

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): It was struck down again because of defective drafting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why did you miss your chance to speak.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: You could have said it in the House.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I will write a letter to you. You kindly do the amendment. (*Interruptions*).. in the different manner.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The motion has been adopted and the Bill, as amended, has been passed.

17.07 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE:
PROCLAMATION IN RELATION TO
THE STATE OF ASSAM

MR. CHAIRMAN: Giani Zail Singh has written that Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah will move the Statutory Resolution on his behalf.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): I beg to move:

"That this House approves the Proclamation issued by the President on the 12th December, 1979 under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Assam."

Following the resignation of the Janata Ministry headed by Shri Golap Barbor, a Ministry headed by Shri Jogendra Nath Hazarika of the Asom Janata Vidhayan Dal assumed office

on 9th September, 1979. In the wake of the deteriorating law and order situation in Assam, the Congress (U) and CPI withdrew their support and the Hazarika Ministry was reduced to a minority.

In his report to the President, dated the 11th December, 1979, copies of which were laid on the Table of the House on 23rd January, 1980, the Governor recommended issue of a Proclamation under Article 356 of the Constitution. He also recommended that the State Assembly may be kept in suspended animation. Accordingly, the State was placed under President's Rule on the 12th December, 1979.

Possibilities are being explored for having a stable Ministry in the State. It is, however, possible that no Ministry may be able to assume office by the 12th February, 1980 by which time the Present 'Proclamation' will expire unless approved by Resolution of both Houses of Parliament.

I would request the House to grant its approval to the Proclamation issued by the President on 12th December, 1979 in relation to the State of Assam.

In this connection I would like to say the moment the responsible Government is formed there, this Resolution of the House will be revoked.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolusion moved:

"That this House approves the Proclamation issued by the President on the 12th December, 1979 under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Assam."

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): Sir, I am supporting this Proclamation. But in this context, I want to draw your attention to the urgency of the intervention on the part of the Central Government to normalise the situation there on the issues centering which now the agitation and disturbances have developed and see that those are satisfactorily solved.

Sir, I made certain proposals to the Prime Minister and she has agreed to

those proposals and some move is there about them. But the situation is such and it is so serious that the speed is very slow and the situation is day by day worsening. The Governor's administration under the President's Rule has not improved the situation. The time is passing. That is why you are getting an endorsement of this Proclamation here. But there should be an effort to unite and mobilise all the healthy democratic forces there to counter this disruptive movement, this agitation, which is growing and which is causing loss of life and property to the minority communities here.

Sir, Assam is a border State, and there are other contiguous border States. Similar problems have given rise to the type of agitation which are now being utilised by the disruptive forces and it has been told repeatedly that some foreign agencies are behind these games and the movement has degenerated now and it is a stage where the slogan of united Assam has been raised and it has led to obstructing the flow of crude for refineries and that has also created serious difficulties in those areas and States where oil is supplied or crude is supplied from Assam. The issue has been discussed here and it has been raised. Simply I am pointing out the urgency and seriousness of the situation. The slogan now is that Assam should be independent. This is clearly a secessionist slogan and those who are at the helm of the agitation now may disown the responsibility, but virtually it has come to a stage where effective intervention is necessary to curb these sessionist forces who are creating troubles.

All the minorities are feeling absolutely insecure. Thousands have been rendered homeless, houses have been burnt, persons have been murdered or killed, properties looted and this has been going on. I am not citing examples. There are innumerable examples which have been referred to here. This is not a question of only the people of Assam, it is an all-India question. It

is to be solved by all unitedly rising above party considerations. This is a question of unity and integrity of India, this is a question of the rights of the citizens of India. There is also a fear lurking in the minds of the Assamese people that they may be outnumbered by outsiders. That should also be sympathetically considered and appropriate steps must be taken so that they also feel secure that their separate identity is in no way affected. That is also the problem in Meghalaya.

