

This is a matter that relates to the law and order situation of the State of Assam. There have been graver happenings in Assam wherein agencies responsible to the Government of India like the Army or the Central Reserve Police or the Border Security Police have been used, and you have ruled out any discussion or question in this House on the ground that it is a matter relating to the law and order situation of a State Government. Now, this is a case of a few things which took place in Diphu, which is part of Assam, and it has nothing to do with the Central Government, the Government of India has no responsibility for this matter, and therefore I think the admission of this calling attention notice is out of order under the rules.

Mr. Speaker: I have considered that, and came to the conclusion that under these circumstances when a particular tribe is going to make attacks, and there have been many on the border, Central responsibility comes in.

Shri Swell: When there was firing in Shillong in August and the tribal people were affected and firing had taken place in the tribal area, you had said there was no scheduled area in Assam and therefore no question could be admitted.

Mr. Speaker: That was a different thing.

Shri Swell: When the matter relates to tribes, how does it attract the responsibility of the Centre?

Mr. Speaker: I have given the ruling.

Shri Nath Pai: 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:

"The reported raid by a large number of armed Mikir tribals at Diphu in Assam".

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Y. B. Chavan): According to information received from the Government of

Assam, on the 20th November, 1966 at about 12.30 hours, 3000 to 4000 villagers had assembled at Langhing in Howrahghat police station in Mikir Hills. This was a 'hat' day and the cultivators had brought newly-harvested paddy for selling to the agents of the Apex Marketing Co-operative Society who have the monopoly of procurement on behalf of the State Government. The cultivators grew impatient at the delay involved in selling their produce. The mob entered the co-operative society's godown and severely assaulted Government and co-operative society officials including some police officers who were trying to pacify the cultivators. The mob also looted the cash of the society amounting to about Re. 1 lakh and carried away the records. One SBBL gun of the society was removed which was later found abandoned at Langhing Bazar.

The State Government is taking steps to strengthen and streamline the co-operative society's machinery for purchase of paddy. Steps have also been taken for ensuring security of officials and maintaining law and order in the various important 'hats' in the vicinity of the area. A police case has been registered and 33 persons have so far been arrested. The situation is peaceful. This incident has no connection with any political agitation or tribal unrest.

Shri Nath Pai: Mr. Speaker, the statement says that the mob entered the co-operative society's godown and severely assaulted Government and co-operative society officials including some police officers who were trying to pacify the cultivators; the mob also looted the cash of the society amounting to about 1 lakh and carried away the records and that one SBBL gun of the society was removed which was later found abandoned at Langhing Bazar. It is not just an incident! It is one of the series regularly occurring in Assam on the periphery of Assam and it is alarming that the authority of this Government is incredibly devalued in the eyes of

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those people who are resorting to violence its image is gravely damaged. If he agrees with me in this, what does he propose to restore the image and authority? I do not mean the ordinary way of the danda but more imaginative methods.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I think the hon. Member is crying to connect a particular incident with certain other facts and realities that do prevail in that part of the country. This particular question has nothing to do with tribal unrest as such or with any other thing. I cannot say until I get the final confirmation of this opinion but there seems to have been some sort of a dissatisfaction about the change of co-operative officials, etc. locally and possibly that may be the reason for this particular trouble. What you mention is certainly matter which will have to be separately considered and naturally the entire question is under Government's consideration.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): In the statement, he said about the apex marketing co-operative society in the border areas. The border areas on that strategic region in the State of Assam are all in a ferment today due particularly to foreign interference. This apex co-operative marketing society which has the monopoly of procurement of paddy in that State behaves in a very odd manner.

Mr. Speaker: We cannot go into his question whether the apex society behaves in a particular manner. If we do, that objection of Dr. Swell would apply. It was only because of the border area that I allowed it.

Shri Hem Barua: I know, Sir and may I submit that you are perfectly right in admitting this call attention motion and I congratulate you for that. From my own experience, I say that this apex marketing society is staffed with men whose heads are filled with straw and they behave in a very odd manner and people complain about

the odd manner and the odd approach of this society times without number and exasperated at the approach of these people, the tribal people 3,000 4,000 of them took the law into their hands and in that context may I know what steps have the Central Government taken to tell the State Government there that they should try to streamline the machinery of the Government and remove the difficulties that the cultivators are facing there, whether the cultivators are from the hills or from any other part of the State?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: If the hon. Member had heard my statement more carefully, I have myself said that the Assam Government had already decided to streamline the co-operative machinery there.

Shri Alvares (Panjim): In an area that is so sensitive to revolt any incident may trigger off events with the association of Mikir tribes and others like the underground as who are adjacent to them. In view of this situation, what concrete steps the Government going to take in order to see that there is no coal scence between the Mikir tribesmen who appears to be dissatisfied with the under round Nagas who are adjacent to them?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I have said that it has nothing to do with the other aspects of tribal unrest.

Shri Hem Barua: When I said 'staffed by men', I should have said 'by women also'.

Mr. Speaker: It was strange that Mr. Hem Barua left out women.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, are there reasons to believe, on the basis of intelligence reports or other more intelligent basis, that the approach of the State Governments to the problems of

tribal people, the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes in Assam, as in Bastar, Madhya Pradesh, has been so unsatisfactory and unimaginative that the tribals on the border areas in Assam have resorted to contacts with foreign powers such as China and Pakistan, for a satisfactory settlement, according to them, of their problems as contrasted with the Government of India and the State Governments?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: The hon. Member is asking for my opinion? I do not want to...

