

[श्री चौधरी बलबीर सिंह]

दूसरे जो लोग हैं, उन के धर्म में भी यह नहीं लिखा है कि उन के लिए गोबध करना लाजमी है। फिर उन का भी फर्ज हो जाता है कि वे दूसरे धर्मों की भावनाओं का सम्मान करें और गोबध को रोकने में ब मवद करें। इस के लिए बिजोबा जी बत रखें या न रखें वह भ्रमविद्या बात है। अगर वे भी बत न रखें तो भी इस देश में गोबध रकना चाहिए। यह बात हमारे कांस्टीट्यूशन में क्यों आयी है कि इस देश में गोबध बंद होना चाहिए। अब इस के बारे में यह कहना कि यह स्टेट्स का सम्बन्ध है वह ठीक नहीं है। यह इस देश का बड़ा सदन है। और यह सदन यहाँ पास कर राज्यों को यह कह सकता है कि इस कृष से वे कानून बनायें कि यह रुक जाए। यहाँ जितनी भी दलीलें लोगों ने इसके खिलाफ दी, वे सब उन्होंने अपनी दूसरी दलीलों से काट दी। मैं उन से बरखास्त करना चाहता हूँ कि इस ठेक में जितने भी बड़े बड़े भावनों पैदा हुए हैं उन सब ने इस बारे में कहा है कि गोबध रकना चाहिए। महात्मा गांधी ने तिरुं यही कहा है कि कानून के जरिये इस पर रोक न लगे, इसे लोगों की भावनाओं के मुताबिक करना ही चाहिए। इस को करने में कानून का इस्तेमाल न करना चाहिये। यह सदन इस देश में सब से बड़ी जगह है। अगर यह सदन कुछ पास कर के भेजता है तो उन राज्यों को इस सदन की भावनाओं का ख्याल करना चाहिये।

डा० रामजी सिंह ने जो प्रस्ताव यहाँ पेश किया है, मैं उसका समर्थन करता हूँ और यह सदन इस प्रस्ताव को पास करे। जिन राज्यों में गोबध बन्द मुकम्मिल तौर पर नहीं है, उन राज्यों में इसको बन्द करने के लिए कानून बने। यहाँ के करोड़ों लोगों की भावनाओं का इस बारे में एहतसाम होना चाहिए। यह देश एक एकीकृत प्रधान देश है और यहाँ का सब से बड़ा पेशा खेती है। इसके लिए गोबध बंद करना जरूरी है। अगर यह इस देश में बन्द हो जाता है तो इसका असर दूसरे देशों पर पड़ेगा भी। इस को इस देश में बन्द न करना कोई अच्छी बात नहीं है।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You will have to conclude. We have to start the Half an Hour discussion.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA (Delhi Sadar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, kindly allow me to speak a sentence only so that next time I may get a chance. .

SHRI PURNANARAYAN SINHA (Tezpur). May I start, Sir?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have concluded your speech, Mr. Balbir Singh.

श्री बलबीर सिंह चौधरी . मैंने अपनी कन्क्लूड नहीं किया है।

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: You allow me to speak one sentence so that I will get my chance next time.

उपसभ्यक्ष महोदय, मैं डा० रामजी सिंह जी के प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करता हूँ। अब मैं अपनी सीट पर आने जारी रखना।

18.00 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

NAGA ATTACK ON BORDER VILLAGES OF ASSAM

SHRI PURNANARAYAN SINHA (Tezpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to go back to the past history of Naga people and their relationship with the people of Assam from time immemorial. But this is a recent question. There were some administrative adjustments with the territories bordering Nagaland. But then it was according to the notification no. 3102-R dated 25th November, 1925, the Government of Assam, then ruled by the British, had recognised the border between the Sibsagar district and the Naga Hills. Ultimately the same boundary was constitutionally accepted with the passing of the State of Nagaland Act, 1962, when the State of Nagaland was created. Over the years there was no restriction on the Naga people living inside. Assam or for those non-jagas living inside Nagaland. We all know that there is a place called Dimapur. It was called the ancient capital of the Burmans and that now forms a part of Nagaland. The people living there are Burmans, non-Nagas and Bodos and we have never objected to this because the Bodos are indigenous people belonging to the North Eastern Region as well as Nagaland. So far administrative reasons, Dimapur is a non-Naga area while this was enclosed within Naga-

