

(c) A gist of the letters written by these leaders is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY

A Joint letter dated the 31st May, 1980 of Shri A. B. Vajpayee and Shri L. K. Advani, reached Prime Minister's Office at 4.20 P.M. The following reasons have been mentioned for not participating in the meeting:—

(i) It had been abruptly called while it would have been more convenient to hold this meeting on the eve of the Parliament Session due to commence shortly.

(ii) Because of its timing and background this meeting cannot contribute anything towards creating a national consensus. Judging from the reactions of the Assam movement leaders, the meeting can only widen the gulf between New Delhi and the people of Assam.

(iii) In her election speeches the Prime Minister has blamed the opposition parties, without any justification, for fomenting trouble in Assam.

(iv) For a national consensus in Assam, the leaders of Assam should be involved in the discussions. The movement leaders be set free and repressive measures withdrawn.

2. LOK DAL

A letter dated May 31, 1980 from Shri Charan Singh, President, Lok Dal, reached the Prime Minister only in the middle of the meeting. Shri Charan Singh gave the following reasons for not attending the meeting:—

(i) The Prime Minister had more than once roundly accused the Opposition Parties of spreading violence and communalism and fostering trouble in Assam.

(ii) The discussion of such an important subject amongst 20 persons or so with as many different views and back grounds cannot lead to any fruitful results.

3. JANATA PARTY (J.P.)

The letter dated 31st May 1980 from Sri Rama Krishna Hegde, General Secretary of the Janata Party reached the Prime Minister only just before the meeting. The following reasons have been mentioned for not attending the meeting.

(i) Their involvement in the Election campaign did not give them time for making necessary preparations for this meeting and to discuss the problems with other colleagues in the party, particularly friends in Assam. They wanted to postpone the meeting by at least a week.

(ii) It is necessary to involve the leaders of the agitation in Assam as without them fruitful discussions on this problem cannot be held.

(iii) The leaders of the agitation should be released and repressive measures undertaken by the Government withdrawn so that a conducive atmosphere can be created.

Central Assistance to West Bengal for Annual Plans

*248. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:
Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) share of Central plan assistance in rupees as well as in percentage, in the West Bengal's annual plans for 1976-77, 1977-78, 1978-79 and 1979-80;

(b) what will be the share in 1980-81; and

(c) factors responsible for rise or fall in the proportion of central assistance to West Bengal's State Plans?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI N. D. TEWARI): (a) and (b)
The required information is as under:

Year	Central Assistance (Rs. crores)	Central Assistance as % of Plan Outlay
1976-77	49 43	21 31
1977-78	72 97	23 47
1978-79	130 49	35 13
1979-80	116 03	24 17
1980-81	130 97	23 63

(c) The increase in the Central assistance as a proportion of Plan outlay for West Bengal during the period 1976-77 to 1978-79 was due to the fact that higher Central assistance was made available to the State Government as in case of other States. The sharp increase in the proportion in 1978-79 was the result of a substantial step-up in the Central assistance to States to accelerate the tempo of development. The slight fall in this proportion in the year 1980-81 was due to the fact that no allocation could be made to the State Government in this year for special problems as entire allocation of Rs. 15 crores for 1979-83 was made available to the State Government in 1979-80 itself.

Scheme for Development of Backward areas

*249. SHRI V. S. VIJYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has evolved a new scheme for the development of backward areas;

(b) how many areas have been identified for implementing this programme; and

(c) the State-wise break up and other details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) In addition to existing fiscal incentives and subsidies, the Govt. is examining the feasibility of promoting nucleus industries in backward areas based on the infrastructure and other facilities available there. These nucleus industries could be set up either in the public sector or in the private sector to enable the growth of a net work of small scale units with backward and forward linkages so as to utilise local raw materials, generate employment and provide the much needed momentum for industrial growth.

(b) No new District/areas have been identified except the existing 246 industrially backward districts/areas for concessional finance and out of these, 101 districts/areas selected for Central Investment Subsidy.

(c) A State-wise break up of these above areas is enclosed (Statement I & II).