

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) The Gazette Notification No. 44-GA/71 dated 19 March, 1971 is an amendment of the IFS (B) (RCSP) Rules 1964; and not an order regarding promotion and fixing of seniority of Grade III Stenographers.

The appointments to this Grade were made vide order No. Q/PD/5602/18/71 dated 16th October 71 in pursuance of the provisions of Rules 17 (e) of the amended IFS (B) RCSP Rules, notified vide Notification No. 44-GA/71 of 19 March, 1971.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). The representations are being considered in consultation with the authorities concerned.

12.00 hrs.

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO
STARRED QUESTION NOS. 541
AND 547 RE. MINI STEEL PLANT

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARA-MANGALAM): With your leave Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to make a small clarification. In reply to a supplementary question today to questions Nos. 541 and 547, I made the statement that the export of ferrous scrap was banned. As the term 'ferrous scrap' is very generic, I would like to make the following clarification. The export of heavy melting scrap is banned, but certain varieties of scrap that cannot profitably or efficiently be used in our country in the existing electric furnace units or are in excess of indigenous off take like cast iron borings and mill scale are allowed to be exported. Whenever indigenous demand for such categories picks up, Government will certainly consider restricting or even banning their export.

12.02 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE
SITUATION IN ASSAM

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contd): I call the attention of the Minister of Home

Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"The reported tour of riot-affected areas of Assam by Shri K. C. Pant, Minister of State and the latest situation there".

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT): Sir, With a view to making a first hand assessment of the situation in Assam, I visited Silchar, Dibrugarh, Moirabari and Gauhati on the 16th and 17th December. I exchanged views with different sections of the people and also with the Chief Minister and the concerned State officials. The State Government are aware of the need for maintaining vigilance and are earnestly engaged in speedy restoration of cordial relations among different linguistic groups. Measures have been undertaken to provide redress to the victims of the disturbances. A Commission of Inquiry has been appointed to go into two specific incidents resulting in the death of two students. The State Government have also decided to inquire into the adequacy of administrative arrangements made to deal with the disturbances including allegations regarding lapses.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I am really surprised to find that the hon Minister has been so brief in informing the House about the latest situation in Assam. Although he had the pleasure to give more information to the press while he held a press conference at Gauhati on the 16th where he admitted that although the situation was improving, yet the situation in Assam had not been restored to normal conditions, even that has not been admitted here on the floor of the House today.

The situation in Assam should be viewed not in isolation. It is the eighth riot, language riot in Assam, after Indepen-

[Shri Samar Guha] dence. This time, the situation turned not only ugly but surpassed all measure of atrocities and barbarities that were committed against not only the Bengalis, but the Biharis, the Marwaris in succession and at different times.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI (Jorhat) Can he cite any examples? He is making a false statement in the House.

SHRI D. BASUMATARI (Kokrajhar) It is a wrong statement.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY (Cooch-Bihar): We have read it in the newspapers. Otherwise, why were they creating trouble? (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: May I request the hon. Members not to interrupt Shri Samar Guha?

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: Why should he refer to Marwaris and other communities? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM (Srinagar): He must state his case first. Let the hon. Member have some patience, because he belongs to the ruling party.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: It is not necessary for me to draw the attention of the hon. Member who is interrupting to what happened in 1968 when the Home Minister, Shri Yeshwantrao Chavan last visited Assam and instituted an inquiry. At that time, against whom was the riot? I do not want to go into all that now. It is also known that there are innumerable Biharis working in the tea gardens and others. They were also subjected to great suffering in the 'Bihari Khedda' which was there; similarly, the 'Bengali Khedda' and 'Marwari Khedda' movements were there. I do not want to go into that situation today. My whole object is not to create an exciting situation but to deal with the problem. I submit that we have to look into the problem from the national perspective.

The issue in Assam is not one of Bengalis versus Assamese. It is a national issue. That was the reason why

I expressed my surprise. I had expected the Home Minister to give us at least some information about the ugly and tragic happenings that overtook Assam during the last two or three months, but he has suppressed that. I do not want to say anything on that. I only want to say that while winding up the debate the other day, Shri F. H. Mohsin had said on the floor of the House that all that had been said on the floor of the House about this matter was exaggerated. I say that that is absolutely wrong. Even a fraction of the incidents that had happened in Assam has not been brought to light. I had said also on the earlier occasion that the national press had completely blacked out the happenings and the incidents in Assam. Our friends from the south were so much agitated about what the happening in U.P. where there were just one or two or three cases and they said that 18 persons had been killed. But that is absolutely wrong. At least a few hundreds of persons have been killed. 35,000 people have become refugees. Not hundreds, but a few thousands of houses have been burnt there. The situation is not normal in the sense that the threat, intimidation and the boycott of the minorities is still going on. The situation is still tense, and normal condition has not been restored there. So, I want to know from the hon. Minister the measures that have been taken. I only want to warn the Government that if this theory of the 'sons of the soil' is allowed to subvert our concept of national integration and our concept of living together, it will set in motion a process of chain reaction, not only in Assam but in other parts of the country, and perhaps it may lead to a blood bath all over the country.

If the 'sons of the soil' theory is allowed to be raised, then what will happen in West Bengal? About 15 per cent of the population in West Bengal are not Bengalis. 75 per cent of the working population in the metropolitan or industrial areas, in the coalfields and in the tea-gardens are not from Bengal, 80 per cent of the trade and big business and big industries

is held not by Bengalis but by non-Bengalis. In Calcutta, the biggest mansions are not being held by the Bengalis. But we have never raised this question. This question was never raised. Even after the linguistic reorganisation of the States, no State in India is unilingual. Therefore, this problem will remain. If this sons of the soil theory is allowed to subvert the concept of national integration, the concept of living together, the concept of unity in diversity, then, as I have said, and I repeat, it will start the process of chain reaction and ultimately a bloodbath in the whole country. Therefore, the Government should be forewarned.

It was a shocking statement made the other day by Mr. Mohsin in winding up the discussion on the report of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities. He said that the Bengalis would try to get themselves assimilated into the Assamese. What a horrible, dangerous theory? It is a theory of annihilation of the linguistic minorities, annihilation of the minorities by the majority. It is a theory of cultural genocide. Only Hitler practised it. It was all the more shocked at his statement because the Prime Minister was sitting by his side but she did not intervene. About this theory of the assimilation of the minorities by the majority, today, it is linguistic, but tomorrow it may be demanded that there should be an assimilation of the religious minorities by the religious majority.

I want to know from the hon. Minister this thing. The immediate task is to restore the law and order situation to normal, to restore normalcy there. The hon. Minister said that certain measures have been taken for the immediate restoration of the normal law and order situation there. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government have taken the following measures or whether the Government will take the following measures. Firstly, whether the powerful radio and press propaganda and printed posters including the appeal of the Prime Minister for peace and amity,

above all, among the linguistic minorities, will be launched in Assam. Secondly, whether a peace and friendship committees will be set up in all educational institutions and in the riot-affected areas; thirdly, all-party committees should be formed for campaigning for peace and normalcy through public meetings and other forums of mass media; fourthly, whether the arrested minorities will be released immediately and the arrest warrants against them withdrawn. Fifthly, whether all the suspended and transferred officers belonging to the minority communities will be restored to their former positions. Sixthly, whether expeditious steps will be taken for rehabilitating all the victims and adequate compensation paid to them and whether proper steps will be taken for the resumption of normal trade, business and other avocations of the minorities and whether stern measures will be taken against those who are still instigating economic boycott of the minorities.

