

view of the assurance and in view of the fact that you will be there to protect my interest and that of the national health also, I withdraw my Amendment.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If I am in the Chair, why six hours, late in the evening I am prepared to sit.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Has Dr. Subramaniam Swamy leave of the House to withdraw his amendment ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

*The Amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That this House do agree with the Forty-fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on 3rd-May, 1983.”

*The Motion was adopted.*

15.04 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : INCIDENT AT  
PATIALA ON 2ND MAY, 1983

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.C. SETHI) : Sir, I am first taking the Statement on Punjab. We have given the English version. The Hindi version will be supplied within ten to fifteen minutes.

According to the information furnished by the Government of Punjab, an altercation took place on 2nd May, 1983 at Patiala between two shopkeepers over the use of loudspeaker. Their supporters reached the spot, which accentuated the situation. Persons belonging to both the groups clashed and indulged in arson and brickbating. It has been reported that about 28 shops were set on fire and some scooters were also damaged.

2. The police used tear gas and resorted

to lathi charge and firing to bring the situation under control. Curfew has been imposed from 5PM on 2nd May, 1983.

3. In these incidents six persons are reported to have been injured. They have been admitted in the hospital and are reported to be out of danger.

4. On May 3, 1983 two shops were damaged in arson and one incident of stabbings was reported. Some shops at certain places in Punjab also remained closed. On the night of May 3/4, 1983 one shop is reported to have been set on fire.

5. Fifty-nine persons are reported to have been arrested till the evening of May 3, 1983.

6. The State Government are keeping constant vigil and have taken necessary measures to deal with the situation which is reported to be under control.

7. I am confident that this House will join me in condemning acts which create disharmony and misunderstanding amongst different sections of society. I appeal to all communities and every section of public opinion in Punjab to strive to maintain the traditional communal harmony and peace and continue to work together for the greater good of the State and the country.

STATEMENT RE : SITUATION IN  
ASSAM

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.C. SETHI) : Sir,

Prof. Madhu Dandavate has given a Notice under Rule 193 for a Short Duration Discussion regarding Massacre at Nellie in Assam on the basis of a number of wireless messages purported to have been issued and reproduced in a Journal of 15th May. It is sad to find that very often while professing dedication to the ideals of objective reporting the consistent attempt to castigate the Government becomes the all important consideration and national interests are completely disregarded. Conclusions are arrived

at in advance and facts are made to fit them.

2. The Hon'ble Members of the House will kindly recall that the situation in Assam has been discussed at length on a number of occasions starting with my suomoto statement on 21st February, 1983. The last occasion on which the Assam situation was discussed extensively in all its aspects was on 12th April when I replied to the Debate on the Demands of Home Ministry. We have taken the House into Confidence at every stage and we have come forward on more than one occasion to frankly discuss the various aspects of the Assam situation and major incidents which took place from time to time.

8. The prolonged agitation which was subsequently given an intensive and militant form has left a trail of misery and destruction. The desperate acts of violence committed by the agitators had fouled the atmosphere in Assam. Those who differed with the agitators and wanted to exercise their right of franchise, the minorities, religious and linguistic and tribals had been feeling increasingly insecure and threatened as they were systematically terrorised. It was hoped that all national political parties who have abiding faith in the democratic set up would strongly deprecate irresponsible and inflamming statements and postures on the part of the agitators and unequivocally condemn the atmosphere of terror and senseless violence unleashed by the agitators. Astonishingly, some political parties, not only chose to boycott the poll and openly support the agitation but also failed to condemn the violence at the appropriate time. The State Government did its best in the prevailing atmosphere to provide protection and to hold peaceful elections. Taking into account the situation, the State Government made its own plans for the maintenance of law and order. To augment its resources, the Central Government had made available 312 Coys. of police forces and para-military forces from outside to the State Government. 275 Coys. are still being retained in Assam to assist the State Government for maintenance of law and order and early restoration of normalcy. The constitutional compulsion and legal position for holding the elections,

without revision of electoral rolls, have been discussed at length in the House. Notwithstanding the fact that constitutional position regarding holding of elections has been stated on more than one occasion, it is unfortunate that the same old viewpoints based on half-truths are being advanced to give a distorted picture of events. It is forgotten that to the agitators the political parties and democratic process in Assam had become irrelevant. The Government and the majority of our people did not subscribe to this politics of intolerance and terrorisation. The Government was keen to restore the democratic process so that the people of Assam could have a Government of their own which could voice their feelings and tackle their problems as their elected representatives. If the atmosphere for election was not ideal, the fault was not that of the Government or of the Election Commission; the responsibility lies with the agitators and those who encourage them unwittingly or otherwise.