The problem is very complex no doubt, but considering the way the movement has gone into the hands of the secessionist forces and foreign agencies—I can categorically say that the CIA is very active in that area—if it is not checked and if reactions to this start in other States, then there is the danger that India will disintegrate. Already, some movement was started in North Bengal. Lorries were stopped, and they refused to take food to Assam. In that case, only the common people will be the worst sufferers. So, there we intervened and we made them sober, so that this is not done, but if the slogans that the oil produced in Assam is the property of only the Assamese people, are not curbed, then West Bengal will raise the slogan that the coal that is produced there is the property of West Bengal; if Assam does not give oil, West Bengal will not give coal, Bihar will not give steel and other States will say that they will not give cement or something else. That means we refuse to think of ourselves as Indians, we simply think that we are Assamese, Bengalis, Biharis etc.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY (Nizamabad): The solution is communism.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Communism is the only real effective way, Don't ridicule it.

Now, according to reports, there is a proposal to have two types of citizenship—Indian citizenship and Assamese citizenship. This type of disruptive slogans and formulas are

[Shri Samar Mukherjee]

coming and the democratic forces must be mobilised, but where is the agency for that? That is my question. It cannot be done by the Governor.

It is reported that the entire administration is part and parcel of this agitation. The Officers' Association has passed a resolution that unless the foreigners are removed from the list, they will not co-operate with the Government. A section of Government employees is also participating in the agitation. So, they must be brought to their senses. This requires united effort. On the part of the Central Government, a most serious effort is necessary, and the urgency of the situation must not be overlooked.

Regarding the definition of foreigners, this is a controversial thing. Nothing has come out from the Government of India specifying how the definition of foreigners is to be formulated. So, I made a proposal at the meeting which the Prime Minister called that it should be according to the Indian Constitution. The time factor also is there. There are previous agreements with Mujibur Rahman in 1971 and some other similar understandings, to which the Prime Minister also referred, but some consensus has to be arrived at on this question of the definition of foreigners.

It is true that if outside people start coming, it will be a threat not only to Assam, it is also a threat to Tripura and West Bengal. So, sealing of the border is one of the most important aspects, so that this infiltration from Bangladesh or outside is prevented. But those who have been staying there for years together are being evicted, they are being thrown out, their villages are burnt, they are being killed also. This is in the type of riot which we have seen in the past, that is still happening.

The persons who have gone there as officers, as engineers and doing various other jobs and who have been staying there for years together have

also been the target of attack. Not only Mr. Rabi Moitra and some other persons in Duliajan have been murdered but I have got information of a case of Mr. Ranjan Chakravarty, who was MBBS and who was studying MD in the Gauhati Medical College, who has been killed. Gangsters who were outsiders entered his house on the fourth floor of the building and killed him in the night. He was a meritorious young doctor. His family is completely stranded. His father has written a letter; I have got a copy of the letter and I will forward it to the Prime Minister. Nobody has been apprehended for this kind of ghastly murders and actions.

The situation is, therefore, so grave that effective intervention is very essential and also to find out some formula as to who should be considered as a "foreigner". A proposal has been made by our Chief Minister of West Bengal very recently when he met the Prime Minister that a commission should be set up, to formulate the definition of a foreigner. For the composition of the commission all parties may be consulted and let the commission finalise the definition.

Then, it is not only a question of correcting the voters' list but it is a question of restoring the sense of security amongst the minorities and the Assamese people also. They must feel assured that their identity will be protected and defended. The economic factors are primarily working behind it and some vested interests and disruptive forces are also behind it. This is particularly a border area. Various slogans have been raised there in the past also on the question of self-determination and various other things. It is a most sensitive area. So, the question of taking effective steps cannot be delayed. That is why my insistence is that if a popular Government is possible, that should be attempted, that the Government should undertake the responsibility of countering the secessionist move-

ment and that they will deal with those people who are consciously trying to divert this movement into a secessionist and a disruptive channel.

Also, their task will be not only to gear up the administration but also to rouse the democratic consciousness of the people, the sense of integrity and the unity of the people and to create conditions under which the minorities can feel secure there. Otherwise, they will be thrown out of their livelihood; they cannot go back to their avocations and earn their livelihood. All types of certificates are not being accepted. There are a large number of people who are poor and who have not the resources or the organisation to get citizenship certificates. So, they should not be thrown out because they cannot produce citizenship certificates. Their question also must be kept in mind because they are the most poor sections of the people. There are thousands and thousands of these people, both Hindus and Muslims, both Bengalis and Nepalese and there are people from U.P., Bihar and various other States. All of them are feeling totally insecure. That is why this question has assumed a very vital importance. If the Government takes an initiative, we will give full support behind that initiative. But it should not be delayed.

