

to all that he said and I do not propose to reply to him.

But as regards my good friends Sarvasbri Shastri and Agarwal, I must mention that Shri Agarwal himself has answered on my behalf that there is no excise duty on salt. And I would like to tell him and the other friends who have spoken about the excise duty on salt that today there is no excise duty levied on salt. But one thing is that the Act of 1944 carries the title—Central Excises and Salt. We are trying to remove that “Salt” from that title and therefore, in future it will be Central Excises only. But to do so there are so many formalities that are to be followed.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO: One minute, please. Please do not disturb me.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Whenever any Minister or any Member is replying or speaking, only if he yields, then you speak. He is not yielding, so please do not disturb him.

SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO: Actually the modalities are to be followed because salt is mainly dealt with by the Commerce Ministry. So, when we are now processing the Bill through, very shortly, there will be no difficulty about it. We are amending the name also. “Salt” will be omitted and hereafter it will be called only “Central Excises”. As regards the other point of Mr. Agarwal, viz. that a comprehensive Bill has to be brought, actually the Bill is ready and it can be introduced anytime. There is no difficulty about it.

The third point is about the Directorate of Prosecution. It is a good idea. Being myself a lawyer, I personally prefer that such a thing is created. Anyway, I am not giving any assurance. I am telling that I appreciate the idea; but, then, we have to examine it in depth and see what

best can be done in that direction—regarding Directorate of Prosecution. It is a good idea. We will get it examined, and see what best can be done to expedite these matters. Certainly we will examine it, because we are losing crores of rupees in stays. Certainly we will examine.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Datta wanted some dates.

SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO: Mr. Datta wanted to know about the date of appeal to Supreme Court—special appeal. We have gone in for special leave. All that will take time. We wanted to take care of that completely. So, we also went for the Ordinance. An appeal in the Supreme Court would not help us. *(Interruption)* It would not help us. It is only a question of delaying and helping the traders. The traders' writs are there and stay orders are there. We will be losing heavily. So, we had to issue an Ordinance and save revenue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the Bill be passed”.

The motion was adopted.

15.18 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE:
APPROVAL OF NOTIFICATION
UNDER ESSENTIAL SERVICES
MAINTENANCE (ASSAM) ACT
AND

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS
FOR GRANTS (ASSAM), 1982-83

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now we go to the next item namely, Statutory Resolution. We are taking up items 12 and 13 together.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBAIAH): Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution:

“That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 2 of the Essential Services Maintenance (Assam) Act, 1980 (41 of 1980) as amended by the Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1981 (40 of 1981) this House approves the issue of the Government of Assam, Political (A) Department notification No. PLA-906/82/125, dated the 30th September, 1982 declaring the following services to be essential services within the State of Assam for the purposes of the Essential Services Maintenance (Assam) Act, 1980 (41 of 1980):

- (i) All services in any establishment or shop dealing with the essential commodities declared as such by the Government of India under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (Central Act No. 10 of 1955) from time to time and licensed under the Assam Trade Articles (Licensing and Control) Order, 1982, dated 22nd June, 1982 and the Assam High Speed Diesel Oil (Distribution and Control) Order, 1981 and Assam Paddy and Rice Procurement (Licensing and Levy) Order, 1981.
- (ii) All services in any establishment or shops of appointed dealers which include the wholesaler and retailer dealing with the essential commodities as declared by the Government of India under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 from time to time and licensed under the Assam Public Distribution of Articles Order, 1982.”

As the Hon. Members are aware, the All Assam Students Union and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad have been launching a movement throughout Brahmaputra Valley in

Assam from the last part of the year 1979 on demand for detection and deportation of foreigners from Assam. To fulfil their various demands they have been giving frequent calls of Assam Bandh/Non-cooperation/Black Day/Demonstration and Rallies/Road and Rail Blockade/Janata Curfew (people's curfew). These programmes have not only been seriously disrupting the functioning of the Government offices but also dislocating the supply of essential commodities. In these circumstances the employers and employees of retail and wholesale business have per force to close down their establishments which resulted in *ad hocism* and certain unscrupulous persons taking advantage of the situation to create artificial scarcity in the State. The movement has still been continuing and the supply of essential commodities through private trade continues to be disrupted affecting the planning of the State Government to supply essential commodities adversely. Hence, there is need to ban strikes in the shops and business establishments. The State Government was of the opinion that strikes in the aforesaid services connected with shops, establishments, etc., dealing with essential commodities, high speed diesel oil etc., would prejudicially affect maintenance of supplies and services necessary for the life of the community, resulting in grave hardship to the community. They, therefore, declared these services as essential services under sub-clause (v) of clause (b) of sub-section (1) of Section 2 of the Essential Services Maintenance (Assam) Act, 1980 as amended by the Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1981. The State Government also issued an order on the 30th September, 1982 prohibiting strikes in the essential services so notified. I commend that the Resolution approving the issue of the notification by the Government of Assam be passed by the House. Thank You.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Resolution moved :

“That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of Section 2 of the Essential Services Maintenance (Assam) Act, 1980 (41 of 1980) as amended by the Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1981 (40 of 1981) this House approves the issue of the Government of Assam, Political (A) Department notification No. PLA-906/82/125, dated the 30th September, 1982 declaring the following services to be essential services within the State of Assam for the purposes of the Essential Services Maintenance (Assam) Act, 1980 (41 of 1980):

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- (ii) All services in any establishment or shops of appointed dealers which include the wholesaler and retailer dealing with the essential commodities as declared by the Government of India under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 from time to time and licensed under the Assam Public Distribution of Articles Order, 1982.”

We are also discussing Supplementary Demands for Grants (Assam), 1982-83 along with this Resolution.

Motion moved :

“That the respective Supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of

the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Assam to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1983, in respect of heads of demands entered in the second column thereof—

Demand Nos. 6, 16, 18, 21, 25, 26, 30, 37, 41, 55 61 and 65.”

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (ASSAM) FOR 1982-83 SUBMITTED TO THE VOIE OF THE LOK SABHA

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the vote of the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	
6	Land Revenue and Land Ceiling	20,00,000	...
16	District Administration	1,50,000	...
18	Police	1,42,00,000	...
21	Administrative and Functional Buildings	...	1,21,000
25	Guest Houses, Government Hostels etc.	1,09,000	...
26	Administrative Training	3,00,000	...
30	State Lotteries and Others	5,00,000	—
37	Residential Buildings	...	87,000
41	Civil Supplies	4,06,000	...
55	Agriculture	9,00,000	...
61	Forests	35,00,000	...
65	Cottage Industries	5,82,000	...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Prof. Satyasadhan Chakraborty. Hon. Members, one hour has been allotted for both the items. Therefore, I request the Members to be as short as possible.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY (Calcutta South): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I vehemently oppose this Statutory Resolution and I oppose the enforcement of the Essential Services Maintenance Act in Assam.

When this was discussed in this House the whole Opposition made it amply clear to the Government that in circumstances like this the ordinary laws of the country were enough to deal with the miscreants and no such extraordinary law was necessary to deal with such persons. We also emphasised that any law which denies the Fundamental Rights of an Indian citizen is undemocratic and basically authoritarian. It goes against the very spirit of our Constitution. Unfortunately, though the situation in Assam is extraordinarily bad, I do not find any reason why the Government cannot rely on the ordinary laws of the land which are sufficient to deal with it.

It is most unfortunate that for the last three years in Assam the situation is such as that the ordinary people of Assam feel a sense of insecurity and also, the agitators who have links with some outside powers or outside agencies have often been successful in creating conditions where all minorities—religious, linguistic ethnic and cultural—are in a very insecure position. The agitators are challenging the right of the Central Government as to the determination of citizenship. They have taken upon themselves the right to detect the people, who are living in that part of India, as foreigners. Not only have they taken upon themselves this right, but they are trying to implement it. It is the responsibility of the Central Govt. to deal with the matter of citizenship. But when a group of people masquerading as the friends of the Assamese people for the protection of their cultural identity are doing this, unfortunately, I find that we have in our country some people, who sym-

pathise with them. I find a Central Government which is incapable of dealing with this type of thing firmly. In the last three years, almost a parallel Government has been running in Assam. The whole State machinery is now with the agitators. Because of this weak policy of the Central Government, they were bold enough to impose janata curfew. On 15th of August, when our party people were fighting for the unity and integrity of the country, they were attacked and some of them were killed.

I would ask this Government one fundamental question. The Preamble of our Constitution says that it is the duty of the Indian citizens to promote fraternity. This idea or slogan was raised during the French revolution—liberty, equality and fraternity. The Preamble of our Constitution talks of fraternity, particularly because in our country, we have communal forces, casteist forces, disruptive forces and secessionist forces. In Assam when a group of people, taking advantage of ignorance of a section of the people, have created this condition, unfortunately, the Central Government is not dealing with the situation firmly.

I would like to draw your attention to what is happening in our country. In Kashmir, they have passed a Resettlement Bill. They want to invite people from Pakistan to come and stay here. They are determining who will be the citizens of India and who will not. In Assam, a group of people are determining who will remain in India and who will not remain in India. Is it not a challenge to our unity, integrity and fraternity? I think, it is. And the Central Government should deal with this question. On all other questions we may have differences, but on the question of security integrity and unity of the State and of its people, there should be no concession, vacillation and slackness of any kind. Today we have found in our country that this basic

idea of the unity of the Indian people is challenged.

For all practical purposes, Assam is a multi-lingual State. The majority dominant linguistic group is trying to oust the minority linguistic group and also other cultural, ethnic and religious groups. How long will you tolerate it? You have tolerated it for three years.

