

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please listen to me.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: There is no question of your entertaining any private proposal. Let the discussion start and it will continue.

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central): There is no urgency for this Bill. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now we are taking up discussion under Rule 193. The discussion will continue up to 6 o'clock. After 6 o'clock, we are once again taking up the Bill for voting. I think this is the sense of the House.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: All the speakers must be allowed to speak.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: After 6 o'clock if you want to continue the discussion, tomorrow we will continue the discussion.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Let them not waste the time of the House.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The discussion under Rule 193 will go up to 6 o'clock and after 6 o'clock the voting will take place. If at all anything, we are not able to complete the discussion under 193, we will continue later.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: All the speakers under the Rule 193 discussion will have to complete their speeches.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: After 6 o'clock? Up to 6 o'clock.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: The discussion under Rule 193 should be finished today. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Shri Madhav Reddi's proposal is accepted. Nothing more than what he has said. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore): Should this Bill be passed now? *(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, I want a clarification, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I want a clarification from you. If the debate under Rule 193 is not completed by 6 o'clock, are you likely to take it up next day, or some other day?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If you feel, we will take it up tomorrow. I think that is the sense of the House.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Since the leader, Shri Madhav Reddi has given a proposal, we shall stand by whatever proposal he has made. Till 6 o'clock discussion under Rule 193 will continue. If it is not complete, it may be taken up on another day and after 6 o'clock you can take up the Bill. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Then, that is the sense of the House. Now we will take up the discussion. Mr. Madhav Reddi.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, order.

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16.14 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[English]

**Memorandum of Settlement on Tripura**

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I rise to initiate the

discussion on the statement made by the Minister of Home Affairs in the House on the 12th of August, 1988 regarding the Memorandum of Settlement of Tripura, and comment on the clauses.

This agreement was hailed as a very historic agreement by the Government. While the Opposition supports this agreement, because any agreement which is likely to bring peace and law and order in the troubled State of Tripura, and for that matter any other State, we welcome. We welcome the agreement when it was signed. We supported it. But the circumstances leading to this agreement, the development which had taken place earlier, the part played by the Central Government to bring about this agreement, these are the factors which have been gone into to see whether what all has been done adds to the credit of the Central Government. Sir, this agreement was signed by the Government of India, the State Government and the representatives of the TNV and I am happy Shri Bijoy Kumar Hrangkhawl who was a rebel, who was underground, today says that he accepts India as the motherland. While I agree that it is an historic agreement, but it is possible that the history may be repeated. The history of various accords signed by us — the accord signed with Punjab, the accord signed with Assam, the accord signed with Mizoram and the Tamils in Sri Lanka and many other accords — is going to be repeated in the matter of implementation of these accords because we have been signing these accords sometimes in haste, as has been done in this case. But we have been repenting them in leisure. The haste with which this accord was signed is certainly stupendous. Shri Buta Singh has said clearly that this accord was signed in record time. He said that a lot of hard work has gone into before finally signing this accord which he hoped would bring peace to Tripura. While supporting the accord, I would like to point out certain pit-falls, certain items of the agreement where the Government of India is likely to drag its feet in implementation. I would also like to go into the circumstances finally which led to this accord.

Sir, when the Left front Government was in power in Tripura, the Chief Minister had been repeatedly trying and persuading the Government of India to get the problem settled. When the Government of India said that first he should maintain peace and take strong action against the militants, the TN Volunteers and the Government of India had been accusing the Chief Minister that he has no political will to maintain peace and to settle the terms with the TNVs. Sir, just three days before the elections, whole of Tripura was declared as disturbed area and army was inducted and elections were held. Nowhere in our country so far the elections had been held when the entire State was declared as disturbed area. This was the first time that Tripura was declared as a disturbed area and elections were held immediately. The argument of the Government of India was that there were a lot of killings by TNV. On the 29th January it was declared by the Prime Minister that the TNV have killed hundred people and we cannot tolerate this and we should finish this. And then the area was declared as a disturbed area. Any area which is declared because of killings as a disturbed area, the first thing that any civilised Government would do, is to postpone the elections, because under the Representation of Peoples' Act, when there is arm and rebellion in any part of the country, the elections cannot be held. Even if the election notification has been issued, the immediate step would be, after declaring the area as a disturbed area, to postpone the elections. But that has not been done and elections were held under the shadow of the army which was deployed in all parts of Tripura. Then after the declaration, the immediate effect was that there were many killings by the TNV people till the elections. After the elections, suddenly all the killings have been stopped. Surprisingly there were no killings by the TNV after the Congress Party Government was formed. What does it lead to? What should we think about it? The accusation of the Left Front Government was right from the beginning that the TNV is the child of the Congress Party. I am only telling that was their accusation. It has now later on proved that TNV was the child of the TUVAS,

[Sh. C. Madhav Reddi] and then TUVAS was a colleague, an ally of the Congress Party in the elections and also in the Government. Today they are in the ruling party.

Now, Sir that proves... (*Interruptions*)

16.23 hrs.

[SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI *in the  
Chair*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Madam Chairman, I want to give an important information. Just now I have been informed that a devastating fire broke out in the Mathura Refinery resulting in a number of casualties. The traffic on the highway has been stopped. I want to inform the House about this incident. I want the hon. Minister to inform us about the number of casualties and whether preventive steps have been taken in this regard? How far is it true and what action has been taken?

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): You direct the Minister to make a statement... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will pass on this message to the Minister.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad): The hon. Minister for Home Affairs may enquire into it and if there is any news, he may report it to the House. It is a very serious matter. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, Please take note of this.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: Madam, coming back to the situation obtaining in Tripura today, after the Congress Government was formed there, even though TNV

killings have been stopped, a reign of terror has been let loose in all the villages. Madam, I just returned from Tripura. Some thirteen Members of Parliament had been there to study the condition and it will be surprising to you that when we visited villages, we were prevented from entering the villages to inquire into the incident. A few of our companions were very badly beaten... (*Interruptions*)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Shame. Shame.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): When Kumari Mamata Bannerjee was beaten in Calcutta, there was no shame. If you had been beaten, I strongly condemn it. I am fully with you. But equal shame should go to those States where some Congress-I.M.P.s were beaten. (*Interruptions*)

If this incident has happened and I believe you, I condemn it. But you should equally condemn when other Ministers and MPs are beaten in Left Front governed States.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: The argument of the Home Minister is quite illogical. What he says is since at some other place MPs are beaten, we have been beaten there. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I say, I fully condemn it. When I had heard about it, I myself rang up the Chief Minister and said that action should be taken. And I am fully with you that such incidents should not happen. But when you went with them, while coming to Calcutta you should have also condemned the incident when other MPs and Ministers were beaten in Left Front governed State.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: I do not know what has happened elsewhere. I am only telling this House what has happened to me.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I am passing the information to you.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: But the point is that when the incident of this nature occurs, that only shows what is the law and order situation in that State, how the incidents are happening there, how people are being terrorised. And you will be surprised to know that within a period of about six months, since the formation of the Congress Government there, the statistics that I had collected during my two-day stay there in Tripura are:

About 50 incidents of atrocities on women had been reported but no action has been taken. About 30 incidents of police excesses were there and they were reported but no action has been taken. Raids and attacks in individual houses, economic blockade, about 50 incidents were there and every incident has been reported to the police but no action has been taken. Atrocities on students about 20 cases have been reported but no action has been taken. Attacks on individuals about 150 cases were there. Then atrocities on Government employees, about 30 cases were there. Dismissal of farm labourers about 200 cases were there. Extortion of money from the people, about 30 cases were there. Institution of false cases about 80 cases were there. Attack on the press about six cases were there. Attacks on political party workers about six cases were there.