In the end, I say, the Government must make an appeal to all the healthy forces to exercise their authority to influence the masses so that they are not carried away by these disruptive forces and that a sense of unity and integrity is restored.

With these words, I support the motion.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also have no other alternative but to support this motion. Normally, we are not for Presidents rule. But this is an exceptional situation. I would not repeat what has already been related

by our esteemed colleague Shri Samar Mukherjee.

I would also like to draw attention to the fact that the situation in Assam has not at all improved during the Governor's Rule. I feel very sorry that this resolution has come at the tail-end of the session of Parliament. I cannot but convey my own feelings that the depth of the crisis in Assam has not yet been realised by the rest of our country and proper attention has not yet been given to it. I appeal to the Government, and particularly to the Prime Minister, through you, that now that the Session is over, she must rush there. This is a very serious question. Unless solved, it will soon imperil the whole of India.

Can you imagine a situation where people are being charged with burning their own houses and being taken to court and prosecutions being started against them. This is happening in Assam. Eight thousand houses have been burnt and there are a plenty lot of cases where these very people, whose houses were burnt, are being charged that they themselves have burnt the houses. I have many cases, with me but I dare not name the cases because they will again be persecuted there. I am sorry to say that. But this is happening even under Governor's Rule. If Advocates go to the court for their bail, they are surrounded and physically threatened. Even bail cannot be sought; often they cannot get bail. People who are lame are being charged with murder—those who cannot commit murder because it is physically impossible—only because they belong to linguistic minorities. They are being charged with murder and cases are being instituted against them. There is nobody to protest. Administration in most part is totally biased, I am sorry to say, even under Governor's Rule. Those high officers who are neither Assamese nor Bengalis nor even belong to any other nationality or places near about, in whom the minorities had some confidence, have been transferred during Governor's Rule. For example, the

S.P. of Kamrup Shri Srivastav and the DIG Shri K. P. S. Gill are neither Bengalis nor Assamese. Very little could be done but even then, these officers were thought to be somewhat strict under Governor's Rule, they have been transferred resulting in further panic. Not only have thousands been rendered homeless—more than 14 thousand—and more than 500 were dead and women were raped. These things are there. These are glaring things which could be felt, which could be heard and which could be ascertained. But the small things I have described intensify atmosphere of terror and make people absolutely insecure. I feel that proper attention has not been given to Assam, may be due to the Elections and may be because of Parliament session immediately after. But now the session of Parliament is also over, people must rush there—people of high authority, i.e. not only Party bosses but really Government leaders with authority and particularly the Prime Minister.

Now I would like to say one or two more things before conclusion, about the refugees. The refugees are in a position where thousands of them are huddled in so-called camps. Really, Relief Camps are, in my opinion, a euphemism.

17.29 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Plantain leaves are on their heads, and they are called camps, and that too in this Winter. Assam has also an extreme climate.

There are allegations that whatever little relief is being allotted to them is not reaching them. Who is taking charge of this whole thing? Who is supervising the distribution? It is again the very same officers a major part of whom are already in it—who are really conniving at it. That is why, Sir, restoring normalcy is the first thing, and for restoring normalcy, everybody understands, the main thing is settling the question of foreigners. With regard to the question of foreign-

ers, our Party, i.e., the CPI in Assam, has given some suggestions which I would like to place here for consideration:—

(1) The Union Government must determine within the shortest possible time the question of foreign nationals in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Constitution and the Citizenship Act with due coverage to the Nehru-Liaquat Pact of 1950 and the Indo-Bangladesh Agreement of 1972.

(2) Preparation of a national register of citizens.

(3) Introduction of identity cards for all Indian adults.

(4) Preparation of a revised voters' list deleting the names of all foreign nationals and including the names of all eligible Indian citizens.

(5) For doing the above-mentioned things, in (2) (3) and (4), setting up of popular committees with government officials and popular representatives at the Gram Panchayat or Ward level.

The last one is very important because it is only at the lowest level that people will be knowing who are really foreigners and who are really citizens. In these refugee camps, there are literally thousands of people who speak Assamese, whose education was through the medium of Assamese. Even then, they are in the refugee camps. Locally this ascertainment about their citizenship can be done through popular representatives. It is very difficult to find out otherwise. After all, who keeps the citizenship certificate after so many years? Not all do. But locally everybody would be knowing what is the situation. For normalcy to be restored in Assam, there should be a terrific campaign from all over India. I feel that from all over India people of good faith should go to Assam. If Mahatma Gandhi could go to Balliaghata and pitch a camp for stopping the riots,

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why should the entire conscience of India not be aroused to save the situation in Assam? They should rush there as a goodwill mission. I would like to see that happening. I do not feel that that is the situation now.

