

they have not done so, I hope it will be circulated. They are taking strong steps to see that the people are given protection and no such occurrences take place. They have also said that proper action would be taken and proper rules would be framed against students. There is no time for me to go through the whole of it, but I can give this to those hon. Members who are interested to go through it. Although the Government of Assam was late in taking action, now they are determined to put an end to this nonsense.

Madam, I want that this sort of controversial agitations and linguistic troubles should end. To put an end to such troubles, if necessary we should make certain amendments to the Constitution on the language issue. If necessary, all the States should be abolished and zones should be set up. If that is the only way to do away with all this provincialism, I would welcome even such a step because we cannot go on like this, with this sort of narrow provincialism, these linguistic troubles, these outcries against each other which kill the very root of our nationalism.

Mr. Chairman: I have to make an announcement. The Speaker has been pleased to say that the House has been extended till 6.00 P.M. to give chance to the several speakers who wish to speak on this subject. It is at the desire of the House that this time has been extended.

16.44 hrs.

**BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FIFTY-FIFTH REPORT**

Shri Rane (Buldana): Madam Chairman, I beg to present the fifty-fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

**MOTION RE: SITUATION IN
ASSAM—contd.**

Shri Mohammed Imam (Chitaldrug): Madam Chairman, I belong

neither to Assam nor to Bengal, and therefore I am not guided by passions or prejudices. My main concern is the unity of India, unity of the nation and the safety of the minorities. It is agreed that the recent happenings in the valley of Brahmaputra on a widespread scale constitutes a dark episode in the history of independent India. There is evidence that the people of India speaking different languages, professing different ideologies and religions, are incapable of living together and co-exist, in spite of the fact that our country has taken a lead in teaching the doctrine of co-existence to the rest of the world.

Assam and Bengal exist side by side. Assamese speaking people and the Bengali speaking people have lived together for generations. Still, they are not in a position to reconcile themselves to each other, nor are they in a position to trust each other. Provincialism and fanaticism are growing rapidly and people of one group or one section do not hesitate to indulge in large scale devastation involving loss of life and loss of property, against the other.

A Parliamentary delegation visited this area and held a *post-mortem* examination and submitted their report to Parliament. The facts mentioned therein, their narration, clearly vindicate the demand for an enquiry, an enquiry by a high court judge, a judicial enquiry. Such an enquiry is absolutely necessary to restore confidence among those who have evacuated the State which they considered till now as their home. The facts are obvious and they cannot be denied. More than 10,000 houses were either burnt or looted or destroyed. Scores of lives were lost. People ran in panic to take shelter in the forests. Law and order broke down. Government could not function, and was entirely helpless to protect the minorities. The officers, either through local prejudice or passion, could not function as effectively as they ought to have.