

- (1) Annual Report of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1977-78 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon
- (2) Statement showing reasons for delay in laying the Report mentioned at (1) (iv) above
[Placed in Library See No LI—4319/79]

DETAILED DEMANDS FOR GRANTS OF MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS FOR 1979-80

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI NARSINGH YADAV) I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilizers for 1979-80
[Placed in Library See No LI—20/79]

STATEMENTS SHOWING ACTION TAKEN BY GOVT ON VARIOUS ASSURANCES ETC GIVEN BY MINISTERS DURING VARIOUS SESSIONS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI LARANG SAI) I beg to lay on the Table the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Governments on various assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various sessions of Lok Sabha—

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| (1) Statement No XI—Seventh Session, 1976 | } Fifth Lok Sabha |
| (2) Statement No XV—Second Session 1977 | |
| (3) Statement No XI—Third Session, 1977 | |
| (4) Statement No XIII—Fourth Session 1978 | |
| (5) Statement No VI—Fifth Session, 1978 | } Sixth Lok Sabha |
| (6) Statement No II—Sixth Session, 1978 | |
| (7) Statement No III—Sixth Session, 1978 | |
| (8) Statement No I—Seventh Session, 1979 | |

[Placed in Library See No LI—4321/79]

12.13 hrs.]

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

SITUATION IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (CHITRAKIL) I call the attention of the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon

“Situation in Jammu and Kashmir State as a result of recent large scale incidents of violence and arson”

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI H M PATTI) Sir In the last week of February I had reported to this House about the law and order situation that had developed at Poonch, Jammu and other areas of Jammu & Kashmir and the attempts that were being made by the State Government to restore normalcy. Presumably the present Calling Attention Notice relates to the distressing acts of violence and arson that had taken place especially in Srinagar and Anantnag districts in the course of demonstrations following the execution of Mr ZA Bhutto in Pakistan on the 4th April.

On that day hartal was observed and there were widespread demonstrations throughout the Valley particularly in Srinagar city and Srinagar and Anantnag districts. The main target of mob anger was Jamiat-e-Islami, its workers and establishments. In Srinagar the U.N. Office was attacked by a very big mob. Tragically the All Saints Church was burnt down. The residence of the Director of the Doordarshan Kendra was also damaged. In order to control the situation, the police had to resort to firing and two persons were killed. There was firing at Sopore also and one person was killed.

On the 5th April, the extent and intensity of violence increased in Anantnag district. A violent mob had blocked the Jammu-Srinagar national highway at Malpura Village. The police had to open fire and two persons died. In Anantnag Town and at several places, shops and houses belonging to the supporters of Jamiat-e-Islami were subjected to attack and looting by violent mobs. Especially in the Arwan-Chitlan area many pro-Jamiat-e-Islami villages were ravaged on that day.

by large-scale arson and looting. Arvan Village in particular experienced extensive damage.

There were also incidents and demonstrations in Srinagar and the Jammu region. In Srinagar a sizeable crowd made a persistent effort to destroy a mosque belonging to the Ahmediya community by pelting stones and the police had to fire teargas shells repeatedly to control it. A large crowd had also gathered in the afternoon near the Tourist Reception Centre but it was deterred. In Batamulla there were demonstrations and hartal was observed. Demonstrations were also held at Rajouri Poonch and Doda. At Bhadarwah a mob attacked the offices and residences of the local SDM and SDPO.

As a result of the control measures taken by the State Government, the next day 6th April, was relatively peaceful. In Srinagar mass prayer meetings were held at the Idgah, Shahu Maidan and the Hazratbal Shrine for the late Mr. Bhutto. Prayer meetings and processions were also held at Anantnag, Batamulla, Sopore and Bandipura and in some villages.