Lastly, I appreciate the fear of the Assamese-speaking people that they may be overwhelmed by the outsiders. We from Bengal do not surely want any such situation. All that we want is that the foreigners should be located or identified and deported. At the same time we want that all those who are really not foreigners, should not be persecuted. Both the sides should be taken into account in settling this question. That is why, Sir, through you I once again appeal not only to the Government but to the entire House to take it up as an urgent matter.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I fully support the proclamation of President's rule in Assam. I am a linguistic minority, elected from Silchar in Assam. There were no elections in the other 12 constituencies. As an Assamese, I must echo the voice of the Assamese people in Assam. About the situation which is now there and about the sentiments of the Assamese people, the hon. Members who spoke from the Opposition Benches have pointed out various things. I agree with them in what they have said. They have explained the problem and they have also explained the solution. There are no two opinions about that. All of us in this House will agree that the Centre should intervene and all political parties should go to Assam to solve the problem. The secessionist movement which is steadily gaining momentum in Assam must be stopped to save the Mother India.

But the Assamese people, by and large, have got themselves enrolled in this agitation; even the government officials have taken part in this. They have formed the committees. Even the doctors have taken a resolve that they will not give treatment to those who suffers from the riots. Look at

the extent of involvement of government officials, semi-government officials and so on. This is not a small movement. The movement originally started was mainly because of economic development that took place in Assam. The people of Assam by and large feel that the time is coming when they will completely be outnumbered in Assam. When you go through the statistics which are readily available to the Central Government you will find the number of people employed in O.N.G.C., Indian Oil Corporation, Railways, L.I.C. and in Banks. Look at the number of employments given to the local people. Employment to the sons of soil would be very very limited. I would admit that they cannot compete on an all-India basis. The time has come when the Central Government should solve this problem. The employment aspect in Assam should be taken into consideration and some statutory powers should be provided so that in all the organisations, in Assam, the local people get employment. The economic and industrial development in Assam is very bad. There was a continuous neglect of Assam by the Centre whichever may be the government at the Centre. If a project starts, it takes a long time to complete. Take for instance the paper mill. It has taken four years. For the Cachar Hills area, we wanted an extension of a broad-gauge line upto Tinsukia. For years and years we had been pleading on the floor of Parliament for the same. Assurance is not forthcoming. It is no use blaming any political party right now. On this we must consider the problem of the Assamese people who are suffering for years together. Youths of today cannot be considered youths of 20 years back. They have seen India; they have gone round and seen the progress made in other parts of India. If they compare the progress made in other parts of India with that of Assam, they will feel frustrated.

They do not see any scope for them at all. I would request this august

House whether you form a Commission or you send any delegation, to see that the employment factor and the industrial and economic development in Assam is taken into consideration. Regarding the formation of Government, as some hon. Members from the Opposition Bench pointed out, a popular Government should be formed. I would request the Government of India to be very careful because the Governor's report has been circulated to the hon. Members of the Lok Sabha. From that we have seen one thing. In the past the Governor had allowed the Leader of the 70 M.L.A.s to form the Government. But Shri Hazarika initially failed to tackle the present movement in Assam. He has issued a statement before the Press that there are 16 lakhs foreigners in Assam. He gave the statement only but he did not know how to tackle it. As a result, 7 ministers from his own Cabinet resigned and the Proclamation of the President's Rule was made.

We have seen at that time that the Congress (U) there supported Shri J. N. Hazarika. But because of the present law and order situation they withdraw their support. We also saw that with the support of Janata-Congress (U) whether Shri Golap Borbora could form the Government. If that could be formed, well and good.

But attention must be paid by the Government to see whether there will be stable government formed there. If there is a *kichri* Government, it will only create troubles for the people.