4. Killings in Assam have caused deep anguish throughout the country. All sections of society suffered as a result of the violence perpetrated by anti-social elements and extremists. The House has condemned the senseless violence that took place and made an appeal to strengthen feelings of mutual cooperation and brotherhood and to find a solution to the problem amicably and help in the process of restoring peace and normalcy. The State Government are taking all possible measures to restore peace and harmony and to render relief and rehabilitation to those who suffered in the disturbances. The Central Government is extending maximum possible assistance to the State Government in this regard.

5. The administration had a very difficult task on their hands and were working under considerable strain. Under the circumstances it is possible that there might have been some shortcomings. That is why the State Government have decided to institute a high level administrative enquiry into the disturbances. The enquiry is bound to cover all aspects.

6. At this stage to form an opinion on the basis of reproductions of some wireless

messages in the journal, would be pre-judging the issue. Reference has been made to some IB reports. I should like to mention that the Union Government took various assessments at different times into consideration. The State Government authorities were alerted from time to time about the need for intensifying security measures. To the best of their judgement and assessment, the State Government made arrangements to cope with the situation. For what reasons and in which directions the arrangements could not accomplish their objectives, is the matter which has to be gone into in the course of the enquiry proposed by the Assam Government. It is a complete travesty of facts to say that the Government was only interested in completing the electoral process and was unmindful of protection of people. The life and liberty of various sections of the people have been our major concern and responsibility. (Dr. Subramaniam Swamy : Oh ! ) For us this is not a matter for partisan consideration or political gain. The holding of elections was a constitutional imperative. The effort all along was to see that the law and order are preserved so that those who are desirous of exercising their democratic right of franchise were allowed to do so without let or hindrance, despite the persistent attempts of a determined group of people for whom democratic norms had no meaning and for whom the modes of individual violence and collective terrorism had become instruments to frustrate democratic processes. And it is unfortunate that they and their agitation were often lionised rather than condemned in no uncertain language.

7. The article in the New Delhi journal has quoted several wireless messages issued by the State Police authorities. It will be seen from these messages themselves that the State Government authorities have been very prompt in alerting local police about the dangers of communal violence and in issuing instructions about the need for prompt action. In the face of clear evidence in the messages quoted in the journal itself it is somewhat ironical if not cruel, to make the allegation that there has been negligence and connivance on the part of the Government. The House may draw its own

conclusion about the perversity in interpretation of facts.

8. As regards the message from the police officer incharge of the Nowgong police station, it will be seen that it was addressed to the Commandant of the 5th Battalion of Assam Police, the sub-division police officer at Marigaon, and the officer incharge of the police station at Jagir Road. The present State authorities have already initiated measures to ascertain the action taken by various authorities at different levels. I do not wish to offer any comments on this as enquiry by the State Government is still on. However, I would like to state that the State authorities had been reviewing the reports relating to law and order situation, particularly reports on threats to communal peace on day-today basis and issuing instructions for taking prompt action whenever such information came to their notice.

9. However, we are intrigued by co-incidence. When Heads of States from all over the world had assembled in New Delhi in connection with the Non-aligned Meet, some newspapers and periodicals chose to come out with graphic pictures on the killings in Assam. Now again attempts are being made to stoke the dying embers which can only help to create misgivings in public mind and tarnish the fair image of our nation.

10. I should also like to refute strongly the baseless insinuations which have been made about any intention on the part of the Government to conceal facts or fudge the record. So far as the Government is concerned, there is nothing to hide and we will hide nothing from the House.

11. It is unfortunate that some sweeping allegations have been made against C.R.P.F. which has worked under trying circumstances with a high sense of devotion to duty and whose role has been commended by members of the House on more than one occasion.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (New Delhi) : Judicial inquiry.

SHRI P.C. SETHI : The situation is an exceedingly complex one and he pas j

unleashed by the recent frenzy of violence will take time to abate. It is, therefore, imperative that nothing is said or done which will re-open the wounds or give rise to misgivings and inflame the passions. The present is the time for all endeavours towards reconciliation and for consolidating the healing process which is slowly but steadily gaining ground. Even though sporadic incidents of violence are still taking place, there have been definite signs of improvement in the law and order situation, as a result of administrative and other steps taken by the State Government for the restoration of peace and harmony. The Army has also been deployed in the affected districts in aid of civil authorities for law and order and internal security duties. Any acrimonious debate at this stage as to what went wrong and who are responsible is not only premature but also likely to upset this process of reconciliation and healing. We have no intention to protect any administrative lapses that might have occurred despite the arrangements. We have also to keep in view that an elected government is in office and it must have the opportunity (Shri H.N. Bahuguna : Question, question). and also our support to go into these issues, take measures for the future to put an end to such tragic incidents and bring about an atmosphere of mutual understanding and harmony among all sections of the people in the State.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Matters under Rule 377, Shri Krishna Chandra Pandey.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY (Bombay North East) : Sir, I am on a point of order. You please see Rule 355.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is no subject matter under discussion.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : No, no. You see Rule 355.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is vacuum in the House. Are you taking my permission to raise the point of order ?