All these incidents I have investigated. And I have found that there is a lot of substance in those incidents. Every incident is required to be investigated. But the Government of Tripura is not taking any action. The MPs were prevented from going to the villages and they were beaten. Actually the police was standing, but they did not take any action. About six to seven armed constables were with us. They were just standing by and they were not taking any action. One gentleman who was beaten, was bleeding so profusely that we were so scared that we immediately had to cancel everything and took him to hospital. I am telling all this

to show that this type of Government which fails to create conditions of peace and amity in the villages of the State, how can we expect that the accord which promises so many things, is going to be implemented by them properly? The accord says that there should be amity among all sections of the people and everybody should try to create the condition of peace and amity in the State. But how are you going to do that? With this State machinery, can you do that? There are many clauses in the accord which are very difficult to implement.

With regard to land reforms, one of the clauses of the accord says that the land which had been transferred from the tribals to non-tribals should be restored to the tribals. And the land reforms and Land Transfers Act of Tripura should be implemented strictly. For this, when we enquired from various people including officials, they clearly confessed that 'it is very difficult to restore these lands to the tribals because it will certainly open Pandora's Box, no cases could be decided because it is impossible for the restoration of these cases. So far we closed these cases only because it is difficult to implement and today we are now reopening these cases.' How are you going to implement this, I would like to ask. Similarly, about jhuming cultivation, there is a clause about the shifting cultivation. The tribals go on shifting their cultivated land from place to place and cut the forests and many such instances have come to our notice when the jhuming cultivation is going on, on a very extensive scale, and you said you are going to stop it. How are you going to stop it?

About rehabilitation of those people who are going to surrender their arms, Madam, on the 12th August this agreement was signed and today is 30th of August. Already about 18 days have passed. Not a single volunteer has come out and surrendered the arms. You stipulated one month period, during one month they have to come out and surrender the arms. So far they have not done it. What is the scheme that you have to see that these people who are underground come out and surrender the

[Sh. C. Madhav Reddi]  
arms? The Government has today declared the TNV as a legal party. The ban which was there has been removed, now it is a legal party. There should be no difficulty for these people to come out because no prosecution could be there against them because they belong to the legal political party. Now, that has not been done. What is the plan? How are you going to do it? You must explain to the House how you are going to implement because even though much of the implementation is in the hands of the State Government, but the Central Government is a party to it and the Central Government has to help the State Government to see that these people who are underground come out and surrender their arms and they are rehabilitated. I would also like to ask the Government: How are you going to rehabilitate them? You must have some plan of rehabilitation. Maybe there are 200 people or 400 people, the number differs, we just do not know. According to the official estimates, the number of TNV volunteers is only 200, but it could be anywhere between 1000 and 2000, we just do not know because they are across the border, they cross the border, enter into Tripura and then go back to Bangladesh. That being the case you never know what is the exact strength of these people, what type of arms they are having and whether they are going to surrender all the arms or only part of the arms and then the remaining they are going to keep. We do not know whether some of them are going to remain underground and some of them are going to surrender. You must have a clear policy, a clear programme of rehabilitating these people so that you may ask these people to come out and surrender the arms. Such a scheme is not in existence. I asked the Chief Minister, he also expressed his inability to tell anything because it is all in the hands of the Central Government, they may be having some schemes as to how they are going to be rehabilitated, where they are going to be rehabilitated. Suppose, if you take the plea that this rehabilitation will start after they surrender the arms, after they have come out, then I should say that they are not going to come. None of them is going to surrender

the arms if that is your case. Unless you have a prior scheme of rehabilitation, at what place you are going to rehabilitate them, what employment you are going to give them, how they are going to eke out their living, unless they are convinced of these points, I am sure they will not come out and starve outside. The Government has to make up their mind regarding the rehabilitation schemes. Similarly, madam, about the schemes of helping them financially so that they may set up industry, self-employment and so on and so forth, what are these schemes? Did these schemes not exist? The loans — under what scheme are you going to give them loans? Have you set apart any funds? Is there any scheme under which the financial institutions and the banks are going to give them loans? There are several crafts in Tripura which could be developed and where the people could be rehabilitated. How are you going to develop those handicrafts etc. so that these people could be employed in those centres, guilds where they will be rehabilitated properly? This also has not been made clear. It takes at least a whole day to travel a distance of about 100 kilometres. The condition of the roads is so bad. Also it is a sensitive area, a border area where we have problems of insurgency, where the army movement is there. Roads are so strategic but the road condition is very bad. Tripura is completely isolated from the rest of the country because the land is locked by Bangladesh in between. If you want to come from Agartala to Guwahati, it takes minimum three days to reach there. From Agartala you have to travel by road to a distance of about 200 kilometres and then from there you have to take a train. It is a metre gauge train which will take you to so many places — Talcher etc. — and finally, by the time you reach Guwahati, if you get all connections, it will be three days. The only alternative for them is to go by flight. But what is the condition of the flights? Can the poor people afford to pay air fare? Now we are giving 17 1/2 per cent fare subsidy in the North-Eastern region, if I am correct. 17 1/2 per cent is so low that with that small subsidy it will be impossible for the small people, petty shopkeepers, small government ser-

vants to travel by air to reach Calcutta, which is there centre of economic livelihood. The point is unless you have plans of developing roads, unless you allot sufficient funds for the North-Eastern region so that there is proper maintenance of roads, proper laying of roads so that there is no difficulty for the troops movement and for the people to go, I think it is very difficult for you to bring these people to the mainstream because today they are very near to Burma. They cross the Burma border, they cross the Bangladesh border. Then there are Chakmas also. About fifty thousand Chakmas are staying in the camps. How are you going to solve this problem? With the trouble in Burma today — because Burma is in turmoil — many more Chakmas are likely to cross. How are you going to solve this problem? Already we are over-burdened with these fifty thousand Chakmas camping in our territory. So, these are the problems which have to be tackled with imagination. I have nothing against Mr. Krishna Rao who hails from our State. I have great regard and respect for him as a soldier. He is a very good soldier. But, I am afraid, he is a very bad administrator. He has bungled wherever he has tried to solve the problem. I am sure, he will bungle more even in Mizoram where there is likely to be some trouble tomorrow. So, what we require is a policy of this Government for the North-Eastern region. The Government must have a definite policy. What policy are they going to pursue? How are they going to solve all these problems which are going on and are being created everyday — instability, parties getting split up and ... (*Interruptions*)

DR. G.S. DHILLON: There is a separate Governor in Mizoram, not your man, Mr. Krishna Rao.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: Mizoram I mentioned because in Mizoram there is immediate trouble.