As some hon. Members said, there was involvement of government officials in the movement from A to Z. Where they are supporting the movement, it is because they are supporting a common cause of that movement. This must be taken into consideration. Sentiments of the Assamese people should be taken into consideration. Though I am coming from the linguistic minority group from

Assam, we had been very much the worst suffers. The people there had lost their houses, their lands and sometimes their lives. Linguistic riot in Assam has become a pattern in the last two decades. I appeal to the hon. Minister that this must be stopped and now a situation has arisen when the Centre should intervene so as to solve this problem in such a way that there is a lasting solution in Assam.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (नई दिल्ली) : अध्यक्ष महोदय; आज जब यह सदन असम की विषम परिस्थिति के बारे में चर्चा कर रहा है, तब कछौर को छोड़कर शेष असम के निर्वाचित प्रतिनिधि इस सदन में नहीं हैं। 12 सीटें खाली पड़ी हैं, देश का एक महत्वपूर्ण भाग, जो सीमा पर अवस्थित है, सामरिक दृष्टि से हमारे लिये बड़े महत्व का है उसका इस सदन में प्रतिनिधित्व नहीं है।

अभी हमारे मित्र ने कहा कि असम की जनता के मन में यह भावना घर कर गई है कि नई दिल्ली में उसकी उपेक्षा होती है। जितना महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्र है, उतनी तेजी से कदम उस क्षेत्र के आर्थिक विकास के लिए नहीं उठाये गये। परिणाम यह है कि असम के लोग अपने को उपेक्षित, अनाधर्म, शोषित और शापित समझते हैं।

इस आर्थिक संकट के साथ एक नया संकट असम में खड़ा हो गया है, उसे आप संख्यासुर कह सकते हैं, संख्या का असुर। सारे देश में आबादी बढ़ती है 24 फीसदी की रफ्तार से, मगर असम में आबादी बढ़ती है, 34 फीसदी की रफ्तार से। 1971 में ही असम की जनसंख्या में 26 लाख की वृद्धि हुई, जिस वृद्धि को प्राकृतिक या स्वाभाविक नहीं कहा जा सकता।

समस्या की गंभीरता को चीफ इलैक्शन कमिश्नर श्री शकधर ने भी स्वीकार किया था। उटकमंड में एलैक्टोरल आफिसर्स का जो 1978 में अक्टूबर में सम्मेलन हुआ था, उसमें श्री शकधर ने जो कुछ कहा था, उसे मैं उद्धृत करना चाहता हूँ:—

"The influx has become a regular feature. I think that it may not be a wrong assessment to make on the basis of this increase of 34.95 per cent between the two census that the increase that is likely to be recorded in 1991 census would be more than 100 per cent over the 1961 census. In other words, a stage would be reached when the

State may have to reckon with the foreign nationals who may in all probability have sizeable percentage, if not the majority population in the State."

असम का संकट उसके व्यक्तित्व को बचाने का संकट है। असम की अपनी भाषा है, प्रकृति उदार है, असम संस्कृतिक-सम्पन्न है, प्राकृतिक साधनों से भरपूर है, मगर असमवासियों को यह डर है कि वह अपने ही घर में अल्पसंख्या में रह जायेंगे। इस भय को निकालना चहुत ज़रूरी है। पिछले 4-5 महीने से असम में जो आन्दोलन चल रहा है, वह किसी राजनीतिक दल द्वारा संचालित नहीं है, वह जनता का आन्दोलन है। वह किसी भाषा-भाषी वर्ग के खिलाफ भी नहीं है। किसी विशेष धर्म या मजहब को मानने वालों के विरुद्ध भी नहीं है। उसके मूल में एक ही प्रेरणा है कि असम असमिया भाषा बोलने वालों का प्रदेश किस प्रकार रहेगा ?