MR. SPEAKER: Only one question. The "whethers" are so many.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: The Minister said that he has taken certain measures. These issues are very important. Please be merciful to us. Eight, whether the ATR Officers who indulged in vicious language propaganda in the local news bulletins will be immediately transferred from the Gauhati station; nine, whether an ordinance will be promulgated against communal writings and publications of news in local or outside newspapers and the printing of communally instigating things by the printing press. Ten, whether all officers who directly participated in the riots will be arrested and those who abetted the riots will be suspended and all the rioters will be hauled up, if need be, by applying the MISA. Eleven.—(Interruption). The hon. Minister said that adequate measures are being taken. I want to know whether these measures will be taken. It is a constructive suggestion. Eleven, whether, a delegation of Assam leaders including student leaders will be sent to Calcutta, Cachar and other areas to get back the Bengali students to their

[Shri Samar Guha]

homeland. Then, whether a student committee will be formed in each educational institution for safeguarding the minority students and stopping the threat and intimidation against them.

MR SPEAKER: Every day, I invite your attention that the rule provides for only one question.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: These are not separate questions.

MR. SPEAKER: You are numbering them. You have gone up to 11.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: This is tragic.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): This is not Calling Attention; this is all in attention.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: In view of the fact that the present administrative set-up has virtually collapsed or acted in a partisan manner, is the Central Government going to set up a cell of the Home Ministry and also strengthen the CRP force there with a view to assist the administration there?

In this House almost unanimously a view was expressed that a parliamentary delegation should be sent to Assam. The reason was not to reprimand or admonish the people of Assam but to create a sense of amity and understanding and peace and harmony among all the people of Assam and also to explain to them the implications of national integration and also how the people of Assam could live together....

MR. SPEAKER: You are stretching it too far; please conclude.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I want to know from the hon. Minister: what steps are the Government going to take for the solution of the language problem and whether the Shastri formula adopted in 1960 is going to be followed by the Government of Assam and whether they are going to stop the crusade of Assamisation

of the Bengalis there, whether the *status quo ante* will be maintained? Will the Education Ministry evolve a national formula for introduction of the regional language for education in the university level?

Lastly, he has stated that a commission of enquiry has been instituted to go into the incidents resulting in the death of two students? It is a travesty of justice. There have been hundreds of people who died, who were killed and murdered. What about those minorities, not only hundreds but thousands who were victims of the riot, killing, murder, loot and arson, would a judicial enquiry be instituted into that also?

Lastly, I want to warn the Government. Shri Sarat Sinha the Chief Minister had made a statement on the 12th. He said a political group as also foreign agents played a major role in the riots in Assam. It is the Pak-collaborators who were opposed to the Bangla Desh movement who took a major part in this. About eighty per cent of the violent activities were done by them. A dangerous design is still being hatched there, to subvert Bangla Desh elections and create a communal atmosphere there. Unless Government took precautionary measures, there will be more communal riots and attempts to subvert the Bangla Desh elections and compromise the position of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Unless Government takes note of the hand of Pak. collaborators in this Assam riot, unless the Governments goes in depth, a serious situation will develop not only in regard to the security of the country but also in regard to the secularisation that is being accepted by our neighbour State where election is going to be held and the Pak collaborators, communal collaborators will try to subvert not only our base of secularism but also try to vitiate the whole election atmosphere in Bangla Desh by creating such troubles.

Finally, a Parliamentary delegation should be sent to Assam and a judicial enquiry should also be instituted to go

into the whole thing, including the role played by Pak, collaborators in the last Assam riots.

SHRI K. C. PANT: My hon. friend asked me about the situation there now and asked why I did not deal with all the incidents in the past couple of months in detail. The main reason is; because the situation there has stabilised and in the last few weeks there have been no incidents of violence, any reference to the earlier incidents may not have been conducive to consolidating the forces of peace which certainly are working in Assam today. That is why I made no reference to the earlier incidents. I think in the questions that are put if care is taken to avoid putting them in a manner which will rub anybody the wrong way in Assam or Cachar, that will itself help in this process of normalisation that is taking place.

I have said that the situation has stabilised and there have been no incidents of violence in the last few weeks. But it is a fact that apprehension still lurks in the minds of many among the minorities and it is necessary to see that steps are taken to remove these suspicions and fears. It is for this purpose that the State Government also has taken and is taking various steps. My friend asked me for specific answers to specific questions and I will beg your indulgence to give me some time to answer many of the points he has raised, because it is better the House knows what is being done to tackle the situation. I entirely agree that this is a national question and there can be no two opinions on the fact that every part of India belongs to all Indians. This is basic, fundamental and axiomatic and does not need to be repeated. The concept of unity in diversity and the concept of living together are the very fundamentals of our unity. So, there can be no disagreement on this score and I think nobody in this House including members from Assam will disagree with what Prof. Guha has said. My colleague, Mr. Mohsin, made a statement here which appears to have been misunderstood. He made it in a certain context, but it is

obvious that minorities exist all over the country. There are linguistic minorities in every State and the approach of the Government has always been and is to allow the minorities to develop according to their likes within the framework of the law of the land and also them to develop their personalities and their own way of life and create an atmosphere in which every group of minorities feels perfectly secure and able to develop according to its own likes within the framework of loyalty to the whole country and working to develop the country as a whole. These again are basic concepts which really do not need repetition, except that any reference to the contrary creates a wrong impression. Majorities and minorities in every State have a responsibility in the matter. The majority has to create confidence in the minority and the minority also has to behave in a manner that the majority feels that the minority is cooperating with it in the development of both the majority and the minority in the State. This kind of feeling is necessary. We have to see whether it is Assam or other areas, this problem is tackled in this manner.

He asked me about the language issue in particular. This issue arose because English is being relegated to the background and the regional language is being brought forward. This is not peculiar to Assam. It can happen in other places also. As regional languages come into their own at the primary stage and the secondary stage and then at the college stage and English goes, this sort of problem can arise in other States also. Therefore, we should not take only an Assam view of the problem. We should look at it from a wider angle, understand the repercussions and implications and then find a proper solution.

He made some concrete suggestions about peace committees in different areas, Peace and friendship committees are welcome. Some of the places I visited had such peace committees. In Dibrugarh I met members of the peace committee, who had been doing good work and who

[Shri K. C. Pant] took me round to see some of the Houses which had been destroyed during the riots. The local Youth Congress President, who I think was an Assamese as far as I remember, had taken it upon himself to give every help to the Bengalis to reconstruct their houses. I found a great deal of goodwill among the people in that particular locality. Of course, all-party committee for peace are most welcome. I am sure same elements in all parties do want to see there is peace and they are working in their own way towards that end. But if a committee can also be formed, I would have no objection to it.

About the question of releasing the minorities, I wish he would put forward a plea to release all those who could be released and who were not engaged in violent activities.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Minorities form 80 per cent of the people arrested. Professors, lawyers and others have been arrested. It does not happen in other places. Minorities are the victims.

SHRI K. C. PANT: There are 200 persons in jail in connection with specific cases. Of them 84 are Bengalis and 50 have been arrested in connection with the murder of Anil Bora. So, it is not correct to say that most of the arrested persons belong to the minority community. But I am not looking at it community-wise. I wish he had appealed for all. (*Interruption*). Sir, this cannot be reduced to a dialogue between us.

MR. SPEAKER: He has taken such a lot of time and he also interrupts in between. Mr. Minister, you kindly address me, not him. (*Interruption*).

