

question concerns the State of Kerala. The hon. Minister will require a separate notice for it.

DR. KHUSHAL PARASRAMBOPCHE: Has the Central Government got any proposal to develop fisheries?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, though this question is unrelated to the main question, I would like to say that many programmes to develop inland fisheries are being executed.

[*English*]

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, it is reliably learnt that a proposal is pending before the Government of Kerala for the setting up of a Fisheries University in the State of Kerala. Keeping the fact in view that there is no Fisheries University in our country at the moment, will the Government consider this proposal and come out for extending financial assistance to the State of Kerala in this connection?

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already said that for the time being, the Central Government is not considering any proposal to set up a Fisheries University, but there are plans to develop and strengthen the existing institutes under the Eighth Plan.

[*English*]

Withdrawal of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act from North East

*862. **DR. DAULATRAO SONUJI AHER:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the activities from various solidarity groups of North-Eastern States, recently launched a march in New Delhi demanding the withdrawal of the application of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 from North-East; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) In March this year, about 250 students from the North Eastern Region of the country, studying in Delhi, took out a procession in support of such a demand.

(b) The provisions of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act are applied whenever required to deal with the law and order situation prevailing in a particular area. As soon as circumstances permit, the matter is reviewed by Government.

DR. DAULATRAO SONUJI AHER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Act was enforced in the North-East with the purpose of maintaining law and order there. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the special powers given to the Armed Forces under this Act and also the situation at the time of enforcing this Act in the North-East as well as the present situation.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: The states in which this Act has been enforced are Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Mizoram. The Special powers that have been granted under this Act are—

[*English*]

"after giving due warning, as he may consider necessary, fire upon or otherwise use force, against any person who is acting in contravention of any law or order.

destroy any arms dump, prepared or fortified position or shelter from which armed attacks are made or likely to be made..

arrest, without warrant, any person who has committed a cognizable offence or against whom a reasonable suspicion exists that he has committed or is about to commit..

enter and search without warrant, any premises..”

[*Translation*]

Force is used in accordance with these powers granted under the said Act.

DR. DAULATRAO SONUJI AHER: What was the situation at the time of applying this Act there and what is the present situation?

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: The situation in those areas, where this Act has been applied is still not normal and the entire State of Manipur has been declared as a 'Disturbed Area'. The situation remains is the same along the Five Kilometre border belt Nagaland has with Burma. Therefore, this Act is still in force in these areas.

[*English*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: As very rightly said by the hon. Minister of State for Home this is an Act which has been brought in the whole North eastern area because of the sensitive activities of the terrorists who are being supported from Burma, Bangladesh and other neighbouring countries. Recently, there was the election in Manipur and the new Government has been formed by Janata Dal, MPP and Congress (S). One of the promises given in the election was that the Disturbed Area Act would be removed. When the hon. Home Minister subsequently visited Manipur, a memorandum was given to him. Of course, he has not assured them but as I heard in the newspapers, he said, "We will review the situation and then we will come to a decision".

It is a sensitive area and activities of the terrorists have further increased and many para military personnel have been killed in

the last 3 or 4 months. In spite of that, some activists groups are demanding for the removal of the Act. Can I get an assurance from the Government that the Government will not take a hasty decision because, if it is one withdrawn, this will give encouragement to the terrorists activities indulged by NSCN, ULFA etc., Of late, they have made an understanding between each terrorist group in the area and there is a nexus between them to create destability in the whole Northeastern region. There should not be hasty decision and an assurance must be given here. I have told him personally about this. He should not reconcile it just for populist measure and some hasty decision should not be taken.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: I do not think that the Government has any intention of taking populist decisions on matters concerning law and order. As I said earlier, once the situation becomes normal, a decision would be taken after reviewing the matter, but these areas are still disturbed and for the time being, the Government has no intention of taking any such decision.

[*English*]

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: It is known to everyone that in the whole of Noartheastern region, either at one place or other, disturbances are there. As it is apparent from the reply of the hon. Minister, they are going to consider for the removal of this provision instead of strengthening law and order network. I would like to know, what steps are you going to take for creating a climate, as you have said, before you can decide to withdraw the provision. But the extremists or the secessionists are acting not only in border areas but right in the heart of Assam also, ULFA and other forces. It is quite confusing to the people of North-Eastern Region that when Ministers go there, they make various strong statements like "We are not going to discuss with the extremists." But as soon as the Ministers come back to Delhi, the same kind of terrorist activity is going on there. People are rather started and confused

absolutely what kind of steps the Government is going to take for maintaining peace in that area. May I know from the hon. Minister what steps are you going to take in this regard and whether you are going to discuss and have talks with those sections of people who are turning towards secessionist movement and are going to follow the path of terrorism, instead of sticking to this policy, so that you can politically and emotionally tackle the problem? What action are you going to take on this?

