

SHRI S. B. GIRI : The written statement mentions about other political parties... (Interruptions)

SHRI K. C. PANT : I was mentioning that very serious efforts are being made to bring about a consensus so that all parties combine to put an end to this era of violence and bloodshed in West Bengal. Therefore, at this particular stage, even if one were in a position to mention the names of parties, I think it is much better not to mention.

Tagore's House at Shantiniketan Set on Fire

*1267. SHRI N. E. HORO : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Tagore's house at Shantiniketan was set on fire recently ;

(b) if so, the number of persons arrested in this connection ; and

(c) whether the arrested persons belong to any political party ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) Government have no such information.

(b) and (c). Do not arise .

SHRI N. E. HORO : The answer is in the negative ; I do not agree with this. Now, recently, you must have seen in the newspapers that there are reports, containing serious allegations against the police force who are said to be in league with some of the Naxalites. So, I would like to know from the Minister whether it is a fact that the Vice-Chancellor of the Visvabharati University has alleged that Government have refused to give arms licences to the guards of the University in spite of repeated requests.

SHRI K. C. PANT : Sir, I did see this morning a press report to that effect to which my hon. friend referred earlier—*The Times of*

India—but I will have to check on that, because I cannot say off-hand.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : May I know whether Government's attention has been drawn—particularly I am very happy that the Prime Minister is a student of Shantiniketan and also of poet Rabindranath Tagore and as such she has a special responsibility—to the reports in the newspapers today that the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Protul Chandra Gupta, has made a categorical statement that many valuable manuscripts to Tagore—

MR. SPEAKER : That was the point made previously.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : I am coming to the point.

MR. SPEAKER : You take a long time for coming to any point. That is the only bad point.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Perhaps I am not wrong if I refer to the hallowed memory of Rabindranath Tagore ; the Prime Minister was also a student of Gurudev Tagore. Now, the Vice-Chancellor of Visvabharati University has made an alarming report that many valuable manuscripts of Gurudev Tagore are being lost and some of them have been destroyed by some extremist elements. He has asked for protection of these valuable manuscripts from the Government. If that is so, what steps the Government are going to take to provide immediate protection of the valuable manuscripts of Tagore ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : In spite of stray incidents, I would like to assure my hon. friend that protection is being given by the police. It is not as though protection is being given. But in view of the historical and other kinds of treasures—literary and others—which are kept in the University, the Vice-Chancellor did take up the matter with the Central Government and at the Prime Minister's instance, two officers of the Intelligence Bureau visited the university and went into the security question in great detail, and they have made their suggestions and recommendations as to how to strengthen the security arrangements further. These are being implemented by the West Bengal Government.