

18.00 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: ORDER OF GUJARAT GOVERNOR DISSOLVING THE ASSEMBLY

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the Home Minister will make a statement.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT): Mr. Chairman, when the President made his proclamation in relation to Gujarat on 9-2-1974, he also made an order delegating to the Governor all the powers of the Governor which the President had assumed to himself. A copy of the proclamation and of the order had been placed on the Table of the House. The President's Order clearly states that the powers exercisable by the Governor of Gujarat, which have been assumed by the President, shall be exercisable also by the Governor.

In view of the President Order, there is no constitutional or legal infirmity in the order of the Governor dissolving the Assembly. The President was in touch with developments in Gujarat and the Prime Minister had sought the President's advice on these developments.

18.01 hrs.

RE: SITUATION IN BIHAR—contd.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Sir, this morning we had made a submission before the hon. Speaker that the Home Minister may please be requested to make a statement on the situation in Bihar and the indication that was given to us was that he was going to make a statement. In fact, when the Home Minister was coming here just now we thought that he would be making a statement on the developments in Bihar.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT): No such instructions have been given to me.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Then there is something wrong somewhere.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may take it up with the Speaker tomorrow.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra): There was firing in the lobby of the Vidhan Sabha.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This point was raised a little earlier. If the Minister wants to make a statement, I do not mind it. But if he has not been communicated this information....

SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT: I am coming from the Rajya Sabha now. I have not received any such instruction. If any instruction is issued to me, I will certainly carry it out.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Then we want to know why Shri Raghu Ramaiah has not communicated this to the Home Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We cannot disbelieve the Home Minister.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I am not disbelieving anybody. They are correct and truthful. But this morning the whole House was unanimous in expressing its anxiety with regard to what is happening in Bihar. I am told it is a spontaneous movement. People's wrath has taken shape in Bihar. The Government have moved six battalions of the infantry units and also 12 Companies of the CRP. Free firing is going on and people must have been killed by scores; also, within the Assembly House itself, within the chamber, firing has taken place. Sir, you put yourself in our position. After all, you are a member of the House. Do you not think that the House should be informed about this? Why do the Government want to hide this from the House?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not think there is any question of hiding. As you will appreciate, if the Home Minister was not given the information that he should come forward