land territory because there is emotional integration between these two. We never objected to it. Now inside Assam, a Naga Revenue Officer collects revenue for the State Government of Assam. He belongs to the tribal community and there is not much of difference among the people living there. There is no animosity whatsoever between the two classes. People are living side by side. And the boundary created emotionally was never accepted as a line which people cannot cross. Now unfortunately, after the Nagaland people have politically developed to a great extent, it so happened that over the past two decades out of five decades that have passed by—there are some incidents. Therefore, Nagaland has also established 14 armed police posts inside Sibsagar district. The first such post was set up on 16th August 1968. Naga encroachments by the Nagas of our reserve forests under Sibsagar district are:

- 2970 acres in Geleky Reserve
- 1000 acres in Tiru Hill Reserve
- 1680 acres in Desoi Reserve
- 8520 acres in Desoi Valley Reserve
- 250 acres in Kakadanga Reserve
- 2300 acres in Doyang Reserve
- 200 acres in Abhoypur Reserve

Altogether, they encroached about 24,000 acres out of a total area of 1,60,000 acres in Rengma, the Nambor South and the Dippu Reserve. In 1969, the Assam Government could evict some, but ultimately they could not evict all of them. Some of them remained on. Unfortunately, again during this period, Naga people caused havoc. There were some 130 instances of looting of crops over the whole of the boundary; they kidnapped many people who belonged to Assam area. I can give the names, but it will be a long list and it will take a lot of time. I wanted only to give an idea of what has happened. Nagas' encroachment came as far as Mariani. They claimed Mariani to be a part of their State and they renamed it as Tzutapela. This

is a very important ancient station in the Assam Bengal Railway; now it is in the North-Eastern Railway. Like this, Nagas have been making claims on the territories which were demarcated as Assam territories from 1925 onwards. They have been doing this on certain historical notions that these areas belonged to the old Nagaland. They destroyed the forest wealth worth over Rs. 80 crores in the Desoi Valley Reserved Forest. They destroyed that much national wealth. Thus, these things have been happening.

Now, I come to the later years. When there were violent incidents in 1969 and 1970, the then Chief Ministers of Assam, Shri Bimala Prasad Chaliha and the Chief Minister of Nagaland, Shri Ho-kishe Soma, both Congress Chief Ministers, met together and drew upon an agreement and accord that some particular areas, that is, Rangma, Diphu and Nambor would remain as they were. They would not be encroached upon by anybody, either Nagas or others. Nagas' habit is that they do not cultivate themselves. They allow others to cultivate the land they hold as share-croppers and they take half of the share. In that way whatever they claim to be theirs, they claim the standing paddy etc. In one Assam area, about 500 acres of paddy rotted, because that was not allowed to be harvested. People who cultivated that land said that they would give their live, but would not allow their paddy to be harvested by others.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY (Barrackpur): Sir, in this way, we will not get time to ask questions. He is going into the history.

Then, we are very much disappointed that the Home Minister who visited the area is not present. Only, the Minister of State is here.

SHRI PURNANARAYAN SINHA: Probably, the political parties in Nagaland which have been in power, like Naga National Council and others, started claiming large areas of Assam for themselves. What am trying

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to emphasise upon the House is that the disputes between Nagaland and Assam has been continuing violently after the State was created. It was the duty of the Central Government, the Union Home Ministry, to bring both the sides together and draw up the boundary line so that there was no dispute between them. It was thus continuing and the culmination came on the 5th January, 1979 when this incident took place. This incident has taken place because of the long neglect of this matter. If there was an agreement between Shri Chaliha and Shri Sema, that certain areas should be left undisturbed, there should not have been any clandestine settlement from this side or that side to occupy that land and create wrath in the mind of the people.