SHRI K. C. PANT: When I say this, I am not saying that if any Bengali has been jailed, he should not be released, if he can be released. It is for the State Government to look into it. I am only saying that majority or minority community should not be brought in here.

As for the officials, as I have already indicated, there were complaints about the behaviour of certain officials. While I was there, the Chief Minister told me he had decided to appoint a high-powered administrative committee to enquire into the allegations of lapses by the administrative machinery and to enquire whether adequate steps had been taken by them or not. This is a positive steps taken by the Assam Government in response to questions raised about the functioning of the administrative machinery.

About rehabilitation, I do not want to go into details. Various measures have been taken to rehabilitate the persons affected by the riots. Gratuitous relief has been given. Rehabilitation assistance has been given. 26 relief camps were opened in which 11,000 Bengali refugees lived. The reconstruction of affected houses has been expedited in many cases.

Here, I have told him about the Youth Congress President in Dibrugarh taking up the matter in his hands. I am happy to tell the House that in Moirabari where a number of houses were burnt, the local MLA persuaded the local people of that region to contribute money, to contribute bamboos, to contribute building material and their labour to construct the houses which had been burnt. This is very good news. I found a very good atmosphere prevailing in the region in spite of the earlier incidents. I think, we should take note of these positive features also.

The State Government has already sanctioned Rs. 7,33,900 for relief and rehabilitation. *Ex-gratia* grant to 13 bereaved families has been made at the rate of Rs. 1000 per family and, in 8 other cases, *ex-gratia* grant has been made at the rate of Rs. 500 per family. It was said that MISA should be used to detain people. MISA has been used and 88 persons have been detained under it.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai): Sir, I quite recognise that the scope of the Calling Attention is limited by two factors, firstly, that the discussion on the subject has taken place earlier and much of the ground had been

covered already and, secondly, that the process of normalisation is under way and that we should try in all possible ways to help this process.

The first question that arises in my mind is this: taking note of the improvement in the situation, we feel satisfied no doubt to some extent but whether this normalisation has been set in motion by any initiative of the Government or whether it is due to the realisation on the part of the people that the state of fewer in Assam must end? My submission is that this is not the result of any initiative either on the part of the Central Government or the State Government. We did not find any evidence of any initiative on the part of the Central Government earlier in this regard except that the other day the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs paid a visit to some of these areas.

The second thing that occurs to me is that although there had been an opportunity offered to the Central Government earlier during the course of debate on linguistic minorities, the Government did not utilise to provide a healing touch to the people of Assam. The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs dutifully read out a draft prepared by the Cabinet. But the Prime Minister who happened to be present on that occasion did not think it fit to speak even a few words which could have provided a healing touch to the people of Assam. In fact, so far, we did not find any authoritative statement coming from the highest quarters, although the situation had been of the gravest nature, to pacify the people in that area.

We have to take into account the fact that Assam has suffered from these troubles in the past too a number of times. What is the way of ending these troubles? Certain parts of Assam have gone off from Assam. Assam is now a badly truncated State. There must be a realisation on the part of all elements in Assam that they have to keep the State together in order to have a viable entity.

Now, what is the way of doing it? If this process goes on, if the discontent continues and troubles erupt from time to time, we may have the bad spectacle in future which had better be not described just now.

So, my submission would be that Government must find a solution, a permanent solution of this problem. What is the way of doing it? Two suggestions have occurred to me. I am not making these suggestions in a spirit of making a speech on this occasion but incidentally asking some questions and whether the Government would take some steps in the required direction.

The office of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities must be strengthened in a way as to be helpful on such occasions and be able to give advance intelligence to the Government so that action may be taken in time. Secondly, there must be a round table of all elements in Assam to thrash out this problem and find out a permanent solution. Is the Government thinking in terms of having a round table of all elements in Assam? That is the question which I would like to ask.

A suggestion has been made about a parliamentary delegation being sent from here. We have been making this suggestion but the Government seems to be under the impression that such a delegation, instead of helping the process of normalisation, might accentuate the problems there. Here, with all deference to the Government, I would like to submit that this is a very unfounded apprehension on their part. The Members of Parliament must be credited with at least some sense of responsibility and constructive spirit and if they go there—it is my humble opinion—they would be able to pacify the people there more than any effort that may be made by the Central Government. So, would not the Government accede to the request of the Opposition—and I think that seems to be the unanimous view of the Opposition—that a parliamentary delegation should be sent to Assam? The same was also suggested by no less a person than Shri

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Profulla Chandra Sen who wanted to go there with a batch of Satyagrahis to pacify the people. He also seems to think that it would be good if the Government agrees to send a delegation of this House.

Lastly, the question that arises is the one in the context of the measures for rehabilitation—whether the measures that have already been taken are adequate enough. The Government has not given us any account of the people involved and the number of relief camps opened. Therefore, we are not in a position to say whether the measures taken by the Government are adequate for the purpose of rehabilitation.

Lastly, if it appears to the State Government that the administration there has failed signally—although an inquiry is now going to be made, but it is obvious to everybody that the administration there has failed signally—would the State Government also think in terms of making some radical changes in the administrative set up there so that the linguistic minorities have a greater assurance of the protection and safeguards that are enshrined in the Constitution?

SHRI K. C. PANT: I do not know whether it would be right to say that an initiative was taken by the Assam Government.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: By both Central and Assam Governments.

SHRI K. C. PANT: ...or the Central Government in the matter prior to my visit to Assam and Cachar. Actually, if the series of incidents is traced back to a few months, it can be traced back longer. You can go back into the past incidents, etc. But I think the immediate agitation started on 5th October, the Assam *Bandh*, after the Supreme Court had accepted one of the writ petitions.

Now, without going into all that, I would only like to point out that my colleague, Mirdhaji, went with Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed to Assam and met

various people and helped in the normalisation of the situation, and the Prime Minister has been continuously meeting delegations from Assam, including Cachar, and besides, when she went to Shillong, I think—was it NEFA or on her way back?—she again met at the airport people from that region. She has been not only in close touch but has been actively helping this process of normalisation all along. Therefore, it would not be right to say that the Centre has not taken any initiative. The State Government was certainly most deeply concerned about the agitation when it arose and the decision of the State Government to reconsider the Assembly Resolution actually enabled the agitation to be called off. They were certainly groping with the situation and have been trying to take such initiative as they thought desirable to bring the situation to normal.

About the point of Assam being kept intact, I entirely agree with my friend that Assam should be kept intact and we should find a solution to this problem, because, this is not something peculiar to Assam only. Linguistic minorities exist in other States also. We should not be defeated by this problem of linguistic minorities but we should find a way to satisfy the aspirations of the majority community for the regional language and also at the same time give adequate safeguards to the minorities and their language. This is the essence of the problem. A solution has got to be found not only in the interest of Assam, but in the interest of all States of the country.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Are you thinking of a kind of solution which will be available to all the linguistic minorities in the country—of an All-India pattern?

SHRI K. C. PANT: We will have to certainly keep in mind and so far as the Assam Government is concerned, we will advise them to keep in mind the fact that any solution found here is bound to have an impact on the other areas also, and this aspect will have to be kept in mind.

