

particular structure should be retained. All we need is not re-structuring in terms of size but in terms of devaluation of power. I do not want to go into details. I have already said about it in an elaborate manner. We have already worked out the devolution and delegation of powers in terms of administrative powers and financial powers. We have taken them to the divisional level and will be able to give good results.

Sir, reference has been made to arrears in demurrage amount. Someone pointed out that it is the big industrial houses that are accumulating large arrears. Unfortunately, our own experience shows that there are a number of public sector undertakings which have not been able to pay the demurrage amount. We have taken up this issue.

Sir, I will end my speech by making a cursory mention about the underground projects. Suggestion was made for taking up the under-ground project in Delhi, Bombay and Madras. I can tell you the experience of Calcutta. We have already spent over Rs. 31 crores and the total expenditure will be Rs. 230 crores. As such, in Calcutta we will go ahead. Already Bombay Corporation has said that they do not want the white elephant of underground project as that will destroy all their small schemes. Therefore, I can assure my friends from Delhi not to hanker after the mirage of under-ground schemes. It is better to have rationalised surface transport which will be able to get better results.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is the second stage of the debate. Still we have to deal with supplementary demands and excess grants and appropriation bills and, as such, I will not take more time of the House. In conclusion I want to assure all the Members that all the individual complaints that have been made on the Floor of the House will be replied to in detail before the end of the Budget Session showing our response to the concrete suggestions that have been made.

MR. SPEAKER : Before we proceed further, I want to call the Home Minister to make a statement.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Sir, I rise on a point of order. The statement of the Home Minister is about the incident in the vicinity of the U.P. legislature.

MR. SPEAKER : It is about Mizoram.

17.30 hrs.

STATEMENT RE MIZORAM

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH) : Sir, the House is aware that in pursuance of a desire expressed by Shri Laldenga, the President of the Mizo National Front, that he was anxious to assist in the process of complete restoration of peace in the Union Territory of Mizoram, the Government of India has been having continuous discussions with him during the last two years. A delegation of the Mizo National Front led by Shri Laldenga entered into an agreement on February 18, 1976 with the representatives of the Government of India, wherein they clearly acknowledged that Mizoram is an integral part of India and conveyed to the Government of India their decision to accept the settlement of the problem in Mizoram within the framework of the Constitution of India. The delegation requested the Government of India to provide them facilities to meet their other colleagues to obtain a clear mandate and to get full authority to make an early and final settlement. The delegation further agreed that the step shall be taken forthwith to collect all underground personnel with their arms and ammunition inside mutually agreed camps and to hand over the arms and ammunition, so collected, within one month of the delegation meeting their other colleagues. Accordingly, a meeting was held in March, 1976. As a result of the meeting, Shri Laldenga stood fully authorised to implement the agreement. But contrary to expectations, he did not take any practical steps in that regard. He was also insisting that his agreement should be kept secret.

When the Government expressed their unhappiness over the delay, he agreed to the issue of a joint press communique on July 1, 1976, reiterating the salient features of the February agreement. But even thereafter without taking any steps to implement the agreement, he started indulging in clandestine propaganda to the contrary and no progress was made.

When the present Government took office, one of the first tasks they addressed themselves to was the problem of Mizoram. At Laldenga's request a dialogue was resumed with him at official level. He was also given opportunity to meet the Prime Minister twice. He has also met me several times. During our discussions with Laldenga we impressed upon him the urgent need to bring out underground arms and ammunition and stop insurgent

all other illegal activities. It was also impressed upon him that our Constitution and our democratic traditions and processes provide ample room for fulfilling all legitimate aspirations. It was also made clear to him that cessation of insurgent and other illegal activities cannot under any circumstances be made conditional upon the settlement of other issues. He was, therefore, advised that he should initiate immediate steps to bring the underground personnel into the camps as agreed to earlier, and to hand over unlawful arms and ammunition to the Government. But again nothing happened.

When Laldenga was asked about the delay, he wrote to me on 14th November stating that he was determined to restore peace in Mizoram and that he had prepared a definite-time-bound programme to bring out unconditionally underground arms straightaway and to complete the process by 26th January 1978.

Instead of taking any steps to implement the assurances he had given, we have information that Shri Laldenga again started a process of certain creating confusion in the minds of his colleagues. He started making fresh suggestions that he should be installed as the head of an interim Government in Mizoram, without holding any elections. It was pointed out to him that such an unconstitutional and undemocratic course of action was not possible. He seemed to agree and wrote to me on 25th February 1978 reiterating his earlier assurances, and went on to say that he was conveying his considered opinion to his colleagues that the time had come to implement the agreement and that the process should be completed by 31st March, 1978. He even issued a press statement on the lines of his letter to me which the hon. Members must have read in the press only recently. But he found that he did not send any message on those lines. Instead he sent contrary instructions to prevent any steps being taken by his colleagues to implement the agreement.

It became obvious that Laldenga was only interested in delay for his own reasons.

In the circumstances we have come to the conclusion that no useful purpose would be served by continuing any talks with him. We sincerely hope that the people of Mizoram would strengthen the hands of all those who wish to give up the futile resort to violence and terrorism. We will also pursue all our efforts not only to bring about complete normalcy but also to meet all the legitimate political aspirations of the people of Mizoram through established constitutional means.

27.25 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 1978-79—Contd.

MR. SPEAKER : Unless any Member wants to press his cut motions, I will put all of them together.

PROF. P.G. MAVALANKAR (Gandhinagar) : Sir, I request you to put my cut motions Nos. 2 and 3 separately.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall put cut motions Nos. 2 and 3 to the vote of the House.

Cut motions Nos. 2 and 3 were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put all other cut motions to the vote of the House.

Cut motions Nos. 1, 4 to 18, 79 to 88, 150, 151, 154, 157, to 174, 183 to 196, 199, 200, 295 to 300, 311 and 327 to 333 were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1978-79 to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to defray the charges that will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1979, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 1 to 11, 11A and 12 to 22."

The motion was adopted.