Such an outbreak of violence and arson is indeed most regrettable. But prompt and effective action was taken by the State Government to bring the situation under control, and we had also obtained necessary help and assistance by way of additional manpower support from the Border Security Force and the Central Reserve Police Force. The Chief Minister had ensured that appropriate measures were taken in time to restore public peace. He had also visited the affected areas and assured relief to those who had suffered as a result of these incidents.

Nothing untoward has been reported from the 7th April. There is now calm in the State and normalcy prevails. Any suggestions that the law and order situation in the State is still out of control would not be in consonance with the factual position.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI Sir, as you know, Jammu and Kashmir is a very sensitive area and I am aware of the fact that when we are dealing with the situation there, we should do so with utmost care and responsibility.

MR SPEAKER And with restraint also.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI Yes. But no one can deny the fact that Jammu and

Kashmir is a part and parcel of our country. Any attempt to preach the other way and create separatist tendencies should be treated as treason and has to be curbed with all the power at the command of the Centre. The Government of India has to keep a very close watch on the situation. What is happening in Jammu and Kashmir is alarming and distressing and evokes the concern of every Indian. The trouble started from Jammu and it has spread to the Valley of Kashmir. I, anyone of us including you, I hope expected when Sheikh Abdullah was released and restored to power in Jammu and Kashmir that he will be one of the exemplary administrators. But what is happening is distressing.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) Are we discussing the State Government and the Chief Minister? That has not been the practice.

MR SPEAKER Yesterday we had discussion for four hours on law and order.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU The State Government is going to be the subject-matter of discussion here?

MR SPEAKER The Government is there to defend itself.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU This forum cannot be used for that. We have had a lot of experience in this regard.

SHRI SALGATA ROY (Barrackport) We are only raising Jammu and Kashmir, not West Bengal.

MR SPEAKER Yesterday you had one theory, today you have another theory.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU Why are you mixing up the two issues? That related to the minorities (Interruptions).

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI Unfortunately, the way in which the developments in Jammu and Kashmir are taking place is very painful, rather I should say it is very alarming a stage at which the Centre has to come in and act. The Constitution provides for the protection of life and property of every citizen. It is the duty of the Government of India to protect and uphold the right of the citizens. There is also article 356 of the Constitution. So, if the law and order situation breaks down in a State, it attracts the attention of the Central Government, whose responsibility it is to see that law and order is restored. So, naturally, this Parliament has every right to go into it. I am not saying that the State should be dis-

cussed here, but in order to restore the confidence of the people in this country, this Parliament has to play a role, and that is why we are raising it. I am not making any allegations the State as such

The present trouble started in Poonch and developed into an agitation. After the execution of Bhutto, there was a long procession, which was followed by a demonstration. The real issue was not the execution of Bhutto, it was only a cover to eliminate the political opponents of the ruling party in the State. I believe that the Jamaat-e-Islami is doing more harm to the Muslim minorities in this country. There were random attacks, raids on their houses and razing to ground many villages. Thousands of houses have been demolished and people have been rendered homeless. Such is the situation.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU The Central Home Minister is not a super Chief Minister. *(Interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER • Mr Basu, you are interrupting the work of this House.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU • It is a law and order issue, it is not a minority issue.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI According to the Home Minister, everything has been controlled after the 6th. On the 4th and 5th it went on without any kind of control and the police remained as helpless spectators.

Here I would like to quote what the Coordination Committee has to say:

"The State of Jammu and Kashmir has turned a police camp, the freedom of speech and organising public meetings have been curtailed and section 144 has been imposed in each district and tehsil. The local radio station has become the mouth-piece of Sheikh's Governments and true facts are being camouflaged. The power is shut down during their working hour functioning of P.T.I and Indian Express teleprinters quite often. The State CID has been censoring all the despatches sent by the correspondents and manage to delay them. The correspondents, including that of the *Times of India*, *Indian Express*, *Hindustan Times* and *Tribune* have been given open warning by the Chief Minister himself for covering Jammu youth and students movements that he would deal with them."

This is a very serious matter.