Now, I come to the incident in question. During the last Christmas season, there was movement in the people of the border. We know that 95 per cent of Nagas are Christians and for them this is a very big festival. There was some commotion. The female members of their families were all sent away from there, and thereafter what happened. The State Government had some intelligence. The Government of Nagaland had also made a report to the Central Government, that there might be some border trouble, a violent and a big trouble. This information came through your intelligence, from the Government of Nagaland, as also the Government of Assam. It has been admitted by the hon. Home Minister in the other House that the information sent by the Chief Minister of Assam on the 23rd December 1978 was duly received. But, then, in spite of the incidents occurring for the last 15 years between the Naga people and the Assamese people along the border, no action was taken from this side, to send reinforcements to the Assam police battalion, Border Security Force, and the Central Reserve Police— all controlled by the Union Government. Ultimately, what happened was that though there were some local efforts made by the State Government to

send reinforcements, it was stated that since there were not enough tents to facilitate the people to live there in order to protect the boundary, the police did not go. This violent incident occurred at the dead of the night, when a particular tribe of Naga people, belonging to the tribe of Hakishe Sema, by-passed a particular tract, came along the border and attacked the peasantry in sleep.

This question came up here. Questions were put by me and by others also, but reached at the end of the Question Hour. The questions which we raised, were not duly answered by the hon. Minister of State present here now, and present then also.

The point necessarily arose, that the whole question had not been properly dealt with by the Home Ministry the Government of India. I find, a man coming from that side, that the whole question was neglected as an incident of a trivial nature. There are certain particular questions which have to be put to the Minister, and answers obtained from him. I am trying to enumerate my questions. They are not many, but only a few pertinent questions:

What is the total number of persons killed in the Assam-Nagaland border on 5th January with their sex and age? What is the number of persons who survived injuries—their nationalities, sex and age. What is the percentage of affected people who were evacuated to the relief camps belonging to non-Indian nationalities, and indigenous tribal people of Assam respectively. What are the names, with racial identities of the people who have been arrested in connection with that incident, by the Governments of Nagaland and Assam? I mean in connection with the incident of 5th January. Again, since the agreement of 1972 was made by Mr. Hakishe Sema, the then Congress Chief Minister on the side of Nagaland, and by the late Mr. Bimala Prasad Chaliha, the then Congress Chief Minister of Assam and it was

violated by Shri Sarat Chandra Sinha, the then Congress Chief Minister of Assam by permitting clandestine encroachment of the allegedly disputed area on the border—and now that the UDF Government of Mr. Vizol has been installed in power in Nagaland, what is the political overtone in respect of the incident from the Nagaland side since it is alleged that only Sema tribals, mostly supporting Hokieshe Sema are involved in the mass killing, arson and destruction. Again, in view of the hostility towards passing of the Freedom of Religious Practices Act of the Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh, amongst the Naga people and other converted tribals, generally, how much influence of particular sections in Nagaland, together with instigation to commit violence against non-Nagas in the Assam-Nagaland border and supply of sophisticated arms, was responsible for the massacre perpetrated on 5th January 1979 in Diphu, Rengma and Nomoor reserved forests of Assam?

In view of all these aspects of the whole question, whether the Union Government does believe that this is only a beginning of more uncivilised attack to occur in future on the entire Nagaland Sibsagar boundary of over 200 km. and 100 km. of Assam and Meghalaya boundary and would hold an immediate probe into the past incidents as well as the present incidents and will take whatever action may be taken by the Government of India, besides the Minister's going in the first week of April as has come out in the *Times of India*, this morning. He is going to settle these disputes with the Nagaland and Assam Governments. I would like to know whether the Government is prepared to hold an enquiry into the whole question so that facts, which are true, which are revealing, which will stop future violence between these people should be found out and the question can be finally resolved.

SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA (Kaliabor): I have to repeat one question which is very vital, but it is part of

my constituency where all these things happened. The Minister once said that there will be a high level probe. Then he knows that the Prime Minister also told me on the same day that there will be no high level probe, but he will have a CBI enquiry. The long and short of the whole question is this. I find answering this question by combination of reports from Assam Government and Nagaland Government as if the Centre has no information of its own; and there has been no real enquiry in a matter which affects the two States. Possibly neither of the States could have made an enquiry on its own. Therefore, it is not a combination of reports from two States that we want. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Centre has its own information; whether the Central Government is going to have a probe in this matter. I had raised this matter in the President's Address discussion. I am raising it again. The Government should certainly have a CBI enquiry. All right. But give us the report. Do you have any findings on this? What are its findings? Again on the involvement of the Central forces, CRP and BSF, that is a very vital for the security of those people; and in this matter also again, the hon. Minister had said that they will not be involved; they will not be on their alert. The Prime Minister told me again that they were ordered to be on the alert. Later on, we found that the Home Minister also ordered that they would be on the alert. Now the question is what type of order they have given. Can they intervene if the second attack comes on the border? Do they have any authority to intervene or take action or they will not be on their alert or the central forces are not to be on their alert? I want a specific answer on these questions.

