

(e) to abolish the land revenue'.  
(7).

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Speaker: Motion No. 7 is lost. May I now put all the other motions together? There are a number of them. Shall I put them all together or separately? I think I can put them all together.

An hon. Member: Please read them.

Mr. Speaker: They have already been moved. I will now put them to the vote of the House. I put motion Nos 1 to 15, excluding No. 7.

The substitute motions No. 1 to 6 and 8 to 15 were then put and negatived.

17.37 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—contd.

(ii) SITUATION IN CALCUTTA

Shri Krishna Kumar Chatterjee (Howrah): I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Yesterday's incidents in Calcutta."

Shri Shri Chand Goel (Chandigarh): Sir, I have also given a Calling Attention Notice. I presume that mine was the first one.

Mr. Speaker: I have got all the 60 names there.

Shri Shri Chand Goel: They may be there. But I want to know this: My motion was the first to be tabled in the office, and I presume that it should have been taken up. After all, there must be some rule which guides us all in this matter.

Mr. Speaker: We have got 60 names. I have not seen all of them; I do not know if your name is one of them.

3926 (A) L.S.D.—2.

Shri Shri Chand Goel: Yesterday, I gave notice; it was the first one to be submitted to the office. I want to know why I have not been permitted to move my motion, and why those who have tabled the motions subsequently are being asked to move their motion.

Mr. Speaker: This insinuation is wrong. He says he is the first to give the motion. I do not know how he can presume that. I shall enquire. He says he was the first; but what is the use of challenging me like this? Where does it lead us to? The office says all the 60 are there. Nobody's motion is thrown out. Yes, the hon. Minister.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Y. B. Chavan): According to information received from the Government of West Bengal, there was an old Shia Temple inside the compound of a gurudwara on Bagmari Road, Calcutta. Although worship in the temple had been discontinued a long time back, on the last Shivaratri (19th March), some local people wanted to perform puja at this temple. The Sikh owners of the gurudwara first objected, but later agreed to allow the puja to be performed.

According to the report of the Chief Minister, on the evening of 27th March, there was again a dispute about entry into the temple. As some people went inside, a few Sikhs who were inside the compound assaulted and chased them away. This resulted in a fight between the two groups.

A section of the mob forced entry into the compound by breaking the western gate and set fire to the gurudwara and other constructions. The police arrived and tried to disperse the crowd by lathi-charge, but this was ineffective. With difficulty the police force under the Deputy Commissioner prevented a serious clash between the two groups.

The Chief Minister has also reported that the Deputy Commissioner with

[Shri Y. B. Chavan]

his force entered the compound of the gurudwara to take the Sikhs under his protection. However, they were attacked by the Sikhs. A Sergeant who was with the Deputy Commissioner fell after being hit by a stone. Many other police officers received injuries. Finding the life of the policemen in danger, the Deputy Commissioner ordered a constable to fire three rounds with his musket. The crowd dispersed immediately. Two men received injuries due to the firing.

The Fire Brigade had meanwhile been called in to extinguish the fire at the gurudwara. The Fire Brigade personnel, when they arrived were, however, obstructed by the mob and had to go back. The Fire Brigade was able to return after 4 rounds of gas shells had been fired and the obstructing crowd dispersed. The fire was put out by about 1 a.m. In all 25 police officers and men received injuries.

In the evening of 29th March, the Chief Minister of West Bengal met a delegation of the Sikh community. The representative leaders of the Sikhs assured the Chief Minister that they would take out a non-violent mourning procession the next day and no weapons would be carried.

According to a further report received from the Chief Minister, the procession was scheduled to start from the Harrison Road Bara Sikh Sangha. From about 9.30 a.m. on the 29th, Sikhs started assembling at this place. In spite of the assurances given by their leaders to the Chief Minister at their meeting with him on the 29th, the Sikhs carried all kinds of weapons. By about 11.00 a.m. approximately 7,000 persons had assembled and the procession started moving with police escort in front and in the rear. Other police arrangements had also been made. The procession became riotous right from the start. At the crossing of Harrison Road and

College Street, the processionists indulged in brick-battling and looting of shops and vehicles. The police had to fire at the procession at this crossing. Ultimately the procession was stopped at Manicktola Main road near the Manicktola Police Station and was not allowed to proceed to Bagmari.

From 11.00 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. large-scale arson, burning of vehicles, assault on policemen etc went on. People of the locality also assembled in large numbers around the procession at different places and pelted brickbats. The situation, however, started improving from 2.30 p.m.

The Army had to be called out to deal with the situation. Orders under section 144 Cr.P.C. were promulgated in the affected areas. Curfew was also imposed in some areas from 8.00 p.m. to 5.00 a.m. According to the reports received so far, teargas was used to disperse the mob at different places and the police had to open fire on two occasions. Figures of casualties known so far are 6 persons killed and 98 injured. Among the injured are 21 police personnel including one Inspector who received gunshot injuries.

Late in the afternoon, the Deputy Chief Minister of West Bengal helped a number of persons to reach the Bagmari gurudwara. Representatives of the two communities met the Chief Minister late in the evening and reached a settlement. A peace committee has also been formed. The situation is reported to be under control.

I send my sympathies to the members of the bereaved families. I would also appeal to all citizens of Calcutta to help the Government to restore normalcy.

Mr. Speaker: There are 60 names—I have counted them—including members from both sides of the House. Does the House want me to allow all the 60 members one by one to put one question each?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: May I make an appeal? As it is a question involving the sentiments of both the communities and as the leaders of both the communities have met the Chief Minister and have reached a certain settlement, I do not think anything should be said, done or suggested in this House, so that the atmosphere created there may not be spoiled.

Mr. Speaker: I agree. Therefore, I shall adjourn the House now.

श्री० राम मरीहर लोहिया (कमीज) :  
हिन्दू-सिख पर सवाल नहीं। गृह मंत्री  
साहब ने जो कहा है वह तो धार्मिक प्रश्नवा

सांख्यिक पक्ष के बारे में कहा है।  
किन्तु दूसरे पक्ष हैं, उनके ऊपर तो प्रयास  
होने चाहिए। अगर आप सवालते हैं कि  
इस बिल जकरत नहीं है तो...

Mr. Speaker: No, no. I take it that the House agrees that no more questions are necessary now. Let us adjourn and meet again tomorrow not 11.00 in the morning.

17.46 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till  
Eleven of the Clock on Friday, March  
31, 1987/Chaitra 10, 1889 (Saka).