

[Dr. Subramaniam Swamy]

when we raised questions on the Government Business, we did say that there should be a discussion on this Report.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER. You give a Motion and it will be considered.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA (Delhi Sadar): A motion has already been given. We want a discussion on it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is for the speaker to consider it.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Will you kindly convey our feelings to the Speaker?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: AT the moment, you are the Speaker. You may allow a discussion on it. Let us have a discussion on the Report.

12.58 hrs.

STATEMENT BY HOME MINISTER
RE. HIS RECENT VISIT TO JAMMU
AND KASHMIR STATE

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI H. M. PATEL): Sir, the Hon'ble Members would remember that on the 19th April, 1979 there was a discussion in this House on a Calling Attention Motion regarding the recent large-scale violence and arson in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. During the discussion, a suggestion was made that I should pay a visit to the affected areas to acquaint myself with the various incidents that took place on the 4th, 5th and 6th April, 1979. Accordingly, I visited the Srinagar and the surrounding areas on the 22nd April, 1979. The Chief Minister of the State, whose headquarters at the moment are at Jammu, also arranged to accompany me when I visited the

places in Srinagar which had suffered from mob violence as also the villages in which varying number of houses were almost totally gutted.

In Srinagar town, I saw the various buildings which had been completely or virtually completely gutted, namely, the Srinagar Club, the Office of the United Nations Military Observers' Camp, the residence of the Director of Doordarshan next door, and the All Saints Church and the buildings in its compound. These had been apparently selected as the targets of attack and arson by the mob. Immediately afterwards, I visited some of the villages in which residential houses, mainly of Jamait-e-Islami and Ahmediya were burnt down. The villages I went to were, Hassanpur, Sicharoo, Darigaon-Devsar and Arwani in Anantnag District. In some villages, large number of trees in orchards, belonging to members of these groups were cut. It was clear that in all these villages, the burning and other damage was caused in a selective manner, the attack being directed towards the followers of Jamait-e-Islami, and persons belonging to the Ahmediya sect. According to the information given to me by the State Government more than 900 residential and non-residential structures were burnt; 3 mosques and one church were damaged by fire; about 800 shops, cow-sheds and stores were damaged. About 200 houses were looted. Five lives were lost in Police firings; while three persons died in clashes between the villagers and the riotous mobs. Two persons died as a result of drowning in the melee.

Later in the evening, I received tations representing Jamati-Islami, Jamait-ul-Tulba, Jamait-e-Ahmediya, the Christian Residents of Srinagar, Congress (I), Awami Action Committee and the State Janata Party. Almost all of them emphasised the need for immediate steps for rehabilitation of the affected persons and families; punishment to the guilty; and adequate preventive steps so that such

incidents do not occur in the future. I also discussed the situation with the Chief Minister as also State Government officials.

13 hrs.

Having been the strong reaction of the people in Srinagar in particular early in 1978 when the late Shri Bhutto was found guilty by the Lahore High Court, the State authorities had expected that there would be repercussions if and when Shri Z. A. Bhutto came to be hanged. They, however, did not expect that the reaction would be so violent and widespread. Nor did they think that it would be so selective against the specific groups which became victims of mob fury. As soon as the State authorities realised the magnitude of the trouble, they took all possible steps to bring the situation under control. But valuable time was lost in getting together the requisite additional police force and units of the Border Security Force as well as the Army. The situation was brought completely under control by 7th April. The State Government arrested a number of persons suspected to be responsible for the violence and arson. Quite a few of those who were believed to have led the mobs are said still to be free. And people in the villages I visited resented the fact that many of those arrested were released almost immediately on bail.

The State Government and other non-official voluntary agencies like the Red Cross have distributed blankets, clothes and grains in the affected villages. The State Government is arranging to sanction loans for timber and G. C. sheets to the persons whose houses have been damaged or burnt. It has now approached the Central Government for special assistance for the rehabilitation of the victims and this request will, of course, be sympathetically and speedily considered.

While this is the bare narration of what happened and what had been done to restore normalcy, I must also state that it is my impression that considerable tension still prevails and certain groups told me that they felt insecure and uncertain of the future. For this reason and also because of some aspects of all that occurred, I feel that it would be in the interest of all concerned to subject the occurrence of the 4th and 5th April to a close scrutiny.

The Chief Minister of the State agrees with this view and intends to have a thorough enquiry made to find out why the authorities were not able to anticipate its nature or take appropriate preventive steps or contain the violence more effectively when it did occur. The Chief Minister is also determined to see that prompt and deterrent action is taken against the culprits so as to create a sense of confidence amongst the affected groups of people. I have assured the Chief Minister that the Central Government will give all necessary assistance to the State Government to enable them to take all measures necessary to restore confidence among all sections of the people and to ensure that such disturbances do not occur.

DR KARAN SINGH (Udhampur): May I seek one clarification? In view of the fact that there is a widespread feeling that the ruling party which the Chief Minister heads, the National Conference, was, in fact, largely responsible for instigating and leading these mobs, will the hon. Home Minister please assure the House that whatever inquiry takes place is not under the auspices of that very Government and that Party but it is an impartial and judicial inquiry? Otherwise, it will not be able to serve the purpose of restoring public confidence.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I do not think I am in a position to tell him anything on this. My point really would be this. I have said that an inquiry

[Shri H M Patel]

would be made to ascertain the facts. The hon Member's statement that there is a widespread feeling that the National Conference was responsible for this, I think, is a statement which has not been acceptable

13.05 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA). With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing 30th April, 1979, will consist of:—

(1) Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.

(2) Consideration and passing of the Aligarh Muslim University (Amendment) Bill, 1978.

(3) Consideration of amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Special Courts Bill, 1979

(4) Consideration and passing of:—

(i) The Inter-State migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service Bill, 1979.

(ii) The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 1979

SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN (Alleppey): With your permission, Sir, I would request the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to find some time to discuss the increasing road accidents in Delhi.

Sir, road accidents in Delhi are increasing alarmingly

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER Let us not go into the subject.

SHRI V M SUDHEERAN: This is a very important subject. The hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs stated in the Rajya Sabha on 19th April 1978 that nearly 730 persons were killed and 4188 persons injured in road accidents in the Delhi during the period July 1, 1977 to June 30, 1978. On the same day one of our colleague became a victim of negligent and rash driving—Mr Parmanand Govindjiwala who died and the other friend, Shri Mohan Jain is still suffering. Sir, DTC operation is found to be totally unsafe

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We cannot discuss DTC now. You are only wanting time for a discussion.

SHRI V M SUDHEERAN Day before yesterday, Mr. P. S. Narayan, a DAVP official died because of careless driving. He was about to board the bus. Everyday 3 or 4 persons die on account of road accidents. Even to-day three incidents have been reported. I appeal to the hon Minister to find some time to discuss the functioning of the DTC.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil) We could not discuss the Demands of either the Shipping and Transport Ministry or the Communications Ministry. DTC comes under Shipping and Transport. There is an alarming situation in Delhi because of the series of accidents. I know the hon Minister is aware of the fact and I only wish that a discussion takes place to support the Minister to take all measures to tone up the DTC in the interests of safety of the passengers but also to reform the whole thing and also see that the precious lives of the people are protected.

The other thing is the Communications Ministry. The Communications Ministry was not discussed on the floor of the Ministry for the last 7 years. The last discussion, if I remember correctly, was when Mr. Bahuguna was the Minister. It is one of the vital subjects concerning the citizens of the