Then, a Private Member's Bill is being introduced in the Kashmir Legislative Assembly to have a Prime Minister and President for Jammu and Kashmir. This Bill is not being opposed by the ruling party. So, what is happening in the State is that our Constitution is being challenged through a Private Member's Bill whereby they are wanting to have a Prime Minister and a President in a State. Are you going to allow it?

A more important thing is that the women of Kashmir are going to be deprived of their civil rights. A new order has come that no Kashmiri women shall be allowed to marry a person outside Kashmir. If she marries a non-Kashmiri, she loses her civil rights. What are we coming to? Is Kashmir really a part of India? Even Dr. Karan Singh's daughter cannot marry a boy from Kerala. If Shri Qureshi has a grown up daughter and if she wants to marry somebody from Kerala, this order says that she cannot marry him. *(Interruptions)* This is the concern of the citizens of the country as a whole. This is a very serious matter which should be considered. This is happening.

The Prime Minister himself met Mr. Bhim Singh M.L.A., two days ago. He is still in the Medical Institute, because he has been poisoned. I can produce all the documents. Doctors said on 12th March that he had a heart attack but on the 29th March he was declared fit and arrested again and he is now in the Medical Institute due to poisoning. This has never happened in the country so far. Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu was agitated about happenings during the emergency, and other Members were agitated because of what happened to J.P. Are you not concerned with the life of an M.L.A., who is being poisoned by the ruling Government there?

The former M.P., and a good friend of mine and Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu, Shri Shamim is now living in Delhi because he cannot go back to Srinagar. He has become a lean person, and he is so afraid that he cannot go back. That is why I am demanding that the life and property of the citizens should be protected by the Central Government. It is the right of every citizen to be protected.

Immediately the freedom of the press and the right of Kashmiri women to marry anybody in India should be restored, and the attempt by the Kashmir Government to institute the offices of Prime Minister and President, which is most

reasonable, should be checked. I wish you assure the House that an enquiry will be conducted as to what happened between the 4th and 6th April, as well as in the Poonch firing which took the lives of six people and the large number of lives lost in Kashmir valley. I wish you enquire into the matter and report to this country.

SHRI H. M. PATEL Much of what the hon. Member said did not arise really from the calling attention notice as such. He allowed his imagination to go far and wide.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI Am I wrong?

SHRI H. M. PATEL I cannot say about imagination. When imagination runs riot, much can happen.

May be a Private Member has brought some Bill, but does that mean that the Government has accepted it? That is a different matter.

DR. KARAN SINGH (Udhampur) They have not opposed it.

SHRI H. M. PATEL Has it been discussed and settled? I think this is exactly the kind of thing that happens now, that merely anything, the slightest pretext, is enough for blaming the Government. In this case there is really nothing.

The disturbances took place. Why? Because of Mr. Bhutto's death. It is known that it was because of that. Nevertheless, he says it has not been established whether it was because of Bhutto's death or whether it was because the Government wanted to eliminate its political opponents. I am afraid this is certainly allowing the imagination to run riot. At any rate, if he has any special information linking this matter, I shall certainly be very happy to make enquiries, though I think it is important to note that law and order is a State matter. One keeps on repeating it and Mr. J. G. B. Joshi, in this case, at any rate, has been emphasizing that really such matters ought not to be brought in so frequently.

Shri Vayalar Ravi quite rightly said that it is when the law and order breaks down that the Central Government's responsibility is attracted, but it cannot be said that law and order has broken down in Jammu and Kashmir.

He made a reference to Poonch, but that happened several months ago. It had been gone into. The reason for the trouble in Poonch was something totally different, totally unrelated. As a matter of fact, the disturbances in Jammu certainly caused concern to the Government and I did pay a visit to Jammu in order to

see how we can bring about a certain understanding between those parties who were agitated about it.