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government's policy in this regard is very clear. That is, we are ready to talk with every one, provided that it should be within the constitutional framework. As far as the question of law and order in the North-Eastern Region is concerned, the Central Government is minutely watching all the aspects and we just don't make statements there, rather we are also taking necessary action to implement all those things, with all the strength and resources at our disposal. We shall also work towards assuaging the sentiments and emotions hurt over the last 40 years. We shall also give due respect to their honour and self-respect.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of persons arrested so far under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 and also the quantum of success achieved by the Government? Please do inform us about it.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: I do not have the exact figures with me, but we have gained much success. We feel that we have gained success in many areas, with the help of this Act.

[*English*]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a very recent statement by a very important leader

of Nagaland that he is encouraging secessionism and insurgency because of certain developments in Nagaland, because of his past connection with these groups for which he was punished in 1986. May I know from the Government what steps they propose to take against that important leader?

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: In this regard, if you give us some details in writing, we shall surely act upon it.

[*English*]

SHRI SHIKIHO SEMA: May I know from the hon. Minister why is the Armed Forces Special Power Act imposed only in the North-Eastern States particularly? While implementing this Armed Forces Special Power Act, the privacy of women is invaded and it is being misused. When the Home Minister visited the region, he has assured the people that this Act will be withdrawn. But you are avoiding it. Why this Armed Forces Special Power Act is not withdrawn? This is partiality. Unless you withdraw this, you cannot win the confidence of the people of that area. Regarding hon. Member's pointing out the secessionist issues, it is not we who are encouraging secessionists. It is you who are encouraging secessionists. I have an example with me. You are engineering secessionist and anti-national activities. I would like to know whether you are going to withdraw the Special Armed Forces Act.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as hon. Members know, in the major areas of North-East there has been insurgency going on. And fortunately, people of the area are not really involved in the development and democratic process. But still, due to accelerated activity of some militant organisations like ULFA, NSCN and other organisations, they are getting help from across the border from Burma. To check the infiltration in some parts of the area, that area has been declared as the 'disturbed area' and the armed forces have the special

powers. Under the present circumstances, we are not going to review this decision and special powers will remain in force for some time.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Sir the hon. Minister has just stated that constant attentions being paid to maintaining law and order there, but in spite of that ULFA has been indulging in violent incidents that have taken place there during the last 2-3 months. Shri Shankar Birniwal was killed there on the day Shri Devi Lal visited the State. After that, brother of Shri Swaraj Paul was killed in the tea garden. Then, an Engineer and his colleague were killed there. The present situation there is that ULFA activists come to any shop, call ten persons on phone, tie them up and take them away in a jeep. Then their ransom is fixed. Their family members are asked to pay ransom ranging from Rs. 5 lakh to 20 lakh. If they fail to pay the ransom they are killed. Till now, more than 100 such murders have been committed there.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had myself gone there for enquiry and found that the action that should have been taken by the State Government against the violent action of ULFA, is not being taken. It is also said that the Home Minister of the State Government is also in collusion with the ULFA activists. Though it is doubtful and I do not want to express my views on it, yet I want that the hon. Home Minister should assure that if the killings are not stopped within the months and the present situation continues there, in which more than 100 persons have been killed and more than Rs. 10 crores have been collected as ransom ULFA would be banned and if violence continues there even after that, the President's Rule would be imposed.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think I was there on 5th and 6th of the last month and this matter was discussed with the entire cabinet and the Home Minister reviewed the situation. Instructions were given to the 1.9. The Chief

Secretary, Home Secretary and other officers were present there. The decisions taken at that time are being reviewed. We have been informed that the Chief Minister, Home Minister etc. are coming to Delhi in a day or two. Regarding the Points raised by the hon. Member, I think action is being taken on them with all earnestness and the Government is determined to check the activities of the ULFA. Necessary action is being taken in this regard.

[*English*]

Ship Repair Complex at Haldia

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*863. SHRI CHITTA BASU-
SHRI YASHWANTRAOPATIL:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared the proposal for setting up of a ship repair complex at Haldia;

(b) if so, the details of the project including the estimated cost and source of financing thereof; and

(c) the stage at which the implementation rests now?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

1. The Government of West Bengal have from time to time represented the need for setting up of a ship repair complex at Haldia. The Chief Minister of West Bengal raised this question with the Minister of Surface Transport at a meeting at New Delhi on 2nd April, 1990.
2. The Government of India is reviewing the ship repair facility, presently