Now, the point is that unless you have a policy for the North-Eastern States, a definite policy of helping the States financially and also to see that good administrators are sent there, good Governors, with imagina-

tion, with a drive, with sufficient knowledge of the problems of the local people, are posted there, their problems will not be solved. Several problems, ethnic and others, are there. These problems have to be understood properly before they are tackled. Unless you understand them, you will wound their psyche. Once they have come into the mainstream but again they are likely to go back underground and create troubles for us. So, what I feel today is, the Government is not having a proper policy for the North-eastern region, for its development—economic political and social. With regard to tribals also, you do not have a proper policy. It is very good that we have reserved 20 seats for the tribals under this agreement in Tripura Assembly. I welcome this. But the point is, there is no immediate gain because you cannot do anything about it. It can be done only after the next election, whenever the elections are held, may be after 4 years or 4 1/2 years and till that time, the present strength is going to be maintained. My point is that you must have such a policy which can give immediate results to the tribals.

With regard to district councils, there is a provision in the Accord for exclusion of certain villages which are non-tribal villages and inclusion of certain villages which are tribal villages but which have so far not been included in the council. It is also so vague that we just do not know, how you are going to do it. What is the percentage, on what basis you are going to do it—50%, 25% or 10%. What percentage you are going to take into account? I suggest that it should not be more than 25%. Fixing 50% is too much. If 25% of a particular village has tribals, that should be included in the autonomous district and those villages which are not having at least 25% population of tribals and which are already in the council, autonomous district should be excluded from it. No thought has been given to this aspect as to what is the percentage on the basis of which we are going to decide that particular villages should be excluded or included.

Similarly, the agreement mentions many other things. About infiltration, how are

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you going to stop infiltration? What measures you are going to take so that, there is no further infiltration of the refugees from the Bangladesh side. Well, it is a human problem. You cannot help it because people from Bangladesh have to come to the neighbouring States. They had been coming, whenever there was trouble in Bangladesh. How can you stop it? But you must have a policy that after all, the people in Bangladesh, the Hindus, are not responsible for the partition of this country. They are not responsible for the partition of Bengal. Now, if they are going to be driven out from their country, what are you going to do? Are you not going to take care of them? I do not mean to say that Tripura alone should take the whole burden. What I mean to say is, entire India should take the burden. You cannot just say that we will not allow them to come. They somehow come in. You must have a policy, whenever they come, they have to be treated as refugees and rehabilitated at places which are convenient in all the States, all over India. That is the only way you have to solve the problem. Otherwise, you just cannot put a border and Bangladesh people would not be allowed to come in. The people who are coming are not your enemies. They are Hindus. The conditions are not good there. They cannot live there. They are being driven out; they are beaten; their properties are being looted. What will they do? They will have to come to you, come to the neighbouring States. Now, they should not be concentrated in any particular place like Assam. They got concentrated in Assam because you did not do anything about it. In Tripura also, they got concentrated, because you did not do anything about it. This is happening not now, not during the Left Front Government. This has been happening right from the day when you declared a Centrally administered territory in 1956 when you passed the Reorganisation Bill. They had been coming and at that time, the population was hardly about a lakh and today it is about 15 lakhs. In a period of about 15 years, the population increased to this extent. Now this problem has to be solved. Otherwise you cannot convince the tribals that the Accord is

going to be implemented properly and you will be able to stop the infiltration. Regarding infiltration, you must have a definite policy so that whoever comes, if at all he has to come, has to be rehabilitated in India wherever it is possible.

I do not know what plans you have for strengthening of agricultural credit. The agricultural credit should be strengthened in such a way that more credit may flow from the financial institutions to the cooperative societies or whatever institutions you are going to form. This credit should go to the tribals, to the TNV volunteers who want to rehabilitate themselves. One Clause says that you will send them to another part of the country so that they may get some employment and some training and start some industries there. But you cannot send them anywhere. The TNV people will have to be rehabilitated in their own homeland. Don't think of sending them elsewhere. They will not go. There is no point in telling them that you will give them some jobs in Bhilai or Rourkela and they can go. It is their homeland. They have to be rehabilitated in Tripura itself so that they may feel at home and they come to the mainstream.

The implementation of this accord should not be left to the State Government. I have all the respect for the States. I want that the States should not be interfered with either in the maintenance of law and order or in any other matter with the Central Government but there are certain States where a lot of advice and time to time guidance is required so that your accord, for which you are also a party, is implemented properly and the agreement does not fail. Earlier you failed to do this and suddenly you realise that this is a problem which has to be solved. What all the Government has been telling us is that "We are telling the Chief Minister of the Left Front Government that he should solve his problem, that he should call them, he should invite them and then discuss with them and solve the problem." I found that nothing of that sort has come. Central Government was never interested in the solution of this problem as long as the Left Front Govern-

ment was in power. You wanted to solve it because you knew that it is Central Government alone that can solve the problem and the Congress alone that can solve the problem because Congress is having an alliance with the TUJS. You waited till the time you came to power and then you have decided to solve this problem taking full credit for the solution of this problem and maligning the Left Front Government. It is very bad. It is not only in bad taste but it is highly undemocratic because you are playing with fire. You allowed the people to be killed. You never took any interest. Whenever they wanted more police force, you refused to send them. They wanted five battalions. You sent one platoon. It went on for ten years like that. As a result of this, more than 10,000 people have been killed unnecessarily because of the delay by the Government of India. It was in your hands. The Government of India could have solved this problem long ago. It is a belated agreement but, nevertheless, is an agreement which is aimed at maintaining peace in Tripura and we support it.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur) Madam Chairman, I rise to initiate this discussion from my party side on the tripartite settlement on the TNV problem in Tripura.

This settlement is an additional feather to the crown of our leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi because this regime led by him following closely on the heels of the late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi has been full of solutions. Of all the solutions, this TNV solution is historic in character and this deserves our fullest appreciation, particularly the Prime Minister, the Home Minister and the State Government — the Congress Government there — and the Governor they deserve the fullest appreciation.

