vide protests, the South African authorities have executed to-day the 22-year-old South African patriot and freedom fighter, Solomon Mahlangu. When we had received the news of the impending execution, we had condomned the action in the strongest terms and our Foreign Minister sent a message on behalf of the Government and the people of India to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to use his personal influence and that of the world organization to prevent this horrible act.

While expresisng our shock and condemnation, we are convinced that as the intransigence of the Pretoria regime grows, so will be determination of the South African freedom fighters to fight this intransigence, to end *apartheid and* to establish majority rule, be strengthened. The case of Solomon Mahlangu gives us further irrefutable evidence that the continuance of the minority regime in Pretoria is based on rule of oppression and brutal exploitation of the majority of the people in South Africa. I should like to take this opportunity, to once again express the total commitment of the Government and the peope of India with the heroic freedom struggle of the people of South Africa to end the inhuman system of *apartheid* and achieve their long-cherished freedom.

13.24 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

PROF. SAMAR GUHA: I think the House will express its indignation at this.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: We from this side join the Government in condemning this. We are willing to stand in silence.

PROF. SAMAR GUHA: We should stand in silence for a minute.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I think the whole House is shocked at the manner in which the South African Government has acted. The fact that they have disregarded all norms of civilised behaviour in dealing with freedom fighters is most condemnable and I think all of us join in condemning it.

13.26 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1979-80—*Contd.*

(i) MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS—*Contd.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up further discussion on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Home Minister may continue his speech.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI H. M. PATEL): Sir, I dealt with some points day before yesterday. I will now continue to deal with some of the other points that had been raised.

Many hon. members accused the Government of being complacent over the law and order situation in the country. Some were charitable enough to accuse us of ignorance. I would refute all such allegations, whenever references are made to law and order, what is in mind is one or more of the following types of occurrences: Increasing crime or incidents of disorder; lawlessness either on the labour front or in the universities and colleges or in simple public order situation; the manner in which the public order situations are handled by the police and possibly a nostalgic regret that there is no longer the same respect or fear of authority. Some members of the House, of course, fortunately did articulate the other side of the picture and I am grateful to them. All sections of the House are fully aware of the constitutional position in this respect. Police and public order are State

[Shri H. M. Patel]

subjects. Only the States are competent to take appropriate executive action in respect of these subjects. All sections of the House are fully aware of this and are no doubt jealous also of protecting the States' autonomy. And yet, when this is pointed out, my hon. friends do not like it. They seldom like the spokesman of the Centre to emphasise this aspect and immediately seek to utilise the opportunity to accuse the Central Government of shirking its responsibility. The fact, of course, is that subject to the Constitution and the realities of the situation, we in the Government in the Home Ministry try our utmost to impress upon the States the need to tackle these situations in an effective manner. We provide whatever assistance the States may need or ask of us to be able to cope with such situation and use our good offices if these can help to defuse the situation and to initiate corrective remedies.

There are three basic issues which have to engage our common attention in this regard. In the first place, given the constitutional and political realities in the country, it is high time we evolve a national consensus as to how the different aspects of law and order ought to be discussed, evaluated and wherever necessary corrective solutions found. Law and order can no longer remain an issue of differences between parties, because the parties which are in the opposition in Parliament are facing the same problem in some States as the ruling party is facing it in some other States. In order not to induce further controversy in the matter, I would not like to give my own assessment of the situation in States where the opposition parties are responsible for governance. But unless we evolve some consensus at the political level, the law enforcement agencies, irrespective of the political complexion of the Government in power will feel handicapped in discharging their duties. I propose to address myself seriously to evolve such a consensus.

The second issue relates to the problem of improving the resources of the law and order agencies—manpower as well as other resources such as transport, mobility, communication, etc., to ensure that they react quickly to these law and order situations and what is more important take adequate steps to prevent particularly those classes of offences, which, better vigilance and Police presence, could keep under control. The measures we have taken in this regard have been set out in detail in our Annual Report. I also intend to review in appropriate forums the position in different States with the State Governments themselves. Adopting a rhetorical or a hyper-critical attitude towards these questions, will not help the States to deal with these types of problems. My effort will be to find solutions to the difficulties that they face.