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Yes, I am asking you to see Rule 355.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do you want to raise a point of order ?

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Yes, yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Then there is no point. There is vacuum in the House.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : There is no vacuum. Two items of business are in between.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes. What is that Rule 355 ?

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : The rule allows me to ask a question. I want to know whether he has received a threat. . . .

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am not allowing. This rule does not allow you.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : No. You read the Rule.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This rule does not apply to this. I am giving a ruling : This Rule does not apply to this.

Now, matters under Rule 377, Shri Krishna Chandra Pandey.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : You don't want the rule to be applied any more. But he is ready to answer. It is very strange. You see the rule book. If you want me to put away this rule book, I am willing to put it away.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Is it rule 372 ?

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : No, no. It is rule 355. Why don't you allow me under Rule 355 ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This does not allow.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : You don't know any rules at all then. If you don't want me to function according to rules, I am prepared. . . .

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am sorry, I have to say it is not relevant. I don't say it is irrelevant.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Why are you sorry ? Either you go by the rules or you do not go by the rules.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am going by the rules. That rule which you mentioned does not apply. I have made it very clear.

Now, matters under Rule 377.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am not allowing anybody. Now, Mr. Krishna Chandra Pandey.

15.19 hrs.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

##### (i) Setting up of a Coach Factory at Gorakhpur

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पांडे (खलीलाबाद) : पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश, देश का सबसे पिछड़ा हुआ भाग है जहां पर कोई ऐसा बड़ा उद्योग नहीं है कि जिसमें पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश के बेरोजगार नौजवानों को रोजी मिल सके। इसी कारण पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश में दिन प्रतिदिन जन आक्रोश बढ़ता जा रहा है। आजादी के इन 35 वर्षों में गोरखपुर में एक फर्टिलाइजर कारखाना जो जीर्ण-शीर्ण अवस्था में है के अतिरिक्त कुछ नहीं लगाया गया। पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश के लाखों लोग विदेशों में जाकर शरण लिए हुए हैं और वहां से जो रुपया भेजते हैं उसी पर उनके परिवार के लोग निर्भर करते हैं। इतना ही नहीं पूर्वी उ० प्र० के लाखों लोग बम्बई, कलकत्ता में छोटा-मोटा कार्य करते हैं और अपने परिवार के लोगों का भरण पोषण कर रहे हैं। गोरखपुर पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे का हैडक्वार्टर है यहां पर मीटर गेज रेल लाइन और ब्राडगेज रेल लाइन दोनों उपलब्ध हैं। उ० प्र० सरकार ने रेल मंत्री एवं योजना मंत्री, भारत सरकार का ध्यान

गोरखपुर में कोच फैक्ट्री की स्थापना के लिए आकृष्ट कराया। रेल मंत्री जी का जवाब भी उ० प्र० सरकार को गया है कि सर्वे चल रहा है। इतना ही नहीं रेल मंत्री जी ने अपने जवाब में उ० प्र० सरकार को यह भी आश्वासन दिया है कि कोच फैक्ट्री वहां लग सकती है जहां मीटर गेज और ब्राडगेज दोनों लाइन उपलब्ध हो और पिछड़ा हुआ क्षेत्र हो। गोरखपुर ही उ० प्र० में एक ऐसा उपयुक्त स्थान है जो पिछड़ा हुआ क्षेत्र के साथ ही साथ मीटर गेज और ब्राडगेज दोनों उपलब्ध है। सर्वेक्षण पूरा तब तक नहीं हो सकता जब तक रेल मंत्री इस तरफ विशेष ध्यान नहीं देंगे। पूर्वी उ० प्र० की इस मांग पर गंभीरतापूर्वक ध्यान दिया जाना परमावश्यक है। इस गंभीर समस्या की तरफ मेरा विनम्र आग्रह है कि समय रहते ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए।

15.21 hrs.

[SHRI R.S. SPARROW in the Chair]

मेरा प्रधान मन्त्री एवं रेल मंत्री भारत सरकार से विनम्र आग्रह है कि गोरखपुर में कोच फैक्ट्री की स्थापना की धोषणा अतिशीघ्र करें जिससे पूर्वी उ० प्र० के बेरोजगार नौजवानों को रोजी मिल सके।

##### (ii) Need for change in Indian Explosives Act

SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat) : Under rule 377 I make the following statement :

Accidents due to explosions in fireworks factories have become very frequent these days. The main reason for such accidents which result in loss of lives of many is that adequate precautionary measures are not taken while handling explosives. Newspapers have reported about the death of many people in different parts of Palghat recently as a result of explosions in fireworks factory. The Indian Explosives Act contains provisions for regulating the manufacture, use and sale of explosives. But, the fact is that these