I am sorry I cannot subscribe. My leader has said very categorically that there will be no amendment to the Constitution for any separatist tendency.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Is regional autonomy a separatist tendency ?

S. BUTA SINGH : Now Geetaji please. *(Interruptions)*. And also, Sir, I wish to place on record. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Regional autonomy is not the demand of the GNLF. Do not link it.

S. BUTA SINGH : I want to place it on record that violence in any form by anybody will be curbed with a heavy hand. I am only hoping and feeling that the West Bengal Government and their leaders rise above this narrow partisan stand and they should show the statesmanship and try to tackle the problems which are squarely in their jurisdiction. The Government of India will not hesitate to come to the jurisdiction of the West Bengal Government to continue to support them. With these words the Hon. Members will now agree that there is nothing left unanswered.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : I wish to make a statement.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Any statement made in contravention of existing law viz foreign exchange regulation Act announcing a general amnesty for serious offenders of FERRA, for smugglers...

MR. SPEAKER : Had he not thought it prudent, he would not have brought it. It would not have been allowed.