I think, that is the position. We did succeed in bringing about that understanding with the result that there was peace and normalcy was restored. Here was some totally new development. The hanging of the former Prime Minister of Pakistan was not something that could have been legislated for and certainly could not have been anticipated. Therefore, if trouble arose, it is not something which could have been avoided. What could have been done was, whether, the State acted promptly or not. It seems to me, all evidence shows that they did act promptly.

DR. KARAN SINGH (Udhampur) : Is the Prime Minister going away? Can I have his attention just for five minutes because I am going to raise something very important. I am sorry to disturb his programme.

Mr. Speaker: Sir, the Janata Party claims credit for ending the Emergency. But may I submit with all responsibility that the Emergency is well and flourishing in Jammu and Kashmir today. There is the Public Safety Act which is more drastic than anything that the Government of India had during the Emergency and the authoritarianism also is of a more virulent nature than anything this nation has experienced. I would, therefore, like to ask the consciences of the Janata Party friends who came to power on a great anti-authoritarian and anti-Emergency platform as to why, when it comes to Jammu and Kashmir which is a part of this country, they are strangely silent on this issue.

The Home Minister has said that the Jammu situation, the regional imbalances, is a different problem. I am not going into that now except to say that a committee which was to have been set up has still not been set up although six weeks have elapsed. But this is a problem of civil rights and liberties. In Kashmir, on the 4th, 5th and 6th, April there was large-scale arson. Hundreds of houses of Indian citizens were burnt. In one incident, a whole village was wiped out and only the mosque was left against a Jamiat-e-Islami.

With regard to Mr. Bhutto, speaking in this House, on the eve of the day of Mr. Bhutto's hanging, I appealed against this and my hon. friend, Mr. Shafi Qureshi also appealed. But that does not mean that taking advantage of something that happened in another country, we can go around looting and burning Indian citizens' property. It is not a question

of the Jamiat-e-Islami or any other thing. If you want to take action against them, take action according to the law. But they are Indian citizens. Their children have been rendered homeless, women have been dishonoured and the hundreds of houses have been burned. Nobody turns a hair on what is happening in this country. It is indivisible. The freedom is indivisible.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU Doctor, heal thyself : (*Interruption*)

DR. KARAN SINGH : I am very sorry to say that the Home Minister has misled the House when he says that prompt and effective action was taken by the State Government to bring the situation under control. He has stated in his statement:

"The Chief Minister had ensured that appropriate measures were taken in time to restore public peace"

Is this a prompt and immediate action when hundreds of houses are burnt? All Saints Church in Srinagar is burnt. The police is standing nearby. The Church is reduced to dust. Nobody does anything. That should be inquired into.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : The minorities are being attacked.

DR. KARAN SINGH : Mr. Jyotirmoy Bose talks about minorities. Are the people of Kashmir not members of the minority community? Are the people whose houses are burnt not minorities? Everybody in Kashmir is a minority. Muslims are a minority because of the national scene. Hindus are a minority because they are a minority in the State. Don't try to draw any distinction. An Indian citizen is an Indian citizen. His life and honour must be protected. Journalists are treated in this manner. Mr. Shamim has been reduced to a wreck.

Some point was made with regard to my daughter. My daughter—I am sorry to use my personal example—married somebody from outside the State. According to the present dispensation, it is said that because she has married a non-State subject, she can no longer hold any property in the State. Is this a nation within a nation? If somebody's daughter in India marries an American, she can still retain her property in the rest of India. But if my daughter or Mr. Shafi Qureshi's daughter marries outside Jammu and Kashmir, they cannot hold property in the State. Is this one country or not one country?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : Is there a law like that?

DR. KARAN SINGH : Yes, What are you doing about it?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Is it a doing of the present regime?

DR. KARAN SINGH : They can undo it.