I had listened to the opening speech of Shri Madhav Reddi. There are two aspects of his speech. One is, blaming the Governor for his positive role in the solution and the other one is, in some aspects, blaming the TNV for not coming to this solution during the time of the Left Front Government. Madam,

I agree with some of the constructive suggestions that he had made because I happen to belong to the North-East. My State of Manipur has always gone with Tripura. The Home Ministry, from the day of Independence, had clubbed these two States together for every treatment. When we merged in 1949 with the rest of the Indian Union, we were together as Part 'C' State. Then, after functioning as a Part 'C' State, for some time, of course, we were struggling very hard and Tripura also joined. We became a Union Territory. After that, we struggled together. We attained Statehood in 1972. At every stage as Union Territory and when we had the Territorial Council, we had the same status. Then, we had the Territorial Assembly with some Ministers and we had the same Status. From the point of view of financial facilities, salaries, allowances etc. we shared our happiness and sufferings together all these years and historically also in Tripura, you will appreciate that we have a big Manipuri population and it is next to the original Tripuris. Of course, the majority community is, as we know, mostly Bengali-speaking community the language of which has been there in the Eighth Schedule. If we analyse the Tripura population today on the basis of language and culture, we have 71 per cent people speaking the language which has been recognised in the Eighth Schedule — that means the Bengali population and some other community also. The rest i.e. about 28 and odd per cent represent the other population including the local population, the original Tripuris plus the Manipuris and other Chakmas etc. So, in this way, if we analyse Tripura. Tripura community is a very unfortunate community, suffocated sandwiched. You know, Madam, Tripura is exposed to the Indo-Bangladesh Border on the two sides. Then, we have the Tripura which is dominated by others. It is so because ours is a democracy based on the strength of the population. The local population, the original population has been totally outnumbered in the North-East. When we speak of our self-defence, self-protection etc. you will observe in Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Mizoram, we take the example of Tripura.



[Sh. N. Tombi Singh]

We say to any of our crowds that let us learn something from Tripura; let us see — beyond self-defence — that the immigrant population from outside do not outnumber us and wipe us out on our own soil. This is how we proceed. So, this Tripura today stands in a very precarious position. But then this Accord, to a great extent, has given a fresh lease of life to the ambitious and aspirant young people of Tripura. I thought that Mr. Madhav Reddi would be, very honestly and sincerely, rejoicing himself on that account. But, somehow, he did not find the timing suitable to the Opposition and he did not find the role constructively played by the Governor and certain other officials from the Home Ministry suitable to his political line. This is very unfortunate. As I said the other day when I took part in the debate on Nagaland, these small States should not be subjected to these high level political wranglings because they are not so capable of understanding those things. We have to understand their problem.

Now I come to the problem of the Tripuris, the original people. The Accord has provided protection to the tribals in the Legislative Assembly by reserving a certain number of seats for them and also giving them opportunity for employment, self-employment, and some programmes in the field of agriculture, in the field of tribal-non-tribal relationship, in the field of language, etc. I would like to touch upon those points.

The basic thing I would like to emphasize is that the Accord is not an end in itself, because the Tripura people, who have suffered so long after integration with the rest of India, have not been able to come to power. In any Ministry you will see that the local people are having just a nominal representation, may be the Left Front Ministry or the Congress, whatever it is. I do not consider it from Party point of view because I myself speak from a small community point of view and we deserve this protection. The Tripura people, I think, after this Accord is implemented, will have sufficient protection in the Assembly. This is one very good thing...

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore): Now the number is 17; it is being increased to 20.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: According to the proportion of population, 20 is not an unreasonable number. 'Twenty' will provide them good facilities to represent themselves in the Assembly and in the Ministry. It depends upon the ability of the people to rise up in the party politics, in the general politics. For instance, in my State, the tribals who form 30 per cent of the population have 19 Members out of 60 and they have been Chief Ministers, they have been powerful Ministers, they have been powerful officials in the secretariat. So, the tribals do not suffer. It all depends upon how you bring them up. That is what I want to hint at. The Tripura administration has to raise the standard of the people in order to enable them to take part in administration and developmental activities on an equal footing. Merely allowing them to have 20 Members in the Assembly will not do. They must be able to take part in the politics on par with the majority community. It is very painful for me to point out that a very unfavourable atmosphere, unfavourable for tribal and non-tribal relationship, majority and minority relationship, is brewing, of which the Congress Party or the CPM or, for that matter, any other Party, may not be conscious. The steam-roller of the majority is something which we cannot be conscious of but which is destructive. It is just like an elephant which moves very sympathetically and majestically and with love, full of saintly feelings, a tame elephant which moves on the road; it does not do any harm to the people, but as it goes majestically and sympathetically, it tramples upon small creatures and that also unknowingly, majestically and sympathetically, it crosses the minority. You do not know it. What is being felt and experienced by the Tripuris in Tripura is that they are not getting things. If you break up the population both rural-wise and urban-wise, the entire population of the Tripura including the royal family because royal family is also a tribal family and some of their relatives, rest of the local people are in the rural areas. What is the condition of

these local areas? It is pathetic. We do not know how long it will take to come up for these people to the level of the general public in politics, in social matters in economic matters etc. So, what I would like to emphasise upon is that the Accord should be treated as a beginning of a long process. This beginning should be made sincerely and honestly.

17.00 hrs.

Shri Madhav Reddiji has pointed out that the Chief Minister does not know what is going to be the programme and what are the contents. In fact, it is too early to criticise because we have only started and a good beginning has been made. And I do not like to suspect the sincerity and also the sense of dedication of the Prime Minister at this stage because we know, Prime Minister means business in every sphere beginning from the formation of small States. We have felt that these have not been mere gestures. They have been full of contents, historical contents, beginning with the late Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. I would like to emphasise a few points on the Accord for implementation. TNV is not yet coming out to surrender the arms. This has been mentioned by Shri Madhav Reddiji. I would like to speak from experience. This is just a beginning and the Home Ministry should be having full experience because this is not the only time when they have an Accord. In the early sixties, we had a kind of agitation by extremists in my State. And those extremists were jailed in Tripura and Agartala. And then the Congress Party took the initiative under the leadership of the late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi and this was solved by amnesty. And those who were jailed in Agartala Jail, they were released. And these people are now good citizens and they are placed in different professions. Then because of the slight mistake of the local administration by arming a section of such people in order just to counter the remaining supposed extremists, there was a clash and killings. Then around 1979, the PLAs and PREPAK in the North-Eastern Region came up. I must confess it. Although I have been all

along in this Congress Party, I have made my own contribution in making solution after solution. But somehow there has been slight mistake in arming a section of the people for rehabilitation. There was a competition among themselves. Now the Tripura administration under the supervision of the Home Minister and under the leadership of the Prime Minister should not commit this kind of a mistake again.