Now, as regards the strengthening of the office of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities, I have made a note of the suggestion. Regarding advance information, this is not relevant in this case, because advance information was available. The first Resolution of the Academic Council was in January, 1970. The second one was in February, 1970 and the third one was in June, 1970 and then that Resolution was changed. So, it is a long process which has led up to a certain situation, not for lack of advance information, but because of certain pressures, a new situation developed. Regarding the question of round-table conference, the Chief Minister told me that he is going to discuss this matter with Cachar leaders.—I did not ask him over the shape of the table, I don't think that is relevant also. But he does intend to discuss this with Cachar leaders. In democratic functioning, naturally, solution of this problem will have to be found through talks and discussions and I also promised the Chief Minister that if the good offices of the Centre were recruited in the matter, they would always be available.

On the question of Parliamentary delegation, there is no reflection on the Parliament Members in any way, but if there is perhaps a certain amount of hesitation about the Parliamentary delegation, it is only because, perhaps, at this particular moment, it may not be of that much help when things are setting down. That is the only reason. Otherwise, Sir, there is no question of doubting either the motives or the effectiveness of Parliament Members.

I have already referred to the relief measures that have already been undertaken. I do not think it is necessary for me to go into those details once again. I can give you the number of houses burnt, just to give an idea. 2023 houses, to be exact, were burnt during the period October to December, of which, 1932 houses belonged to Bengalis.

Now, Sir, I have given the details already....

SHRI SHYAMANANDAN MISHRA:
Are the measures adequate?

SHRI K. C. PANI: I myself visited the localities where the houses had been burnt or there were other complaints; to the extent I could within the span of two days I visited those places and met some of these people. Wherever anybody wanted to meet me separately, I also met them separately.

Therefore, I told the press that there are still allegations about incidents of intimidation. All this I came to know and I said it quite frankly. But at the same time, I found that the atmosphere there was good. I found the local people helping in the process of rehabilitation and I made a note of this point also. There may be some elements who are still bent upon making mischief, but there are a very large number of persons in Assam who want normally to return and who are actively working for it.

SHRI A. K. GOPALAN (Palghat): It is reported in the press that the Chief Minister of Assam while addressing a public meeting on December 3 and 4 declared that the Assam Government had already decided to introduce Assamese as the medium of instruction through legislation without any round table conference and would introduce Assamese in non-Assamese schools. The Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Sinha, reiterated on 6th December this declaration of 11 November that the Assamese language would be made the sole medium in the whole of Assam State, English, being allowed for the transition period of ten years as an alternate medium. He also announced that his Government would introduce Assamese as a compulsory subject in all the secondary schools in the State from next January. It is this undemocratic policy of denying linguistic minorities their fundamental right to get education in their own mother tongue that is responsible for the unrest. There is also an attempt to impose Assamese on non-Assamese minorities. This is proved also by the refusal to give adequate protection to the minorities, specially the Bengali-speaking minority in the Brahmaputra

[Shri A. K. Gopalan]

Valley from the ravages of the reactionary vested interests who are fanning linguistic riots.

There are also reports in the press—as you have stated here—of destruction of houses and killing; many have now become refugees and are not given relief. There is denial of protection.

So I want to know whether the Central Government will ask the State Government of Assam to take necessary steps to protect the minorities. What specific measures are proposed to protect the minorities? I want further to know whether Government will arrange to give to the linguistic minorities the right to get education in their own mother tongue at all levels and said that compulsory learning of Assamese in non-Assamese secondary schools is not enforced. Other questions have been more or less answered. But I want to know this. He said there is no objection to sending a parliamentary delegation, when the time to send such a delegation is ripe, to study the situation there.

SHRI K. C. PANT: I think he has put some words in my mouth. I never said that there was no objection to sending a parliamentary delegation and that I was prepared to indicate a date. But the suggestion has been made. I will certainly discuss it with the Assam Government. I merely said that the situation there was returning to normalcy, has returned very largely to normalcy. Therefore, this may not be a proper moment for that. But I can certainly discuss the suggestion he has made with the Assam Government.

The question of medium of instruction is the precise question which is causing agitation and counter-agitation in the Valley and in Cachar. I have already said that the Assam Chief Minister told me that he proposes to discuss the issue of the medium with Cachar leaders in order to find a solution to the problem. I think it would be proper for me at this stage not to go into the details of this matter, but to leave it to the two parties

directly concerned to thrash out the problem, because ultimately the solution that they find must carry satisfaction to both sections. It must be a solution which large sections of the population accept on both sides. I hope given goodwill, such a solution can be found by the parties concerned. If my good offices are needed, they are always available.

So far as the protection of the minorities is concerned, there is no question of the Centre asking Assam to protect the minorities. The Assam Government has been doing its best to protect the minorities and it has taken various steps. I have spelt out various steps it has taken. I said just now that when I went to those areas which were the scenes of certain incidents, there also I found that the minorities were feeling fairly safe, feeling protected, except that because of stray incidents, there was some apprehension and fear in their minds. This has to be taken note of not as an unsettling factor in the situation, but as a factor which calls for continued vigilance and continued steps on the part of the Assam Government to see that these fears are also removed.

SHRI A. K. GOPALAN: I said that it is because declarations are made by the Chief Minister and the Home Minister that by January next the medium of instruction will be in Assamese compulsorily enforced, that the situation gets aggravated and fear will be there in the minds of the minorities.

SHRI DJINEN BHATTACHARYA (Serampore): He has clearly evaded that.

SHRI K. C. PANT: There is no cleverness in this. This is a situation far too serious to permit of verbal cleverness.

Some friends in Cachar brought this to my notice. I talked to the Chief Minister and the Home Minister in this matter. The Home Minister showed me a paper cutting of an Assam paper where he had given a statement saying that his statement had been distorted and, therefore, he was prepared to explain to the people concerned what he really meant. The Chief

Minister also said that he would be talking to Cachar friends to remove this apprehension in their minds. I think that is all we need go into at this stage so far as this matter is concerned.

श्री जदल बिहारी बाबू (स्वालयर) : अध्यक्ष जी, जब वंग जी असम के दोरे पर गये थे, सीभाग्य से कहिये या दुर्भाग्य से कहिये, उन दिनों मैं भी वहीं था। उनकी तरह मैं मुझे बायुसेना के विमान की सुविधा तो नहीं थी, लेकिन अपने तीन दिनों के असम के शीरे में मैंने जो कुछ देखा और सुना, उस से तो हृषय में बड़ी वेदना होती है। स्वाधीनता के 25 वर्ष बाद भी देश में या देश के किसी भाग में अंग्रेजी चल सकती है लेकिन भारत की भाषा पर आपत्ति की जाती है।

अध्यक्ष जी, मुझे लड़कियों ने रोते हुए बताया कि अन्नर वह साड़ी पहन कर जाती हैं तो आपत्ति की जाती है, कहा जाता है कि मेखला पहननी चाहिये, लेकिन बेल-बाटन में जाय तो कोई आपत्ति नहीं है।

केन्द्रीय सरकार ने भी इस बात को देखा होगा और सदन भी इस बात को देख रहा है कि जब जब असम में उपद्रव होता है तो शासन कानून और व्यवस्था बनाये रखने में विफल हो जाता है। 1950 से लेकर आज तक जितने भी उपद्रव हुए, चाहे वे किसी के भी विरुद्ध हों, लेकिन शासनतन्त्र उन पर काबू पाने में कामयाब नहीं हुआ। क्या यह केवल असम सरकार की जांच की बात है, क्या केन्द्र को इस सम्बन्ध में चिन्ता नहीं होनी चाहिये। असम सीमावर्ती प्रदेश है, तरह तरह की शक्तियां, तरह तरह के तत्व वहाँ काम कर रहे हैं, लेकिन हर बार शासनतन्त्र शांति को कायम रखने में विफल हो जाता है। मेरा निवेदन है कि इस की जांच केवल सभी जो घटनायें हुई हैं, उन्हीं के सम्बन्ध में करना पर्याप्त नहीं है, वह जिम्मेदारी केवल असम सरकार पर भी