I have the following concrete points to be made. Will the Government of India try and ensure that the Public Safety Act which is worse than any MISA that has ever been passed is withdrawn? Will the Government use its political and moral influence? Will the Government on India try and persuade the State Government to set up a judicial inquiry to look into the events of 4th, 5th and 6th where hundreds of citizens were rendered homeless in the arson? Will the Government of India expedite the appointment of the Committee for Regional Imbalances? Fourthly, will the Government of India ensure that the Minorities Commission has jurisdiction in Jammu & Kashmir? Finally, will you please ensure that it is not a question of taking refuge behind technicalities, Mr. Patel? It is not a question of your saying that this has nothing to do with it. Freedom is indivisible. If freedom is threatened in Lakshadweep, if it is threatened in Andaman, if it is threatened in Kashmir, the whole freedom of the Indian people is in danger. What is the Government of India going to do to ensure this freedom?

SHRI H M PAJFL Freedom is indivisible. But the country has also got to be subject to the Constitution that it has given to itself. Subject to that, I will say now.

First of all my hon friend referred to the question of the Committee in regard to Jammu and Kashmir that had been promised. I think the hon Member must be aware of this. The Chairman for that Committee had been thought of and agreed to by everybody, approach was made to him; unfortunately, he was not in this country; even our Prime Minister took the trouble of getting in touch with him and trying to persuade him to accept it, but as he was abroad, that persuasion could not be effective, anyhow, he could not be persuaded. The next person who was acceptable to the Chief Minister, Jammu & Kashmir, and to whom we had no objection, another Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, was also approached; unfortunately he was also out of the country and it took time to get in touch with him, he also, unfortunately, for personal reasons, could not accept it. The third person suggested by the Chief Minister—in fact, we also suggested and it was acceptable to him was also approached, and he, for his own personal reasons, only recently said 'no'. (*Interruptions*). It may be that Mr. Saugata

Roy is very amused. All I wish to assure my hon. friend here is that we have been trying, but sometimes when we run up against this kind of chain of refusals, it takes time. Certainly it is not for want of efforts on the part of the Chief Minister, Jammu & Kashmir, or on our part.

He says that I have misled him. I do not think I have really misled this House in any way when I said that the action was prompt and effective. It was prompt and effective. The hundreds of houses that were burnt were in a village considerably away from Srinagar. (*Interruptions*) Of course, there also we have to try and maintain peace. But in villages, in rural areas, you are not, immediately, be able to act as effectively and as promptly as in a city.

DR. KARAN SINGH : Collusion of the ruling Party not the Janata Party.

SHRI H.M. PATEL : All of you seem to be so fond of the word "collusion". Either it has been misunderstood or some such thing has happened. Unlike the Leader of the Opposition, I have not got the dictionary with me at this moment ; otherwise, I would have read out the meaning of the word "collude" and "collusion".

I think, the other assurance that the hon. Member wants is about the Minorities Commission. That, again, has nothing to do with Call-Attention Notice. We can only act under the Constitution. Under our Constitution and so far as the particular special position which Jammu & Kashmir occupies and agreed to by every body is concerned, naturally it has to be with the consent of Jammu & Kashmir. The Minorities Commission will certainly go there as and when that may be permissible. The State consists of nothing but minorities according to my hon. friend. This is the peculiar situation. He says, even the majority is a minority and the minority, of course, is a minority, and so on. In this situation, I think, the Minorities Commission's task is clear. It has to go into the grievances of everybody in Jammu & Kashmir. But certainly, as and when that may be permissible under the Constitution, the Minorities Commission will proceed there.

I would also like to say—now I was charged of having misled the House. May I suggest that I did not but my hon. friend really did misled the House. He said that emergency still obtains in Jammu & Kashmir. I do not know it what sense. He has forgotten the situation.....

MR. SPEAKER : He refers to the Public Safety Act.

SHRI H.M. PATEL : Yes, I know—the Public Safety Act. What was the situation in the country during the emergency? How many hundreds and thousands were under arrest? There are only two persons detained under the Public Safety Act and also it provides for a judicial review which was never provided under the Emergency Act in this country. 104 persons were arrested during all these incidents for specific offences and only 2 persons were detained under the Public Safety Act. It is a slight exaggeration, if I may say so, to compare it with the days of emergency....