The third issue relates to the dissatisfaction over specific instances which articulates public opinion over the manner in which the Police and the Governmental agencies have handled problems faced by them. The National Police Commission has addressed itself to the problems of adequate arrangements for enquiries into complaints against the Police and the Law enforcement agencies. These complaints can be against specific individuals alleging conduct unworthy of the trust and power vested in them. The more serious complaint is when Police seek to use force to maintain peace, as well as complaints relating to their failure to take adequate preventive and other measures in time to prevent ugly situations from developing. This aspect of the matter is one which I would like to discuss with all concerned in the light of the National Police Commission's recommendations with a view to evolving a national consensus in the matter.

It was gratifying to find that along with the criticism of the Police and

the Government, deep concern was also expressed over the unsatisfactory living conditions of the Police force in the country. A number of valuable suggestions have been made in this regard.

We have been giving substantial assistance to the State Governments to improve the quality of the force and the living and working conditions of the policemen. About Rs. 78 crores have been advanced by us so far for improving housing for the policemen. A further amount of Rs. 45 crores for the same purpose is provided in the current Five Year Plan. On our suggestion, the Seventh Finance Commission has also allocated about Rs. 83 crores for police housing in various States. As regards improving their service conditions, we will certainly examine very carefully and sympathetically the recommendations that would be made by the National Police Commission.

We are also allotting substantial funds for the modernisation of the Police Force and have given so far Rs. 51 crores for this purpose. For qualitative improvement of the force, a fresh review is taken of the training facilities available. A number of seminars and training courses are also being organised in the Central Training Institutes to re-orient the Police Officers and men to the democratic concepts of administration. Efforts are constantly being made to improve investigation techniques by use of advanced scientific aids and equipment

With these measures, the law and order situation should show considerable improvement. That certainly is our confident hope.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): What about demoralisation in the Police force?

AN HON. MEMBER: There is no demoralisation.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Action has been taken against Mr. Bhinder and others. What have you to say about that?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: If the suggestion is that action should not be taken against those against whom there is sufficient or *prima facie* evidence because it is likely to lead to demoralisation, I am afraid, nothing can be done. But certainly, in no case, you will find, will action be taken without there being adequate satisfactory *prima facie* evidence.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): What about general law and order situation?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I shall come to your observations a little later. If you are in a hurry, I shal deal with them now.

My special appeal was that law and order matters are really of great importance. These are not matters with which we should deal on party basis. It is much better if we try to arrive at some standards or methods on these matters. This is all I am saying.

Government shares the anxiety expressed by many hon. Members about the crime situation in the capital particularly crimes regarding property and thefts, mentioned by some of the hon. Members. The crime situation in the capital is under our constant review and measures are taken from time to time to curb the crimes. I need hardly say that I am myself certainly perturbed. A new police district, 8 new police stations and 13 new police outposts have been created. In more vulnerable areas,

[Shri H. M. Patel]

special measures like intensive patrolling, and externment of undesirable elements are constantly being adopted. I have also held a meeting with the Members of Parliament from Delhi quite recently, only on the 16th of last month. The suggestions made by the Members in this House and the other House will be examined expeditiously, and I can assure the hon. Members that necessary steps would be taken on an urgent basis. I may also assure the House that it is my intention to keep myself in touch with the hon. Members who represent Delhi in this House and in the other House.

The hon. Member from Andaman and Nicobar Islands is somewhat anxious that whatever observations he has made should be studied and should be mentioned here. Of course, he is somewhat obsessed by the concept of emergency. He had lived in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, where perhaps there was no serious emergency situation and therefore, he did not experience the emergncy himself. But nevertheless. I would like to tell him...

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Although a Commission enquired into the conduct of a particular person and even though the previous Home Minister wrote in the file in April 1978 that he should be transferred, he is still continuing in the same post.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: We are deeply considering measures to democratise the administrative set up. I am taking up only matters which he should really be more concerned with we should all be more concerned with. The Government has decided to constitute a Pradesh Council, on the same pattern as was adopted in the case of Arunachal. The Council will consist of 26 members, 21 to be elected, 3 to be ex-offico and 2 to be nominated. If no woman member is elected out of the 21, one will be nominated. The Council will discuss and make recommendations on general policy matters concerning administration, development, planning and finance and legislation to be undertaken. From amongst the members of the Council, 3 will be appointed as Councillors, two from the Andaman group of islands and one from the Nicobar group of islands. These Councillors will assist the Administrator in the discharge of his functions.