About Sundaram Report, the Central Government is prevaricating it very much. I am sorry to say this. This report should have been published. At least, the basic features of the report should have been handed over to the

[Shri Bedabrata Barua]
people of Assam and Nagaland; and all the eastern area should know what is all this. This will certainly bring down a certain amount of tension. I would like to know whether this report will be made available or whether Government will go on prevaricating it and will not give us the report.

The last point is whether the Government has the report, whether this sort of conflict, the possibility of a conflict has now widened, because the scene has been shifted to other areas as well, in the Assam-Nagaland border. Whether the Central Government is aware of these facts and whether they are taking any proper action.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO (Koraput): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not like to go into the controversy of the boundary dispute, but certainly I would like to know from the hon. Minister who is responsible for this. The north eastern States, they have formed a separate State and the Union Territory under the Sixth Schedule. According to the constitutional provisions, the first proviso of 275(i) clearly mentions that the administration and development of the scheduled area is the responsibility of the Centre. When these tribal areas have got the exclusive provision in the constitution and when they have got the political right also, where the difficulty lies? Whereas in other areas, they have not been able to get those rights. Sentiments and sensitiveness are still going on among the tribes. The boundary dispute is not a new one; it is continuing since 72 onwards. If you go back the seeds were sown by the British. Whether Assam area is more on this side or Nagaland area is less on that side, I am not going into that matter. Sensitiveness is developing in those areas. Just now Mr. Barua mentioned the publication of Sundaram Committee on report. By the publication of the report the confusion among the people will be removed. I should like to know whether the government will reconsider, and will set up a commission to go

into this matter. If the government does not propose to do so, at least let the report be published. If the report is not published a commission should be there to go into the details of the boundary dispute and a settlement should be made within a short period; otherwise tension in these states will develop and it will also arise in other states. Unnecessarily we are using words and instigating people. Do the government propose to appoint a commission, like a commission of enquiry so that a settlement can be arrived at.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY (Barrackpore): The clash that we are referring to in the half an hour discussion is one of the most horrific incidents that have taken place in recent past. January 5 clash in the border area between Assam and Nagaland in the reserved forest area led to God-knows-how-many deaths. Official sources say that only 50 persons died; at least two Members of Parliament Shri Raj Narain and Shri Bipin Pal from this House and Shri Bipin Pal Das from the other House have said that the death toll was anything near 2000 persons. The border dispute has been dealt with by many other colleagues and so I would like to confine myself to asking a few questions regarding the clash. The question was raised in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. Till now government has not instituted any official enquiry into the whole matter. The Home Minister who was not present earlier has now come; he has stated earlier in the House that since it was a law and order problem, the Centre had nothing to do with it. It is a question where two states are involved, it is obvious that they cannot solve the problem; naturally the central government will have to step in. There have been several conflicting reports about the motivations of this incident. CP-ML posters have appeared that Russians and the Congress (I) led by Hokeshe Sema was behind this. Tass has reported that the Chinese have instigated the underground Nagas. Patriot has written an editorial that the recent demand of Naga speaking areas of Manipur and Mizoram neigh-

bouring Nagaland is behind this. There is also unconfirmed report that one Mr. Sema who is now the deputy commandant of the border security force, who was formerly an underground person was behind this. Papers have also reported that this was an attempt to ease out Vizol from the gaddi of Chief Ministership, because Vizol belongs to Angami community whereas Semas have been enjoying the Chief Ministership in the past. There has been no clarification from the centre on this matter. The Assam Chief Minister demanded Sundaram report from the Prime Minister; it was ultimately given to him. Reports have come about that but the Sundaram report has not been laid on the Table of the House. Only the Assam Chief Minister and the Nagaland Chief Minister know about it. In the Assam cabinet itself there has been a lot of dispute between the Chief Minister and the Deputy-Chief Minister Shri Dhuli Chand Barua about the approach to be taken to this whole problem.