Public leaders whoever they are, may be CPM, may be from our own party, they should not indulge in encouraging armed young men for their political ends. This is happening in other parts and this is happening to some extent in my State. This was a handicap in the total solution of the insurgency problem in our area. Now, the present administration in Tripura should not indulge in making any division among those who have surrendered. They should be treated objectively, impartially, and on merit. There should be no group which is posted against the other group. This practice should not be there.

It has been suggested in the Accord that they will increase the duration of tribal programmes and more stations will be opened to accommodate the wishes of the tribal people. This is a very sensitive issue because the Tripuri language itself is not yet developed. The majority community have sympathetically spread an atmosphere among the entire population of the State which is not favourable to majority community relationship and tribal and non-tribal relationship.

The other day, a few young people of my community — Manipur pocket is there and a Minister is there in the present Tripura Cabinet — came to me and said: "We are from Tripura and we are Manipuris. We have come on foot. We would like to have some donation from you." I said, I am very happy. But what are your names? They did not mention any Manipuri names. Then, I enquired from them how they were Manipuris. I should not be misunderstood as if I am spreading a communal kind of hazard.

[Sh. N. Tombi Singh]

Somehow, unconsciously I said that. They told me that they have to change their surnames in order to facilitate easy employment and easy access to Government offices and for other economic benefits. They added that if they called themselves Datta, Kamarkar, Mukherjee or Chatterjee, perhaps they could get better attention and patronage. This is how they explained to me.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is not the case.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: They are very much alive. I can present them before you. I am very happy to hear from you that this is not correct. This is not applying to the Manipuri community alone. In fact, we are not also the original people. We had gone there. There is a history about this. In the 15th and 16th century, we started going there on our way to mainstream which was only through the present Bangladesh and former East Bengal. In that way, we have prolonged matrimonial relations between the two royal families and subsequently at the common people's level in Manipur and Tripura. The Manipuris have become Tripuris and they are very conversant with the Bengali language. Some of them have nearly forgotten Manipuri. Even so, the atmosphere that is created is not favourable — as I said a few minutes back — to the relationship between the majority community and the minority community, the tribal community and non-tribal community. It is only through objectivity of the majority community that this kind of atmosphere can be removed.

Coming to the language, I would like to mention that Tripuri language deserves patronage for development. Generally, the languages which do not come up to the status of a written and developed modern language, are considered dialects. Now, some tribal language development Institute in Bangalore is taking pains to develop these dialects in modern languages. Unfortunately, they have no information about a particular language, namely, Manipuri. They have taken Manipuri as a tribal language. It

is absolutely wrong that they are treating our language as a tribal language. Our language is a developing language. As I have said on the Floor of this House the other day, we are demanding the inclusion of this language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. I think that this institute is under the Human Resources Ministry. They have taken our language as a tribal language. Those people do not have any information about our language. The dialects are yet to come up. I am not casting any aspersion on the other dialects. I have good wishes that they should develop quickly. Language is a very sentimental issue and we should be very careful about it. When the Government of India through the AIR and the TV patronises all languages, it should be the policy of the Government that this should be done on merit. I would like to make a reference to small newspapers. A little while ago, when the House was discussing the Defamation Bill, enough reference was made to small newspapers. I do not consider myself as a champion but the circumstances have compelled me to champion the causes of small newspapers, small languages, small cultures, small States and small people. Big states, big languages, big newspapers have enough champions. Small languages have to run small newspapers. In Tripura, small newspapers are there. There is no possibility of big circulation. There is only small circulation. There is no justification in branding small newspapers as blackmailers. In my State, there are so many small newspapers running well. Now big papers also have a possibility of running in various kinds of unhealthy journalism. Therefore, when we encourage through AIR and TV, small tribal languages should be given more accommodation. The Government of India and the State Government should encourage small newspapers and the Bengali newspapers running in Agartala are also small newspapers because circulation is not above 15000. So, these should be given the necessary aid. Small newspapers should be encouraged so that the languages can develop through these papers.

A mention has been made about the

Sixth Schedule... (*Interruptions*)... I am not for any rapists. I condemn them as you do. I do not stand for them. In some cases, there has been wrong reports also. The Government should take proper care into such reports.

Now, the Sixth Schedule is very powerful. If it is wrongly used, it is a separating kind of instrument, a disintegrating element. The Sixth Schedule should be utilised with a view to facilitate tribals and to improve the relations between the tribals and the non-tribals. Because of the disintegrating element in the use of the Sixth Schedule, the separatist tendencies come up and the people of Assam could not contain them. The Sixth Schedule was instrumental in bringing about cohesion. So in this context, in the case of our State, we have opposed the Sixth Schedule to be introduced. The tribals have more or less equal footing. It is a question of nominal difference in the social status and tradition. So, I want to emphasise that this Schedule should be carefully utilised.

To conclude, as I said in the beginning, the Tripura minority community can come up only with the generous patronage not of the Government of India, but the majority community in Tripura. They can bring them up only with all indulgence, with all tolerance, because the competition is not at all a healthy competition.

When we implement this Accord, we would like the Government of India to keep in mind a few factors, namely, the implementation should be done fruitfully, honestly and the local Government should be supervised and directed that they do it properly and mistakes, as I hinted at, like misusing the arms, hangover of the armed youths etc. should not be utilized for the benefit of the overground politicians whichever is the affiliation. This is, how I would like to put it.

I hope the Accord will be implemented sincerely and the peace that has come today will be everlasting. I am very happy about it... (*Interruptions*)

If the TNV did not surrender at the time of Left Front Government, it was because of lack of confidence in that Government... (*Interruptions*)

I was born and brought up in the North-East and I started my public life there and I am still continuing it there. I do not want to shed crocodile tears also and I do not like to put any partisan attitude in my views, but I do not agree with the statement that the Congress Party has followed any wrong policy in relation to these States. It is the Congress Party which has brought Tripura to the mainstream as also other States like Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh etc. If the Congress succeeds, the mainstream succeeds in the North-East.

With these words, I wish the people of Tripura all peace and prosperity.

SHRI. BAJU BAN RIYAN (Tripura East) : Madam Chairman, I rise to support the Memorandum of Settlement and I convey the deep sorrows of my party, the Communist Marxist Party to the family members of those who have been killed during insurgency of the TNV activists.

Our Party has been trying to solve this problem through all democratic means and while our party Government was there in Tripura, our Party and our Government tried to solve this problem. Today we are discussing the agreement which has been reached among the Central Government, the State Government and the TNV to solve this problem. We had started this process. Some activists of ATPLO, All Tripura People Liberation Organisation had surrendered.

They have now started living a Democratic life and they have started taking part in the process of development of Tripura with the Left Front Government there. The Congress and TUJS stand in the way of surrendering process. The TNV is the child of the TUJS and the child of the Congress (I), they have taken this..

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt him.