नहीं छोड़ी जा सकती, इस जांच में केन्द्रीय सरकार को भी शामिल करना चाहिये और आवश्यकता हो तो मैन्डेट व्यो अफ़ इन्वेस्टी-गेशन की सेवायें भी असम को उपलब्ध की जानी चाहियें, जिन से इस बात का पता लग सके कि हर बार शासनतन्त्र के विफल होने के क्या कारण हैं? कभी असम विदेशी आक्रमण का शिकार हो गया और शासनतन्त्र उस समय बिफल हो गया तो सारा देश संकट में फंस जायगा। इस लिये इस सम्बन्ध में केन्द्रीय जांच और प्रभावी-उपाय-योजना आवश्यक है।

श्री हंसरी बात में वह जानना चाहता हूँ—असम सरकार ने दो छात्रों की हत्या की प्रचालनी जांच का आवेदन दिया है। उन में से एक छात्र श्री मज्जिमल—के सफन पर मैं गया था—बड़ा बहादुर लड़का, 15 साल की उम्र और जिन परिस्थितियों में वह मारा गया, वे बड़ी हृदय-विदारक है। श्री अनिल बोहरा के सम्बन्ध में यह पता नहीं कि उन की हत्या कहाँ की गई, किस ने की—इस की जांच आवश्यक है। लेकिन क्या सारे मामले की जांच आवश्यक नहीं है? मंत्री महोदय इस बात को स्वीकार करेंगे—यद्यपि विवाद का शिथिल भाषा थी, शिक्षा का माध्यम था, जिन को लेकर मतभेद खड़े हुए, लेकिन उपद्रव नगरों में नहीं हुए, उपद्रव ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में ज्यादा हुए, जहाँ ऐसे लोग रहते हैं जिन्हें शिक्षा प्राप्त करने का न तो अभी तक अवसर मिला है और न जिन के लिये माध्यम का प्रश्न कभी महत्वपूर्ण होने वाला है। विद्यार्थियों का पहला आन्दोलन शान्तिपूर्ण था, वह आन्दोलन सरकार के खिलाफ था, क्योंकि विद्यार्थियों का मतभेद सरकार की नीति से था। वह आन्दोलन समाज-विरोधी और राष्ट्र-विरोधी तत्वों के हाथ में कैसा गया—इस बात की जांच आवश्यक है। मैं खरपेटिया भी गया था जहाँ लोगों के घर जला दिये गये। मुझे उन के शिविर में

[श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी]

जाने का मौका भी मिला। जिस मीडि ने उन के चारों पर हमला किया, उन में बहुत से लोग ऐसे थे जो पाकिस्तान जिन्दाबाद के नारे लगा रहे थे। मुझे उन पर अविश्वास करने का कारण नहीं है। अध्यक्ष महोदय, बहुत से रज्जाकार जो बगला देश से निकाल दिये गये, यहा भाग प्राये है और असम में रह रहे है। उन्होने परिस्थिति का लाभ उठाने की कोशिश की—उन के ऊपर जो रहस्य का पर्दा पड़ा है, उस पर्दे को हटाने की आवश्यकता है। भविष्य में भी कोई गड़बड़ न करे, इस बात पर भी ध्यान देना पड़ेगा और मैं चाहता हूँ कि छात्रों का आन्दोलन समाज-विरोधी और राष्ट्र-विरोधी तत्वों के हाथ में कैसे पड़ा—इस की जांच होनी चाहिये।

13 hrs.

अध्यक्ष महोदय, भाषा का प्रश्न अभी हल नहीं हुआ है। मंत्री महोदय का कहना है कि वहा शान्ति हो रही है। मेरा निवेदन है कि वह ऊपर की शान्ति है अभी तक हृदयों में अशान्ति है, लोगों में असुरक्षा की भावना है और कही कही भाषायी अल्प-संख्यकों का आर्थिक वृहत्कार हो रहा है। गोहाटी, डिब्रुगढ मंडिकल कालिज के छात्र अपने होस्टलो में जा कर पढाई करने के लिये तैयार नहीं है। जा गये है उन का अनुभव अच्छा नहीं है। दूसरी और असमी भाषी शिकायत करते हैं कि मिलचर में जो मंडिकल कालिज है, उम में उन के पढने का वातावरण अभी तक नहीं बनाया गया है। इस के लिये क्या किया जा रहा है? मैंने समाचार पत्रों में पढा है कि हमारे मित्र श्री बलीराम भगत को भेजा जा रहा है—वे छात्रों को बहा ले जायेंगे। भगत जी मेरे मित्र है, उन के लिये मेरे हृदय में बड़ा आदर है, लेकिन जो स्थिति पैदा हो गई है उस की सम्भालना केवल भगत जी के बूते की बात नहीं है मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि केन्द्र का कोई

मन्त्री इस के लिये क्यों नहीं जाता? वतजी के जाने का अच्छा असर हुआ। वे पीछे भी जा सकते थे। कोई केन्द्र का मन्त्री असम में बैठ सकता है और जिन में असुरक्षा की भावना है उनको साथ लेकर नगरो में, कालेजों में जा सकता है। पतीजी तो वहा से बहुत से सर्टिफिकेट प्रिंसिपल और विद्यार्थियों से इकट्ठा करके लाये हैं। मेरा कहना है कि इतना काफी नहीं है। विद्यार्थियों के साथ क्या बीता वह यहाँ सुनाना नहीं चाहता हूँ। केन्द्र के स्तर पर प्रयत्न करना होगा, असम की सरकार तो निष्क्रिय है निकम्मी है। जो असम के जन नेता हैं उन्होने भी अपने दायित्व का पालन नहीं किया है। विद्यार्थियों में सुरक्षा की भावना भरना आवश्यक है या फिर आप उनकी पढाई का प्रबन्ध कही और करें। उनका भविष्य खतरे में है। मेडिकल कालेज में अन्तिम वर्ष में पढने वाले छात्र मूक से मिले और कहने लगे कि हम क्या करे। सिलचर के मेडिकल कालेज का जितना कम वर्णन किया जाये उतना ही अच्छा है। कालेज क्या है बैरके बनी हुई है लडकों के रहने के लिए। 500 बिस्तर होने चाहिए, 102 बिस्तर है। सिलचर की जो आर्थिक उपेक्षा की गई है वह भी इसका एक कारण बन गया है। लेकिन मैं मानता हूँ पहला काम है लोगों में सुरक्षा की भावना लौटे और इसीलिए हमने इस पर बल दिया कि एक पार्लियामेन्टरी कमेटी जाये, वहा लोगों से मिले, उनके प्राबों पर महँम रखे, उनके प्रासू पीछे और सभी वर्गों से बातचीत करके कोई समाधान निकाले। मुझे बड़ा दुख है कि इस तरह की एक संसदीय समिति के बहा जाने का विरोध किया गया। असम के लोग चाहते है कि देश के भागों से लोग प्राये, उनकी समस्याओं को लोग समझ और उनमें एक सुरक्षा की भावना पैदा करे। अभी भी देर नहीं हुई है, मंत्री महोदय एक संसदीय समिति भेजने के प्रस्ताव के बारे