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Here I can produce all the documents. There are girls arrested and put in jail and they were released only two days ago. Hon'ble Home Minister said only two people were detained. Please find from your own source as to how many MLAs were harassed and put in jail and how many girls were arrested.

SHRI H.M. PATEL : If my hon. friend has any special information, I will certainly pursue that also and check it.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI (Anantnag) : I see no difference between what Mr. Patel is saying to-day and what his predecessor used to say—that law and order is a State subject. If law and order is a State subject, then why have a Home Ministry here in Delhi? Is he the Home Minister for the Union Territories and areas taken over by the President or the Home Minister for the whole of India? I say that whenever a Law and order situation arises in any State, it becomes the bounden duty of the Central Government to see that the lives and properties of the citizens of that State are protected. That is the job Mr. Patel, you have to do....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Under what authority?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : There are more number of people in the jails of West Bengal now.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : I know the trouble with My. Jyotirmoy Bosu. I am sorry to take a few minutes more.

Mr Jyotirmoy Bosu gets worried because Shri Jyoti Basu and Sheikh Abdullah were toying with the idea of more autonomy for the States.....

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA (Serampore) : What is wrong in it?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : My friend, Shri Shafi Qureshi and Dr. Karan Singh were party to the decision to impose emergency and their talking now of freedom and liberty is ridiculous
(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURFISHI : That honey-moon lasted only for a week because they broke away on—I do not know—what matter

SHRI VASANT SATHI (Akola) : Honey-moons are always short-lived

SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURFISHI : The trouble can again erupt in the Jammu area because no solution has been found for certain problems. We cannot close our eyes. There are certain legitimate demands of the Jammu people which have to be met. I do not say

MR. SPEAKER : That does not arise here

SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURFISHI : It is covered, Sir, because the whole trouble started from Poonch where an uncomplicated matter was made complicated by the inaction of the State Government and the callous attitude adopted by the State Chief Minister. As you know the trouble in Jammu originated in Poonch over the recruitment procedure but it took five lives, five precious lives of young students when the State Government came to realise that there were certain mistakes committed by the State Government. The Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir who unfortunately was a conspiracy under every bush and bred the agitation seemed to be a move to dislodge him from power. He chose the occasion to lead a cultural delegation of artists to various parts of the country to mislead the country that everything was quiet in Jammu. But he did not hear the firing by the Police in Jammu where so many innocent people were killed.

Now, Sir, what is happening? If some legitimate demands of Jammu people come, immediately, the Chief Minister says 'Don't do that because it will create certain conditions in Kashmir which will be favourable to Pakistan. He has been always using this for his own political purposes.

When he comes to Delhi for getting plan allocation, he says that Kashmir is part of India and our accession is irrevocable. When you ask him to account for the money which he got and which he sent, he says that let Rawalpindi Road be opened; Kashmir is disputed territory. This type of brow-beating and blackmailing cannot be tolerated. That is why I say that Mr. Patel, as Home Minister, has to play a very important role in this particular matter.

What happened in Kashmir? Centuries old peace and tranquillity in the villages has been destroyed. What is the fault of the Jamaat-i-Islami people? They had been contesting elections against me. Last time the Jamaat-i-Islami candidate got about 60,000 votes when he contested the election against me. Earlier to that he got 20,000 votes. They are free citizens of India. They have got the right to live in this country with dignity and honour. Mr. Patel in his statement stated that the State Government took very effective steps. When Kashmir was burning, Sheikh Abdullah was receiving Sarupia in Ludhiana. He was more interested in laying a foundation stone of some building. He was not bothered about what happened in Kashmir. He thinks that this is his personal property. He thinks that he is a Sultan of Kashmir. You should get rid of this feeling. Otherwise, if something happens to Kashmir, it can destroy the integrity of the country.