Regarding the relief arrangements, there has been a lot of complaints. It was said that even long time after the clashes took place, 12,000 refugees are living in the open under the winter cold. Now, all I want is a clarification on these various points. This mist over this whole incident has not been cleared by the earlier replies of the Home Minister either in the Rajya Sabha or in the Lok Sabha. The Centre cannot absolve itself of the responsibility of delaying the solution of the dispute for such a long period of time and leading to such a horrific clash which may have a snow-balling reaction and may have a general reaction. I would like the Minister to make suitable clarifications in all these matters.

बीजरी बलबीर सिंह (होमियारपुर) : उपाय ध्यक्ष महोदय, यह नागा मसला जब से देश आबाद हुआ, उस से पहले से ही चल रहा था। लेकिन आबादी के '14 यह कुछ और ही बनल अस्तित्वार कला गया। इस तरह की रिपोर्ट लगातार आती रही है कि वे लोक का कर यहां से हथियार की ड्रेनिंग लेकर

इस देश में गड़बड़ फैलाते रहे हैं। अभी जो ताबा हमला हुआ— है—इस में 60 आदमी मरे हैं या दो हजार मरे हैं—इस के बारे में सरकार बतलावे कि असल में कितने आदमी करे हैं।

इस बारे में मंडाल साहब का एक बयान छपा है—भाप इसको भी देखें कि यह बयान सही है या गलत है। यह 23 फरवरी, 1979 का बयान है जो "भाज" प्रखबार में, जो बारपेसी से निकलता है, छपा है। उन्होंने अपने बयान में कहा है— "आक्रमण के समय पुलिस तमासा देखती रही। राज्य मंत्री श्री धनिक लाल मंडल ने भाज राज्य सभा में स्वीकार कर दिया है कि असम-नागालैण्ड सीमा के कुछ नागा गांवों पर पिछले महीने असस्त्र व्यक्तियों द्वारा आक्रमण किया गया। आक्रमण के समय असम-पुलिस की सस्त्र टुकड़ी वहां खड़ी तमासा देखती रही और उन आक्रमणकारियों का मुकाबला करने के लिए कुछ नहीं किया।" यह बड़े अफसोस की बात है कि असम की सस्त्र पुलिस वहां मौजूद हो और वह उसके खिलाफ कोई कार्यवाही न करे। यह बहुत ही भयानक मसला है, इस देश की रक्षा, इस देश की जनता के जानो-माल की सुरक्षा का प्रबंध करने की जिम्मेवारी सरकार की है। वहां पर हमला हुआ और पुलिस को टुकड़ी उस को देखती रहे, लोगों के जानो-माल की हिराजत के लिये कोई कार्यवाही न करे—यह बड़े शर्म की बात है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि सरकार इस बारे में क्या कार्यवाही की है? यह कहा जाता है कि ला-एण्ड-पाईर का मसला राज्य का मसला है, लेकिन जब सीमा पर इस ढंग से हमला हो, तो सरकार का कर्ज हो जाता है कि लोगों की जानो-माल की हिराजत के लिए कोई प्रबंध करे, ताकि फिर भागें इस किसम की कोई घटना न हो सके।

मैं चाहता हूं कि सरकार इस बारे में कोई डेफिनेट स्टैंड ले और जो लोग हिंसा में विश्वास करते हैं उन का पूरी ताकत से मुकाबला किया जाय। जो लोग गोलियां चलाते हैं, भाग लगाते हैं, बेगुनाह लोगों को जिन्दा जलाते हैं—ऐसे लोगों के खिलाफ क्या सरकार के पास इन की पुलिस के पास जो हथियार हैं, वे सिर्फ खिलौना मात्र हैं या भाप उनका इस्तेमाल करने के लिए उन को कहेंगे। जब कभी भी इस देश की निहत्थी जनता पर कोई हमला होता है, चाहे हमलावर नागा हों या कोई भी हो, उनको रोकने के लिए सरकार को पूरी ताकत से हस्तगत में आना चाहिये। मैं मंत्री महोदय से कहूंगा—यह बायदा-बयान दें और पूरी तकलील से बतलायें, साथ ही एक डेफिनेट स्टैंड सरकार ल ताकि स किसम की दुर्घटना फिर न हो सके।

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI H. M. PATEL): Sir, I can well appreciate the anxiety of the hon. Members about the kind of situation that developed between Assam and Nagaland. There is no doubt that

[Shri H. M. Patel]

it is a sensitive area. For that very reason I would have thought that they would have been satisfied with the statement which I have already made in this House.