फिर से विचार करें और एक समिति वहां
बेचें ।

यह कहना ठीक नहीं है कि पुनर्वास की
सारी व्यवस्था की जा रही है । खरपेठिया
में क्रिषरों में रहने वाले लोगों को अभी मकान
की मरम्मत के लिए धन नहीं मिला है ।
शंवी महोदय वहां जा नहीं सके लेकिन मैं
वहां गया था । पुनर्वास के काय मे प्रवेश
की सरकार दिखाई कर रही है । यह ठीक
है कि प्रदेश की सरकार से हमें काम लेना
होगा लेकिन ऐसा लगता है कि प्रदेश की सरकार
या तो स्थिति की गम्भीरता को नहीं समझती
है या उसके अनुसार कदम उठाने का साहस
नहीं जुटा पाती है । प्रदेश सरकार को
इसके लिए प्रेरित करना होगा । इसमें
भी केन्द्र को जेंडा जा सकता है । इसमें असम
की स्वायत्तता को बच बरने का मवाल नहीं
है ।

मुख्य प्रश्न है माध्यम का । अगर सरकार
समझती है कि माध्यम के प्रश्न का टालकर
बहु असम में सामान्य स्थिति कायम कर
लेगी तो यह उसका धम है । मैं उन लोगों
से नहीं हूँ जो कहते हैं कि असम का दो
भाषी राज्य घोषित कर देना चाहिए । असम
एक भाषी राज्य रहेगा, असम की राजभाषा
असमिया रहेगी । मुझ सुनकर ताजुब हुआ
कि सिल्वर में असमिया को अनिवार्य रूप से
पढ़ाने के लिए व्यवस्था नहीं की गई है । सिल्वर
में भी असमिया अनिवार्य रूप से पढ़ाई जानी
चाहिए लेकिन माध्यम के सवाल पर विद्यार्थी
को छूट दे देनी चाहिए, जो विद्यार्थी बंगला
के माध्यम से धुनिर्वासी तक पढते हैं उन्हें
इस बात की इजाजत होनी चाहिए । इससे
असम बार्डिंग्स नहीं बनेगा । बार्डिंग-
कुशल असम बनाने का सवाल भी नहीं है ।
लेकिन केन्द्र भाष्य के सवाल पर कोई स्पष्ट
नीति निर्धारित करने उसपर दृढ़ता से अमल
कराने में बिकल राहा है । ऐसी नीति का

निर्धारण होना चाहिए । जबतक यह नहीं होगा
तबतक बड़ा सम्पन्न स्थिति कायम नहीं
हो सकती है । अभी जो शांति हुई है वह या
तो तूफान के पहले की शांति है या बर्बट
की शांति है । असम की कोई भी गलत
घटना बंगलादेश में प्रभाव डाल सकती है
और कुछ तथ्य इस बात को लेकर प्रयत्न कर
रहे हैं कि सिल्वर में, कछार में आपस में सख्त
हो जाये, सख्त साम्प्रदायिक रूप धारण कर
ले जिसकी प्रतिक्रिया बंगलादेश में हो—
ऐसे लोगों के खेल को हमें रोकना पड़ेगा और
शीघ्रतापूर्वक सामान्य स्थिति कायम करने
के लिए सभी प्रश्नों का निर्णय करना पड़ेगा
मैं जानना चाहता हूँ मंत्री महोदय ने जरूर
भाषा के प्रश्न पर असम में चर्चा की होगी
तो उनकी क्या प्रतिक्रिया है, किस तरह से
इस सवाल को हल करना चाहते हैं और
सामान्य स्थिति लाने के लिए कौन सी प्रभावी
योजना उनके सामने है ?

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पन्त : अध्यक्ष जी, सबसे
पहले वाजपेयी जी ने इस बात की ओर ध्यान
खीचा सदन का कि जब वहां असम में दंगे
हुए तो उम समय आसाम वा शासन उनना
सफन नहीं रहा उसको काबू में लाने में
जितना कि वे चाहते थे । अब बाद में उन्होंने
खुद ही कहा कि प्रदेश सरकार से इन चीजों
में काम लेना जाना है । काम लेना जाना है,
मे नहीं कहगा बल्कि मैं कहता हूँ यह उनका
काम है, वे इसको करें और हमारी उनसे कहने
की बात नहीं है उनका खुद करना है । हा,
यह अवश्य है कि जब दस तरह के मसले
होते हैं जिनमें भावनाओं का उबाल एकदम
में आ जाता है तो शासन के काबू के बाहर भी
कुछ दिन के लिए स्थिति कभी कभी चली
जाती है । यह और राज्यों का भी अनुभव
है और हमको ऐसी स्थिति में राज्य सरकार के
हाथ मजबूत करने होते हैं ताकि वे उस स्थिति
पर काबू पास कि क्योंकि ऐसी स्थिति में जिस
उन्होंने स्वयं कहा चाहे भाषा के प्रश्न पर

[श्री कृष्ण चंद्र पन्त]

या माध्यम के प्रश्न पर विद्यार्थियों की तरफ से कोई आन्दोलन हां उसमे जो अनामाजिक तत्व है या दूगरे तत्व है जोकि प्रदेश का भला नहीं करना चाहते वे उसमे कूद कर उसका फायदा उठाकर कुछ तोड़फोड़ करना चाहते हैं और अलग अलग भाषा भाषियों के बीच में एक दीवार खड़ी करना चाहते है । तो यह एक ऐसी चीज है जिसमे जबतक समय के साथ वहा के लोग सभी इस बात को न समझे विशेष तौर पर, इसलिए कि वह एक सीमावर्ती क्षेत्र है, तबतक इस तरह की घटनायें हो सकती है । मेरी आशा है कि आज इस ससद में इस बात की चर्चा के बाद वह इसका यह प्रभाव पड़ेगा कि सीमावर्ती क्षेत्र के लोगों को इसमें बहुत अधिक चौकन्ना होने की आवश्यकता है, इसको वे खूब समझेंगे और जो भी आन्दोलन हो वह नहीं होने देंगे बल्कि आपस में बैठकर इन चीजों का हल निकालेंगे । केन्द्र का जहा तक ताल्लुक है सीमावर्ती क्षेत्र होने के नाते भी और इस नाते भी कि अमम पिछड़ा रहा है, कुछ वहा क सचार माधन एमे रह हैं कि कम्युनिकेशन वहा से अच्छा नहीं रहा इसलिए आवश्यकता है कि उम सारे पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र की तरफ विशेष नजर जाये, वहा के विकास कार्यों में अधिक गति आये ताकि इन सारी समस्याओं की जो जड़ है विकास की कमी, वहा के लोगों के आगे बढ़ने क अवसरों की कमी उमका कोई हल निकले जिनके अभाव में वहा कई स्थितिया उत्पन्न हाती है जो बाद में आन्दोलन का रूप ले लेती है और उसकी जड़ वहा का पिछडपन ही है ।

आपने जा इस बात पर जोर दिया कि वहा भरोसा वापस आना चाहिए, अलग अलग लेंगों में, अलग अलग भाषा भाषिया में, मैं बिल्कुल सहमत ह । वह भी एक बुनियादी बात है क्योंकि जबतक भरोसा नहीं होगा आपस में, तबतक न तो शीघ्रप्रतिपत्ति कोई अंतिम हल निकल सकता है और न उसको स्थाई रूप दिया जा सकता है । आपने