What happened on the 4th of April, Mob came up to the UN Observers place they destroyed the Church. Why? That was because Iqbal Masih was the person who was the executioner of Mr. Bhutto. He being a Christian the wrath on the Christians was exhibited in this manner by destroying the church. What is the fault of the Jamaat-i-Islami people? In Pakistan Jamaat is a partner in Gen. Zia's Government, they are part of the PNA. Strangely, enough many pro-Jamaat-i-Islami villages were destroyed and more than 3,000 houses had been destroyed in Kashmir. People had been taken out from the houses and their women had been dragged on the streets and thrown in the burning fire. You say that this is a state matter. Sir, nobody is a cure in Kashmir, I do not know what has happened to that State. If this state of affairs continues, I am sure, no tourists will go to Kashmir because nobody would like to go to the troubled State.

I have got here a press cutting which says:

Though the Valley of Kashmir presents a quiet picture of the violence touched off by Mr. Z.A. Bhutto's execution has left a trail of destruction especially in the southern part.

Over 90 villages in South Kashmir present a picture of utter desolation with over 800 houses and over 500 shops and cow sheds and kothars in ruins. The pro-Bhutto demonstrators armed with lathis, axes, iron rods and stones, pillaged and burnt houses of the poor as well as the rich people in villages considered to be the stronghold of the Jamaat-i-Islami.

The wrath of the pro-Bhutto demonstrators was centred round the villages inhabited by the supporters of the Jamaat-ul-Islami and Ahmadiya sects whose counterparts in Pakistan were alleged to have sided with Gen Zia-ul-Haqq in the execution of Mr. Bhutto. The subdivision of Shopian in South Kashmir along with parts of Kulgam and Pulwama tehsils are the worst affected parts of the valley.

In a number of villages visited by this correspondent, people, who week ago were used to a comfortable living, had been rendered homeless and like Nomads were waiting for some help to get on their feet again. Men, women, and children appeared to be dazed because of the unprecedented situation of violence and agony in the living memory".

The destruction caused in Reshmagu village in Shopian sub-division is enormous as in Arwan village. The people claimed that even women were not spared and were abused and beaten up. Parveen and Haja, whose heads were bandaged, said when their houses were attacked and set on fire "We tried to salvage some ornaments and valuables." On horse, a cow, two oxen and several hundred poultry birds were roasted alive in this village.

75-year-old teacher Noor Ahmad was done to death in Aurel village. When a big crowd attacked the village Noor Ahmad's two sons opened fire in which one person was killed and six others were injured. In Chitragam village an attempt was made to burn Mohammed Gannu alive. He was dragged by the demonstrators and after hard beating was thrown in flames of the burning houses."

This is what happened in Kashmir. Then, Sir, in Moolu village, I again quote

" 60 houses, 50 cow sheds and 60 kotahs were burnt by the pro-Bhutto demonstrators "

Mr. Patel says these are far flung areas. This village is only six miles from District Headquarters. You said that the State Government made necessary arrangements to protect the lives of the people.

Here is another statement which says :

"An official spokesman explained that violence was so much widespread in Shopian tehsil on April 5, that it could be controlled by the limited police force

available at the Shopian police station or small police posts in various areas of the sub-division."

"We only had 11 constables at the Shopian police station. When we tried to stop violence in the town, pro Bhutto fans not only attacked constables but also gheraoed the police station."

This is what you call ample and sufficient steps taken by the government.

Sir I have got a number of telegrams here. You have been to Jammu. Why don't you go to Kashmir. Thousands of people are living homeless. They have lost their hearts and homes. They are destitute now. I am sure you are scared of the Chief Minister there but you must learn one thing that though he is roaring yet his roars have become ineffective. You should show some respect to the people J & K. You are insulting them and ignoring them by ascending to the autocratic ways of the Chief Minister. I am sorry to use these words but hundreds of people Jamat-ul-Islami people have come here. Jamat-ul-Islami candidate fought against me in the elections. I do not agree with some of their policies but those people want to live with dignity and honour. They are not sick. Nobody can go back. Mr. Shammun Ahmad Shammun cannot go back. One of the MLAs was poisoned. These are the things which are happening in the State and the Home Minister says that this is a State matter.