SHRI .BAJU BAN RIYAN : Madam, the Congress and the TUJS have even taken steps to overturn the Left Front Government. This is very unfortunate and undemocratic thing. Is this the way the Government should function there? Mr. Vijay Kumar Hrankal was elected as the Assistant General Secretary of Tripura Upjati Julia Sammiti in the Annual Conference of TUJS. In the year 1980 from 12 to 15 March, they held 12 annual conferences at Tuidu wherein they have taken a decision that the people who have come from Bangladesh after the merger of Tripura in the Indian Union, i.e. on 15th October, 1949, they should be declared foreigners and they should be driven out from the Tripura. They have taken this anti-democratic decision in those 12 conferences. Who was the guest in that conference? One of the distinguished guest was Mrs. Vibhu Devi who is now the Revenue Minister in Tripura.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE :- Madam, she is not present here so he cannot take her name.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us hear first what she has to say.

*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Madam, I am on a point of order. It is the democratic right of the Hon. Member to say in the House whatever he wants to speak. But he has mentioned the name of Mrs. Vibhu Devi, who is the Revenue Minister in Tripura State. So, he cannot take the name of the person who is not present here. If the Hon. Member wants to mention anything against person then he should give in writing to the Chair.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : He did not make any allegations.

MR. CHAIRMAN : She has raised a relevant point. He is not supposed to make any allegation about a person who is not present here.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Nothing has been said against her.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me make an observation. If he has not made any allegation, it is all right. I also observe that he may not make any allegations against a person who is not present here to protect herself without the Chair's permission. Let him not make any allegations.

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : What all she has stated in the Conference has already been recorded. It came out in the local dailies also. If some of my friends on the opposite side here have any doubt, they can ask that guest whose name I have mentioned just now. If you still have any more doubt you may ask Mr. Hrankhal who is a good friend of yours.

I may also mention here that Mr. Hrankhal wanted to lead a normal life. But he was not allowed to lead a normal life. He was taken to Bangladesh. He had surrendered himself and confessed many things in a press conference. This is the second time that he has surrendered. As a matter of fact, this was one of the conspiracies of the Congress and the TUJS to break down the Left Front Government. Their purpose was to see that the Left Front Government as well as the Left Front Party would fail. The Left Front Government asked for para-military and other help from the Centre but they were never fully helped. The State police have tried to fight the TNV meance and the TNV activists were arrested. In the court of the first class magistrate, the activists who were arrested by the police along with the help of the para-military forces, had made certain confessions. All their confessions are on record in the court. What did they confess? According to their confession, they had been encouraged by the TUJS and the Congress people to indulge in such things. It is all on record in a court of law. If you want to verify,

you can go to the court and find out. (*Inter-  
rptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak only on  
the accord, and come to the point.

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN For imple-  
menting this Accord, first we should keep  
this in mind as to how the TNVs were cre-  
ated. I can assure from our party-the (CPI(M))  
that we will not stand in the way of imple-  
menting this Accord. We are very happy and  
we shall be very happy if the Accord is  
implemented in letter and in spirit. I am very  
sorry that the State Government did not take  
any help from the Opposition Parties there.  
Within one month the process of surrender  
was to be started but till today it has not yet  
started. Only 12 to 13 days are left for com-  
pletion of the deadline but from the State  
Government's side there is no attempt made  
to involve the Opposition Parties and others.  
So, there is scope that all may not surrender.  
It came out in the local daily and also in wall  
writing that some people from the Congress  
are not supporting this Accord. An objection  
was raised from the Congress Party. So I am  
in doubt whether the Congress leadership  
there will be able to implement this Accord or  
not. I hope the Central Government will help  
them and guide them in solving this problem.  
Otherwise the State Government there, I am  
in doubt, will be able to implement this Ac-  
cord or not. It will also go like the Punjab  
Accord and other Accords. Some People  
from the ruling party do not want to imple-  
ment this Accord. Still there is time to involve  
the Opposition parties and try to solve this  
problem there. The Central Government is  
posing now with the TNV leader Mr.  
Hrankhal that they represent the tribals. It is  
not correct. They are not representing all the  
tribals. TNV and Juba Samithi have never  
got support from the majority of the tribal  
people there. They are always in minority.  
The majority of the tribal people are always  
with us. They are the supporters of the Left  
Front Government. Just to dislodge the Left  
Front Government there, they are trying to  
create some acute problems there. Due to all  
these things, there was a communal riot  
there in 1980. It was their creation. So, if

they are sincere in implementing the Memo-  
randum of Settlement, there is still time. It  
can be implemented, if they are sincere.

With these few words, I conclude.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL (Erandol) : Our  
Communist friends tried to extend the do-  
main of their rule to Orissa and Bihar, but  
they failed. Then they tried in Tripura. For  
some time, they were successful. But the  
local people of Tripura have realized that  
these were the people who tried to dominate  
and who tried to build themselves up and  
who ignored the local population. The TNV is  
the baby of these people, but they now want  
to disown it.

17.36 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *In the chair*]

Now, as Mr. Bijoy Hrankhal has entered  
into an agreement, these people do not  
believe that the Accord will work. We have  
entered into this Accord with all serious and  
with a purpose.

As you all know, Tripura is a border  
State. Not only it is a border State, but two  
countries with different problems are border-  
ing Tripura. It is a hilly State also. In a hilly  
State, a few people can create trouble. More  
trouble can be created if they have the sup-  
port of the local people. They have their own  
problems. It was proper on the part of the  
local Government to have entered the Ac-  
cord and it is the policy of our Prime Minister  
to solve the problems through negotiations.  
Hence it was proper on their part to have  
entered into an Accord; and I have the  
confidence that it will be successful, and that  
peace will be established there.

Tripura is surrounded by Bangladesh;  
and Burma is also nearby. There is an agita-  
tion going on in Burma. And Bangladesh is  
over-populated. That over-population is not a  
local problem for Bangladesh alone. But it is  
a problem even for our border States, be-  
cause of infiltration.

[Sh. Vijay N. Patil]

While talking about Hindus of Tripura, my friend Mr. Madhav Reddi forgets the support he gives to AASU and to the Mohanta Government in Assam. He does not want infiltration into Assam. Then how he can permit infiltration in Tripura. How is it possible? i.e. Hindus coming from Bangladesh cannot be tolerated by the local people there. We know the examples of the Americans. English people went to America, and the Red Indians were driven out into the hills. These people ruled there. In Tripura, those people had not put forth very big or luxurious demands. Their demands were very simple, as we see them in the Accord. They want a little more representation in the Assembly. They want some commodities which are scarce there, to be supplied at subsidized rates. For example, in the autonomous districts, kerosene, salt and other commodities are to be supplied at concessional rates for three years. It is a good agreement, because instead of keeping more armed forces there and spending more money on them, it would be better to give these people these commodities at concessional rates. These are the very good points of the Accord.

What is the other point? It deals with *Jhoom* cultivation.. We want to establish 2500 families in five centres, to avoid denudation of forests and to avoid deforestation there.