We are also anxious that in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep arrangements should be made to secure the increasing participation of the people in the administration. Since this will be done for the first time, it would be necessary to formulate our proposals in consultation with local public opinion. While this may take some time, we will do our utmost to ensure that it is done with the utmost expedition.

The hon. Member, Shri Sathe, referred to Shri Balraj Trikha. I have only this to say once again, that he need not have attributed any motives to the Government. I will tell him the facts as they are. In fact, I have already communicated the facts in a letter which I addressed to him in response to his observations under rule 377.

The Authority was set up by the Manipur Government under section 11 of the Commisions of Inquiry Act, after obtaining the concurrence of the Central Government, as is required under section 3 of the Act. As at that time the Shah Commission was in existence, out of the three terms of reference to the Authority, it was required to submit reports to the Shah Commission only with reference to complaints which had been sent by the Shah Commission for inquiry. With regard to the complaints received by it, or received through the State Governments, it was required to submit the report to the State Government, and not to the Shah Commission. When the term of the Shah Commission was over, we had told the State Government that there

would be no objection if the State Government were to give short extention to the Authorities to enable them to complete the cases already taken up for public hearing, as it would have meant waste of effort and time if such partly-heard complaints were to be enquired into afresh through the normal administrative chanels. ...and to have the remaining complaints inquired into by the administrative machinery. The advice of the Ministry of Law was that the State Governments were competent to give an extension to the authorities as these were the creatures of the State Governments and the term of the Shah Commission being over, concurrence of the Central Government would not be required. We understand that the Manipur Government has extended the term of the authority by six months, beyond 31st of March 1979.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): But is it not a fact, as I stated they have stated in the last extension that this was the last instalment of extension up to 31st March? Having said so, it is now further extended by six months?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I entirely agree with you and that is why I have quoted the legal position for you. I also pointed out to them: "Why is it when you said this, you are extending?" I asked this question. But I have no authority to prevent them from extending.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What is your advice?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: My advice to them is, having said that this was the final extension, they should have stuck to that.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: But then, when they are going on extending, what is the motive?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: Unless you tell me that I should suspend the State Government and impose Presidents rule... (*Interruptions*).

I have already mentioned what advice I would give. I say nothing more on that.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: One more point also on which I wanted clarification and that is, here is an authority under the Commissions of Inquiry Act. Can it start contempt proceedings on its own and issue warrants? What is the Government doing about this? At least you can advise them.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: We give whatever advice we can and wherever it is called for and I have already explained the position fully.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: In this case, Mr. Home Minister, try to be fair. The ex-Prime Minister is involved, contempt notice is given and you cannot just be a by stander and say: 'Have those persons hauled up in Manipur". You must be considerate and see that at least justice is done and there is no prosecution.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: The hon. Member seems unwilling to listen to what I have said. I have said that I am in substantial agreement with him as to what they should have done. Nevertheless, if the State Government chooses to act differently, I have no power under this Act. Therefore, I can only advise.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: You give only your advice. That will be enough.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: Now, I must come, Sir, to Scheduled Castes. A number of Members spoke with regard to the Scheduled Castes. I would like to say that even though atrocities on Harijans is a subject within the purview of the State Governments, we keep a close watch on the situation in view of our special responsibility towards the Scheduled Castes. We have made various suggestions to the

[Shri H. M. Patel]

State Governments—again you can see our helplessness comes at a point—from time to time for strengthening the machinery, for prompt investigation of the offenecs and ensuring quick disposal of such cases in the courts and to try for deterrent punishment in serious cases. As advised by us, most of the important States have already set up special police investigation cells at the headquarters and at regional levels. A State level Committee presided over by the Chief Minister or the Minister in charge of Harijan welfare reviews the situation from time to time and takes appropriate messures. In the Home Ministry itself a special monitoring mechanism has been set up. The Ministry's officials, my colleagues, the Ministers of State, and I myself visit wherever possible various States from time to time to satisfy ourselves that everything possible is being done and that suggestions made by us are being implemented. But it is economic improvement, if I may say so, that is most essential for really remedying this situation, and my colleague, the Minister of State, Shri Mandal, has explained the steps initiated by us for more effective and speedy implementation of various programmes for the economic development of the scheduled castes. We have also almost finalised the steps to be taken to eradicate the evil of untouchability. We hope that with this three-pronged attack—speedier and effective implementation of the economic development programmes, reducing the number of atrocities and the time-bound programme for the eradication of untouchability—will enable us to tackle the problem satisfactorily as quickly as possible. Government is aware that the cases of atrocities on the scheduled cases are a painful reminder to us of the fact that we have not been as successful as we ought to have been, and we are endeavouring to be successful in the discharge of the duty we owe to these people. I can only promise the hon. Members that our efforts will continue unremittingly and with your co-operation also, I hope we shall succeed.

