

[Sh. Jitendra Nath Das]

Sikkim who are speaking Nepali and Manipuri are agitating and their agitation is in a climax. This agitation will come to such a stage that at one time, it will be beyond the control of the Central Government. The West Bengal Government is trying to give due respect to the Nepali language and the Chief Minister of West Bengal has stressed that due respect must be given Nepali language and others. In spite of all these the Central Government is remaining silent. I am not talking of the Government in the past. I am talking of the present Government and I like to ask them as to why they are remaining silent this serious and important issue. Under the circumstances, I do urge upon all the hon. Members of this august House to support this Bill unanimously and have pressure on the Government so that, without any hesitation, this Bill for inclusion of Nepali and Manipuri languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution be accepted without any delay.

17.40 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Bomb blast in Delhi on 23 April 1992

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I request the hon. Minister, Shri M.M. Jacob to make his statement on the bomb blast that occurred in Delhi on 23rd April?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIM. M. JACOB): Madam, today during the Zero Hour, Shri Madan Lal Khurana, Shri Khandelwal and Shri Advani raised the point regarding the bomb blast in Parahganj in Delhi on 23rd April. Shri Kumaramangalam has assured the House that we would get the facts and come to the House. Since the information is collected and is now available with me, I would like to share it with the House with your permission.

I wish to apprise the hon. Members of this august House about the unfortunate incident of an explosion that took place in Vivek Hotel near Khanna Cinema, Pahar Ganj on 23rd April, 1992.

On 23rd April, 1992, at about 8.47 P.M. information was received regarding the explosion. The local police of PS Pahar Ganj rushed to the scene. The Hon. Governor Delhi and senior officers including Commissioner of police also reached the scene immediately.

Enquiries showed that the restaurant at the time of explosion was entirely occupied by foreign tourists. An Indian aged about 25 years with trimmed hair and a short beard and height around 5' 7" had walked into the restaurant and occupied one of the vacant tables. He had ordered food to be served to him and during his means he had got up asking for directions to the toilet. The toilet is not situated within the restaurant but it is located in the hotel and its access is from outside. When he left, he pointed to the waiter that he was leaving his bag behind and would be coming back soon. Within five minutes of his exit, the bag exploded on the floor of the restaurant causing injuries to 14 persons.

The injured include one Indian, one Nepali, four Israeli nationals, two British nationals, three Dutch nationals, one Canadian and two German nationals. Seven of the injured were taken to RML Hospital, three were taken to JPN Hospital and four went to the East-West Medical Centre in Gulf Links. Five of the seven injured persons who were taken to the RML Hospital were foreigners and they all decided to shift to the East-West Medical Centre. They mainly sustained injuries on their lower limbs and three also suffered burn injuries. Four Israelis, who were in the East-West medical Centre, have been discharged after initial treatment. Five foreigners - two Germans and three Dutch, are still in the East-West Medical Centre. Two British nationals and one Canadian are still admitted in the LNJP Hospital. Out of the three patients in JPN Hospital, two have simple injuries and the

529 *Statt. by Minister Bomb blast in Delhi on 23 April, 1992* VAISAKHA 4, 1914 (SAKA) *Const. (Amend.) Bill 530 (Amend. of Eighth Schedule) by Smt. Dil Kumari Bhandari*

third may require a little longer hospitalisation, but is out of danger.

The examination of scene of crime by forensic expert reveals that explosion was caused by an explosive device which was triggered with a battery activated timing mechanism. Iron nails and steel pieces had been packed in the IED to make it more lethal. A crater approximately two-and-a-half inches deep and one foot in diameter was found on the concrete floor of the restaurant where the explosion had taken place. A small fire also started as a result of the explosion which was brought under control by the people themselves.

A case FIR No. 192 dated 23.4.1992 under Section 3 and 4 of Explosive Substances Act, Section 3 and 4 of TADA and Section 307 of IPC has been registered at Police station Paharganj on the statement of Shri K.S. Chauhan, Manager of Lima Restaurant, which is located in the building of Vivek Hotel where explosion had taken place. Red alert was sounded and searches conducted in Delhi of various hideouts. Guest were checked but the accused could not be traced so far.

I request the hon. Members to join me in condemning this reprehensible act of cowardice which has resulted in injuries to 14 persons including foreigners. I would like to assure the House that we will make every endeavour to arrest the accused. We are determined to provide full protection and security to our citizens.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): Madam Chairman, with your kind permission, I would like to raise an issue ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, it is Private Member's time.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer):

Madam Chairman, I condemn this cowardice act. I would like to know from the Government as to how long such incidents would continue? Will the foreigners continue to be killed like this. Why the terrorists are not being arrested?... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing any clarification. We will now continue with the Private Member's Business

Constitution (Amendment) Bill

(Amendment of Eighth Schedule) -
Contd.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Madam Chairperson, I am glad to support this Bill and I really congratulate the hon. Member who has brought this Bill for bringing Manipuri and Nepali languages in the 8th Schedule.

This is a long standing demand and the demands were placed before the authorities at various points of time. The authorities at various points of time agreed that there were several good cases for this argument that Nepali languages as well as Manipuri languages be included in the 8th Schedule. But, it is unfortunate that this has not happened. Just as in the way many of the Private Members' Bills end up in vain.

There are assurances to some extent that this will be brought or that will be favourably considered but due to several reasons, may be for proper reasons also, many of the assurances do not take shape by way of a Government Bill. But, here is a Bill which is now being supported by all the participants. I do not think anybody has placed a different view. The purport of 8th Schedule itself is to give recognition to the composite culture of India by inclusion of languages which are deemed to be fit for inclusion.