My friend Shri Madhav Reddi was mentioning that it is very difficult to approach Tripura from Guwahati, it takes about two days. He forgets that our friend Shri Namgyal comes from Ladakh. It takes four days to come from Ladakh to Shri Nagar and then one day from Sri Nagar to plain. We have got a big country and our problems are many. Because of the financial constraints, we are made to go slow. Even the progress that we have made under the dynamic leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi is being ignored and you are trying to find out loopholes here and there. He was also mentioning about their not being allowed to enter into the villages in Tripura. He forgets that the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs is

not being given proper treatment in Bengal. A lady Member of Parliament was assaulted in her own home State. Bengal is a civilised State. What the so-called Civilised Jyoti Bosu Government is doing?...

. (Interruptions)

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : We are discussing Tripura now.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : He mentioned that he was not allowed to enter into the village in Tripura. Why he ignored the neighbouring State? What is happening there under your rule? The other day my friend Shri C. Janga Reddy was mentioning that his state is a baby of five days. Five years he calls it as five days. Here, you are telling that nothing has come out of the accord. It is not a baby of five weeks? Not even twenty days have passed after the accord was signed. How can you expect that everything would happen so soon? We have to give some time. We have to sort out the things, and the nodalities Our aim is good, objective is good, purpose is sincere and honest, which we have to look into.

Sir, we are not the people who start agitation for our own political gains. Again I would like to repeat what I said earlier, that we have tried to civilize your baby, i.e. TNV and we hope that it will be Civilised and become to the mainstream of Tripura. They will become good citizens.

With these words I congratulate the Chief Minister of Tripura, our Prime Minister, our Home Minister and also TNV leader, who has shown his courage and tried to bring his colleagues with him to sit across the table and find out a peaceful solution. Let the peace prevail.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara) : Sir, I welcome the accord. I also congratulate the Opposition leaders who visited there and created the moral impact on the people of Tripura about their rights and also about their political movements.

Whatever things have happened, are all well known to us. All the accords which the Government of India have signed without any hesitation and reservations, the Opposition has welcomed. But I am sorry to tell that the subsequent events have proved that there was no proper background estimation and also the various points which they include in the accord, in the implementation of the various clauses with sincerity and honesty and the way in which it was approached at the beginning are not seen. Take Punjab accord. Sant Longowal had to sacrifice his life. Has the accord fully implemented still? Further what will happen in Punjab and still how many discussions we have to make on this, we don't know. Take Sri Lankan accord. When the Sri Lankan accord was made, we welcomed it. But what is the problem of IPKF, Tamil militants and what ethnic things are going on. Have you made any subsequent analysis on that? Take Assam accord. Again insurgency and violence is creating problems in various parts of Assam. In more than signing the accord there should be sincerity to implement the accord. Government should show the sincerity to implement various clauses which are there in the Memorandum of Settlement which has been reached between the TNV and the Government. This is one of the main aspects in these matters which I see.

Today, the news in the press is about the events in Mizoram. Laldenga came. The Ministry was installed. Election was conducted. Insurgents have said that they have surrendered the arms. And he became the Chief Minister. Today the news is that out of 25 members, 8 have broken away. If 8 members have gone out, then the anti-defection law is to be applied. But instead of applying that law, horse trading is going on. Tomorrow what will happen is that Congress will instal the Government there. If this is the short-sightedness to form the Government of Congress in the north-eastern area and you are entering into an accord, I will say, it will have a very bad result. If you are taking into account the problems of the people and giving due consideration for the tribals who feel that they were discarded hitherto and

their problems were not properly tackled, minority rights were not properly safeguarded and because of the attitude which we had adopted to them, they had gone to the wrong path of insurgency and violence which they believe, will help them, the accords are subsequently made. I will say that the consequence of violating the provisions of the accord will be more serious than entering into an accord. When I support the accord, I say that every clause of the accord should be seen and implement Properly. But you see the background in which it has been arrived at in Tripura you see the whole situation there declaring Tripura as a disturbed area, Congress infiltrating into it, conducting elections in a given circumstance, then capturing power and then trying to alienate mass force there, the mass force of people who are behind the Left Front, if they are being discarded and put to difficulty, if some people feel that having power at the centre they can hold it, they are living in fools' paradise.

The same thing is about the GNLFF. The West Bengal Government has welcomed it because it is a problem. Since it is a problem, they say, solve the problem, have an agreement. An accord is reached. Jyoti Basu welcomes it. But at the same time, at the cost of the people if somebody is promoting violence and extremism and putting other people into difficulty, that cannot be tolerated. We cannot support such things.

I would like to say that this is happening not only in Tripura, West Bengal, Nagaland, north-eastern area but also in our part. For a short-sighted view, somebody feels that to put another person out of power, they may help extremism. This has happened in Kerala; Who were the persons who were behind Naxalite movement? Who are the persons who are behind the violence which is breaking out throughout Kerala? Who are the real culprits? Is there any enquiry made in this short-sightedness? When such violence is permitted, it will give a more powerful kick-back and it cannot be retorted. Therefore, my submission is that you should have sincerity to implement it and take the people



[Sh. Thampan Thomas]

into confidence. In that respect what I would suggest is that in the North-Eastern area, the tribal problem has to be dealt with at the national level. A national policy should be there with regard to that. More money should be pumped there. More education should be given to them. More facilities should be provided to them to make them believe that they are part of the mainland. And when they are made part of the mainland, they should also feel that they can exercise their viewpoints and opinions independently. If that due regard and respect for their feelings is given, I think we can hold them along with the mainstream. Otherwise we will be losing them. And losing them will be a great national calamity because these are border areas. We are not having that much of a happy relationship with our neighbors and we have never attempted to create better relationship with our neighbors. We are notorious for keeping such relationships with our neighbors. There is no doubt about it. All around we are surrounded only by enemies. We have no friend nearby. If we look at the surrounding areas, all around we are covered by enemies. Then how can peace be maintained? From the neighboring areas, all sorts of terrorism is coming up, all sorts of extremism is coming up, weapons are being supplied. We are not having any hold over that and we cannot prevent it. They all use such ethnic, caste, communal and other divisive forces and feelings to fight against us. This is a very big national calamity. This is a very big danger. I do not know whether these things are being looked into and whether the border areas have been secured in the national interest, with the perspective of holding the people. How did we fail in Punjab? In Amritsar district, if the people were with us and if we were able to win over the people, would the extremists and the terrorists have been given shelter by the people? The people will not give shelter to such people if the people's economic problems are properly dealt with. So, what I urge upon, when I support the Accord, is that the economic problems, the social problems and other human problems of the people who live around the area, who are in minor-

ity, should not be ignored but they should be complimented and given due weightage, instead of taking a political advantage out of the given circumstances. I hope this Accord will not be a route to take political advantage out of a situation which is given. It should be sincerely implemented. Both the National Front and the LDF unitedly stand together with the people of Tripura. We stand with them and support it.