इस आन्दोलन के दौरान कुछ ऐसी घटनाएँ हुई हैं, जिन पर केन्द्रीय सरकार को ध्यान देना चाहिये। असम में राष्ट्रपति राज्य है, विधान सभा मूर्च्छित अवस्था में है, केन्द्र की देख-रेख में शासन चल रहा है। अभी दुलियाजान में जो गोली-कांड हुआ है, उसकी अदालती जांच ज़रूरी है। सरकारी सूत्रों के अनुसार 5 व्यक्ति मरे, लेकिन असम में अफवाह उड़ रही है, मुझे भी असम में जाने का मौका मिला था, और उन अफवाहों से लोग प्रमित हो रहे हैं, गुमराह हो रहे हैं। कितने लोग मरे हैं, यह निश्चित करना असम्भव नहीं होना चाहिये। क्या गोली चलाना आवश्यक था जितने बल का प्रयोग किया गया, क्या उतना बल काम में लाये बिना भी परिस्थिति पर काबू नहीं पाया जा सकता था ? इन प्रश्नों का उत्तर ज़रूरी है। सरकार का कहना है कि पांच लोग मरे हैं। मगर वहाँ के लोगों का कहना है कि संख्या बहुत ज्यादा है, 71 लोग लापता हैं। अगर असम के समाचार पत्रों को देखे, तो उनसे तो बड़ी अभावह तस्वीर हमारे सामने आती है। मेरी मांग है कि दुलियाजान के गोलीकांड की अदालती जांच हीनी चाहिए। केन्द्र सरकार को इस सम्बन्ध में शीघ्र कदम उठाना चाहिए।

उत्तर कामरूप में व्यापक पैमाने पर हिंसात्मक घटनाएँ हुई हैं, लोग मरे हैं और हजारों लोग ज़िंजिरों में पड़े हैं। वहाँ स्थिति पर काबू पाव के लिए फौज को बुलाया गया था। अच्छा होता, अगर हम सेना को वहाँ न लाते। सैडल रिजर्व पुलिस या वार्डर सिविलिट्री फोर्स की सहायता से वहाँ परिस्थिति पर काबू पा जा सकता है। वहाँ का मौका मिला था। सेना के जवानों के विरुद्ध ज्यादातियों की शिकायतें हैं और शिकायतें

करने वालों में हमारी बहनें शामिल हों, यह बड़ी दुखदायी स्थिति है। इस स्थिति को टाला जाना चाहिए। इस सम्बन्ध में भी जन मानस में जो उद्वेग है, उसको शांत करने के लिए कुछ कदम ज़रूरी हैं।

प्रधान मंत्री के निमंत्रण पर असम के छात्र संगठनों के प्रतिनिधि यहाँ आये हैं। हम उम्मीद करते हैं कि बातचीत के द्वारा कोई ऐसा रास्ता निकलेगा, जिससे असम के जन-मानस को शान्त किया जा सकेगा। दो तीन कदम आवश्यक हैं।

असम में विदेशी नागरिकों का आना रकना चाहिए। बंगलादेश के साथ लगी हुई सीमा को कड़े प्रबन्ध में देना चाहिए। मैं जानता हूँ कि इसमें व्यवहारिक कठिनाइयाँ हैं। पिछले तीस सालों में हम इस बारे में चर्चा कर रहे हैं, लेकिन अमल नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। असम के लोगों का प्रैयंट टूट रहा है, नौजवान बिगड़ रहे हैं। अगर समय रहते कदम न उठाया गया, तो नौजवानों का एक वर्ग ऐसे तत्वों के हाथ में जा सकता है, जो सारे भारत का भला नहीं चाहते हैं। मैं अपने मित्र, श्री मुकजी, से सहमत नहीं हूँ कि यह आन्दोलन सिसेशनिष्ट है। आन्दोलन में भाग लेने वाले भारतीय हैं, देशभक्त हैं, असम को भारत के अभिन्न अंग के रूप में देखना चाहते हैं। लेकिन नौजवानों का एक ऐसा वर्ग हो सकता है, जो कहे कि जब हमारी कोई युतवाई नहीं हो सकती है, तो हम ऐसा रास्ता अपनायें, जो अहिंसा का रास्ता न हो।

विदेशी नागरिक कौन हैं, यह तय होना चाहिए। मतदाता-सूचियों में उन्हें स्थान नहीं मिलना चाहिए था। अगर उन्हें स्थान मिल गया, तो उन्हें पहचान कर मतदाता-सूचियों से निकाला जाना चाहिए। असम के लोगों का कहना है कि लाखों लोग मतदाता-सूचियों में शामिल कर लिए गये हैं। पहली बार यह परिस्थिति तब सामने आई, जब श्री हीरालाल पटवारी के निधन पर उपचुनाव का प्रश्न उठा। मतदाता-सूची देखी गई, तो पता लगा कि एक चुनाव-क्षेत्र में 70,000 विदेशी नागरिक हैं। जब उनमें से 26 हजार के नाम छाने लिए गए, तो एक आन्दोलन हो गया। कोई भारत के नागरिकों को वहाँ से निकालना नहीं चाहते हैं, और न निकालना चाहिए। जो असम में रहते हैं, वे किसी भी भाषा के बोलने वाले हों, किसी भी मजहब के मानने वाले हों, वे असम के नागरिक और निवासी हैं। उनके अधिकार, जीवन और सम्मान की रक्षा होनी चाहिए।

