

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to enlist the Khaliabad municipal area under the Central Government's I.S.D.L.T. scheme as a priority area and release funds for its development.

**(v) Need for Reconstruction of Bridges on National Highway between Jalpaiguri Town and Alipurduar Damaged during Floods in 1993**

*[English]*

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri) : Sir, during floods in 1993 in North Bengal, all the communications between Jalpaiguri town and Alipurduar town were destroyed. These areas were severely affected by floods. Road communications still remain disrupted. A good number of bridges on the national highway which require reconstruction are damaged. Repeated representations have been given to the Central Government in this regard. Road communication is the main communication in this region.

So, I urge upon the Union Government to take immediate necessary step to reconstruct the bridges on national highway in order to restore the road communication.

**(vi) Need to Maintain and Protect the Identity of Manipuri People**

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM (Inner Manipur) : Sir, the Manipuris have been a distinct group of people claiming to be a Nation when Manipur was independent. They have their own distinct language known as Manipuri language which is now included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India.

The Manipuris are now included in the list of the OBC and as a result they are entitled to all the facilities provided in this regard. In view of these facilities, it is now learnt that a section of the people claimed to be the Bishnupriya Manipuris has demanded for recognition to be the real Manipuris. They have demanded for recognition of their language as the Bishnupriya Manipuri. It is quite absurd.

In the circumstances I urge upon the Union Government not to grant any sort of such recognition to their demands as it will affect seriously the interest of the Manipuris. There cannot be objection to granting recognition to Bishnupriyas without the prefix or suffix of Manipuris. There cannot be Bishnupriya Manipuri Bishnupriya at all.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned for lunch to reassemble at 2.15 P.M.

13.17 hrs.

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

14.21 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Twenty-one Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

*(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, statement to be made by Shri P.M. Sayeed.

**STATEMENT BY MINISTER**

**Incident of Rioting and Arson on the Issue of Installing a Status of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in Khureji, Delhi.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : Sir, Plot on Khasra No. 26/9/1 and 26/2 on Parwana Road in Khureji coming under PS Krishna Nagar has been the bone of contention in a protracted legal disputes between one Hukumat Rai on the one hand and the Dalits staying nearby on the other. The legal battle in civil courts had been going on since 1981. The DDA had constructed a latrine complex on this plot of land in 1981. These lavatories, however, had gradually gone into disuse over the years, although they formed the main basis of the claim of the Dalits over the plot of land. In November 1994, the court ruled in favour of Hukumat Rai following which he raised a boundary wall around the plot of land in the month of December 1994. The Dalits led by one Raj Kumar, however, continued to stake their claim and moved the High Court for stay on the demolition of existing structure on the land in question. The stay was granted by the court on 10.1.95. In the meantime on 14.1.95, the Dalits pushed down portions of the boundary wall as they were dispersing after attending a public meeting addressed by Raj Kumar in a nearby area. This created a law and order situation and the police had to intervene. A case of rioting (FIR No. 23 u/s 147/148/186/353/427 IPC u/s 14.1.95) was registered at PS Krishna Nagar. Subsequently, the matter was finalised in the civil court and the court ruled that the latrine complex constructed by the DDA be demolished. The claims of the Dalits over the plot were also dismissed by the court. As per the directives of the court, the DDA carried out demolition of the latrine complex constructed on the land on 7.4.95 with necessary assistance by the police.

2. At about 3.30 a.m., on 4th May, 1995, a call was received by the PCR at PS Krishna Nagar that the boundary wall of the plot of Hukumat Rai was demolished by some people who were also installing a statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. On receipt of this information, SHO/Krishna Nagar reached the spot alongwith other staff. ACP/Hqrs., (East), who was the night patrolling officer, also reached the spot. A mob of

40/50 persons was found installing a statue of Dr. Ambedkar on an iron pedestal after demolishing portions of the boundary wall to gain access into the plot. On seeing the police, the mob started pelting stones on the police party from the roof tops. After giving them due warning, SHO/Krishna Nagar used teargas to disperse them. Brick-batting however, continued from the roof tops. Necessary police help was rushed from other police stations and two platoons of outside force were also rushed to the site. Other senior police officers also rushed to the spot. Since the miscreants had taken shelter on roof tops and had closed the approach staircases, the police tried their best to persuade them to stop brick-batting and come down. The miscreants threw molotov cocktails (fire bombs) to the roof tops where policemen were sighted trying to approach them. In the process, some articles lying on the roof top caught fire and the police put out the fire by throwing buckets of water in the face of heavy brick-batting. When all efforts on the part of the police supported by other law abiding residents of the area proved abortive, the police had to resort to a final round of teargassing and entered into the houses to reach the miscreants on the roof tops and bring them down. With this action, the situation was finally brought under control.

3. In total, the police fired 88 teargas shells. In the heavy brick batting, 25 police officers were injured. In all, 31 persons were rounded up out of whom 8 were subsequently released after preliminary questioning since they did not have any role in the incident.

4. The statue of Dr. Ambedkar and the pedestal which the mob was unlawfully trying to instal has been taken into possession by the police.

5. Three of the workers of Hukumat Rai, by name Farzand Ali, Noore and Shakil who were present when the mob initially trespassed into the plot and demolished the wall, have also sustained injuries. Noore was the first one to be assaulted by the mob and a case of rioting, arson and assault and attempt to murder (FIR No. 193 dated 4.5.95 u/s 147/148/149/448/452/427/436/323/307/341/186/353/332/109/506 IPC) has been registered at PS Krishna Nagar on the statement of Noore.