[Translation]

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA (Vidisha) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the tripartite agreement made on 12.8.88 in Tripura is an important step in the direction of establishing peace in that State. Through this agreement, our Prime Minister has made concrete efforts to put an end to arson, violence and agitation going on in North Eastern region for the last many years. Whether it is the Assam Accord or the Mizoram Accord or the Agreement with TNV, the intention of our Hon. Prime Minister has always been to find a solution to the problems of the people of north-eastern region who have been cut from the mainstream and had adopted the path of agitation through negotiations. He always wanted to solve their problems by taking into confidence the Government of those States. No importance has been given to the party's viewpoint, or to the political view point in this regard and the Assam, Mizoram and Tripura accords have been made keeping in view the national interest and with the objective of making them join the mainstream of the nation once again. The agreement reached with TNV in Tripura is also remarkable because of the law and order situation in the State under the CPM Government was beyond control. The way law and order situation was deteriorating and broad day light murders were being committed was shocking. Nothing is hidden. It was a matter of shame for all of us. When our Party came to power in February the advisability of that area became very hopeful. Even the leaders of TNV also became very confident and hopeful and its leader Shri Bijoy Kumar Harangkhawal realised that their co-operation is needed for the development of the State.

Therefore, the Hon. Prime Minister came forward for negotiations which brought about the solution. Shri Bijoy Kumar of TNV himself wrote a letter in the month of May to the Hon. Prime Minister in this regard. It was only then that the Government of India, came forward for negotiations and this concrete steps were taken to implement this agreement. Here I would like to point out that the mentality of our Opposition members is to rake up issues and create conflict. They are unable to understand the importance of an agreement. They can only visualize conflict and confusion behind an agreement. They can never understand the important of an agreement. Their mentality is selected in what they have said in the House Today. I would like to point out here that by making this accord, our leader has shown great sagacity and political skill. He has made efforts to bring the people going on the path of extremism and violent activities into the mainstream of the nation. When the CPM Government was in power, no efforts in this direction were made but now when our Government came to power and made efforts to establish peace in Tripura, they think that there is trouble. You started finding faults with the agreement. We were bound to take some strict steps after our party came to power, because the C.P.M. Government had done many wrong things. I want to make it clear to you that our agreement with T.N.V. does not include only the development of the tribals or restoring their rights and land to them, but it also includes development of agriculture in Tripura. It also includes making avenues of employment available to the unemployed people and bringing back the misled youth during the C.P.M. rule on the right track so as to involve them in the work of nation building. This alone is the reason why our C.P.M. colleagues are finding it inconvenes at the signing of such a good agreement, Shri Thampan said that the ruling party do reach agreements but they are not implemented. I want to tell him that out of 11 points on which Punjab Accord was signed, 8 points have already been implemented and solid steps are being taken to implement the rest of the points. Everything is before you and you have yourself seen the

real situation. If the Assam Accord had not taken place, the people of Assam would have been on the way of agitation and they would not have got the Indian Institute of Technology or the schemes of science and technology there. It is the State Government which is responsible for whatever has happened in Assam since the past 2 to 3 years. But the opposition Members only protect the Assam Government in the House. They try to hide its mistakes because it is natural that a wrong doer always tries to hide the mistakes of another wrong doer. Such a person finds even the right deeds of another person as wrong. It is the farsightendness and liberal approach of our hon. leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi that reflects in all the major decisions whether it is Punjab accord, Assam accord, Mizoram accord, G.N.L.F accord or T.N.V. agreement. He wants that peace should return to the North- Eastern region and the area of insurgency should give way to new horizons of development so that the people could join the mainstream. They should be dissuaded from the path of insurgency and violence and engaged in the work of nation building. We hope that the tripartite agreement reached with T.N.V. regarding Tripura, for which we received full-co-operation from the Chief Minister, Shri Majumdar and Governor Shri Krishna Rao, and which has been the result of the efforts and far sightendness of our hon. Home Minister and Hon. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, will be implemented. We want that the people of that State should be enabled to self sufficient and the given their due rights. They should also be provided with opportunity to work in the political, social and economic fields. There is nothing in it which could be misleading. The concern of Central Government for the development of the tribals is much more than that of the Opposition Governments in different States. What happens there is that the assistance in the name of tribals is instead utilised for the party cadre. This is what is happening in West Bengal and Assam. The same was the situation in Tripura too, but the people there have stopped this practice by electing a new Government. The Opposition is facing a problem there. We know that if peace is restored in Tripura, our relations

[Sh. Pratap Bhanu Sharma]

with our neighbouring countries will also improve. As regards my colleague's submission about the neighbouring countries, my submission is that our Government tries its best to improve relations with the neighbouring countries, but you very well know as to how far can our efforts succeed when some nationals are born only to oppose our policies.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the end I would like to say only this much that we all should try to implement the Government's accord with T.N.V. and Tripura Government effectively. For this purpose, we should rise above political considerations and try to implement it by keeping the national perspective on the top so that whatever policies have been formulated by that Government for the development of the poor and for providing employment to the youth of T.N.V. could be implemented through the Central Government and the august Houses of Parliament.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, statement by the Minister Shri Brahma Dutt.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : Sir, what about their discussion under Rule 193?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are continuing the discussion tomorrow?

1030 hours today (30.8.88) a major fire broke out in Tank Wagon Loading gantry area of Mathura Refinery. The fire was brought under control and fire extinguished at 1400 hours with the help of 15 fire tenders including refinery and outside agencies. Two persons, one officer from refinery and one casual worker, died and five other received serviced severe burn injuries during the fire. The 5 injured persons have been fused to safdarjang Hospital, New Delhi for immediate treatment. At the time of fire there were 130 tank wagons under loading with naphtha at the two broad guage gantries. After the fire broke out, majority of tank wagons were detached and pulled out from the gantry and about 35 tank wagons are reported to be affected by fire. The process units, tank farms, power house and pipeline facilities have not been affected. Preliminary indications are that both the broad guage tank wagon loading gantries have been affected by the fire. Detailed advent of damage and the time to repair and rehabilitate these loading facilities are being assessed. Factory inspectorate and State authorities have been informed. Enquiry Committee to investigate into the incidence of fire is being set up.

2. An Officer from the Oil Industry Safety Directorate also has been deputed to the place. Alternative movement of products by road and through pipeline are being developed to maintain normal supplies out of the refinery. Refinery has not been affected.

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## BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Fifty Ninth Report

[English]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.NAMGYAL): Sir, I beg to present the Fifty-ninth Report of Business Advisory Committee.

18.02 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: FIRE AT TANK WAGON LOADING GANTRY AREA OF MATHURA REFINERY

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : At about