

[Shri Anadi Charan Das]  
to set up a socialistic pattern of society. But this government has really sympathy for the weaker section of the society.

Sir, the Bill of Shri Ram Nagina Mishra is a misleading one. It has created mixed reaction and controversy among the S.C. & S.T. as well as people on general including the weaker section of the society. Though it is said that Shri Mishra has moved his Bill with a noble intention, but the S.C. & S.T. Members feel that this is an indirect attempt to cut their throats.

Sir, it has been said that reservation facility was originally provided for 10 years. Subsequently it was extended by another 10 years and in this way it is extended. Is it a mercy on S.C. & S.T.? But what about government services? The constitution has made the reservation in government service. You cannot withdraw this facility. If it would have been mentioned in the Bill regarding withdrawal of reservation on government service it would have different repercussion. Therefore, I would like to say that this Bill will not help the weaker section too. Shri Mishra should have been brought a comprehensive Bill if he really wants the upliftment of weaker section. I request Shri Mishra to withdraw his Bill and with these words I conclude my speech.

16.45 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: MEMORANDUM OF  
SETTLEMENT ON TRIPURA

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(S. BUTA SINGH): Sir, Hon. Members of this august House would be very happy to know that a 'Memorandum of Settlement' has been signed today ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am allowing only the Minister to go on record ... (*Interruptions*) ... Order, please. Except the

Minister's statement, nothing will go on record.

S. BUTA SINGH: Hon'ble Members of this august House would be very happy to know that a 'Memorandum of Settlement' has been signed today with the Tripura National Volunteer (TNV) which brings to an end the insurgency and violence in Tripura. This 'Memorandum of Settlement' has been signed by the Additional Secretary, Union Ministry of Home Affairs on behalf of the Government of India, Chief Secretary, Tripura on behalf of the Government of Tripura and Shri B.K. Hrangkhawl and five of his colleagues on behalf of TNV. This Agreement has been signed in Delhi in the presence of Governor of Tripura and the Chief Minister of Tripura. Copies of the Memorandum have been placed on the Table of the House.

To recapitulate the events leading to this settlement, Shri B.K. Hrangkhawl, President, TNV addressed a letter to the Governor of Tripura in May, 1988 intimating that keeping in view the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi's policy of solution of problems through negotiations, the TNV has decided to abjure violence as a means of resolution of Tripura's problems and to sit together with the representatives of the Government of India, for a peaceful solution of the problems. He also acknowledged Tripura as an integral part of India and his commitment to a solution of all the problems within the framework of the Constitution of India. The bye-laws of TNV were amended so as to conform to the laws in force. The Government of India have, therefore, cancelled today the notification declaring TNV as an 'Unlawful Association' under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

As the House is aware, the policy of the Government of India in regard to holding talks with the extremist groups operating in the North-East is that they should fulfil two pre-conditions, namely, such talks should be held within the framework of the Constitution of India and that violent activities must cease. Since these two pre-conditions were

fulfilled, talks were started with the TNV delegation at the initiative of the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. It is a matter of great satisfaction that the talks culminated in the 'Memorandum of Settlement'.

I am sure the Hon'ble Members would join me in complimenting Shri B.K. Hrangkhawal and his colleagues in the TNV for having shown wisdom, courage and statesmanship in choosing the path of peaceful talks to solve their problems. This reflects their genuine concern for the welfare and development of the tribals and their conviction that today, there exists a climate in Tripura where the State Government is appreciative of and responsive to the real needs of the tribals and is genuinely committed to their welfare. In this context, it has to be acknowledged that the extremist activities in Tripura were embedded in tribal discontent. The Government of India have always been alive and most sympathetic to the problems of the tribal people. With the assumption of office by the new Government in the State of Tripura in February this year, the tribals themselves became partners in the running of the Government of the State. In the changed atmosphere, the TNV realised that their objectives could be achieved through the democratic political process and that the welfare of the tribal people would be advanced by the members of the TNV joining the mainstream of society. The Governor of Tripura and the State Government were quick to respond to their offer of talks and recommended the same to the Central Government. The Central Government, committed as it is to the cause of tribal welfare, constituted a negotiating team under the leadership of Shri P.P. Shrivastav, Additional Secretary in the Home Ministry and formal talks commenced. The State Government was also associated with the talks. These were held in a very cordial atmosphere and with a spirit of understanding and of give and take on both sides. I would take this opportunity to place on record our appreciation to the TNV leadership and our delegation for having concluded the talks in a most satisfactory manner and in a record time.

The Memorandum of Settlement on Tripura envisages the following steps by TNV:

- (a) The TNV undertakes to take all necessary steps to end all activities and to bring out all undergrounds of the TNV with their arms, ammunition and equipment within one month of signing of this Memorandum. Details for giving effect to this part of Settlement will be worked out and implemented under the supervision of the Central Government. The TNV further undertakes to ensure that it does not resort to violence and to help in restoration of amity between different sections of the population.
- (b) The TNV undertakes not to extend any support to any other extremist groups by way of training, supply of arms or providing protection or in any other manner.