Further investigations are in progress. A close watch is being kept over the situation.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera) : Sir, I have given a notice for seeking clarification.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is true that you have sent a letter. Just a minute, I will read out the rules for you.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the reply of hon. Minister is totally wrong. Tear gas shells were busted for only 40-50 people. I have

photographs of the incident you can see how the police has committed excesses there. This is the matter of a dalit's land. I have the papers of registration and possession of the land. It is a conspiracy hatched among rich, police officers and administration to oust the dalits deliberately. D.D.A. constructed a toilet and the court delivered its verdict. Why did the D.D.A. construct toilet in someone's land. This is the land of dalits and they have their rights on it but the rich people who want to loot and insult them, hatch conspiracy with police officers and the administration. The hon. Minister brought three muslim to cover it. From where did Noore and Farjand Ali come? Where is Hukumat Rai? The Government have relegated Hukumat Rai in background so that it may seem a dispute between Dalits and Muslims. The hon. Minister says that an inquiry was conducted. I would like to know about the person who had inquired it. The Government must have received a report or a suggestion. When an issue is raised in the Parliament, at least it must be inquired into. If such action would be taken against dalits in Delhi and Baba Saheb Ambedkar would be insulted, the Government would have to face consequences throughout the country. Despite of it the Government is not going to be alert and agile. Why are you provoking the poor to take arms and attack. A day will come when it will also happen.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Ram Vilas Paswanji, further investigation is under progress.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : When they have talked with the police officials, Shri Patnaik is the DCP there and Shri Bharadwaj is one of the top police officials. They have acted in connivance with the upper caste and the landlord people. What the poor people will do?

*[Translation]*

Yesterday, I was there Advani Sahib I have come here from Madras. There was also a land dispute of poor people in which two persons were killed and one of them was Venkatswamy ji. The police killed two people in firing. When I went there, I met the Chief secretary and discussed the matter and it was found that the land belonged to the poor. Thereafter the land was marked but two persons had lost their lives, who would bring them back. The Hon. Minister who belongs to minority community is holding the portfolio of Minister of state in the Ministry of Home Affairs. I wish that the Government should constitute a Parliamentary committee from the members of Parliament. I alongwith Kalkadasji and some other hon. Members may be included in it. That Committee may visit all such places and report as to where high handedness had been done against poor. That is the land of a poor dalit where the incident occurred in Delhi and they are also being victimised. The hon. Minister is saying that they went there for looting and were hurling bombs and in retaliation the police bursted teargas shells. I would like to let you

know that Sunita, a girl was to be married but police entered in her father's house and snatched Rs. 51000 from there and broken hands and legs of four persons. Not only that but they had to face high handedness at police station also. A fire Brigade and tear gas shells other force reached at the spot in wee hours to control only 50 people.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Paswanji.

[English]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I accept your verdict, Sir. I am not conflicting against you.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Rules do not permit me. I cannot say anything.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : This matter relates to Delhi and this matter does not relates to their police but yours.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Do you have more faith in their police.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : In view of this incident, I have more faith in their police than yours.

I wish that atleast the hon. Minister should say in this House that the matter would be re-examined. This matter relates to Delhi. The Minister should accompany me and see. Something must be done.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is an extraordinary circumstances. Shri Paswan is allowed to raise supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Hon. Minister please throw some light into it.

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Rules do not permit me. I cannot say anything.

14.34 hrs.

## GENERAL BUDGET 1995-96 — DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

### Ministry of Defence — contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Jaswant Singh has already taken 32 minutes. The time allotted to BJP is 1.11 minutes. Shri Jaswant Singh.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I was interrupted by the Private Member's

Business when we first took up the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence. I shall attempt to continue from where I had left Friday last.

I will not repeat any of the observations that I had made on Friday. But, I must certainly express more anguish, yet again. As I see these empty benches, I must give voice to my anguish and repeat that is it simply because Defence matters do not appear to have any votes for the politician, therefore, my colleagues chose to be absent form what I consider to be a discussion of vital national importance. It is for them, particularly the Treasury Benches, to reflect on the continued neglect of this subject. I do not have to continue to give voice to this anguish. Their conduct itself is demonstrating what I am repeating.

I was, Sir, on the question of manpower in the Armed Forces. I had spoken about manpower policy and what this absence of manpower policy had resulted in the Ministry of Defence.

I will now take up three specific aspects of manpower policy, which is recruitment, training and welfare. This is what I have to say about this shortage of officers, particularly certain crucial rank of officers in the Army, Navy and Air Force. Shortage in Captain to Major rank is, to my mind, a very acutely debilitating shortage. That is the fighting element of the officer class and continued shortage, in that rank, in all the three services is an aspect that we must pay very careful attention to.

The point that I am making can perhaps be statistically rebutted. But that will be an inadequate rebuttal. Shortage of officers in Air Force, in pilot category, is a very critical shortage. I would seriously advise the Ministry of Defence to address itself to this shortage, identify why the shortage has come about and what can be done to rectify it.

There is, as I had said even on Friday, a much lower intake, then That intaken has chosen not to go into the combat element of the Armed Forces, it is going into the support element. About support element, I will come back to, I will revert in a munute. But here again, what is an aspect of singular concern is the recently introduced lowering of standards in the selection of officers through the Services Selection Boards. That is taking place because the required number of right candidates are not coming forward, and those that are coming forward, are coming forward for altogether different reasons. Therefore, the Services Selection Boards have been compelled to reduce the levels that they want from the prospective candidates. This too is a very serious matter.

Both are serious; that the required number of candidates are not coming forward and that in the process, the Ministry of Defence and the Services Selection Boards have reduced the standard for recruitment; both are very serious. I would request the Ministry of Defence to address itself seriously to this