विद्यार्थियों की वान कही । मुझ इस बात की खुशी है कि जिन विद्यार्थियों से मैं डिब्रूगढ में गोहाटी में मिला, इसमें उन स्टूडेंट्स यूनियस के पदाधिकारी भी थे जोकि इस आन्दोलन में अग्रुवा थे, उन्होंने भी और वहां के वाइस चानसलर्स ने वहा के जो अध्यक्ष है उन्होंने तथा टीचर्स एसोसिएशन के जो प्रेसीडेंट हैं उन्होंने, सब ने डिब्रूगढ में लिखकर मुझ को दिया कि हम अपील करते हैं बगानी लडके वापस आये, हम उनको आश्वासन देते है कि कम्पम के अन्दर उनकी सुरक्षा की जिम्मेदारी हम लेंगे । गोहाटी में चकि समय कम था, लिखकर नहीं लेकिन उन्होंने कहा कि पहले हमने ऐसी अपील इष्टु की है और मुझ में भी कहा कि आप हमारी तरफ से उन लडकों में कहिए, हम वचन देते हैं उनकी सुरक्षा का, यहा कम्पम में हम उनकी देखभाल करेंगे । और उन को हम वापस बुलाना चाहते है । मैं मानता हू कि ऐसे वातावरण में उन को वापस जाना चाहिये । उन का कही और जाने की जो मलाह है मैं उस वा नहीं मानता । मैं समझता हू कि उन का हक है, हर विद्यार्थी को हक है कि देश में जहा कहीं भी, किसी कालेज में वह हो, उम में उसे पढ़ने दिया जाये और यही स्टूडेंट्स चाहते हैं । मुझे आशा है कि इस बारे में मदन मजबूती से अपनी राय देगा ताकि जो विद्यार्थी, चाहे वह मद्रास का हो चाहे राष्मीर का हो या अमम का हो आज किसी कालेज में पढ़ता है उस में वह पठ सके । उम को हि दुस्तान के किमी कालेज में पढन का अधिकार है और उम को वहा पढ़ने देना चाहिए । हम सब की जिम्मेदारी है कि वह वहा पठ सके ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी मगर औरों का कर्तव्य है कि उन्हें पढ़ने दें ।

श्री कृष्ण चंद्र पन्त : बिल्कुल । यही मैं कह रहा हू । अगर ऐसा नहीं होता तो इस चीज को हम को देखना पड़ेगा ।

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Did you meet any students?

SHRI K. C. PANT: Yes, I met some students. Some of the students complained that after they have gone back, the behaviour was not good to them. I had also met students in hostels who said that the behaviour was all right now.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Where?

SHRI K. C. PANT: In Gauhati. I can give the names and figures.

Therefore, I would appreciate if my hon. friends also help in creating that confidence. My hon. friend, Shri Bhagat, is going there against this background, and he is going there to give additional confidence to the boys in Calcutta when they go there so that they can settle down there. The Universities and the State Government have also promised all help.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Shri Bhagat is not a government spokesman.

SHRI K. C. PANT: Government officials will go from Bengal. As a people's representative he should have more faith in his own colleagues.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: We have.

SHRI K. C. PANT: There are certain matters in which the government officials are helpless. Only a representative of the people can create such an atmosphere.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Then why not any other representative.... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI K. C. PANT: The Assam Government has opened liaison office in Gauhati and Dibrugarh to facilitate the return of these students. The Chief Minister and the Health Minister have issued appeals. The State Government has announced *ad hoc* grants for the loss of books and personal belongings of the students. The University of Gauhati and Dibrugarh have agreed to hold annual examinations in the second fortnight of January 1973

to facilitate the students who had earlier gone away. This is the kind of atmosphere that has been created. If you help them, they will go back quicker.... (*Interruptions*).

Shri Vajpayee told me that he visited a camp where he was told that money had not reached for rehabilitation. I will certainly look into it. I could not visit that camp myself. Therefore, I am not aware of that.

He said that we should not postpone the consideration of the language question and that the peace there is not very stable. I realise it that an answer to the question of language has to be found and till then things have not been settled down completely. But the process of finding an answer must be left to the people of Assam and Cachar, because they alone will understand each other best, with our help wherever necessary.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, even from the statement of the hon. Minister, it is clear that the situation has not been normal. I draw his attention to the *bundh* which took place only two days before on the 19th by the Cachar Sangram Parishad, some organisation....

SHRI D. BASUMATARI (Kokrajhar). I know what is the Cachar Sangram Parishad... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: The Cachar Sangram Parishad is also dominated by the Congress. They have declared and it has appeared in the papers that if by 25th December, the language issue is not settled, they will resort to higher form of struggle. I do not know what is the higher form of struggle in their mind. But this shows that the situation has not become normal. The minorities there are still apprehensive. They are still agitated. Unless the question of language is settled, I fear, there will be another round of explosion and the situation will further worsen.

The appeals have been issued and even the Chief Minister of West Bengal issued

[Shri Samar Mukherjee]

an appeal to the students who have come over to Calcutta from Assam to go back. But he also reported that not a single one has come to him who has expressed his desire to go back. This shows that no confidence has been created in the minds of the people here. . . (Interruptions).

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Shut up. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: In the very beginning, I made it very clear that this is a subject on which the sentiments might get aroused. You must avoid it. May I request you not to use such word?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: You kindly see the debates. Once Panditji actually went to his seat to stop him. . . (Interruption).

MR. SPEAKER: May I request both of you to go outside in the Lobby? Why do you disturb the atmosphere of the House? You go and settle your accounts outside. The word he uttered is unparliamentary.

श्रीर प्राप लोग उन को और चमका रहे हैं। इस का क्या मतलब है ?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : प्राप उन को कहने के बजाय हम लोगो से कहते हैं ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय प्राप उन से कहे कि वापस ले ।

SHRI K. S CHAVDA (Patan): He has given so many attributes. He said something that goes against the decorum of the House.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: From the very face, he looks like a chauvinist.

SHRI D. BASUMATARI: Why is he attacking me personally, Sir?

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: He should withdraw it, Sir.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Sir, he was exactly doing like this during the time of Panditji also and Panditji had to go to his seat and stop him.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Sir, I am rising on a point of order. Why do you put up with such utterances as those made by the hon. Member, Shri S. M. Banerjee? Should such statements be made, and such words used against an hon. Member of the House,—that he looks like so and so?

MR. SPEAKER: I have already said that, but he does not withdraw. . . (Interruptions). That is why I said that anybody speaking without my permission will not go on the record.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I am prepared to withdraw if you consider it unparliamentary.

MR. SPEAKER: When I asked you to withdraw, you did not.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I have never said that I would not withdraw. I withdraw that word, but let him also withdraw from the House.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: When the situation is not yet normal and from the reports of Mr. Pant it is evident and when some efforts are being made to restore normalcy, it is just at this situation, the Home Minister of Assam Government Shri Hiteswar Saika, in a public meeting said that the Assam Government has already decided to introduce Assamese as the medium of instruction through legislation without any round table conference and that is going to be introduced in January. That will be a further provocation and the situation will further worsen.

The facts are proved that there is a planned conspiracy behind these riots on the issue of the language of the minorities. Also the Government of India, in order to escape its own responsibility, has stated that there may be some hand of a foreign intelligence agency behind all these disturbances.

SHRI FRANK ANTHONY (Nominated Anglo-Indians): They are always finding an alibi.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Yes. There is no doubt that it is the Congress Government of the State as well as the Centre who are responsible and they have proved their total bankruptcy to deal with the situation.