I would like also to inform the hon. Members, however briefly, of our deep concern for the scheduled tribes and what we are trying to do to accelerate the pace of development of tribal areas. While I would not like to go into the details of the technique of tribal sub-plans and other development projects which are now being introduced and implemented, I would like to give you an idea of the plan outlay in the States and at the Centre for the development of the scheduled tribes. The total outlay has been increased from Rs. 210 crores in 1976-77 to Rs. 414 crores in 1978-79. During the current financial year also this trend will be maintained. Sectoral outlays of the Central Ministries and Departments will also have a component for the development of scheduled tribes and scheduled areas. A new direction is proposed to be given in the plans for development of forests, whose conservation is so essential to continuing prosperity of our country, so that substantial benefits accrue to the Adivasis in the forest areas. Particular attention will also be

paid to new outlays required for the economic rehabilitation and welfare of the tribals likely to be affected or uprooted by the establishment of developmental projects in tribal areas.

Several hon. Members gave expression to their concern over the problem of alienation of lands belonging to the tribals. Most of the States have adequate laws on this subject. It is the enforcement of these laws which has been unsatisfactory and indeed far from adequate. It is an acute awareness, I may say, of this aspect which made us urge the Seventh Finance Commission to set apart allocations for improving the standards of administration in tribal areas. The House will be glad to know that an amount of Rs. 43 crores has been set apart for this purpose. The problem is particularly acute and complex in some States, and it will be our endeavour to see that in such areas time-bound programmes are drawn up to provide adequate and appropriate remedial measures.

SHRI A. K. ROY (Dhanbad): Are you aware that in some parts of Bihar some trees, very useful to the Adivasis, like the Sal are being cut and replaced by Shagwan and others? Instead of selective cutting they are making wholesale cutting area-wise, disturbing the ecological and social balance?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I think either he or some other hon. Member did draw attention to this fact and therefore I have not referred specifically to any States where this problem exists, but we are aware of this and we shall do whatever we can to see that the tribal interests are maintained and that the forests also are developed without disturbing their prosperity. Forest development is also essential, and it wil be also in their interests. This particular point that you have mentioned has been brought to our notice.

The question of the reservation for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes was referred to by many hon. Members, and some hon. Members said that it was a hoax. I would like to assure both that hon. Member as well as others that this reservation is very far from being a hoax. The reservation for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes was originally fixed at 12.5 per cent for the Scheduled Castes and 5 per cent for the Scheduled Tribes. This was revised upward to 15 per cent and 7.5 per cent in 1970. Originally, the reservation rules had mainly provided the prescribed percentages at the initial point of recruitment and promotion. Reservation at the promotion stage was introduced only later on at different points of time from 1957 to 1974. Within the frame-work of the reservation rules, as they have existed from time to time, serious efforts have been made by the Government to fill in the reserved vacancies by candidates from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Thus, the total number of posts in Class I to Class III increased from 11 lakhs to 18 lakhs between 1965 and 1978, that is to say, by 7 lakhs. Correspondingly the number of Schedul-

[Shri H. M. Patel]

ed Caste employees increased from 97,000 to about 2,14,000. You would see that the percentage is well maintained more than adequately. In the new posts created, the over-all representation of Scheduled Castes has been according to the percentages reserved for them. The difficulty is this, that at an earlier stage, certain advantages did not accrue and the recruitment was slower. Since we have started, for sometime past, we have been trying to maintain and we are able to maintain now in the subsequent...

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Durgapur): The figure you have given is only for the Central Government or it includes the State Governments also.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: Of course, it is with regard to the Central Government.

SHRI BHAGAT RAM: Does it include sweepers or not?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: The same policy is being followed by the State Governments and we are exhorting the State Governments to make all efforts to comply with these provisions.

In the new posts created the overall representation of Scheduled Castes has been according to the percentage reserved for them. The same is the position in respect of the Scheduled Tribes. The Government of India have recognised that there are some gaps in certain categories, mainly in Group 'A' and 'B'. A high-powered Committee..