मगर जो विदेशी नागरिक हैं, वे कैसे असम में रह सकते हैं ? वे मतदान में भाग कैसे ले सकते हैं ? वे सरकार बनाने में अपने मतदातार

का उपयोग कैसे कर सकते हैं? उनको पहचानना और निकालना जरूरी है।

असम की आर्थिक परिस्थिति को सुधारने के लिए भीष्म कदम उठाने चाहिए। मैं स्वीकार करता हूँ कि अभी तक हम वहाँ ब्राडगज लाइन नहीं ले पा सके हैं। एक छोटी सी पट्टी असम को जोड़ती है। बंगलादेश का दबाव है, उधर चीन है और इस लिए इस सम्बन्ध में कदम उठाना जरूरी है।

एक बात मैं नई सरकार के गठन के बारे में कह दूँ। अगर सचमुच में असम की समस्या को हल करना है तो वहाँ सर्वदलीय सरकार का गठन, अगर यह संभव है तो होना चाहिए। मैं जानता हूँ कि सर्वदलीय सरकार बनाना बहुत मुश्किल है। लेकिन असम की परिस्थिति अगर हम विस्फोटक समझते हैं और समझते हैं कि असम के कारण देश की अखंडता और सुरक्षा को भी आंच आ सकती है तो सारे राजनैतिक दल आपस के विवाद से ऊपर उठ कर असम के प्रश्न को एक राष्ट्रीय प्रश्न के रूप में ले सकते हैं और उस के समाधान के लिए अगर सरकार गठन करना संभव हो तो सर्वदलीय सरकार गठन कर सकते हैं।

SHRI ANAND GOPAL MUKHOPADHYAYA (Asansol):**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV (Azamgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I identify my feelings with the feelings of those Members who have expressed them here that the Government must take effective measures to improve the situation in this part of the country so that our people there may live in peace, harmony and mutual confidence. It is a matter of great concern that people not only in Assam but in the entire North-Eastern region of our country have agitated feelings. There is a certain mutual lack of confidence, certain reservations, certain fears regarding some issues which very vitally affect their culture, language and way of life, etc. in that part of the country. Therefore, certain measures must be taken and mutual confidence should be restored and the people's fear should be dis-

pelled from their minds. I think this is an accepted fact that there were certain serious lapses in the preparation of the electoral rolls. Now the time has come that necessary steps should be taken and those mistakes should be corrected. It is true that there was an influx of foreigners, and at that time proper steps were not taken to stop that. In one of the by-elections I was told that 50,000 names were removed saying that they were all foreigners. That matter ignited and the people thought that their might be so many unauthorised foreign voters in other constituencies also. I think the Government should take care, at least in future that unauthorised foreigners should not be allowed to infiltrate into our country because that creates a serious situation.

Another thing is that an atmosphere should be created that any Indian citizen should be able to live in any part of the country as co-citizen, as brothers and sisters. With full confidence they should be able to live whether in Assam or in Kashmir or in Kerala or in any other part of the country. Only day-before-yesterday, a delegation of students from Assam met me and when I asked them what were their main apprehensions; they said that many unauthorised foreigners had got infiltrated into that part of the country. They said that they had a genuine fear that people from other parts of the country might come to their State and usurp their opportunities in various fields. They are economically backward and they fear that they will not be able to get jobs, they will not be able to get their due share in business and trade. This question of socio-economic backwardness in Assam is already known and whatever meagre opportunities are there, those will be taken away by the people from other States. I think the Government should take effective measures so that backwardness is removed and people in that

part of the country feel secure and get their due share.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank all the hon. Members who had participated in the discussion have given valuable suggestions. Sir, may I recall through you to the Hon'ble House that from the day the new Lok Sabha started functioning this matter has been engaging our attention. This matter has been very widely and broadly discussed through calling attention and certain questions also not only in this House but the other House also, and this matter has been engaging the serious attention of the Government as well.