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Are there reasons to believe?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: It is certainly a fact that there is a certain degree of discontent in those areas; that fact is there. I do not want to hang this blame on the shoulders of the State Governments only.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I could not get the last bit of his answer; I could not catch it.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I said I do not want to lay the blame entirely on the State Governments.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): From the answer of the hon. Minister, it appears that according to him this has nothing to do with politics or with the tribal areas. I would like to know whether it is fact that not only in the Mikir Hills but in the Mizo Hills and Hills and the Khasi Hills and in other areas, there is a general unrest among the hill people owing to the non-acceptance of the various demands which were put forward by them before this Government and I would like to know whether the hon. Minister has considered these points also and has verified that this is not a part of this remance?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: As far as this incident is concerned, I have already given the information that it is not connected with those things.

श्री मधु लिखरे (नुगेर) : इस बात के बारे में दो रायें नहीं हो सकती हैं कि इस वक्त असम की पहाड़ियां और आदिवासी इलाकों में बड़े पैमाने पर अमरता है। बारह साल पहले हमारे संविधान के मातहत नागा लोगों के द्वारा कुछ मांगों की गई थीं लेकिन उन वक्त उनको पूरा नहीं किया गया। अब जब उनके द्वारा विद्रोह शुरू हुआ है तो हम लोग उनसे बात कर रहे हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि असम के पहाड़ी इलाकों में रहने वाले जो आदिवासी लोग हैं उनकी जायज और उचित मांगों के बारे में उन से बात करके और हिल कमीशन की जो रिपोर्ट है उसके आधार पर कोई जल्दी फैसला किया जाएगा ताकि जो असन्तोख के बीज हैं वे नष्ट हो जायें ?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: The Cabinet had appointed a sub-committee to consider this. Though it is not connected with this, I am volunteering this information. They certainly met the representatives, the leaders of these different tribes and they had certain proposals made to them and they are under consideration.

Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda (Cachar): The hon. Minister has said that these raids have not been for any other reasons but only due to the discontent of cultivators. I want to remind the Government of the railway accidents which took place in Diphu. In view of that, may I know from the Government whether the Government has any apprehension that any foreign power is behind it and whether the Government propose to take measures so that such raids do not occur in any other hill district of Assam in the near future?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I have already answered this question; it has nothing to do with it; as far as my information goes it is not connected with them.

Shri P. C. Borooah (Sibsagar): We are seeing rebellion after rebellion in

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the tribal areas of Assam. First it arose in Nagaland; then in Mizo Hills; then under the leadership of Rani Guidillo in the North Cachar Hills; then it arose in the Khasi hills, with the cry of the Hill States demand, and then came trouble in the Garo hills where some of them had gone to Pakistan for military training. Now comes the news from the Mikir hills. These are the most law-abiding and quiet people among the hill tribes. In this context, may I know whether Government have any reason to believe that there may be some outside elements in these predations and, if so, may I know whether these calm, docile and law-abiding people can be saved from playing into the hands of outside elements?

Mr. Speaker: He has answered that already. He has said that so far as his information goes, he has no reasons to believe like that.

श्री विश्वनाथ पाण्डेय (सलेमपुर) : श्री मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है कि करीब तीन हजार कृषक बीस नवम्बर को एकत्र हुए घान की फसल को देने के सम्बन्ध में श्रीर दीफ् स्थान पर कोओप्रेटिव गोदाम पर उन्होंने लूट की और दस लाख से अधिक का माल श्रीर पैसे ले गए और कागजात भी ले गए। इस के साथ साथ समाचारपत्रों में यह भी प्रकाशित हुआ कि जिन अस्त्रों का उन्होंने प्रयोग किया लूटपाट करने में वे अस्त्र विद्रोही नागाओं से उनको मिले थे और विद्रोही मिजो से मिले थे। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वह सही है और यदि सही है तो सरकार की इस पर प्रतिक्रिया है ?

श्री यशवन्त राव चव्हाण : सही नहीं है। मैं ने अपने जवाब में कहा है इस बात को।

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): I agree with the minister that this thing has nothing to do with the tribal unrest or political unrest. Is he aware of the crescendo of agitation that has been going on in that part of the

country—sensitiveness has led to discontent, discontent has led to unrest, and unrest has led to armed insurrection. If it is so, will the Government of India, which knows that the Assam Government has failed to deliver the goods in this matter, take any action in this respect?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: As far as this incident is concerned, I find that the Government of Assam is taking the necessary action.

12.37 hrs.

RE: CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE AND MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT (Queries)

Mr. Speaker: Papers to be laid on the Table.

Shri Bade (Khargone): I have given a calling attention notice and also a notice of adjournment motion on this subject:

“गो भक्त शहीद के शव का पुलिस द्वारा नाटकीय ढंग से बलपूर्वक अपहरण : सर्वत्र रोष

धार्मिक विधि से अन्त्येष्टि भी नहीं करने दी गई ”

गोभक्त ऋषिस्वरूप ब्रह्मचारी का, आमरणअनशन के बाद धर्म संघ में देहावसान हो गया है। उनके शव का पुलिस द्वारा अपहरण कर लिया गया है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : बड़े साहब इस तरह से तो आप नहीं बोले जा सकते हैं।

श्री बड़े : हम ने एडजर्नमेंट मोशन के नोटिस दिये हैं कालिग एटेंशन दिया है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस तरह से तो आपको नहीं बोलते जाना चाहिये।

श्री बड़े : हिन्दुओं के प्रति अन्याय हो रहा है। पुलिस का अत्याचार बहुत बढ़ गया है। जगद्गुरु शंकराचार्य को खून