I know in this House, and also outside, there are people, who, because of the magnitude of the movement in Assam, believe that there must be some substance in the demand of the agitators. I will not take much of the precious time of this House, but I will refer to one thing. I am quoting a press-note issued by the Government of Assam in 1980, which appeared in an Assam newspaper, the *Assam Tribune* of 3rd March:

“So far as the members of the minority community of erstwhile East Pakistan, who have migrated into Assam before, 1971 are concerned, there are already policy decisions, laid down right up to 1969, to register them as Indian citizens, provided they fulfil the conditions laid down in rule 9 of the Citizenship Rules. These refugees have been accepted for all practical purposes as citizens.”

This is the declaration by the Assam Government in the year 1980, that these people, the refugees from East Pakistan, have been accepted as the citizens of India, for all practical purposes.

15.30 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE *in the Chair*]

What was the assurance given by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru? He said:

“There is no doubt, of course, that those displaced persons, who have come to settle in India, are bound

to have their citizenship. If the law is inadequate in this respect, the law should be changed.”

It is clear that the refugees, who have come from East Pakistan, have been accepted as the citizens of India. There is also the policy declaration by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, there is the Government's statement in the *Assam Tribune*, published on 3rd March 1980. What is the substance of the agitators? They are now trying to declare them as foreigners and drive them out from India.

I would again refer to a Lok Sabha question, answered on the 10th August 1972, the heading of which is: Bangladesh Refugees in Eastern States. The Question No. is 1606, which reads:

“Will the Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are still a large number of Bangladesh refugees in Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura;
- (b) if so, the number of such refugees State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken to send them to Bangladesh.”

The answer by the Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation, Shri R.K. Khadilkar, reads:

“(a) No, Sir. All camp refugees in the States of Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura have been repatriated to Bangladesh.”

This is a reply given in the year 1972.

“As regards the non-camp refugees, that is, those who were staying with their friends and relatives, most of them have also returned to Bangladesh of their own. Isolated cases, as and when detected, are dealt with by the State Government, in accordance with the provisions of the Foreigners Act, 1946.”

[Shri Satyasadhan Chakraborty]

So, in 1972, it was the Government of India's case that the Bangladesh refugees, who were staying in the camps, had gone back, the people who came from Bangladesh and are staying with friends had left, if there are isolated cases, the Government were detecting and sending them back. Then, what is the substance when the agitationists raised their slogan that there are lakhs and lakhs of foreigners? Who are those persons? They are the citizens of India; they are the refugees from East Pakistan who have been accepted in our country as citizens of India with all the rights and privileges to remain in India.

Sir, it is most unfortunate that these things are happening in our country. What is the solution? How to solve it? At the very outset, the ruling party should have taken the course of mobilising the people of Assam. I do not believe that the majority of the people of Assam support the demands of the agitationists. This is a movement which has been primarily engineered by the bureaucrats, the police, the civil servants and the entire Governmental machinery has been utilised to strengthen this movement. I firmly believe that in Assam there are millions of right thinking people, democratic people, who are able to take the initiative. If not only the Leftist forces, but also the Ruling Party, the Congress (I), take the initiative of mobilising the people of Assam to fight against the disruptive forces who have links with some outside agencies, the problem could have been tackled. But instead of doing this, the Central Government has been talking and talking and talking, and even ideas are floated that when this was agreed with the Opposition Parties that the cut-off year will be 1971, it may be 1965 or somewhere nearabout appease the agitationists. This is a dangerous move I would say, dangerous because, what will be the repercussion? If today the agitationists are successful in driving out at least a part of the Indian citizens from Assam,

what will be the repercussion elsewhere in India? Can you imagine it? Will our unity and will our fraternity remain? Will the Indian nation remain? My Party firmly believes in the unity of the nation, but we also believe that India is a multinational State and there should be greater and greater autonomy to the States, that democratic aspirations of the people should be encouraged. But while supporting the autonomy of the States we also believe that so far as the Central subjects are concerned, the Central Government should be strong and there must be a very united, strong nation where the States will also have full autonomy, a large measure of autonomy. Then what is the way out? I believe, and I firmly believe, that there must be elections in Assam. People must be allowed to speak, people must express their mind. But before holding elections, congenial conditions should be created so that people can go and vote freely. That is the primary condition. Democracy becomes a mockery and democracy degenerates itself into mob rule when the State machinery fails to give protection to the people who go to cast their vote. In Assam the situation is such that the agitators are threatening by saying that 'if you hold elections, we will create chaos and see that no election can take place'. Election must take place. This House is going without the representation of Assam for three years. Do you propose that the Assam Assembly will go without any representatives? For how long? If there is lawlessness, this must be firmly dealt with. If the Assam Administration sides with the agitators, the Central Government should deal firmly with those persons who may be siding with the Assam agitators. What will this movement turn to? A section of people will hold the whole State and the whole country to ransom. They will not allow the democratic process to operate in Assam. We cannot tolerate this situation. We cannot allow them to have their way. So, before holding the election, I would

urge upon you to create conditions so that all the people of Assam, all the voters, can express their opinion. They can choose their representatives. If there is any attempt at terrorisation, the Central Government should see to it that it is stopped. This is the primary condition. Before holding the election, it is the responsibility of the Central Government because in Assam we have now the President's rule. The responsibility of law and order is your responsibility. The responsibility of restoring security in the minds of the people of Assam is your responsibility. I do not know what is your aim. If the be-all and end-all of all your efforts is only to see that your party is installed in power, I think, you will be doing a dis-service to the nation and you will be instrumental in destruction of the unity of the nation. You should stand on some firm principles and so far as these basic questions are concerned, there should be no compromise. I would like to draw your attention that it should be the duty of all democratic minded people, it should be the duty of all the persons who have the unity and integrity at the very core of their heart at least to fight the disruptive forces. I have told you and I have drawn your attention to what is happening in Kashmir regarding the Re-settlement Bill ; what is happening in Punjab and what is happening in some other parts of our country. This is the time we should take note of all these things. This is the time when you should act. Any vacillation, any compromise on the basic principles is surely, in the long run, contrary to the basic interest of our country. That is why I demand that the Central Government should hold elections in Assam. The Central Government should create conditions so that people can go and vote—particularly the people of linguistic, religious, ethnic and cultural minority groups. They should feel secure. They may go to the polling booth to cast their vote without any danger of being terrorised or compelled to move in a particular direction. So, I would once again urge this upon the Central

Government, urge upon the ruling party. My party in Assam is fighting the secessionists, the disruptive forces and many of our comrades have been killed. I would like to draw your attention that this eviction has been going on in Assam. The agitationists have started implementing their programmes of victimising the people from Assam. What is happening when Assam is under the President's Rule ? Mr. Minister, I would draw your pointed attention that appreciating the gravity of the situation and the danger of leaving matters to blatantly partial sections of the State Government machinery for decisions, the then Governor and his Advisers decided that no eviction would be carried out by the district sub-divisional authorities without the prior permission from the State Government. The Government policy in the matter was communicated to all DCs, SDOs and Settlement Officers through Government Circular No. RSS 550/76/PT/113-5, dated April 3, 1980. The same policy remained in force during the first Congress-I Ministry headed by Mrs. Anwara Taimur. But the stipulation about the prior permission from the Government for eviction by the district sub-divisional authorities was, however, withdrawn during the President's Rule on Nov., 22, 1981, through Circular No. RSS-707/79/PT-II/25 giving a free hand to officers at lower levels. So, at lower levels, the officers have started evicting the Indian citizens and more than 9,000 families, mostly backward, scheduled castes and all that have been evicted. What are you doing about it ? Why have you withdrawn the previous circular ? Why have you given a free hand to the officers at the lower levels ? Is it because you are to have some unholy compromise ? Is it because you want to wean away a part of the agitationists so that you can form the Government there ? Otherwise, what is the reason for withdrawing your previous circular and giving a free hand to the officers at lower levels who are in collusion with the agitationists ?

[Shri Satyasadhan Chakraborty]

Sir, I would urge upon the Government to stop this eviction so that the minority communities there can live in security. Sir, I would request the House to realise as to what is happening to these families who have been evicted? Where will they go? Will they go to Bangladesh, because they are the citizens of India? Where will these people go? You have to take a decision. You have to stop this eviction right now. You should create a condition whereby elections can take place.

SHRI MANI RAM BAGRI (Hissar): Mr. Chairman, on a point of information. मैं अभी एनेक्सी गया था तो वहाँ से डाक्टर जा रहे थे स्पीकर को देखने के लिए, क्योंकि स्पीकर साहब बीमार हैं। क्या आप बता सकेंगे कि क्या अध्यक्ष इसीलिए नहीं आए कि वह बीमार हैं; अगर बीमार हैं, तो क्या तकलीफ है? आखिर स्पीकर इस हाउस का संरक्षक होता है। उसकी बीमारी की इत्तिला सब को होनी चाहिए, काना-फूसी नहीं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bagri, let us all hope that he will be better soon and he will be able to join us.

श्री मनोराम बागड़ी: लेकिन हाउस को बताना चाहिए था न?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is just, simply indisposed, I am told. Therefore, let us all hope that he will be all right.

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: In the morning, it was told, he was ill.

श्री गिरधारी लाल व्यास (मीलवाड़ा): सभापति महोदय, माननीय गृह मंत्री ने जो स्टैचुटरी रेजोल्यूशन रखा है, मैं उसका

समर्थन करता हूँ। आसाम में जिस प्रकार की परिस्थितियाँ हैं, उनमें लोगों को आवश्यक वस्तुओं का वितरण करना नितान्त आवश्यक है। अगर यह व्यवस्था न की गई तो वहाँ पर हालात और ज्यादा बदतर होंगे। इसलिए एसेंशियल सर्विसेज मेनटेनेन्स (आसाम) एक्ट, 1980 को लागू करते हुए, जो सार्वजनिक वितरण की चीजें हैं, जैसे डीजल, खाने का सामान, अनाज, शक्कर कपड़ा आदि, वह अगर ठीक प्रकार से असम के लोगों में वितरित नहीं होंगी तो उनको सतोष नहीं मिलेगा। हमारे कम्युनिस्ट भाइयों ने यहाँ पर इस रेजोल्यूशन को, मेन्टेनेन्स आफ एसेंशियल सर्विसेज एक्ट का विरोध किया है और यह कहा कि इसको बिना लागू किए ही अन्य कानूनों के जरिए से यह किया जा सकता है। लेकिन वे इस बात को नहीं समझते कि आज वहाँ पर जो हालात हैं, उनमें अगर इस कानून को लागू न किया जाए तो वहाँ पर वितरण व्यवस्था नहीं चल सकेगी। उन्होंने पहले मेन्टेनेन्स आफ एसेंशियल सर्विसेज बिल का विरोध किया था इसलिए अब जब भी कभी इसका हवाला भी दिया जाए, चाहे असम के सम्बन्ध में या किसी अन्य राज्य के सम्बन्ध में, तो उनकी ओर से इसका विरोध होता लाजमी हो जाता है। उन्होंने अपना फर्ज समझ लिया है कि इस नाम के आते ही इसका विरोध किया जाए।

प्रोफेसर साहब ने यहाँ पर अभी कई बातें ठीक भी कही हैं। असम का मसला किस तरह से सुलझाया जाए, उसके संबन्ध में सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेन्ट कैसे काम करे— इस बारे में उन्होंने अच्छे सुझाव दिए हैं लेकिन इस बिल को देखते ही उनका दिमाग गड़बड़ हो गया और वे इसका विरोध करने लगे।

आज जबकि असम में रोज ही बन्द और हड़तालें की जाती हैं तब किस तरह से सार्वजनिक वितरण व्यवस्था तथा अन्य कानूनों को लागू किया जाए—यह बात प्रोफेसर साहब ने नहीं बताई। उन्होंने यह बात कही कि वहां पर उनके कार्यकर्त्तियों को कत्ल किया जा रहा है, अन्याय किया जा रहा है। जब आप अपनी पार्टी के लिए ही कह रहे हैं कि अन्याय किया जा रहा है तब आप बतायें कि एसेशियल सर्विसेज को किस तरह से मेन्टेन किया जा सकता है? इसलिए इस कानून की बड़ी आवश्यकता है ताकि वहां पर आवश्यक वस्तुओं का वितरण सही प्रकार से किया जा सके। गवर्नर ने जो आदेश निकाले हैं उसके अतिरिक्त और कोई उपाय ही नहीं है जिसके जरिए से इन सर्विसेज को मेन्टेन किया जा सके। इसलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि खाली विरोध कर देना एक बात है और सहयोग करना दूसरी बात है। ऐसी हालत में मन्त्री महोदय वहां पर जो स्टैच्यूटरी रैजोल्यूशन लाए हैं वह स्टेट के लिए बड़ा आवश्यक है क्योंकि इसके जरिएसे लोगों तक आवश्यक वस्तुएं पहुँचाने में मदद मिलेगी। वहां पर जो बन्द और हड़तालें होती हैं उनके चलते वितरण व्यवस्था भी ठप्प हो जाती है और लोगों का एक जगह से दूसरी जगह तक जाना भी मुश्किल हो जाता है। आप सोच सकते हैं कि बिना आवश्यक वस्तुओं के जनता किस प्रकार से अपना जीवन-यापन कर सकती है?

जहां तक आज असम की वर्तमान स्थिति और उसको हल करने का सम्बन्ध है, उसके बारे में मैं अधिक कहना आवश्यक नहीं समझता क्योंकि हमें अपनी सरकार और श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी पर पूरा भरोसा है।

हमें पूरा यकीन है कि वे असम की समस्या भी हल करेंगी, कश्मीर की समस्या भी हल करेंगी, और पंजाब की समस्या भी हल करेंगी। उनमें इसका पूरा सामर्थ्य है। लेकिन अभी जो मुद्दा हमारे सामने है और जो बिल हमारे सामने पेश किया गया है, इसके सम्बन्ध में मैं फिर कहना चाहता हूं कि इस कानून की नितान्त आवश्यकता है और इसका मैं पूरा समर्थन करता हूं।

श्री बी०डी० सिंह (फूलपुर): सभापति जी, इस सदन में प्रायः प्रत्येक सत्र में असम के संबंध में चर्चा हुई है। इस बात पर सभी ने प्रायः खेद व्यक्त किया है कि असम में जो लम्बी अवधि से आन्दोलन चल रहा है, उसका अभी तक समाधान नहीं निकल पाया है। इधर विगत दो महीनों में भी कई वार्तायें हो चुकी हैं और संभवतः इस दिशा में कोई हल निकालने की प्रगति भी हुई है और इसी संदर्भ में 6-7 नवम्बर को वार्ता होने जा रही है। हम लोग ऐसी उम्मीद करेंगे कि कोई न कोई हल उसका अवश्य निकलेगा।

मान्यवर, यह आन्दोलन जो असम की प्रगति के लिए बड़ा ही बाधक रहा है, उसमें असम प्रदेश और देश ने काफी हानि उठाई है। इस आन्दोलन में करीब-करीब चार सौ लोगों की जानें गई हैं और पेट्रोलियम तथा फर्टिलाइजर क्षेत्रों में लगभग 1300 करोड़ रु० का नुकसान हुआ है। हमारे रेलवेज ने भी करीब-करीब 35 करोड़ रुपए का नुकसान उठाया है। असम राज्य को भी रिवेन्यु को लेकर करीब-करीब 50 करोड़ रु० का नुकसान हुआ है। इसके अतिरिक्त जो कई प्रोजेक्ट असम में चल रहे थे, उनमें विलम्ब हुआ है जिससे लागत में वृद्धि हुई है। उसको पूरा करने में कठिनाई होगी। इसीलिए यह बहुत आवश्यक है कि

[श्री बी० डी० सिंह]

असम में शान्ति-व्यवस्था कायम हो। सामान्य स्थिति असम में पैदा हो। लगभग साल भर पहले इभी असम के मसले को लेकर चर्चा हुई थी। उस समय मैंने भी एक राय दी थी कि 1965 को आधार वर्ष मान लिया जाय। उस समय असम के गवर्नर श्री एल० पी० सिंह थे। उनके अनुसार 1965 को आधार वर्ष मानकर असम की विदेशियों की समस्या का समाधान होना चाहिए। क्योंकि आन्दोलनकारी 1961 का वर्ष मानते हैं और सरकार 1971। यह खुशी की बात है कि सरकार ने 1965 वर्ष को आधार मानकर अपनी सहमति कर दी है। किसी न किसी प्रकार इसका फैसला हो जाना चाहिए।

ऐसी संवैधानिक अनिवार्यता है कि असम में 18 मार्च तक चुनाव हो जाने चाहिए। इसलिए यह भी आवश्यक है कि चुनाव से पहले वहां की स्थिति सामान्य हो जाए और सब लोग शान्ति से उसमें भाग लें। इस संबंध में मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से दो बातें जानना चाहता हूं। क्योंकि 18 मार्च तक चुनाव हो जाने चाहिए तो क्या इस बात को सरकार ने तय कर लिया है कि 18 मार्च तक चुनाव करा देंगे। यदि 18 मार्च तक चुनाव नहीं हुए तो सविधान में संशोधन की आवश्यकता पड़ जाएगी। दूसरी चीज यह, जैसा कि मुझे समाचार मिला है कि सरकार यह भी सोच रही है कि जहां पर चुनाव हो सकते हैं, जिन क्षेत्रों में वहां चुनाव कराये जायें और जहां चुनाव नहीं हो सकते हैं, अगर वहां से आन्दोलन वापिस नहीं होता है या समझौता नहीं होता है, तो वहां के चुनाव छोड़ दिए जायें। इस बारे में मैं प्रापको इन्डियन एक्सप्रेस की एक खबर का हवाला देना चाहता हूँ :

“Elections to the Assam Assembly in March next year are a near certainty now even though the Centre has not taken a final decision. After completion of initial exercises, the State administration seems confident of holding elections in a majority of the constituencies even if the agitators oppose them.”

16.00 hrs.

इस तरह की दो-तीन स्थितियां हैं जो कि चुनाव के सम्बन्ध में हैं। आशा है माननीय मंत्री जी इनका स्पष्टीकरण करेंगे।

मान्यवर, जहां तक असम के आर्थिक विकास का प्रश्न है, यह महसूस किया जाता है कि हमारे देश का जो उत्तर-पूर्वी क्षेत्र है, उसके आर्थिक विकास की ओर पहले अधिक ध्यान नहीं दिया गया। इस वजह से वहां के लोग असंतुष्ट हैं। हम सभी जानते हैं कि किसी भी क्षेत्र के विकास के लिए विद्युत की पूर्ति की बड़ी आवश्यकता होती है क्योंकि बिजली पर बहुत से उद्योग-धन्धे और खेती आदि सभी चीजें आधारित होते हैं। लेकिन हम देखते हैं कि जहां तक विद्युत की आपूर्ति का प्रश्न है असम में बहुत कम हुई है। गत 30 मार्च, 1982 को लोक सभा के एक अनस्टैंड ववेश्चन सं० 5984 के उत्तर में यह बताया गया था कि किस-किस राज्य में कितने-कितने प्रतिशत गांवों का विद्युतीकरण हुआ है, उस प्रश्न के उत्तर से यह पता चलता है कि ये जो उत्तर-पूर्वी क्षेत्र के सूबे हैं, उनके गांवों में सबसे कम विद्युतीकरण हुआ।

असम में 26.9 प्रतिशत, मनिपुर में 17.1 प्रतिशत, मेघालय में 16.7 प्रतिशत, सिक्किम में 15.5, त्रिपुरा में 21.8 प्रतिशत

गांवों का विद्युतीकरण हुआ है। इन राज्यों से ज्यादा बिहार में 33 प्रतिशत, यू०पी० में 38 प्रतिशत और उड़ीसा में भी 40 प्रतिशत गांवों का विद्युतीकरण हुआ है। इन उत्तर-पूर्वी क्षेत्रों से सभी जगह ज्यादा विद्युतीकरण हुआ है लेकिन इन क्षेत्रों के गांवों में बहुत कम हुआ है।

मैं इस सम्बन्ध में यह कहना चाहूंगा कि असम में हमारे पास काफी प्राकृतिक साधन हैं। गैस को ही ले लें। असम में इतनी गैस निकलती है कि हम उसके ही पूरे उपयोग से असम का कायाकल्प कर सकते हैं। लेकिन उस गैस का हम पूरा उपयोग नहीं कर पाते। वहां पर प्रदेश में जो एसोसियेटेड नेचुरल गैस है जो कि तेल के साथ निकलती है, उसमें से करीब चार करोड़ रुपये की गैस सालाना नष्ट हो रही है। उसका हम उपयोग नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। 3.3 मिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर एसोसियेटेड नेचुरल गैस प्रति दिन वहां निकलती है जिसकी एक-तिहाई गैस हम उड़ा दे रहे हैं, उसका हम इस्तेमाल नहीं कर पा रहे हैं।

इसको इस्तेमाल न करने का मुख्य कारण है कि नामरूप उर्वरक कारखाने की तीसरी इकाई के प्रारम्भ होने में विलम्ब हो रहा है। दूसरे आयल इंडिया लिमिटेड द्वारा कम्प्रिस्ड यूनिट्स के प्रारंभ होने में बहुत विलम्ब हो रहा है। हिन्दुस्तान फर्टिलाइजर कारपोरेशन को जो मात्रा उपलब्ध कराई गई थी, उसका भी उपयोग वह नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। असम राज्य विद्युत परिषद् को जो मात्रा उपलब्ध कराई गई थी, उसका भी उपयोग नहीं हो रहा है। मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि मंत्री जी इससे सम्बन्धित मंत्रालयों से बातचीत कर के जो वहां ऐसी स्थिति उत्पन्न हो गयी है, उसको ठीक करने की कोशिश करें। वहां

पर जो नेचुरल गैस प्राप्त हो रही है, उसका अगर पूरा उपयोग किया जाए तो उससे न केवल असम के लोगों को बल्कि पूरे देश के लोगों को लाभ होगा।

अन्त में मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि वहां जो गैस का मामला है, उसके बारे में वहां के अधिकारियों ने भी यह कहा है, जिसको मैं कोट करना चाहूंगा—

“Even more than the Bongaigaon polyester fibre, this gas is capable of changing the face of Assam. But while the Government is not interested, the private entrepreneurs are not exactly encouraged by the transport and logistics problems.”

यह बहुत बड़ी बात है और इस गैस के प्रयोग पर ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए। परिवहन इत्यादि की जो समस्याएं हैं, इनकी तरफ ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए, इम्फा-स्ट्रक्चर डेवलप किया जाना चाहिए। दो-तीन साल, जब से आन्दोलन शुरू हुआ है तब से यह महसूस किया जा रहा है कि सरकार ज्यादा ध्यान देने का प्रयास कर रही है। मुख्य बात जो मैं कहना चाहता हूं वह यही है कि किसी न किसी तरह से यह आन्दोलन का मामला चुनाव के पहले हल हो जाना चाहिए और सामान्य स्थिति पैदा की जानी चाहिए, जिससे वहां चुनाव हो सकें।

अन्त में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि चुनाव के कोड ऑफ कंडक्ट में कहा गया है कि चुनाव के पहले सरकार किसी भी प्रकार का प्रलोभन न दे। सरकार कर्मचारियों की तन्ख्वाह बढ़ाने के बारे में सोच रही है। उनकी जो उचित मांगें हैं, उनके खिलफ मैं नहीं हूं, लेकिन चुनाव के तुरन्त पहले वेतन वृद्धि नहीं की जानी चाहिए। पिछले

[श्री बी० डी० सिंह]

9 अक्टूबर को—A high level meeting held at Dispur on 9-10-82 reviewed the situation. The meeting decided to revise the wages of the Government employees.

तो यह इलेक्शन को दृष्टिकोण में रखकर नहीं किया जाना चाहिए, क्योंकि चुनाव के कोड आफ कंडक्ट के खिलाफ है।

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA (Bombay North): We have before us a statutory resolution moved by my Hon. friend, Shri Venkatasubbaiah and supplementary demands for grants.

It is a strange irony of fate that resolutions and supplementary demands and the budget relating to Assam get clubbed together and get clubbed out of the House in an hour or two. It is very sad that we have to discuss the problems of a State which has been in turmoil for the last 3 years within the time frame that we have before us. It is a pity that for the last 3 years there has been no popular government for most of the time in Assam. There could be no popular government and now there is no Assembly because of an unfortunate situation. I do not want to go into the question of how the Assembly got dissolved. That has been discussed in this House before. But it is clear that unless there is a popular government in the State, the problems of the State, the burning problems of the State will remain unattended to. I am in agreement with my Hon. friend from Calcutta South when he says that these problems cannot be tackled unless there is a popular government, and there cannot be a popular government unless there are elections. I entirely agree with him when he says that elections are a *must*. Elections must take place. But, Sir, elections can't take place only on the basis of electoral rolls that exclude those who are not

entitled to vote. The first step in any election is to ensure the purity of the electoral rolls. Therefore, it is necessary to ensure that while the electoral rolls are revised and finalised as the first step for an election, we ensure that no one who has the right to vote is baulked of his right to vote, and no one who has no right to vote, no one who is not a citizen of this country is enabled to infiltrate and retain his name on the voters' list. These are two sides of the coin which, together, constitute the first requisite for ensuring free and fair elections. Sir, there is the question of the notifications under the Essential Commodities Act. Then there is the notification under the ESMA. On earlier occasions I have referred to this Act as the blackest Act on the Indian statute book. I shall not take the time of the House to go into the merits of the notifications under the Act, or the draconian nature of the act, an act, about which any Government which believes in democracy should be ashamed.

But, Sir, these notifications have been made by the Government under the Essential Services Maintenance Act and the Essential Commodities Act—to meet a certain situation. That is, a grave situation, in which normal life has come to a standstill in the State. I agree with my Hon. friend, Mr. Venkatasubbaiah that it is the duty of the State to ensure the supply of essential commodities. But, I wish to ask him whether his experience enables him to claim in good conscience before this House that this law is enough to ensure this objective? There are enough laws in the statute book. You have made declarations in the past. You have promulgated Section 144. You have created conditions in which there has been a virtual curfew in Assam—not a Janata curfew, but, Government curfew—and, virtually, there has been rule by the C.R.P. I do not say for the C.R.P.—but you could not restore normalcy. It

is, therefore, clear that when confronted with a movement of such a magnitude which involves the loyalties and emotions of the people, which has proved again and again, in spite of the detractors, that it enjoyed the support of the people, it is necessary to rely on things other than statutes, rely on things other than big batons. A solution must be found for the political problem that has precipitated the present situation. You have to tackle the problem at its source.

Now, unfortunately, my Hon. friend from Calcutta (South) referred to the movement as a movement which has links with foreigners or is under foreign influence, and he went to the extent of saying that the leaders of the movement want to claim for themselves or to arrogate to themselves the right to decide who will be the citizens of India and who will not be, and to go on further to implement that decision on their own. I have the highest respect for my Hon. friend from Calcutta (South) and my Hon. friend from Jadhavpur. I do not want to import into the discussion any emotion or polemics. I know that he is a wellinformed man, a very wellintentioned man. Therefore, I am afraid that in a certain way, what he said was any symptomatic of the ignorance that prevails about the real objectives of the movement and the real attitude of those who are leading the movement.

Here I must refer to the recent rounds of tripartite talks and the informal discussions that took place between the leaders of the movement and the Government. These have created high hopes, and, for the first time, many who were sceptical have begun to feel that a solution may emerge through negotiations. It is true that no agreement has been imprisoned in parchment. Nothing has been brought to a stage where one can say that a

document can be typed out, sealed, signed and delivered. In fact, both sides have repeatedly made it clear that whatever agreement has emerged is conditional on agreement being reached on all outstanding points and all issues related to the problem. So, I do not want to give any impression to the House that anyone has given any unconditional agreement. Even so, as one who has been privileged to participate in the tripartite talks and also in the informal discussions and, as one, who has watched, listened and, to some extent, contributed in some measure to the interaction of views and the evolution of areas of agreement, I feel that what has been achieved is a distinct progress towards an agreement, that warrants optimism and further efforts on the same lines.

Sir, in the face of the doubts expressed by my Hon. friend from Calcutta (South), I feel it is my duty to let the House know the amount of agreement that has been discovered. I am sure this will lead to the lifting of the fog of suspicion that seems to linger in the minds of some people. Of course, You and I know that there is plenty of fog in the North-east.

In the course of the discussions it became clear that the movement did not contemplate a process in which every resident of the State would be subjected to scrutiny as in a census operation; that the goals of detection, deletion of names from the electoral rolls, dispersal and deportation of foreigners can be tackled in phases; that there would be no insistence on tackling them all together; that detection and deletion could be delinked from dispersal and deportation—which may take more time and lead to problems involving humanitarian considerations—; that first priority would be given to the task of ensuring that the electoral rolls do not contain the

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names of foreigners; that this would enable the Government to ensure that the constitutional obligation to hold elections before March 1983 is fulfilled, that the work of detection and deletion of names will, therefore, get immediate priority and will be achieved by (1) adopting the electoral rolls of 1977 as a notional list or base; (2) permitting any citizen or group of citizens to complain against the retention of inclusion of a name on the list; and (3) ensuring that the Government on its part fulfilled the responsibility vested in it by the Foreigner's Act to take vigorous, effective and fool proof steps to spot and identify infiltrants, particularly in areas exposed to endemic infiltration—where infiltrants have entrenched themselves in terrain that makes it difficult for citizens to detect or expose them—

Now, here I want to draw the attention of my Hon. friend from Calcutta (South); that names cannot be removed or barred from inclusion in the list, arbitrarily, merely on suspicion or on the basis of allegations; that there would must be a judicial authority/quasi-judicial authority or Tribunal which would scrutinise complaints and give its verdict, that the Tribunal or authority would be clothed with full legal powers; that the number of such Tribunals should be adequate to expedite the work of scrutiny, that the number of appeals should be limited to eliminate endless delays, that those whose status is impugned should have the opportunity to present their case and adduce evidence in support; that the Tribunal should have before it the answers of the persons whose status is impugned with such supporting evidence as they have and a report by the relevant department of the Administration that this report should be on the basis of an agreed questionnaire, that a time-limit should be fixed for the disposal of complaints before

the tribunals and the appellate authority, that those who are found to have entered between 1951 and 1961 may be accepted or regularised if there is an over all agreement, that those who are found to have entered after 1971 when new international obligations were specified after the emergence of Bangladesh should be detected, and deported; and Then names deleted from the rolls; that Assam cannot be expected to bear a disproportionate burden of these immigrants and must be duly compensated and protected, that constitutional safeguards should be provided to preserve the cultural identity of Assam and a competent body should be appointed to define these constitutional, administrative and other safeguards.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Where will they be deported ?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA : This is a different question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whether there is any discussion or measure of agreement.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA : Sir, I am trying to indicate the areas of agreement. Everything has not been discussed but enough has been discussed, and enough areas of agreement have come into vision, to warrant hope.

All this narrowed down the area of differences to those who entered Assam between 1961 and 1971.

Even here further efforts made it look as though there could be further narrowing of the area of differences. Some of the entrants in this category have already acquired citizenship certificates and a way has been found to take their cases out of the realm of controversy.

It can thus be seen that the two sides have come very close to an overall agreement. Many issues which looked like the rocks on which the negotiations would flounder have been circum-navigated, giving genuine ground for the hope that, given goodwill and genuine, un-remitting efforts to find a solution, one will be able to find a way out through the process of negotiations.

At one point, it looked as though the negotiations would break down on the question of the circular of 1965. A way was found to get over this difficulty. At another point, it looked as though the negotiations would break down on the question of the entries and formulations in the questionnaire that would be employed to scrutinise the claims of those whose citizenship was in doubt. Yet, later, we succeeded in involving an agreed questionnaire and that hurdle was crossed. At yet another point, it looked as though the talks would flounder on the question of citizenship certificates issued by other States—States other than Assam. Yet, in the course of the talks we found a way of invoking section 10 of the Citizenship Act, to provide for the expeditious scrutiny of complaints about doubtful certificates, certificates that might have been obtained without furnishing full or truthful information, a way that would provide for the invalidation of such certificates and other consequences, including the loss of the status that had been obtained on grounds that were untenable.

In cite these instances, not to give an exhaustive list of all the hard nuts that we cracked, but only to show how the path and the process of negotiations have enabled us to cross many hurdles that looked insurmountable, and have brought us so near to a total agreement.

I do not try to imply that the point of difference—or, rather, I should say, the main point of difference—that has not yet been

resolved is an insignificant issue are that it is easy to find a way out. But, I believe that efforts have to be made. There is no way in which we can arrive at a solution except through negotiations.

To put it in a nut-shell,—I am sure you will be interested in this,—the difference that persists relates to those who entered Assam between 1961 and 1971. Of these too, as I stated earlier, it is possible to find agreement in the case of those who have already obtained citizenship certificates, either from Assam or elsewhere.

The differences have therefore been narrowed down to those who entered in this period and have not acquired citizenship certificates but yet claim that their names should be on the rolls because they are eligible to be citizens by virtue of the proviso to Section 2 of the Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act of 1950 and Section 5 of the Citizenship Act.

The Government takes the view that only a Judicial authority can rule on the claim and that the Executive cannot extinguish a claim in such a case without the sanction of a judicial process. This is a very valid point of view.

The leaders of the movement point out that all these are people who have entered Assam from a foreign country; they have not obtained certificates for two decades.

Those of them who claim the right to citizenship do so under the proviso to Section 2 of the Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act of 1950, and Section 5 of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

And here, I am referring to the point of view expressed by my Hon. friend from Calcutta South. The leaders of the movement argue that

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it is doubtful whether all immigrants them can claim the protection of the proviso of section 2 of the 1950 Act since it covers only those who entered India or Assam as a consequence of civil disturbances. Even in the case of those who can claim this protection, the proviso does not confer automatic citizenship. It only protects the person from being expelled, thus giving him the right to stay generating the right to apply for citizenship under section 5 of the Citizenship Act.

Sir, the scheme of the 1950 Act, the Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act, is to provide for the expulsion of undesirable immigrants. The fact that such an Act was passed and made applicable only for Assam among the States of the Indian Union adjacent to East Bengal, then, East Pakistan, now Bangladesh, shows that Parliament was highly conscious of the vulnerability of Assam and the special danger posed by immigration or infiltration into Assam. Parliament has a special responsibility to remember this, in dealing with the problem.

The leaders of the movement say that they are not even objecting to their being granted Indian citizenship. Their objection is to linking residence in Assam with citizenship. They point out that Assam has already absorbed many lakhs of such migrants after partition, and they are willing to agree to a few more lakhs belonging to the 1951-61 period. But, if every one who crossed over since 1961 is to be given citizenship and permitted to stay in Assam, this would result in many repercussions and make it impossible to preserve the cultural identity of Assam. They cite Tripura as an obvious instance. They point out that economic compensation cannot obviate the danger to identify that can be posed by indiscriminate enfranchisement. This is their fear.

It is obvious that the question is

delicate and difficult. Some suggestions have been made including that of a moratorium on the question till a decision is taken on what would constitute the proportionate burden that Assam could be expected to bear without danger to its cultural identity. It is in this context that the question of defining Constitutional safeguards to protect the identity of Assam is currently being examined. One has also heard pragmatic suggestions that since the last of the periods of civil commotion in what is now Bangladesh took place in 1965—the objective of the proviso of the 1950 Act can be achieved if one takes 1965 or 1966 as the cut-off year. I do not think I should yield to the temptation of going into further details and possibilities. The main question is to find a way that will ensure detection and deletion before elections are held, while assuring Assam safeguards to preserve its cultural identity.

I want to point out that both the Government and the leaders of the movement have come closer to each other. This has been possible because of the extremely cordial attitude that prevailed in the last round of discussions and I must therefore complement both the representatives of the Government and the representatives of the movement for the extreme cordiality that characterised the last round of discussions. When so much has been achieved, and such a vast area of agreement has been sighted, and differences have been narrowed down to one or two points, it will be a pity if the Government or the leaders of the agitation talk the language that they talked before they both had become aware of the area of agreement, if both go back to the base line, and one says that there will be no disenfranchisement of anyone who come between 1961 and 1971 and the other responds by saying that no one who came between 1961 and 1971 shall receive the right to vote—when the fact is that

both have seen that no such blanket position can be taken.

Therefore, I will respectfully tell both the Government and the leaders of the movement that this is the language of recession, and not progress. I will appeal to them not to drift away or drift apart, and think of a return to the path of confrontation. There are some signs and rumblings which I think are dangerous. It will be a tragedy of the first magnitude—an avoidable tragedy, if having come so close to an agreement—Assam and the nation itself should be baulked of the promise that friendly negotiations have offered to solve a major national problem of this magnitude, involving interests and emotions. The interests of the nation demand that we find a solution through negotiations.

I know that my time is up. I do not therefore go into other questions like the backwardness of the State, etc. I am very happy that you have reminded me that I have come back to where I started. But let it not be so as far as the negotiations are concerned, I do hope that wise counsels will prevail with the Government and the leaders of the movement and a solution will be found through negotiations, so that the problems that arose in 1980 can be avoided electoral rolls can be revised and elections held and a popular Government installed in the State.

16.29 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER IN THE CHAIR]

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, गृह राज्य मंत्री, श्री वैकटसुब्बय्या, ने जिस सांविधिक संकल्प को सदन के सामने प्रस्तुत किया है, मैं उसका विरोध करता हूँ। इस संकल्प के जरिये वह किसानों और मजदूरों के पापुलर आंदोलन को दबाने की मंशा रखते हैं। इसके बारे में बहुत सारी बातें

इस सदन में बार-बार कही जा चुकी हैं। अगर वास्तव में इन्होंने चोरबाजारियों के खिलाफ, गल्ला चोरों के खिलाफ या देश की एकता को तोड़ने वालों के खिलाफ इस व्यवस्था का इस्तेमाल किया है तो मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि स्थिति क्या है। हम लोग इसीलिए इस संकल्प का विरोध करते हैं कि इसका अंतिम उद्देश्य जनतांत्रिक आन्दोलनों, किसानों-मजदूरों के आन्दोलनों का दमन करना है। तो पहली बात मैं यह कहना चाहता था।

दूसरी बात यह है कि असम पिछले तीन वर्षों से अशांत है। वहाँ विदेशी नागरिकता के सवाल को लेकर आन्दोलन चालू है। इस आन्दोलन में ऐसे लोगों की प्रमुखता है जिन्होंने अपनी आंखों से देश की एकता को ओभल कर दिया है। अगर वह देश की एकता और जनतंत्र को पसन्द करते तो जाहिर बात है इस मसले का समाधान बहुत पहले हो गया होता। सरकार भी ढीला-ढाली करती है और जो इस आन्दोलन के नेता हैं उनकी नीयत यह है कि जो वर्षों से हमारे देश के नागरिक हैं (जिनको वे विदेशी कहते हैं) उनको यहाँ से निकाल दिया जाए। उनका यह दृष्टिकोण सही नहीं है और मैं इनका समर्थन नहीं कर सकता हूँ। यह ठीक है कि अगर कोई विवाद है तो उसका हल आपस में बैठकर निकाला जाना चाहिए जिससे कि तमाम आबादी को सन्तुष्टि हो सके।

जो वर्षों से इस देश के नागरिक बन चुके हैं, जिनकी नागरिकता को इस देश के नेताओं ने स्वीकार किया है, उनको ओभल करके हम इस सवाल का हल नहीं निकाल सकते। सबसे बड़ी बात तो यह है कि देश की एकता से प्रभुता को हमें अपने सामने रखना होगा। साथ ही हमें यह भी देखना

[श्री रामावतार शास्त्री]

होगा कि इस आन्दोलन के दौरान हमारे देश के दुश्मन, हमारे देश की एकता को तोड़ने वाले, कोई फायदा न उठा सकें। इसलिए द्विपक्षीय या त्रिपक्षीय वार्तायें, जो इस समय-समय पर चलती हैं, उनको जल्दी से जल्दी किसी एक निष्कर्ष पर पहुँचाया जाना चाहिए ताकि मार्च में जो चुनाव होने की बात है वह चुनाव हो सकें। यदि आज जैसी स्थिति ही बनी रहती है तो चुनाव कराना कठिन हो जायेगा। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि असम में जो शक्तियाँ जनतन्त्र, समाजवाद और धर्मनिरपेक्षता में विश्वास करने वाली हैं, वह चाहे सी० पी० आई०, सी० पी० एम० या अन्य वामपक्षी दल हों, वे अपनी जान की बाजी लगा कर, इस आन्दोलन में जो गलत तत्व हैं, उनके प्रति जनता को सजग करते रहे हैं। उनकी इसमें एक बड़ी भूमिका रही है और उनके दर्जनों कार्यकर्तों को भी अपनी जान से हाथ धोना पड़ा है। लेकिन देश की एकता सबसे बड़ी चीज है और इसको ध्यान में रखते हुए इस समस्या का हल निकाला जाना चाहिए।

आखिरी बात मैं बजट के सम्बन्ध में कहना चाहता हूँ। इस बजट में जमींदारी उन्मूलन की बात कही गई है। मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि असम के अन्दर सरकार ने हृदबन्दी से कितनी जमीन निकाली है और उसमें से कितनी जमीन का बंटवारा किया गया है।

इस आन्दोलन के मूल में वहाँ का पिछड़ापन है। अगर सब को वहाँ पर नौकरी मिल जाती, वहाँ के लोग आर्थिक रूप से सम्पन्न होते, खुशहाल होते, गरीबी नहीं रहती तो जाहिर बात है कि इस आन्दोलन के करने वालों को, जनता को

अपने पक्ष में लेकर गलत रास्ते पर ले जाने का मौका नहीं मिलता। मूल में पिछड़ापन है, पिछड़ेपन में जमीन का सवाल जुड़ा हुआ है। मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि हृदबन्दी की स्थिति क्या है, कितनी जमीन आपने निकाली और उनमें से कितनी बेजमीन खेत मजदूरों को दी?

मैं बाढ़ के सिलसिले में कहना चाहता हूँ, क्योंकि वहाँ पर ब्रह्मपुत्र में बाढ़ आती है। जिसकी वजह से बहुत नुकसान होता है। करोड़-करोड़ रुपयों का नुकसान होता है। सरकार को यहाँ से भी सहायता देनी पड़ती है और वहाँ की सम्पत्ति नष्ट होती है। इस बाढ़ के सिलसिले में, उसके नाम पर आपने पैसा मांगा है, जल्दी से जल्दी योजना पूरी करें, ताकि असम को ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी या दूसरी सहायक नदियों की बाढ़ से बचाया जा सके। कई जिले उससे बिल्कुल नष्ट हो जाते हैं। इस चीज से उनकी रक्षा की जा सके।

अभी कुछ दिनों पहले, जो हमारे अस्थायी गृह मन्त्री थे, श्री वैकटरमण जी, उनको असम में वहाँ के अल्पसंख्यकों की तरफ से एक ज्ञापन दिया गया है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि उस ज्ञापन में किन बातों की चर्चा की गई है? उन बातों के सिलसिले में सरकार ने क्या सोचा है, उनकी क्या मान्यतायें हैं और क्या सरकार यह समझती है कि वे सही हैं? यदि सरकार का कोई दृष्टिकोण कुछ बन पाया है, तो वे भी बतायें?

इसी तरह से कटाव का सवाल बाढ़ से जुड़ा हुआ है। दोनों को साथ लेकर चलना चाहिए। पिछड़ेपन का सवाल है, सड़कों का सवाल है, रेल गाड़ियों के सिलसिले में, बड़ी लाइनों के सिलसिले में—इन सब

बातों की तरफ आपका ध्यान जाना चाहिए। ताकि वहां के लोग यह समझे कि भारत सरकार पिछड़े हुए राज्य की प्रगति में दिल-चस्पी ले रही है। वे सब मिल करके फूटवादी शक्ति, जो देश की एकता को तोड़ना चाहती है, चाहे वे देशी हों या विदेशी, उनके खिलाफ डट कर मुकाबला कर सकें। इसके लिए जरूरी है कि वहां के बिकास की तरफ सरकार का ध्यान ज्यादा से ज्यादा जाए और वहां के नौजवानों को काम मिले। जोतने वाले किसानों को जमीन मिले, उद्योग-धन्धे बड़े पैमाने पर खोले जायें, ताकि असम का विकास हो। हम इस तरह की फूटपरस्त शक्तियों से अपने देश की रक्षा और असम की हिफाजत कर सकें।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूँ।

श्री हरीश कुमार गंगवार (पीलीभीत) : मान्यवर, असम आन्दोलनकारियों के साथ त्रिपक्षीय वार्ता का पांचवां दौर समाप्त हो गया है। यह वार्ता भी अनिर्णीत रही कोई नतीजा नहीं निकला और अब फिर नवम्बर में वार्ता होने जा रही है।

जैसा अन्य माननीय सदस्यों ने कहा है, उसको मैं दोहराऊंगा नहीं। बगैर संविधान में परिवर्तन किये, अब आप अवधि नहीं बढ़ा सकते हैं। आपको विधान सभा के चुनाव कराने ही पड़ेंगे। इसलिए मान्यवर एक तो यह स्पष्ट किया जाए कि आप चुनाव कराने के बारे में क्या करने जा रहे हैं? जहां तक आपका सम्बन्ध है कि वहां चुनाव कराने के बारे में तो अभी 16 अक्टूबर के हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स में निकला है :—

no directive on the holding of election, either from the Centre or the Election Commissioner”

यह अभी परसों निकला है। तो आप इस पर अपनी स्थिति स्पष्ट करें कि क्या आप ने वहां चुनाव की तैयारी करने के लिए कोई डाइरेक्टिवज भेजे हैं या नहीं?

दूसरी बात श्रीमन् यह है कि पांच आदमियों का जो डेलीगेशन चीफ इलेक्शन कमिश्नर से मिला था उस डेलीगेशन को चीफ इलेक्शन कमिश्नर ने यह बताया था जैसा कि अभी मैंने उल्लेख किया है। इस पर डेलीगेशन के लोगों ने कहा कि जब तक विदेशी नागरिकों का मसला तय नहीं हो जाएगा वहां चुनाव नहीं होंगे। अब यह स्थिति है, इसका आप स्पष्टीकरण करें।

मेरी समझ में यह बात नहीं आती कि जब दोनों तरफ की बात क्लीयर है, आपका स्टेण्ड भी क्लीयर है और असम के आन्दोलनकारियों का स्टेण्ड भी क्लीयर है तो फिर इतनी देर वार्ता क्यों चलती रही और किस सबब से चलती रही? सरकार 1965 के उन निर्देशों से पीछे कैसे जाए जिसमें कि उसने उन लोगों को भारतीय नागरिकता प्रदान करने का आश्वासन दिया था और ऐसे लोग 1977 की मतदाता सूची में करीब दस लाख हैं। उधर एजीटेटर्स कह रहे हैं कि हम इन दस लाख लोगों को मतदान नहीं करने देंगे। इस से क्या हल निकला? अब अगर यह बात मान ली जाय कि आप हर विधान सभा क्षेत्र में पहचान के लिए न्यायाधिकरणों की नियुक्ति कर देंगे, अगर इसमें बहुत समय लगेगा क्योंकि इसमें अपील का भी आवधान है। चुनाव तक उनकी कैसे पहचान हो पायेगी और विदेशी नागरिकों को कैसे

“The Chief Election Officer of Assam has said that he has received

[श्री हरीश कुमार गंगवार]

तय किया जा सकेगा यह एक बड़ा भारी प्रश्न है।

वहां हिंसा की घटनाएं बढ़ती जा रही हैं। वहां जून मास में हुए विस्फोट में 21 व्यक्ति मरे। रेल की पटरियां हटाने और उन पर विस्फोटक पदार्थ रखने की घटनाएं बढ़ गयी हैं। शस्त्रों और गोला बारूद की चोरी की घटनाएं बढ़ी हैं। नागरिकों व अधिकारियों से रुपये भी ऐंठने की घटनाएं बहुत हुई हैं। मिजोरम के उग्रवादियों ने भी असम के उग्रवादियों से कंधा मिला लिया है। इस समय वहां ऐसी स्थिति है।

मैं उन बातों को नहीं दोहरा रहा हूं जो पहले कही जा चुकी हैं। आप बराबर कहते रहे कि जनता पार्टी की सरकार ने कुछ नहीं किया। आपको क्या अब बीमारी है कि आप इस प्रकार से टोक रहे हैं। (व्यवधान) अगर आपको यह अच्छा लगता है तो मैं बैठ जाता हूँ। श्रीमन् मैं इसको अपना अपमान समझता हूँ कि इस तरह से हंस-हंस कर जो कुछ यह कर रहे हैं। (व्यवधान) सवाल यह है कि जनवरी 1980 से बैठे हुए हैं। पौने तीन साल पूरे हो गए, तो इस दिशा में कोई प्रयास क्यों नहीं किए गए ?

इसलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि आप शीघ्र समस्या का हल ढूँंढें। चुनाव जल्दी से जल्दी कराएं। वहां पर प्रतिनिधि सरकार बननी चाहिए और किसी हालत में चुनाव नहीं रुकने चाहिए, यह आश्वासन आप इस सदन को दें।

प्रो० अजित कुमार मेहता (समस्तीपुर) : माननीय उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी माननीय

चक्रवर्ती जी और श्री वर्मा जी का भाषण मैं सुन रहा था। मुझे प्रसन्नता है कि त्रिपक्षीय वार्ता जो आसाम के विषय में चल रही है। उसमें काफी प्रगति हुई है।

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now nobody can stop you from talking. One advantage is, now you get two chances from Lok Dal. Yes, yes. Carry on.

प्रो० अजित कुमार मेहता : मैं कह रहा था कि वार्ता की प्रगति पर मुझे प्रसन्नता है, लेकिन पूरी सफलता इस बात पर निर्भर करती है कि हमारे मन में यह भावना हो कि शरणार्थियों की समस्या, चाहे उसका कोई भी कानूनी आधार हो, इस बात पर निर्भर करती है कि जब हम यह सोचें कि यह समस्या केवल आसाम की अपनी समस्या नहीं है। यह राष्ट्र की समस्या है और इसमें राष्ट्र का उतना ही योगदान होना चाहिए, अकेले आसाम के ऊपर ही सारा भार नहीं डाला जाना चाहिए।

मुझे बड़ा दुःख होता है इस सदन में बार-बार आसाम के बजट को देखकर और खास करके जब आसाम का कोई प्रतिनिधि इस सभा में नहीं है। महाशय, मुझे अमेरिका की स्वतन्त्रता की लड़ाई के पूर्व की कुछ घटनाएं याद आती हैं। जब ब्रिटिश पार्लियामेंट में अमेरिकी उपनिवेश पर कर लगाए गए थे तो अमेरिकी जनता ने एक स्वर से उसका विरोध करते हुए कहा कि जिस सदन में उनका कोई प्रतिनिधि नहीं है, इसलिए उस सदन को उन पर कर लगाने का कोई अधिकार नहीं है। क्या हम इस स्थिति में वैसी समानता नहीं पाते हैं। यहां पर आसाम का कोई प्रतिनिधि नहीं है, जिस भू-भाग का कोई प्रतिनिधि नहीं है, उस

भू-भाग के बारे में बजट पारित कर रहे हैं। इसीलिए इस समस्या का समाधान शीघ्रातिशीघ्र निकाला जाना चाहिए, इसी में सब की भलाई है।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, वहां पर अभी जो राजनीतिक स्थिति है, उसमें बहुत कुछ जिम्मेदारी वहां आर्थिक पिछड़ेपन की है। आसाम पूर्वोत्तर का सब से अ विकसित राज्य है और इस राज्य में पेट्रोलियम, नैचुरल गैस, कोयला और चूना पत्थर जैसे खनिज प्रचुर मात्रा में है, परन्तु इन खनिजों से जो राज्य को आय होती है, वह बहुत नगण्य है खनिज सम्पदा से होने वाली आय कुल आय का केवल 4.7 प्रतिशत है।

इसी से सोचा जा सकता है कि आसाम कितना पिछड़ा हुआ है। पूर्वोत्तर में आसाम तथा और राज्यों में शिक्षा संस्थानों का जाल सा बिछा हुआ है, इसका श्रेय सरकार को नहीं है। इन शिक्षा संस्थानों से जो युवक अपनी पढ़ाई समाप्त करके बाहर निकलते हैं, उनके सामने रोजगार की समस्या विषम रूप से खड़ी हो जाती है और रोजगार के साधनों के अभाव में जो आर्थिक तंगी उन्हें होती है उसकी कड़वाहट उनके मानस को विद्रोही बना देती है। इन्हें सहानुभूति मिलती है वहां की जनता से, जिसका आर्थिक अवस्था में उत्तरोत्तर ह्रास हुआ है। इस आर्थिक ह्रास का कारण यह है कि वहां की जमीन एक फसल वाली है और पहले कुटीर उद्योगों के कारण उनकी आर्थिक अवस्था सामान्य ढंग से अच्छी रहा करती थी।

स्वतन्त्रता के बाद जब भारतीय बाजार व्यवस्था से आसाम का सम्पर्क हुआ तो कुटीर उद्योगों के उत्पादन प्रतियोगिता में

ठहर नहीं सके और उसका परिणाम यह हुआ कि हथकरघा उद्योग और कुटीर उद्योग अब बहुत सीमित हो गया। हालत यह है कि उद्योग तो जीवित हैं किन्तु अपने व्यवहार के लिए उनका बाजार में कोई स्थान नहीं है, कोई मांग नहीं है। इस स्थिति से मान्यवर बचा जा सकता था। इस स्थिति से बचने के लिए वैसे उद्योगों के लिए अन्यत्र बाजार खोजा जा सकता था और कुटीर उद्योग में काम आने वाले उपस्करों में सुधार करके उन्हें अधिक उत्पादन करने वाला बनाया जा सकता था। कम से कम उन उद्योगों को संरक्षण दिया जाता तो हालत इतनी नहीं बिगड़ती। हम यह नहीं कहते कि केन्द्र ने धनराशि नहीं दी। लेकिन उसने धनराशि देकर के अपने दायित्व का पालन करना मान लिया। यह नहीं देखा कि जो धनराशि आसाम को प्राबंठित होती है, उसका दुरुपयोग तो नहीं हो रहा है। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि वहां दुरुपयोग हुआ और इसकी वजह से वहां एक नव धनाढ्य वर्ग पैदा हो गया जिसका काम था ठेकेदारी और तिजारत। स्थिति यह है कि यह नव धनाढ्य वर्ग ही आन्दोलन को प्रोत्साहन देता है क्यों कि उन्हें डर है कि सही समस्या पर अगर लोगों का ध्यान गया तो लड़ाई शोषित और शोषकों के बीच में रहेगी तो इससे भुलावा देकर के अब लड़ाई स्थानीय और बाहरी लोगों के बीच में रह गई है। आजादी के बाद के वर्षों में भी इस क्षेत्र की उपेक्षा होती रही है। एक स्थान से दूसरे स्थान पर जाने के लिए जो थोड़ी लम्बाई की सड़कें हैं, वे भी वरसात के दिनों में चट्टानों के फिसलने से अवच्छेद रहती हैं। इसका एक मुख्य कारण और कहा जा सकता है कि वहाँ के लोग देश की मुख्य राजनीतिक घारा से कटे हुए रहे।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : स्वतन्त्रता संग्राम में उनका बड़ा योगदान रहा है।

श्री अजित कुमार मेहता : अंग्रेजों ने उस इलाके पर ध्यान नहीं दिया, दिया तो केवल उन इलाकों पर जहाँ से राजस्व प्राप्त की आशा थी और जो राजस्व को प्राप्त किया उसको वहाँ खर्च नहीं किया जिसका नतीजा यह हुआ कि बाकी इलाकों से यह इलाका अलग-थलग रहा, अछूता रह। इस तरह से वहाँ के लोगों का देश के अन्य भागों से बहुत ज्यादा सम्पर्क नहीं हो पाया। इन सब समस्याओं का समाधान आवश्यक है। वहाँ पर संचार साधनों को इतना विकसित किया जाना चाहिए कि उस इलाके का देश के अन्य भागों से सम्पर्क हो सके तथा वहाँ पर ऐसे संवेदनशील पदाधिकारी प्रशासन में नियुक्त किये जाएं जो वहाँ की समस्याओं को कानूनी कठघरे से बाहर निकाल कर दें और वहाँ के लोगों से संवाद स्थापित कर सकें।

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, when I moved the Resolution in this House, I was only hoping that it will be limited in its scope with regard to declaring certain services as essential services for the proper distribution of essential commodities to the poorest of the poor, who are really in need of those commodities. As usual, whenever any discussion on Assam comes, whether it is a resolution, notification or supplementary demands, all the problems that have been discussed will certainly come into focus.

My Hon. friend, Shri Ravindra Varma—I do not know whether he represents Bombay South, North or West.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA : I will tell you—Bombay-North.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : The Hon. Member representing Bombay North—that is the exact parliamentary procedure of referring to members; our difficulty is that we are not able to identify which constituency they represent; that is why we have to take the names—I hope he will not take it amiss, my referring to him by name. Broadly speaking, two suggestions have been made by him forcibly; firstly, the problem of Assam should be solved in a satisfactory manner and, secondly, more attention should be given to the economic development of Assam and other States in the north-eastern region.

My Hon. friend Shri Satyasadhan Chakraborty, who initiated this discussion, raised several issues with regard to the situation that prevails in Assam. He mentioned that the agitators are having links with some agencies outside the country, that there have been large-scale evictions, that the stipulation that was given in 1980 by the Assam Government that whenever there is any eviction they should get orders from the highest authorities has been waived and that nearly 9,000 families have been evicted. He suggested that the elections ought to be held, as per schedule, in March 1983 and that the popular Government should be installed.

The latest position is that the State Government have been advised that, pending examination of all aspects of the problem, evictions may be stayed so as to remove hardships caused to the people. Accordingly evictions have been already stopped. Sir, about the agitators having links with the agencies or forces outside, I am not in agreement with the Hon. Member. That has been clarified by my friend, Shri Ravindra Varma. Let us not go into that question and further complicate the issue.

About the protection of linguistic and religious minorities, it would be

appropriate if I quote what our Prime Minister said the other day :

“It is a very complex, delicate and emotional matter so far as the people of Assam are concerned, and naturally we are also concerned about what happens. Now, the Government cannot take a hard and fast stand on this issue when we are negotiating with them. We are trying to see how much we can accommodate them without causing harm to other people, the minorities and others living in Assam, and considering its wider consequence on the nation as a whole.”

This is what the Prime Minister has categorically stated on the floor of this House and also on several occasions. During our negotiations in which Mr. Ravindra Varma has taken a very leading part, this has been made amply clear by our erstwhile Home Minister, Shri Venkataraman and also the present Home Minister, Shri Sethi.

Mr. Ravindra Varma has brought forward several issues. These are very delicate issues with regard to detection and deletion between 1961 and 1971.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA : I do not expect an answer.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH : Sir, these are very delicate matters and we are going to have another round of talks very soon and I must appreciate the role played by Shri Ravindra Varma. And one thing I must say here is that there has been utmost cordiality and understanding between the leaders of the Assam Student's Union and Gana Sangram Parishad. There has been a very frank, candid discussion and exchange of ideas between the Government and the leaders of the Assam agitation and the Opposition parties' representatives who participated in these talks have

played a very constructive and useful role so as to create a situation wherein this vexed and very complicated problem is solved to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Sir, I do not want to go into these matters because point by point, about the constitution of the tribunals and having a national electoral roll and who are foreigners and who are not foreigners, about the Immigration Exclusion Act and the second proviso—these are the matters which have been discussed, and we are hopeful that a satisfactory solution will be found with the good intentions from both the sides and we will be able to find a suitable solution.

Sir, I would like to say about the elections to be held because many of our friends have said that there are no representative of Assam in the Lok Sabha, there is no popular government and there is no Assembly there. So, Sir, the constitutional necessity of holding elections in 1983 is there. But still we are having talks with these leaders and at this stage it is not proper on my part to say anything about that matter and I will leave it at that to see that good sense is made to prevail by the people concerned and we come to a sort of a satisfactory solution.

Several people have alleged that the North Eastern Region and also Assam have been neglected. I would like to inform the Hon. House that the North Eastern Region including Assam is receiving special attention in the matter of development. All the States in the North Eastern Region including Assam have been included in the special category states. The Sixth Five Year Plan outlay of the five States and the two union territories in the region aggregates to Rs. 2,400 crores approximately. Additionally, the North Eastern Council has Sixth Plan provision of Rs. 240 crores. The per capita

[Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah]

outlay in the North Eastern Region is Rs. 1393 as compared to Rs. 872 in other States and union territories. The Central assistance in case of North Eastern Region is well over 80% of the total outlay while in the case of other State and union territories it is only 29%. The per capita central assistance in the case of North Eastern Region is Rs. 1205 while in the case of other States and union territories it is only Rs. 257.

A Committee of Ministers was set up in April, 1980 for the economic development of North Eastern Region. Of the North Eastern Region, as I have told you, the Sixth Five Year Plan outlay of 5 States and 2 union territories is Rs. 2,400 crores approximately.

Detailed provision of the Sixth Plan is given below :—

State/U.T.	1980-85	1980-82	1982-83
		(Rs. in crores)	
1. Assam	1115	210.00	258.00
2. Arunachal Pradesh	212	36.90	44.00
3. Manipur	240	43.00	48.00
4. Meghalaya	235	46.55	51.20
5. Mizoram	130	23.00	29.00
6. Nagaland	210	38.00	42.58
7. Tripura	245	45.00	50.00

So far as per capita is concerned, I have already said additionally they are receiving Rs. 340 crores.

For the accelerated economic development the pre-requisite is normalcy. Normalcy is the pre-condition to put forward our economic development programme. Unfortunately due to agitation whatever we wanted to implement, it could not be done even with the best of our intentions and efforts.

I may inform the Hon House, during this agitation there has been a heavy loss with regard to our oil and other commodities. I do not want to tire out the patience of the House by quoting these figures but the Hon. Members will agree with us that normalcy should be restored and satisfactory solution should be found. Cordiality should be maintained. One cardinal and important point is those who are the citizens of this country should not be denied the right of having the enfranchisement in the electoral rolls. Our Government has been taking consistently the stand that those who not citizens of this country, they are not eligible for voting. So, who are the citizens? That is the point where negotiations have been carried on. So, we have to find out a satisfactory solution. Shri Verma has made several suggestions on the floor of the House. He has also been playing very important constructive role. We hope in the next round of talks which is being held very soon, we will be able to find out a satisfactory solution. Government is wedded to maintain integrity, unity and sovereignty of this country. It is our endeavour to see that vociferous tendencies are put down. Government has been time and again requesting the co-operation of the opposition parties to see that our sovereignty and integrity is maintained.

Shri Satyasadhan Chakraborty also referred about the Kashmir Resettlement Bill, Akali agitation and all those things. I do not want to go into this matter because today I saw in the *Tribune* that the Chief Minister, Mr. Basu, to some extent, giving his limited support to the Akali agitation. I do not know whether it is true or not. It is in the Press but I may be wrong.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): That is only a question of autonomy.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: He was referring to Anandapur Sahib Resolution etc. Whatever it is. I entirely agree and respect the sentiments expressed by our Communist party friends, both CPI and CPM. They are one with us to fight for the maintenance of integrity and sovereignty of the nation. I know the part they have played in all these negotiations. We seek their hearty cooperation and that of all other Parties to arrive at a satisfactory solution to all concerned. At the same time, the Government has said, time and again, that the cultural identity of Assam will be preserved and protected and nothing will be done to affect the cultural identity of Assam. But Assam is an integral part of our country. So, every one of us—whatever may be the differences—should strive to find a satisfactory solution and also to see that the sovereignty and integrity of our nation is protected.

With these words, I commend the Resolution for the approval of the House.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PATIABHI RAMA RAO): Sir, in addition to what my Hon. colleague, Shri Venkatasubbaiah, Minister of State for Home said, I wish to add.

Shri B. D. Singh mentioned about the poor progress of rural electrification in Assam. Out of 21,995 villages in the State, 4,226 villages had been electrified by the end of 1979-80. The target for the Sixth Plan (1980-85) is to electrify 6,000 villages more, at an estimated cost of Rs. 57.86 crores. During 1980-81, 1,400 villages were electrified. And another 1,162 villages were electrified in 1981-82. The target for 1982-83 is to electrify 1,050 villages.

My good friend Shri Ramavatar Shastri wanted to know about the progress of land reforms. A crash programme for acquisition and distribution of surplus land under the Land Ceiling Acts has been taken up. An area of 5.81 lakh acres has so far been declared surplus and out of this 3.19 lakh acres have been distributed to 2.56 lakh families. He also referred to construction of railway lines. The broad-gauge line from New Bongaigaon to Gauhati (157 k. ms) is expected to be completed shortly. The estimated cost of this work is Rs. 50 crores. A scheme for conversion of metre-gauge into broad-gauge from Gauhati to Dibrugarh, at an estimated cost of Rs. 100 crores, is under survey. A scheme for a bridge over Brahmaputra at Jogi-hopra is also being taken up.

The Hon. Member, Shri Ram Avtar Shastri, also mentioned about the need for flood control measures. There is a provision of Rs. 4 crores for flood control in the State budget. In addition, the Central Sector Plan also contains a provision of Rs. 9 crores. The Brahmaputra Flood Control Board has been re-constituted. The flood control measures are expected to be speeded up.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: Sir, I want one clarification.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No clarification now. I shall put the Statutory Resolution to vote.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: Sir, he referred to Mr. Jyoti Basu and he quoted from the newspaper... (*Interruptions*) This is an important question. I must make my party stand clear.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has replied and I am going to put it to the vote of the House.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : I want to dispel the confusion. So far as the demand of the Akalis regarding more powers to the State is concerned, we support. So far as the other demands are concerned, our Chief Minister has not extended any support. Let there be no confusion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, I shall put the Statutory Resolution moved by Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah to the vote of the House.

The question is :

“That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 2 of the Essential Services Maintenance (Assam) Act, 1980 (41 of 1980) as amended by the Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1981 (40 of 1981), this House approves the issue of the Government of Assam, Political (A) Department notification No. PLA-906/82/125, dated the 30th September, 1982, declaring the following services to be essential services within the State of Assam for the purposes of the Essential Services Maintenance (Assam) Act, 1980 (41 of 1980) :—

- (i) All services in any establishment or shop dealing with the essential commodities declared as such by the Government of India under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (Central Act No. 10 of 1955) from time to time and licensed under the Assam Trade Articles (Licensing and Control) Order, 1982, dated 22nd June, 1982 and the Assam High Speed Diesel Oil (Distribution and Control) Order, 1981 and Assam Paddy and Rice Procurement (Licensing and Levy) Order, 1981.
- (ii) All services in any establishment or shops of appointed

dealers which include the wholesaler and retailer dealing with the essential commodities as declared by the Government of India under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 from time to time and licensed under the Assam Public Distribution of Articles Order, 1982.”

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Assam) for 1982-83 to vote.

The question is :

“That the respective Supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Assam to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1983, in respect of heads of demands entered in the second column thereof—

Demand Nos. 6, 16, 18, 21, 25, 26, 30, 37, 41, 55, 61 and 65.”

The motion was adopted.

17.20 hrs.

ASSAM APPROPRIATION (No. 3) BILL*, 1982

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of State of