I have already said in early January when this thing took place that it might have been due to various reasons because on the 2nd of January, there was a meeting between the two Chief Ministers as they had heard that there was likelihood of some trouble developing in this area. This trouble was expected to develop because the chief Minister of Assam had announced in the Legislature that he was proposing to settle some more people in these reserved forest areas which under the 1972 agreement between the two Chief Ministers would not take place and the *statusquo* would be allowed to remain. It was at that statement which he had made in June, 1978 that the Nagas began to be some what perturbed. It is as a result of that kind of situation that developed because of that announcement that a meeting was arranged on on the 2nd January between the two Chief Ministers where there was complete understanding. Now, those Nagas who had settled in the forest areas on the Assam side appeared to have become perturbed at the possible consequences of an agreement reached between the two Chief Ministers and, therefore, they appeared to have taken time by the forelock and attached. Of course, the arrangements for his had already been made. In fact, an inkling to that effect had come to the notice of the Nagaland Chief Minister and he conveyed it to the Intelligence at Dimapur. Thereupon the Assam Chief Minister was also informed who sent either his Minister or Secretary to Dimapur. They went over this and felt that everything was quiet. He returned with the impression. On the very day he returned, this incident took place. It was, undoubtedly, very unfortunate and a very bad incident but it has now taken

place. Now, a particular village which was attacked, was only a short distance away from the Police Post which was banned by the Assam Armed Police, but they did not take any action. That was unfortunate. Naturally, action is being taken against the officers, etc. concerned but the fact is that such an incident did happen, which is unfortunate.

Now, as soon as this thing had happened, further immediate steps were taken to see that this trouble did not spread. One BSF battalion, two CRPs and some companies of Assam Rifles had been posted there. And since this incident took place, there has been no trouble of any kind, but certainly, tension still exists. That is because this boundary situation has not yet been finally settled. So far as the boundary situation in regard to this thing is concerned the Chief Ministers of all the States concerned, have been clearly told that they must accept the constitutionally laid down boundaries as the boundaries. But, of course wherever there are any disputes, they can be settled by discussion between the Governments of the States concerned. But until an agreed change is made, the constitutionally laid down boundaries must be accepted. That is the position in regard to this thing.

Now, about various statements made in the press that there are foreign influence, there is no warrant for this at all in so far as this incident that took place on the 4th/5th of January, is concerned. That I can say categorically. This matter is being gone into very fully.

My hon. friend wanted to know why the Sundaram Report is being kept secret. That Committee was appointed in the earlier days. Then it was decided not to publish it. It was also considered that it was not of a conclusive nature because Shri Sundaram himself did not arrive at any final recommendation. It is a sort of data from which certain inferences can be drawn, which we drew, which we have passed on to the two Chief Ministers

so that they are aware of his recommendations, on the basis of which they can go on discussing the point and reach a settlement in regard to the boundaries, on the basis of whatever data Shri Sundaram has provided. I do not know what more my hon. friend wants. We are not saying that it is a matter which should be settled only between these two States. We are there to help them in every way, to assist the two Government to come to a settlement.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: Why do you not place on the Table of the House the two reports? The two Chief Ministers have already got it.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: As and when we consider it can be released, we will do it.

SHRI PURNARAYAN SINHA: Shri Sundaram has gone to the press and I have read his letter where he says he had already submitted the report to the Government in 1973.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has not divulged the report.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: We do not propose to divulge the report. We will certainly make it available to the two Chief Ministers, who are most concerned at the present moment with it in their boundary talks.

Regarding the apprehension of my hon. friend that it may spread to other boundaries, it has always been there. There are disputes between Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, Mizoram and Assam and Maghalaya and Assam. It is for this reason that this firm statement was conveyed to these Governments that until changes are agreed upon between the Government concerned they must accept the constitutional boundaries already laid down. It does not mean that the constitutional boundaries are unchangeable. But it does mean that changes cannot take place until they are agreed upon. Therefore, discussions have to take place. We are trying to see that the discussions take place in the most friendly atmosphere possible.

18.38 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, March 19, 1979/Phalguna 28, 1900 (Saka).