As I have stated earlier, the Prime Minister has sought the cooperation of all the opposition leaders to evolve a suitable solution for this very difficult and complex problem. I agree with the hon. Members that a serious situation does exist in Assam and other States of the North-Eastern region. It is particularly so in Assam where an agitation involving large numbers of people has been going on with the result that the oil installations have stopped working and the crude oil and other petroleum products are not possible to be taken out from that State. Then, there has been insecurity among the minorities and there are apprehensions and fears in the minds of the Assam people that they would be outnumbered and they would lose their identity. These are the problems that are currently facing the State of Assam.

In order to defuse this situation, the Prime Minister has already taken an initiative. A delegation of the Assam Students Union is presently in Delhi and they are discussing the various problems that are facing Assam with the Prime Minister. We are sure the Prime Minister would be able to find out a solution acceptable to everybody and normalcy would be restored in Assam as immediately as possible.

Some hon. Members have made certain suggestions for giving protection and security to the minorities who are in mortal fear. As I have stated earlier my statement, the border posts have been strengthened and vigorous steps are being taken to stop the influx of foreigners. The other day, the Prime Minister, while speaking in this House, said that it was very difficult to define the term 'foreigner'. Several interpretations are being given to this word. An understanding has, therefore, to be arrived at so that proper steps are taken to stop the influx of foreigners from outside. Secondly, rehabilitation measures to be taken to give relief and rehabilitate all those people who have suffered in such agitations. I would like to assure the House that the Government of India is very much alive to the situation and all the required measures will be taken.

Then, Shri Vajpayee and other hon. Members have also mentioned about the economic backwardness and regional imbalances. Assam is one of the States where regional imbalance does exist as in certain other parts of the country. It will be the endeavour of the Government to see that these regional imbalances are corrected.

About the formation of the Government in Assam, every effort is being made by the Governor to see that a stable Government is formed. And when a responsible Government is formed in the State, they will be able to tackle the various problems also. As a matter of fact, all political parties are in a state of flux and the new phenomenon that has emerged in Assam is the emergence of regional parties. Till now, Assam has no problem of having regional parties.

All the national parties were functioning in Assam. But in this agitation, certain regional parties have come out, and every effort has to be made to see that a stable and strong Government is formed to tackle this problem.

About the secessionist movement which Shri Samar Mukherjee has mentioned, I for one am not prepared to say categorically...

18 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: With the pleasure of the House, we may sit for another 15 minutes.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: I for one am not prepared to say categorically that there is any sinister or secessionist movement behind this entire agitation. But there were some posters appearing, which indicate that there may be a sort of a secessionist movement. Government is aware of this situation, and we are making proper enquiries. If anything is found, we will take necessary steps to see that the integrity of India is secured and protected. No efforts will be spared to see that such movements are curbed.

The Chief Minister of West Bengal had made certain suggestions in his letter to the Prime Minister with regard to the solving of this problem. That letter is under the active consideration of the Prime Minister. Mr. Samar Mukherjee has been telling that he has met the Prime Minister recently and he has suggested a certain formula with regard to the definition of 'foreigner'. All these factors will be taken into consideration. The Prime Minister, at the helm of affairs, will be able to inspire confidence among the people of Assam. I have no doubt in my mind that sooner than later, normalcy will be restored in Assam.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House approves the Proclamation issued by the President on the 12th December, 1979 under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Assam."

The motion was adopted.

18.02 hrs.

PAYMENT OF BONUS (AMENDMENT) BILL

AMENDMENT MADE BY RAJYA SABHA

MR. SPEAKER: We now take up the amendment made by Rajya Sabha to the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): I beg to move:

"That the following amendment made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill further to amend the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Act, 1977, be taken into consideration:

'Enacting Formula

That at page 1, line 1, for the word "Thirtieth" the word "Thirty-first" be substituted.'

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnain): Is it in the order paper?

MR. SPEAKER: It has been circulated. The question is:

"That the following amendment made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill further to amend the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Act, 1977, be taken into consideration:

'Enacting Formula

That at page 1, line 1, for the word "Thirtieth" the word "Thirty-first" be substituted.'

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: Now we will take up the amendment recommended by the Rajya Sabha. The question is:

'Enacting Formula

That at page 1, line 1, for the word "Thirtieth" the word "Thirty-first" be substituted.'

The motion was adopted.