MR SPI AKER Please now put your question.

SHRI MOHD SHAI KURESHI My first question is: Would you kindly appoint a judicial committee to go into the hole holo just which caused loss of hundreds of houses and lives in Kashmir? Sir, how many people have been arrested? Only 50 people have been arrested. The official reasons given is that the official are reluctant to arrest people because most of those who were leading these hooligans belonged to the ruling party. So, would you appoint a judicial committee and since you have been to Jammu would you take the trouble of going to Kashmir at least to show your face that we have a Home Minister of the Government of India who can take care of the pitiable faces there. CPI members have been arrested. It is all political. As the Chief Minister wants to take advantage of the situation he is not worried of the plight of the people there. You should pay a visit and take the people of Jammu and Kashmir into confidence otherwise you will be giving a feeling to the people there that they are orphans and nobody is going to look after their interests.

SHRI H M PATEL Sir, I have listened to the hon'ble Member. He has asked the particular question whether I would appoint a judicial committee to go into this. That is not in my hands. As regards the other point about my visiting Kashmir I will certainly go when I consider it will help. (interruptions)

The hon'ble Member, of course, has chosen to suggest that yesterday I was incompetent and today I am scared I am really scared.

AN HONBLE MEMBER Why are you scared?

SHRI H M PATEL I am connected with Project Tiger which concerns itself with protection of tigers. The hon'ble Member said that I ought not to have said that law and order is a State subject. I do not understand this. He, perhaps, does not know but law and order is a State subject. For instance Karnataka Government is in a position to say that we will not allow CRP to come in. Perfectly right. It is so. The State Governments have certain powers in so far as the maintenance of law and order is concerned. (interruptions).

Sir, he read out an interesting statement saying that violence was wide spread and there was not enough police. My hon'ble friend must be well aware that we cannot possibly dream of having police force in every village. Therefore, such situations will develop when it takes time before you can proceed to take action.

DR KARAN SINGH Why are you trying to defend the State Government? It is very unfortunate.

SHRI H M PATEL The hon Member is wrong. It is not my business to defend anybody, it is my business to put before the House the facts as they are.

DR KARAN SINGH You are giving them a clean chit.

SHRI H M PATEL Dr Karan Singh would like me to say things which he would approve of. (interruptions). It is my business to place before this House the facts as they have come to us. In fact, Dr Karan Singh complaint even of laws which he acquired when he was Sarthi Rayasat.

MR SPEAKER What could he do? He was only a constitutional head.

DR KARAN SINGH Yes, I was functioning as a constitutional head only.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: What was your age at that time?

SHRI VASANT SATHE He was doing that without following the Constitution.

MR SPEAKER Mr Patel he asked if you would visit the place. That is very important.

SHRI H M PATEL I have never any hesitation in visiting that place. I have already said that so far as visiting Kashmir is concerned, I shall be very happy to do so.

SHRI VASANT SATHE Why don't you go and have a holiday?

SHRI H M PATEL That is what he desires that I should do.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU He is welcome as a visitor but should not superimpose himself.

SHRI K GOPAI (Karui) The hon Member has completely forgotten when he talked in the last Lok Sabha and Congress Government was there in West Bengal.

MR SPEAKER Short memory is very advantageous to Members of Parliament.

SHRI H M PATEL The hon Member has raised two points and I have already explained the position.

12.54 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE THIRTEENTH REPORT

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA (Dilli Sadar) I beg to present the Thirteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIXTH REPORT

SHRI P V NARASIMHA RAO (Hanamkonda) I beg to present the hundred and twenty-sixth report of the Public Accounts Committee on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations of the Committee contained in their Eighteenth Report on Union Excise Duties.