It has been provided in the Memorandum that the Central Government will take steps for the resettlement and rehabilitation of underground TNV personnel coming overground. In order to allay the apprehension of the tribals about the infiltration of foreign nationals the Memorandum provides that Government will take steps to prevent further infiltration from across the border by strengthening arrangements on the border; construction of roads along vulnerable sections of Indo-Bangladesh border in Tripura and vigorous action against such infiltrators under the law. With a view to satisfying the aspirations of the tribals of Tripura for a greater share in the governance of the State, the Memorandum provides that the Government will introduce an amendment to the Constitution and to the Representation of the People Act, 1950 providing for reservation of seats for the Scheduled Tribes in the Tripura Assembly at the present level. Incidentally, this step would be in keeping with

[S. Buta Singh]  
the Constitution (Fifty seventh Amendment)  
Act, 1987.

In addition, I would like to mention the following salient features of the Memorandum:

- (i) The Government will take measures for effective restoration of alienated lands to the tribals including review of the applications rejected earlier and prevention of fresh alienation, provision of soil conservation and irrigation facilities in tribal areas and strengthening of the agricultural credit system and also provide an appropriate agency with adequate tribal representation
- (ii) Tribal majority villages which now fall outside the Autonomous District Council area and are contiguous to such areas will be included in the Autonomous District and similarly placed non-tribal majority villages may be excluded from Autonomous District.
- (iii) All India Radio will increase the duration of tribal programmes in Tribal languages of Tripura and additional transmitting stations would be provided to cover the remote areas of the State.

Measures for long term development of Tripura will also be taken. These include intensive skill-formation programmes for the rural youth to improve their prospects of employment including self-employment in various trades; special intensive recruitment drives for police and para-military forces in Tripura with a view to enlisting as many tribal youth as possible; and sympathetic consideration of demands relating to self-employment of tribals. 2,500 Jhumia families will be rehabilitated in five centres or more in accordance with model schemes based on agriculture, horticulture etc., with a view to

weaning them from Jhum cultivation. The scheme would also provide for housing assistance. In the Autonomous District Council area of Tripura, rice, salt and kerosene will be given at subsidised rates during the lean months for a period of three years. Conscious efforts will be made for effective implementation of the Sixth Schedule so far as it relates to Tripura.

As would be seen, the thrust of this Settlement has been on safeguarding the interests of the tribals. Long term normalcy and harmony would depend on the rate of economic development and equitable distribution of its benefits to the people. I fervently hope that the Memorandum will prepare the tribals of Tripura, who have endured hardships, to become equal partners in progress and face the challenges of development. I am sure that this Memorandum, while reflecting the aspirations of the tribals, would act as a catalyst for strengthening the relations between tribals and non-tribals and make them equal participants in the progress of our country.

This Settlement is bound to have a salutary effect in the sensitive North Eastern Region. The Government appreciate the understanding, patience and cooperation extended by the Chief Minister, Tripura and the State Government of Tripura during the talks. I shall be failing in my duty if I do not mention the signal contribution made by the Government of Tripura in bringing about this Settlement. He has been instrumental in preparing the ground for the talks and steering the course of negotiations. I am sure, the Hon'ble Members would also join me in complimenting them and the two delegations for their achievement in arriving at a negotiated settlement. On our part, the Government of India and the Government of Tripura will spare no effort to implement this Settlement.

I earnestly hope that like the Memorandum of Settlement on Mizoram, which has been successful in eliminating extremist violence in Mizoram, this Settlement will also bring to an end the chapter of extremist

violence in Tripura and pave the way for all-round development of Tripura, and for amity and goodwill among the various sections of the heterogenous population of Tripura.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): We want a discussion on the statement.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You give it in writing. We will see.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour): We have given notice. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will consider.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati): I ask you that there should be a discussion on this Memorandum of Understanding. We have given notice. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already told you to give it in writing. Then I will consider...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, as a special case, I am allowing Prof. Madhu Dandavate to introduce the Private Members' Bills.

16.58 1/2 hrs.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION  
(AMENDMENT) BILL  
(Omission of Section 6)

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the

Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947."

*The motion was adopted.*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I introduce the Bill.

16.59 hrs.

AGRICULTURISTS' LOANS (AMENDMENT) BILL

(Amendment of Section 4)

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Agriculturists' Loans Act, 1884.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Agriculturists' Loans Act, 1884."

*The motion was adopted.*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I introduce the Bill.

16.59 1/2hrs.

INDIAN FISHERIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

(Amendment of Section 3, etc.)

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Fisheries Act, 1897.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is: