

[Shri G. M. Banatwalla]

those Railway finances, the various aspects connected with it have to be gone into. For example we have very useful Fourth Report of the Committee—1977 also about the various organisations. Such a report should continue to come before this House. With these words I wish well to the Railway organisation which is a very great organisation. I hope that the various points that are raised with respect thereto will meet with proper and serious consideration.

15.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

SEVENTH REPORT

SHRI S. T. QUADRI (Shrimoga): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Seventh Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 30th July, 1980".

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Seventh Report of the Committee on Private Member's Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 30th July, 1980."

The motion was adopted.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI KAMLAPATI TRIPATHI): What has happened to my Resolution?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we will take that up on Monday.

SHRI KAMLAPATI TRIPATHI: Are we to unnecessarily wait upto Monday?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry. At 3 P.M. we have to take up Private Members' Business. So, we will take up your Resolution on Monday.

15.03 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE. SERIOUS SITUATION IN NORTH-EAST INDIA—
contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri M. Ramgopal Reddy was on his legs. He may continue.

The time allotted to this Resolution was four hours. We have already exhausted three hours and thirtyone minutes. Only 29 minutes are left. I have speakers numbering about 19. In view of the changed situation, if the House permits, let Shri M Ramgopal Reddy be the last speaker. Thereafter the Minister can intervene and then the Mover will reply.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, yes.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR (Ratnagiri): Other Resolutions are also equally important which are on the agenda to-day.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yes yes.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): The second Resolution is much more important.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER. We will take up that also.

Now Shri M. Ramgopal Reddy may continue.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY (Nizamabad): Sir, since the last discussion there has been a sea-change in the atmosphere of Assam and other States in that region. No problem is insoluble or can evade solution with Madam Gandhi. Madam Gandhi has put in effort and a solution is in sight. The only problem with these States is backwardness. They have got a genuine feeling that some people who are more clever and more efficient are exploiting them. I request the Minister that all those people who are exploiting the local people should not be allowed to do so. The industries and other things that

they are having must be taken over by the Government of India so that the local people may have the feeling that after all, nobody is exploiting them and it is all going to the national exchequer and they will get a fair deal. Unless and until all these things are taken over by the Government this picture will continue. We had a violent agitation in Telangana in Andhra. There were agitations by Shiv Sena. Madam Gandhi solved all those problems and she will solve this also. The people of this area have got full faith in Madam Gandhi. The people of the north-eastern region are as patriotic as we are. There is no secessionist movement. To presume that there is such a movement there is wrong. In every place, there are one or two persons who try to create some trouble, but it is not going to have any effect. I am very glad that all those people have agreed to have talks with the Government. The young Minister may be new to the Ministry, but he is having a lot of experience of the people and he is doing very good work. I wish him success. A day will soon come when we will have no problem in the north-eastern region. The people who have come from outside and who are looting the local people must be stopped from doing so. All the lands in Assam must be cultivated by those very people. We should pass such a legislation as we have done in the case of Kashmir. In Kashmir no outsider can purchase any land. A similar law should be passed in the case of Assam and other States in the north-eastern region. Why should these poor people's lands be purchased by other people? If the Government of India agrees to this, I think most of the problems will be solved and very soon there will be normalcy there as before. I hope those days are very near and we will have very good relations with them.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):
Sir, I am thankful to all the hon.
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members who have participated in the discussion on this vital issue. Nearly 15 members have participated and many members have made very good and constructive suggestions also. I am thankful to all the hon. Members, particularly to those who favoured a political solution of the problem and those who made very constructive suggestions especially Mr. Chandrajit Yadav, Mr. Ram Gopal Reddy and many others. The list is lengthy; I am thankful to all the hon. members.

The situation in the north-east has been widely discussed in this House on several occasions and no facts are unknown to hon. members of this House. Every detail of the north-eastern situation is known to all the members of this House. So, I shall skip over the details and just discuss the situation in the entire north-eastern region.

An era of peace was ushered in Mizoram this midnight. It was agreed by Shri Laldenga on behalf of MNF, to stop all violent activities. The Government also suspended operations by security forces. Of course, this suspension would not apply to clandestine crossing of international borders and to normal law and order.

The problem in Manipur is two-fold. One is the activity of a small group of Meitei extremists who were trained abroad and who have been indulging in violence mainly in the Imphal valley. The surrounding hill areas of Manipur have been unaffected. The other is the activities of students who have apparently been inspired by developments in Assam. Manipur has a representative Government. Adequate security forces have been made available to the State by the Centre. The State Government has been advised to take firm steps in order to put down violence and provide security to law-abiding citizens.

In Tripura where holocaust of the worst nature occurred in June, 1980

[Shri Yogendra Makwana]

all assistance was provided by the Central Government. Security forces were rushed in for helping the State administration to restore law and order. Essential supplies and money were made available for relief and rehabilitation of victims of violence. A Central Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Dinesh Singh, Member of Parliament, visited Tripura recently to suggest measures for restoration of normalcy, for relief and rehabilitation of victims of violence and to bring about harmonious relations among different sections of population. This Committee is likely to submit its report shortly. Another official Committee was also sent to make an assessment of requirement for relief and rehabilitation. These recommendations are also expected very soon. While law and order is a State subject, the Centre has given all possible help to the State in this matter.

The situation in Nagaland has been, by and large, peaceful since the signing of the Shillong Agreement in 1975. The ex-underground leaders have been making efforts to involve all sections, including those outside the country, in consolidating peace. We have always been with those who are for peace and development in the State.

The local versus non-local disturbances that occurred in Meghalaya last year were brought under control by firm action by the State Government. We hope that the State Government would continue to take steps to ensure that the peace prevailing in the State is not disturbed.

So far as Arunachal Pradesh is concerned it remained peaceful throughout and there is no disturbance or violence in the State.

As the Members are aware, Government have been most anxious to bring about a satisfactory solution to the problem of foreigners in Assam. Time and again, it has been made

clear that Government was not rigid in its approach and have been and are willing for talks. On 30th July, 1980, the Home Minister made a statement in the House and announced a number of steps to pave the way for an early restoration of harmony and normalcy in Assam. Government expect cooperation from all sections so that talks to find a satisfactory solution to all concerned can commence soon.

Even since the present Government assumed office, the problems of North Eastern region have been receiving the highest priority. The Prime Minister has discussed the Assam situation with the leader of the Opposition and taken their views into account. Fresh initiatives were taken in Mizoram, which have brought about peace in the territory. Special measures have been taken to strengthen vigilance at the border to prevent clandestine influx. All help has been given to Governments of States and Union territories in the region to maintain law and order. Anti-national, anti-social, chauvinistic elements which have raised their ugly heads during the past two years are being brought under control. Government is aware of the existence of some misguided elements in the region, who have taken to violence. Appropriate measures are in hand to deal with them in an effective manner.

Government are aware of the feelings of the various groups of people in the North-eastern region and their desire to preserve their cultural identities, as also the need for economic development of the region. In fact, the Prime Minister has recently set up a Committee of Ministers, of which I am the Convener, and other official level Committees to accelerate the pace of development in the region in a manner suited to the resources and needs of the region.

While no efforts would be spared to redress the genuine grievances of this region, I may reiterate the Gov-

ernment's resolve to deal with the misguided and extremist elements in an effective manner. This, in short, is the situation at present in the entire north-eastern region. As the House knows, the Prime Minister has taken many steps fight from the beginning and negotiated with the students and the other leaders of the north-eastern region and a broad settlement has been arrived at.

In view of all this I would request the hon. Member to withdraw his Resolution.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: Sir, in my speech I had suggested that taking into consideration the position of the north-east, they should have a special Ministry dealing with that region. That region has many problems which are now being dealt with by different Ministries. They could all be considered by one Ministry so that the condition of that region could be speedily improved.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: There is no need for a separate Ministry for this region. At present it is dealt with by the Home Ministry, where there are three Ministers, two State Ministers and one Cabinet Minister. The work of the north-eastern region is looked after very well. There is no necessity for creating a new Ministry for this purpose.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Durgapur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I am thankful to all the hon. Members who have participated in the discussion, 16 in all including the hon. Minister. When on the 4th of July I moved a Resolution,

"to take suitable steps for a political settlement of the question of foreigners and to pay special attention for resolving the genuine problems of the people of the North-Eastern States".

the situation was not very happy. Now when I am replying to the debate there is an atmosphere of settlement. From tomorrow, the 2nd of August, the agitation is to be with-

drawn. I do not know whether it would actually be withdrawn.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I think you moved this Resolution at an auspicious time.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Yes, it was very timely.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: It is because of his Resolution that the situation has improved.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: I am also thinking that this is the first time that this sort of a non-official Resolution was placed before the House and there is some light of settlement. This is the success of my moving the Resolution.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: Congratulations to you.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: I also thank all the Members who have participated. Most of them have supported my Resolution barring one or two Members.

Sir, I congratulate Mr. Chandrajit Yadav, Mr. Bhogendra Jha, Mr. Chitta Basu, Mr. Banatwalla and other Members of the Ruling Party. Most of them supported my Resolution.

I am sorry my good friend, Mr. Ram Gopal Reddy, said that it is like censuring the Government in an indirect way. I am sorry to say that he has misunderstood my Resolution. He has not perhaps read the Resolution properly.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Now, I agree with you.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Sir, Mr. G. S. Reddi is not here today. He said: 'Do not blame all the missionaries of our country'. But I want to say that we do not want to blame all the missionaries. What I want to say is that one can embrace Christianity or Islam. It is his personal will, but you know, specially in the North-East region there are some missionaries who are using all me-

[Shri Krishna Chandra Halder].

thods. They are inciting the secessionist movement, they are working against our country and we are against that section of the missionaries. We do not say that all the missionaries or Christians are active in anti-national activities.

Mr. Daga, who is not here now, mentioned that 'you talk of socialism, but what you have done for the tribals of Tripura?' I want to say that our Government, the Left Front Government, is the first government in Tripura which has amended the Land Reform Act of Tripura for the betterment of tribals. Our Government laid down the land policy that after 1969 all the tribal lands which have been transferred to non-tribals will again be transferred to the tribals and suitable compensation for the return of land to the tribals would be given to the non-tribals.

In Tripura, our Left Front Government is the first Government what worked for the betterment of tribals. They declared the tribal majority area an autonomous district and the election was going to be held. But at that time disturbance was there. For that reason, the election was stopped. This shows that the Government there is working for their cultural improvement and for their improvement in all respects. The Kokborak language is now the official language of Tripura. In this way the left front Government is doing their best for the uplift of the tribal people. I can say that during 30 years of Congress rule in Tripura, they did practically nothing for the uplift of the tribals. During their regime, tribal lands were transferred to non-tribals.

SHRI N. B. HORO (Khunti): A law was passed in 1960 for the restoration of lands alienated from the tribals, and there were 13,000 applications for restoration of tribal lands. What about that?

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: The applications were given to

the previous Government. It was the duty of the previous Government to dispose of them.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Therefore, this Government did it in continuation of what that Government did in 1960.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Yes, it is implementing that law.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Therefore, the work started in 1960.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: The law was passed in 1960 and 13,000 applications were filed, but those applications were not disposed of by the then Government. It is our Government which is trying its best to return the tribal lands. So, in this way our Government is trying their best.

Last year I visited Tripura, Meghalaya and Nagaland. My impression is that there is a good reaction to this programme of the left-front Government of Tripura on the other States and their influence was spreading in different parts of the north-eastern region. So, vested interests and other people wanted to vilify the left-front Government. A conspiracy was hatched and, as you know, some sections of the tribals, under the influence of the Tripura Upjati Juba Samiti, with the help of underground Mizo rebels, attacked other people. Our Government sent information to the Centre that something was going to happen, but I will not go into all these details because now there is a good atmosphere in Assam, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura also. I am happy that the discussion between Mr. Laldenga and the Prime Minister has become fruitful and from yesterday night, MNF has announced that the armed struggle would be stopped. Peace is restored in Mizoram. In Manipur also, the armed struggle is stopped.

On 30th July, the hon. Home Minister announced in his statement the

policy of the Central Government in regard to Assam issue and also regarding the negotiations between Mr. Dorendra Singh, Chief Minister of Manipur and AASU and Assam Gana Sangram Parishad. But I am not clear as to what would be the basis of the negotiation. The Hon. Prime Minister has stated many times that we want to negotiate and that for the purpose of detection of foreigners, 1971 will be the cut-off year. I want to know from the Minister whether that stand of the Central Government still stands or they are going to compromise on taking 1961 as the cut-off year. At the time of moving the resolution, I stressed that 1971 will have to be taken as the cut-off year. On the basis of Nehru—Liaquat Pact and Indira—Mujib Agreement, the two international agreements and under the Constitution the foreigners issue should be settled. You can start negotiations with AASU and AGSP. But I demand that the Central Government should discuss the problems with the linguistic minority organisations and religious minority organisations and also the organisation of the Plain Tribals so that an agreement can be reached to the satisfaction of all the parties concerned. We have to proceed in this way.

While moving the resolution, I also stressed and Mr. Makwana also agreed and the members were also unanimous in that the main reason behind the problem in the north-eastern region is the total backwardness, poverty, under-development practically no industrial development, no railway net work and no roads in that region. So, I demand that there must be one separate Planning Board exclusively for the north-eastern region under the Planning Commission so that the Planning Board can go into all the problems, problems of land, education, development of culture, industrialisation, railway network and roads, of that region, in depth, which would ultimately lead to the upliftment of the people of that region and put an end to their exploitation. I know that so long as this type of society remains, and unless we have a

socialist Government we cannot achieve total development and poverty cannot be eliminated. We have to fight against exploitation and work for the betterment of the north-eastern region, and, at the same time, we have to fight against anti-national activities of the foreign elements. We have to organise democratic movement in that area.

Sir, I do not want to take much of your time. I want a categorical assurance from the Government. There is now an atmosphere of conciliation. Discussion across the table will begin. I welcome it. I have already welcomed peace in Mizoram and Manipur. I am sure, the ruling party will give proper instructions to the Tripura unit not to lend their hands to anti-national elements like Amra Bengali or Tripura Upajati Juba Samiti and to organise movement against the Left Front Government of Tripura. I am happy that there is coordination between the Centre and the Tripura State Government in the matter of relief and rehabilitation of the victims of Tripura communal riots.

This is what I have mentioned in my resolution:

to strengthen further the security of the borders of the North-East India with neighbouring countries in order to prevent the intrusion of the foreigners and infiltration of the armed gangs;

to take stern action against those who are actively behind the secessionist activities; and

to rouse the public opinion in the country in favour of preserving the national unity and assuring full freedom to all linguistic nationalities and ethnic groups to preserve their separate independent identities and for full socio-economic development according to their desires by strengthening the real federalism in our State structure."

It will not be possible for the State Governments to guard their boundaries and to stop the intrusion of foreign elements. You have to give sufficient help to the State Govern-

[Shri Krishna Chandra Halder] ments of the north-eastern region to guard the borders. Unless the borders are guarded properly, the intrusions cannot be stopped.

As I stated in my earlier speech, more powers should be given to the States so that the States and the linguistic nationalities can develop their languages, culture and their socio-economic life. Then only the federal structure can be strengthened. In this way, India can become strong and united. In this way alone, we can check the secessionist movement—it may be in the north-eastern region or it may be in the western region or some elements may be trying to foment the movements like Uttarakhand in West Bengal or Jharkhand, etc. We shall be able to check all these elements. So, I want an answer from the hon. Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister has already intervened.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Somehow or other, Government will have to say whether 1971 will be taken as the cut-off year.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: When discussions are going on and negotiations are going on, you should not compel the Government to make a categorical statement; it is not proper.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Lastely, I would say that I am rather happy that this new atmosphere has been created in the north-eastern area. In this way, I am successful in the purpose of my bringing up the Resolution in this House, and I would appeal to the Hon. Minister and the ruling Party to support my Resolution and adopt my Resolution unanimously and create history in the life of Parliament.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Is the mover withdrawing his Resolution in view of what the Minister has already said?

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: Sir, may I appeal to the mover to withdraw it in view of the fact that

if the Resolution is not accepted by the House, it will have very serious repercussions there?

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: I just wanted to know the reaction of the Government and the ruling Party.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir, there is no practice of the reply of the mover being replied to by the Minister, but in view of the prevailing situation I would like to clarify certain points raised by the hon. Member. From the beginning he is insisting that the cut-year should be given. Everyone in the House knows that negotiations are going on and there is a very good atmosphere of good-will. At this time, we should not vitiate the atmosphere by giving any date or any thing here.

The Hon. Member has said that the Assam students' Union, the tribals, the Minorities and everybody should be taken into confidence. This Prime Minister is, from the beginning, of the opinion that the mind of the Opposition should be known, the mind of the students and other sections of society should be known. Our endeavour is that we should try to accommodate all the views and opinions expressed by members of the Opposition as well as by the students and other agitators. Everything will be taken into consideration when negotiations are held; when we sit at the table all these aspects will be considered and I can assure this august House, through you, that all the views expressed here by this august House will be taken into consideration while negotiating.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALL (Ponnani): Including those in the amendments?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Everything. I am at one with the Hon. Member when he says that the borders should be guarded properly. Government is quite vigilant and all necessary steps are being taken to guard our international borders.

The Hon. Member has appealed that

more powers to the States should be provided. But ours is a federal structure and, under the Constitution, the powers of the States as well as of the Centre are specifically defined, and there is no necessity of reiterating the same thing here again.

In view of this, I would appeal to the Hon. Member to withdraw his Resolution.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: The final reply ...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No final reply please.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: I have not replied to the Hon. Member; I have merely given certain explanation.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: I am saying that what he has stated just now about the Centre-State relationship...

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: I am not debating; I have simply provided certain clarifications.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Yes, Sir, I am withdrawing my resolution.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Is Mr. Banatwalla withdrawing his amendment?

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: In view of the fact, that the mover has stated that he is withdrawing his Resolution, and hoping that all the points mentioned by me in my speech as also in my amendment will be properly considered and there will be no compromise on this issue by this Government. I seek the leave of the House to withdraw my amendment.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House that the amendment moved by Shri G. M. Banatwalla be withdrawn?

Amendment No. 2 was, by leave withdrawn.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Mool Chand Daga is not here. I will put his amendment to vote of the House.

Amendment No. 3 was put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House that the Resolution moved by Shri Krishna Chandra Halder be withdrawn?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

15.45 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES FOR TRIBAL AREAS AND SCHEDULED CASTES

SHRI GIRDHAR GOMANGO (Koraput): Sir, I beg to move:

"This House urges upon the Government to take immediate steps to implement the policies and programmes adopted in Sub-Plan for tribal areas and the Component plan for Scheduled Castes of the country for socio-economic upliftment of the people and also to ask the States and Union Territories to execute the same vigorously so that the growing unrest and discontentment among the Adviasis due to the exploitation by the vested interests and the atrocities committed on Harijans is checked and their interests are protected in the larger interests of the nation as a whole."

I beg to move my amendment to my Resolution also:

"That in the resolution.—
after "of the people" insert—

"by creating separate departments in the Ministry of Home Affairs—one for Scheduled Tribes and another for Scheduled Castes under the charge of Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs whose responsibility will include implementation of re-