

18.15 hrs.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make a small announcement regarding the sitting of the House today.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes; that was done yesterday itself.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: I just wanted to inform the hon. Members that dinner is available between 8.30 p.m. and 10.30 p.m.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

Now, we are going to take up the Appropriation Bill and after the Appropriation Bill is passed, I think, there is one notice given by Shri Ram Naik which has to be taken up. There are two or three points which he has raised, one of the points was discussed last year also, but I think he is insistent that that point should be discussed this year too. I am going to allow him. After that, we are going to take up the Finance Bill also. We have decided to sit late to give opportunities to some of the Members who would like to express their views on the Finance Bill also. We are trying to recoup the loss of time. The voting on the Finance Bill will take place tomorrow.

Now, the hon. Home Minister will make a statement.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER- CONTD.

(ii) Communal Violence in Manipur.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): The communal situation in Manipur has generally been stable. In particular, the relations between the Meitei and the Muslim communities have been harmonious.

However, on 3 May 1993, arising from a minor dispute between two parties over a monetary transaction, there was a sudden outbreak of communal clashes between the two communities in the Lalong Bazar village of the Thoubal District. The violence spread very quickly to communally sensitive pockets in the Thoubal and Imphal districts.

The State Government took action to contain the violence and the Army was put on alert. Units of Assam Rifles conducted flag marches in the affected areas. State and Central para-military Forces were recalled out and deployed in strength in the affected areas in the valley. Curfew was imposed in the Thoubal and Imphal districts at 6 p.m. on 3 May. The curfew is continuing.

According to the report received from the State Government, 68 persons have died, 78 persons have suffered grievous injuries and are undergoing treatment in hospitals in Imphal.

About 700 women and children from the minority community have been given shelter in local schools and are being provided with food and other necessities.

In a night-long operation, 109 anti-social elements have been arrested in two districts. More arrests are being made.

The situation is tense but under control. No fresh cases of violence have been reported today. All aspects of the situation having a bearing on the maintenance of public order in Manipur are receiving continuous attention.

APPROPRIATION (NO.2) BILL *

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the