Now, they have set up an inquiry. About what? To inquire into the adequacy of the administrative arrangements made to deal with the disturbances. Now, after the riots have continued for more than three months, the Government is inquiring into whether their machinery is adequate or not. What is this? It is quite obvious that the Government has totally failed and there is the hand behind these riots of the Government and there was a connivance of the Central Government with it.

13.24 hrs.

[SHRI K. N. TIWARY *in the Chair.*]

So, our main point is that unless the question of the medium of instruction and the language of the minorities is settled on the basis of democratic principles, the situation in Assam will not be normal.

Assamese should be the medium of instruction as well as the medium of administration. That is just and we fully support that....

MR. CHAIRMAN: But, Sir, what do you want to know?

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Let me finish. Why are you intervening?....
(*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, please. The call attention is meant only for seeking information.... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: It is the accepted policy of the Government that upto the secondary level the minorities should have the right to have instructions through their mother tongue. This should be extended right up to the college

and university level. There is no contradiction between Assamese language becoming the main medium of instruction and the language of administration and the language of minorities being the medium of instruction, both in the primary stage secondary stage, and other levels. Unless this problem is solved on the basis of democratic principles, the basis for these disturbances and riots will not be removed. Already the slogan for a separate State of Cachar has been raised. Already plain tribals have raised the demand for separate autonomous State. When the demand for a separate State for Cachar has already been there, do you want that Assam should be disintegrated as the situation in Andhra is? In Andhra they demand a separate State of Telengana. These demands are being raised because of the policy of the Congress Government. The Central Government has totally failed in this regard. If this situation continues how can the integrity of India be developed? How can the unity of India be developed? Their policy leads to disintegration in Assam, in Andhra, and various other States. It has got repercussions throughout India. It shows the total bankruptcy of the Government at the Centre. The problem of the medium of instruction of minorities should be solved on the basis of democratic principles. There should be guarantee for protection of the lives and properties of these minorities. Those who are affected must be given proper relief and rehabilitation.

13.27 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair.*]

Sir, we demand that a non-official inquiry should be conducted in these matters. They should find out as to who have been responsible for all these things, and how the situation could be improved and normal situation restored. There should be a deputation from all the parties on behalf of the Parliament. Parliamentary delegation is a 'must', I should say. It must be sent to Assam immediately so

[Shri Samar Mukherjee]

that the situation can be improved and normal situation restored and the fears and apprehensions of minorities removed.

These are very vital matters. The situation is very explosive. The movement is still going on. From January the Assamese language is going to be imposed unilaterally. The Minister should take a serious view of the situation. His attitude reflects a total complacency and lack of proper understanding of the situation. That is why, the first thing should be that we should solve this question of the medium of instruction. We want to know how the Central Government is going to solve this problem and improve relations between different linguistic people.

I would again like to emphasise that a non-official inquiry should be conducted in the matter. A Parliamentary Delegation should be sent there. I want a clear answer from the hon. Minister to all my points raised.

SHRI K. C. PANT: These points have already been raised by other hon. Member, and I have attempted to give whatever information I have in my possession. On the question of agitation in Cachar, when I was in Cachar, I met the various sections of the people there, including the members of the Sangam Parishad, the Bar Association, students and others, and my advice to them was that they should call off the agitation, and that agitations were not going to help in finding a solution to a problem like the medium of instruction in higher education. This is a problem which needs calm and peace and an atmosphere of goodwill and concidence for a solution and agitation do not help in any of these.

Therefore, while talking to them, I had suggested to them that the right thing would be to discuss the matter further with the Assam Chief Minister, and they had expressed some doubts about the Assam Chief Minister being willing to meet them because of some statement somewhere. There are so many press statements. I would appeal to the press not

only in Assam but elsewhere to be very careful in handling such situations. I would appeal to them to be very restrained. When I raised this matter with the Chief Minister, he readily said 'How can I object to meeting them? I shall certainly meet them and talk to them.' Therefore, that is the right approach.

The hon. Member again referred to the statement of the Home Minister of Assam. I have already said that he has said that it was a distorted statement.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Why did he not contradict it?

SHRI K. C. PANT: He has contradicted it. He showed me a press statement.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: That did not come in any paper.

SHRI K. C. PANT: The hon. Member has perhaps not read it. I shall accept that, but he showed me the press statement ...

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: What is his categorical view? Let him answer categorically and say what the position is going to be from January ...

SHRI K. C. PANT: I do not answer for all Home Ministers. I can only answer for the Central Government.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: But a *bandh* had taken place after the hon. Minister had come back.

SHRI K. C. PANT: My hon. friend had said that the Central Government had abdicated its responsibility. I have already indicated that Shri F. A. Ahmed went there, Shri Ram Nivas Mirdha went there, and I went there later, and in this particular type of situation, we would certainly help in every way possible. One concrete help which we can give them and we do give them is the assistance of the CRP. I do not know my hon. friend's attitude to the CRP, but I think he will realise the utility of the CRP in situations like this, and it will help to modify the general impression of the CRP which he has ...

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE The CRP is used against us only and not to control riots

SHRI K C PANT He made a surprising allegation that the riots had taken place with the connivance of the Centre. It is an amazing statement. It is an irresponsible statement. I would strongly protest against such statements which only tend to exacerbate the feelings that already exist in that area.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE That is because there is a general movement against the high prices of foodgrains.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) I had given notices about two things.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : मंत्री महोदय ने पार्लियामटरी डेलेगेशन के वार में कुछ नहीं कहा है। वह कह रहे हैं कि आसाम में स्थिति शान्त है। मੈम्बरों के वहाँ जान में स्थिति और भी शान्त हो जायगी, बिगड़गी नहीं।

SHRI SAMAR GUHA That has been the demand of the whole House.

MR SPEAKER The hon. Minister had made it very clear.

श्री समर गृह जब एक मੈम्बर का वहाँ भेजा जा रहा है, तो क्या पार्लियामट के मੈम्बरों को कलेक्टिवली नहीं भेजा जा सकता है। यह सारे आपोजीशन की डिमांड है।

MR. SPEAKER Usually, we allow only half an hour for the calling attention notice, and we sometimes take it up to 45 minutes. But today it has taken more than 1½ hours. This is the third time in this week that the calling attention notice has taken up so much time.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU Since the hon. Prime Minister is here, she may make a statement about the feasibility of sending an MP's delegation to Assam. We have been asking for it for a very long time. You could help us in this regard.

13.35 hrs.

RF PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) I had written to you about two things. May I read out? I *suo motu* wish to say the following which I had written to you immediately.

MR SPEAKER That is already expunged. Where does his *suo motu* come in now?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU I do not want to offend Shri Raj Bahadur and I do not want that he should be left hurt. So I only want to say that I have my regards for him and I do not wish to hurt him at all. He is a good man, there is no difficulty in saying that personally, he is a good man.

MR SPEAKER One thing is there that that is already expunged. All that he can safely do now is not to offend him in future.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU All right, Sir.

But unfortunately I have another unpleasant task and that is in regard to the privilege motion about the four motions that I had moved in this House in this session. That has to be taken up. That is a very unpleasant task. Shri Raj Bahadur had in his speech said—I am told that you, Sir, have already heard the tape record and it says that he said—that Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu had moved four motions in this session. That is number one. Number two on top of this the record was altered—I would not use the word 'tampering' just now. There are two things. There is a clear case of privilege. Now I seek your permission to allow me to raise this question of breach of privilege.