

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

SIXTEENTH REPORT

SHRI G. G. SWELL (Autonomous Districts) : Sir, I beg to present the Sixteenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampore) : Sir, the Home Minister should make a statement on the shooting in Nagaland. It is a direct responsibility of the Central Government.

MR. SPEAKER : I think he should make a statement.

12.33 hrs.

RE. ALLEGED MISCONDUCT OF P.A.C. IN FIROZABAD DISTRICT OF U.P.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Mr. Speaker, I rise to raise a very serious issue, and I do it with a feeling of sorrow and anguish. I recently visited Firozabad district. The disturbances that have taken place and the manner in which the PAC has behaved at Firozabad has created a situation in which the Centre must take the necessary remedial steps. It is heartening news that the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh on the floor of the Assembly has admitted that what has happened at Firozabad is not communal riots between Hindus and Muslims. What has really happened is misconduct of the PAC in dealing with the minority community in Firozabad. I have myself visited that place along with some other members. I was shocked and surprised to find that the Islamic Intermediate College was almost burnt, causing loss of Rs. 540,550. So many houses have been looted there. I have myself visited all the houses and I was reminded of what I saw when I visited Jessore some time back. Just as the Pakistani army had demolished a number of houses belonging to the Awami League members, in a similiary manner the Provincial Armed Constabulary men entered the houses of the minority community and damaged or destroyed so many houses. They have looted the houses and taken away the ornaments. In addition to that, just in front of the police station, the Sabzi Mandi was looted and completely destroyed. I visited one of the mosques at Sadar Bazar, the Jama Masjid. The Hindus

as well as the Muslims told me that one Maulana Abdul Salam was wrapped in a carpet and he was burnt to ashes. Whichever house I visited, the Hindus as well as the Muslims in the nearby locality admitted that this looting and atrocities were not committed by one community against another. In fact, I was told that the houses of Hindus were not destroyed at all. It was not a communal riot. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has also ascertained that So, I would very much like that this should be gone into and investigated.

One thing more. I also found that a Hindu lady with a small baby in her arms was waiting there to get the blessings of the Maulana and she was told that he was already murdered. I was told by that lady that there was no communal spirit in their mind, that so many of them who belong to Hindu community used to visit that mosque and seek the blessings of that particular priest who she came to know was murdered.

There is one more place, Ahmednagar Bangles Cutting Factory. It was completely damaged. We were told that when this was happening, P.A.C. men were standing in front of it.

From these incidents, it is very clear that the P.A.C. men have misbehaved. I do not want to mix up the issue with demonstrations regarding Aligarh Muslim University Bill. I am one among those who would not like to take Hindu or Muslim communal posture on the Universities at all. As one belonging to the educational field, I would like to take a sober attitude to Aligarh Muslim University Bill. I do not want to mix up that issue with the atrocities committed by the P.A.C. men.

There seems to be a *Prima facie* case. I have not referred to some incidents which I have not able to confirm. I have told only an eye-witness story. Fortunately, some other Members of Parliament have also visited the place. Shrimati Subhadra Joshi had also gone there. They have also ascertained the eye-witness story. They have also got adequate information. My only request is that the Home Ministry should go into the matter. Someone should be deputed to enquire into the matter.