SHRI PURNANARAYAN SINHA (Tezpur): In Group 'C' and Group 'D' also.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: When I say mainly, Groups 'C' and 'D' are also included in that.

SHRI PURNANARAYAN SINHA A considerable backlog in the employment of Scheduled Tribes is there both at the Centre and in the States. I want you to comment on this.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: Kindly listen to the facts I am stating. These are neither attempts at exaggeration nor at hiding anything. I am giving you the facts. I am admitting that there are gaps. I am trying to explain why certain gaps will continue to remain. From the facts, you would see that a creditable effort has been made.

A high-powered Committee under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister reviewed the whole matter in detail on the 28th of October, 1978 and desired that the deficiency in the actual representation of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the various services and grades under the Government should be made up through a phased programme within a period of three to five years and all necessary steps be taken for this purpose. In pursuance of this decision, a Committee of Senior Secretaries under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary has been set up to formulate concrete steps and measures that should be taken to comply with this direction of the Prime Minister. Further action will be taken after the recommendations of the Committee are received.

DR. KARAN SINGH (Udhampur): I had suggested that there should be separate Commissions and Commissioners for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, because of the special problems of these two backward communities. Has the hon. Minister applied his mind to this suggestion?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I certainly did not apply my mind to this suggestion since he made his speech. But I will certainly consider his suggestion. It is too much of him to expect me to reply to that now.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH (Hoshangabad): There is a connected issue regarding the constitutional provision for the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the legislatures of the States and at the Centre. It is due to expire

early next year, that is, January, 1980. Has the Government given any active consideration to that matter also?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: The Government will consider this matter.

Then, a reference was made to the Maharashtra-Karnataka differences over Belgaum and the boundary matters. Mr. Kamath generally referred to that matter. The suggestion made by Shri Kamath was about State Council's. We will consider it. I do not think, through that, we will be able to find a solution to the problem which has been so intractable for the last 29 years.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: I did not say, the State Councils. I said, inter-State Councils under article 263 of the Constitution.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I meant inter-State Coucils. The inter-State Councils will not find it so easy to do it. We are not averse to it. We will certainly examine it. It is a complex question and it has not been possible to evolve any enduring understanding over this issue during the last two decades. It would not be appropriate for me to go into the rights and the wrongs of the differences. We have taken a careful note of the suggestions made on this subject. Since any enduring solution will have to be evolved only in consultation with the Governments of Karnataka and Maharashtra, we have to consider carefully as to how this could be brought about. We will spare no efforts in assisting the two State Governments in arriving at a reasonable solution.

AN HON. MEMBER: The same reply for the last 20 years.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: If he can suggest any other reply that I can give, I will be very happy.

The representatives of the Ekikaran Samiti met me very recently in this connection and I have assured them of my active and lively interest in finding a solution.

The north-east area has been witnessing another type of border dispute to which also a reference was made by some hon. Members. When the new States were formed out of the old State of Assam, the inter-State boundaries were defined in the Acts creating them. But in some cases, these boundaries have still to be demarcated on the ground or where they have been so demarcated, there are at times disputes regarding the actual location of the boundary pillars. These types of disputes are being rectified by expediting the surveying procedure. But in some cases, the disputes are more difficult. As to when a State claims some area which constitutionally falls in the adjoining State, here also our stand has been that these differences have to be and can only be resolved on the basis of mutually acceptable arrangement between the States concerned. We are continuing our efforts to bring the States together and prevail upon them to resolve the disputes in a cordial atmosphere. I have held meetings with the Chief Ministers in the area and have again convened a series of meetings with them between 10th and 12th of this month.

Then, there was also a reference to the influx of Bangladesh nationals. . .

SHRI PURNANARAYAN SINHA: A serious matter.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: It is undoubtedly a serious matter. It is also a difficult matter. Vigorous efforts are continuing to be made to check infiltration in the north-eastern region from Bangladesh. Patrolling along the international border has been intensified and strict vigilance is being maintained along the border. . .

SHRI PURNANARAYAN SINHA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will hand over the border with Bangladesh to the army?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I am not going to do anything of the kind. The BSF and other forces are there; the para military force is there. . .

SHRI PURNANARAYAN SINHA: They have proved useless.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: He may consider so. The whole difficulty is that the hon. Member wishes to ignore the realities of the situation.

SHRI PURNANARAYAN SINHA: Even the Foreign Minister, Mr. Vajpayee, agrees.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I will certainly consult Mr. Vajpayee as to why he agrees.

14.00 hrs.

The main diffculty, however, is the identification of infiltrators as they are ethnically indistinguishable on both the sides of the border. I will be in touch with the Chief Ministers of the region with a view to devising ways and means to enforce stricter measures.

There was also a reference to freedom fighters. In the case of ex-Andaman political prisoners who had undergone imprisonment for a period of not less than 5 years, it was decided in November 1978 to sanction a uniform enhanced pension of Rs. 500 per month with effect from 1-10-1978.

In the case of other freedom fighters, 1.18 lakhs of whom have been granted pension, a decision had already been taken to liberalise the pension scheme and enhance the amount to Rs. 200/- p.m. without deducting the amount of pension granted by a State Government. Similarly, where both husband and wife are eligible for such a pension, each is now to be given a pension of Rs. 200/- per month instead of a combined pension of Rs. 300/- p.m. for the couple. We hope to complete the work of issuing fresh sanctions on this basis within the next four to six months. In order to remove any feeling of uncertainty and insecurity...

PROF. SHIBBAN LAL SAKSENA: (Maharajganj): Rs. 200/- is too small an amount; you must increase it to Rs. 300/- Will you consider the demand for Rs. 300/- in view of the dearness?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I am afraid it is not possible to treat them as Government servants. This is an ex-gratia measure, and the finances of the country have also to be borne in mind. I am afraid pensions are pensions: very rarely have pensions been raised with reference to dearness.

PROF. SHIBBAN LAL SAKSENA: Freedom fighters are very important.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I agree, but they are not more important than the existing people. Because the existing people have not earned pension yet, they are not necessarily less important. (*Interruptions*).

We hope to complete the work, as I have said, of issuing fresh sanctions on this basis within the next four to six months. In order to remove any feeling of uncertainty and insecurity in this regard, I may state that we do not propose to modify or review the existing pension scheme for freedom fighters.

Certain Members have referred to suspension and even cancellation of pensions in some cases. Extreme steps of this nature have had to be taken only where it has been found after a thorough enquiry that the original pension was sanctioned on the basis of insufficient or undependable evidence. And even here the grantee is given an opportunity to represent his case before a final order of cancellation of pension is passed. As on 28-2-1979, 7839 complaints were received. Out of 118000 pensions sanctioned. . .

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE (Ahmednagar): He was to finish in 15 minutes the other day, but he has been going on for 45 minutes now.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I am willing to stop.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I would like to remind you of the replies you used to give. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I would very gladly stop, but I think on the last occasion Mr. Karan Singh himself had said that we should not dismiss the Home Ministry in just a few minutes. I have not spoken one word which is irrelevant or which is a matter of rhetoric.

Now, out of 118000 pensions sanctioned, pension had to be suspended on prima facie evidence pending further enquiry in 5295 cases. Pension has had to be cancelled only in 761 cases.

No proposal is under consideration to increase either the amount of pension or the monetary limit for being eligible for the grant of the pension. As it is, the expenditure on the existing scheme has reached the figure of Rs. 23 crores already—in 1978-79.

श्री अर्जुन सिंह भदौरिया (इटावा): पेंशन के मामले में सब से बड़ी असुविधा यह है कि फौज में या दूसरी सर्विसेज में पेंशन पाने वाले जो लोग हैं उनको चाहे जितनी आमदनी हो उनको पेंशन मिलती है लेकिन इनके मामले में यह प्रतिबन्ध है कि पांच सौ रुपये से ऊपर आमदनी होगी तो पेंशन नहीं मिलेगी। यह प्रतिबन्ध हटना चाहिए।

गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बनिक लाल मंडल): पेंशन के लिए स्वतंत्रता की लड़ाई लड़े थे ?

श्री बीरेन्द्र सिंह (मुंगेर): तो करप्ट कर रहे हैं उनको यह 500 रुपये पेंशन दे कर ?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I will now deal with one matter which, I know, my hon. friend, Dr. Karan Singh, would like to hear about. Even as I was listening to the debate in the House the day before yesterday, a series of incidents occurred in Srinagar, Sepore and other parts of the Valley in Jammu & Kashmir for reasons known to all sections of the House. Yesterday was relatively more peaceful, though at least in one place extremely unfortunate violence erupted. As a Government we have no desire to interfere in the internal affairs of our neighbouring country. Whatever may be our personal feelings about what has happened, as a Government we would like to maintain the healthy tradition of non-interference. But as individuals and even as groups, such matters do affect us strongly. There can be no other explanation for what has happened in Srinagar and other parts of the Valley. I would appeal to all sections of the House to discourage by all means at their command such exhibition of emotional reactions which have serious repercussions on peace and order. I would also request that hands of the State authorities be strengthened in their efforts to maintain peace. For our part, as Government, fully aware of the difficult problems facing the Government and the people of Pakistan, we can only wish them well.

The most distressing part of the violence which erupted in Srinagar was the destruction of All Saints Church totally without any provocation, and this has caused a sense of insecurity in the minds of the Christian community. The Chief Minister, Jammu & Kashmir, has already condemned this incident in the Kashmir Legislative Assembly. I am sure the Government of Jammu & Kashmir will take all measures to allay the apprehensions of the Christian community. I would appeal to all sections of the House not to exaggerate incidents which unfortunately do take place when mob feelings are aroused.

I may also refer to the attack on the U.N. offices. The State authorities are taking all necessary steps to

[Shri H. M. Patel]

see that the U.N. offices are not further disturbed.

I am very happy to inform the House that the tension in Jammu arising out of the fast of some students in regard to the continuance of the Ayurvedic College has been eased. The fast has been given up and all the arrested students have been released. This is not, therefore, I would suggest, the time to indulge in any recrimination. We should express our sense of relief that they have given this up. The hon. House will have noted also that the Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir has made a statement. As was desired by the Action Committee, in Jammu, it has been decided to set up an expert Committee of three persons. The personnel have not yet been announced because the consent of those members is being sought.

I would appeal particularly to Dr. Karan Singh as well as Shri Sheikh Abdullah to use all their good offices to maintain an atmosphere of peace and harmony in the State. For my part, I will use all my good offices with the State authorities, with my colleagues in the Centre and others concerned to find ways of defusing such tense situation and assist in evolving constructive solutions to problems.

I do not think I need deal with any thing else except that references have also been made to the apprehensions—some people have referred to the apprehensions of Christian minorities. I am aware that a private Member's Bill has been introduced on the subject. Government have not yet taken any view on the matter. Whatever we do, I can assure the House that there will be no compromise on the question of Fundamental Rights which are available to all citizens and all sections of the community. Exaggerated emphasis on differences can only strengthen the divisive forces. So far as the Christian community in the country is concerned, all of us are proud of their nationalism and patriotism throughout all these decades. They are mature enough to know that some interested elements may try to foment a fear psychosis in their minds. I may assure them that Government do not intend to interfere with any of the rights guaranteed to different religious in the country.

I think I have taken enough of the time.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: Two or three matters have been glossed over..

DR HENRY AUSTIN (Ernakulam): The hon. Minister knows the fears and anxieties of the minority communities. Of course, he has sought to give an assurance to allay these fears. But as he himself has just now pointed out, in Kashmir yesterday there was a lot of destruction of property including a church and the threat to lives of Christians continues. Believing as I do in secularism I hate saying anything about communities. But the situation in the country is such that there is an element of insecurity for minority communities in recent years, months and weeks in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and particularly all over the eastern India and especially in Arunachal Pradesh and now in Kashmir.

Now this problem was raised in this House by a calling attention notice and also under rule 377 and drew the attention of the House to the strong feelings of the Christian community. So I want to know: are you taking into account the deep anguish of the people, of those people who believe in secularism and the harmonious relationship among the various communities and what steps are you going to take to allay their fears and anxieties? You say you are taking some steps. But instead of giving mere oral assurance, will you take some constructive step like sending a high-

power mission from your Ministry or from among the Members of Parliament to find out what exactly are the causes of these disturbances in various parts which destroyed nunneries, killed priests and nuns. It does not speak well of this country which is known for its traditions of tolerance. It is all the more shocking that these things tooks place in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh from where our great leaders appeared and preached the gospel of tolerance to the whole humanity. So something more than an oral assurance should be given by the Minister and I do hope that the hon. Minister will take some positive steps in this regard. Otherwise those of us who hate to say anything concerning communities will face difficulties in explaning matters to the people and to our Constituencies. I would like to hear something from you.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I can only repeat what I have already said. But when the hon. Member says that the recent incident that took place in Srinagar two days ago is anything that is directed against the Christians as such, I think, he is really not placing the facts. Here is a mob which comes along, a mob which attacks the UN office. It is moved by certain emotions to an action which destroys all property and then, as I said, it is really very unfortunate and it is most unfortunate and as I have said, particularly the most unfortunate victim of this violence is the church there. I am very sorry to hear that.

As regards the other incidents he mentioned, some of these are not directed against Christians as such, but I will go into the question. I heard the 377 reference to some incidents in Bihar... (*Interruptions*) Will you please listen? In Bihar there are several incidents to which references have been made. I am pursuing these things to find out why these things have happened and whether it is something which is going to be a recurrent feature or whether it is unusual. I will certainly go into it because, quite apart from anything else, it is a very unsatisfactory law and order position. You heard for instance in UP there was a hospital in which the nurses were molested. It is not necessarily that the nurses were only of one community..... (*Interruptions*)

DR. HENRY AUSTIN: You said it is exaggerated. It is not true. Cosmopolitan fact-finding missions which went to such places are reported to have found that there was a concerted drive against particular sections of the community.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I would be very happy to receive the report of this fact-finding committee which you have sent out and I will assure you that I will go into every single incident carefully to find out exactly what happened.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: Sir, I am sorry to say that the Minister has skipped over two or three important issues raised by me. One is about the action taken or to be taken on the Ashok Mehta Committee report regarding Panchavati Rai. The second is regarding preventive detention laws enacted in some of the States. Though parliament has repealed MISA, yet mini-MISA or midi-MISA have come into being in some States. Then, Sir, there has been misreporting in the Press about the Minister's statement on the Lokpal Bill, that it is going to be introduced. You know, Sir, it has already been referred to the Jodint Committee, and the Committee's Report is before the House. Thirdly, Sir, what action has been taken about the twenty ARC reports? How many recommendations have been accepted or rejected?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: Sir, the Ashok Mehta Committee report has been sent to the State Governments. They were required to submit their observations by a certain date. Prac-

[Shri H. M. Patel]

tically, all of them have failed to do so. Recently, when there was a meeting of the Chief Ministers with the Prime Minister he again referred to this matter and he hoped that they will see to it that their observations and comments are sent. That is the position in regard to Ashok Mehta Committee report. (*Interruptions*)

As regards the point about the action taken on Administrative Refroms Commissions reports I would like to submit that we have been going into it. It is fairly thorough. Practically all matters have been dealt with and orders passed. There are some which are still outstanding and they are outstanding not because they have not been considered but in regard to the actual action to be taken against them. If the hon'ble Member wishes to have the full report, I will send the same to him. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I put the Cut Motions to the vote of the House, I would like to know if any hon'ble Member wants to withdraw his Cut Motion.

SHRI KESHAVRAO DHONDGE (Nanded): I seek the leave of the House to withdraw my cut motions Nos. 13 to 41 and 58.

Cut motions Nos. 13 to 41 and 58 were by leave. withdrawn

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

Cut motions Nos. 57, 59 to 70 and 85 to 103 put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the order paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1980, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 47 to 57 relating to the Ministry of Home Affairs."

The motion was adopted.

Demands for Grants 1979-80 in rsepect of Ministry of Home Affairs voted by Lok Sabha.

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 16-3-1979		Amount of Demand for Grant voted by the House	
1	2	3		4	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
47	Ministry of Home Affairs	44,78,000	..	2,23,89,000	..
48	Cabinet	20,66,000	..	1,03,31,000	..
49	Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms	1,35,07,000	..	6,75,34,000	..
50	Police	38,57,73,000	184,31,000	192,88,66,000	9,21,55,000
51	Census	1,35,52,000	..	6,77,63,000	..
52	Other Expnditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs	33,35,95,000	18,27,80,000	158,07,59,000	76,77,16,000
53	Delhi	24,84,29,000	16,13,36,000	124,21,45,000	80,66,81,000
54	Chandigarh	3,97,44,000	1,84,98,000	19,87,19,000	9,24,91,000
55	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4,73,33,00	3,05,33,000	23,66,69,000	15,26,62,000
56	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	44,31,000	42,25,000	2,21,54,000	2,11,[illegible]
57	Lakshadweep	98,31,000	41,22,000	4,91,55,000	2,06,07,000