

17th March, 1968 in the wake of the communal disturbances which had broken out in that State. She met representatives of different communities, leaders of various political parties and members of Peace Committees from the affected areas.

(c) The Prime Minister made an appeal to those who met her for the maintenance of communal harmony and peace. She also invited the large majority of right-thinking citizens to take an active hand in isolating and dealing with the few who fomented such trouble.

Prime Minister impressed upon the State authorities that stern measures be taken to deal with the trouble.

**श्री रवि राय :** प्रधान मन्त्री का कलकत्ता का दौरा इतना रहस्यमय था कि कुछ अखबारों ने यह भी लिखा कि खुद श्री चव्हाण को भी यह पता नहीं था कि वह वहां क्यों गई हैं। पश्चिमी बंगाल में इस समय राष्ट्रपति शासन चल रहा है। क्या प्रधान मन्त्री के वहां जाने का यह मतलब है कि चूंकि गवर्नर, श्री धर्मवीर, की असफलता की वजह से वहां साम्प्रदायिक दंगे हो गए, इस लिए प्रधान मन्त्री को कलकत्ता जाना पड़ा? क्या यह मन्त्री बतायेंगे कि वह श्री धर्मवीर को गवर्नर के पद से हटाने के सिलसिले में क्या सोच रहे हैं?

**SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN :** The hon. Member is asking an absolutely meaningless question.

**श्री रवि राय :** जो अच्छा क्वेश्चन होता है, वह इन के लिए मीनिंगलेस होता है।

**SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN :** The Prime Minister naturally was concerned as to what was happening there and she has herself explained why she decided to go there. As I was not in New Delhi at that time and she had some free time, she thought possibly she could go and see for herself what was happening there. Instead of taking pride over the matter that the Prime Minister immediately responded to this thing, for people to talk in this manner is something very unfair.

**श्री रवि राय :** क्या मन्त्री महोदय का ध्यान कलकत्ता के अखबार, हिन्दुस्तान स्टैंडर्ड,

जो कांग्रेस-समर्थक अखबार कहलाता है, में प्रकाशित इस लेख की ओर गया है में क्वोट करता हूँ :

"The administrative and the political circles, however, have the feeling that the Prime Minister's air-dash to Calcutta has helped nobody; it has only made many people unhappy. Possibly there is a touch of exhibitionism in it; and definitely it has given a somewhat exaggerated importance to the disturbances, which the Prime Minister herself admitted were not 'very great'".

क्या यह सही है कि खुद प्रधान मन्त्री ने पत्रकार सम्मेलन में यह माना था कि कलकत्ता में साम्प्रदायिक दंगे कोई बड़े पैमाने पर नहीं हुए थे?

**SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN :** Naturally, when communal trouble starts in a city like Calcutta, and communal troubles in Calcutta have their own history, it is quite natural that the Prime Minister should have felt very concerned about it. He mentioned of some people being unhappy. There are people who have got a knack to be unhappy for everything. What can I do about it?

**श्री रवि राय :** हिन्दुस्तान स्टैंडर्ड तो कांग्रेस का अखबार है।

**SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHATTERJI :** Is it not a fact that for the last few months under the UF Government law and order broke down and communal disturbances of this nature created serious difficulties in the State; if so, will the hon. Minister enlighten this House whether the visit of the Prime Minister had the effect of immediately curbing that communal tension and creating conditions peaceful in that area of the country? It is not a fact that her visit was brought about because of urgent necessity to meet a particular situation? Is it not a fact that because Calcutta is known to be very often faced with communal disturbances of a serious nature and in view of the general elections that have to be faced by the State this visit was absolutely necessary for national reasons?

**SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN :** I think the Prime Minister's visit had a salutary effect on the situation.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA :** Ordinarily, I would have appreciated the visit of the Prime Minister to Calcutta. But I was then in Calcutta; I know the situation there. I hope the Home Minister also knows the peculiar goo-political situation of Bengal, a border State connected with East Pakistan. Actions and reactions in East Pakistan and West Bengal are always happening. Immediately after the return of the Prime Minister from Calcutta I wrote a letter to her, requesting her to make a public statement about her visit because her visit to Calcutta has created an adverse reaction in the public mind and it was also commented adversely upon in the daily papers. The reason is this. The sudden visit of the Prime Minister to Calcutta created an impression as if the whole of Calcutta was ablaze although the riots were confined to only certain very small pockets. The whole of Calcutta was normal except two or three pockets. I wrote to her that taking advantage of her visit to Calcutta the Pakistan Radio was making a virulent propaganda as a result of which already communal trouble started in Sylhet, Khulna and some other areas and but for the valiant Bengali Muslim youngmen, progressive Muslim young men, there would have been serious riots in East Pakistan. In that letter I requested her that she should make a full statement about the extent of the riots, the damage caused and the cause of the riots. Why did she not make a full report, a public report, about the communal troubles in West Bengal? Why did she not do that?

**SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN :** It is again a question of misreading the things. Only because some Pakistan Radio makes some comment and, therefore, the Prime Minister should not make any movements in her own country is a fantastic suggestion to make. When to visit and not to visit is a matter of judgment. Is it the suggestion that she should make a visit to Calcutta only when Calcutta is in a blaze? That is a wrong suggestion to make. The Prime Minister did go there in time and, really speaking, it ought to be a matter of appreciation that when there was a sign of trouble she decided to go there to have an on-the-spot study, and her visit did make an impact on the local situation there. I have no doubt about it. And

about what happened in Calcutta, I have made a statement here as to the extent of the damage done, cause of the trouble and so on. That information was not concealed from anybody.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA :** She should have issued a statement, earlier. It was issued after a long time which created the impression that there was some mystery there. After partition, you do not care for the people living in East Pakistan.

**SHRI D. C. SHARMA :** It is not a fact that the visit of the Prime Minister, as reported in so many papers which are published from Calcutta and elsewhere, has created a very favourable impression, so far as the law and order situation is concerned? Is it also not a fact that but for her visit the law and order situation would have gone on deteriorating? Is it also not a fact that on account of her visit the East Pakistan Government did have a new approach to the problem of East Bengal Hindus? If so, may I suggest...

**MR. SPEAKER :** This is not the time for making a suggestion. This is the question hour.

**SHRI D. C. SHARMA :** So, will she make her visits as often as she can because it creates a better law and order situation?

**SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN :** I am inclined to agree with the hon. Member.

**SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK :** The hon. Minister just now stated that the Prime Minister's visit to Calcutta should be appreciated. I would have appreciated her visit to Calcutta if she had also visited Meerut and Allahabad, which are much nearer home. The thing is that it was a politically-motivated visit. The intention was not just to restore law and order or restore confidence but something else, and that is what creates doubt. Secondly, I want to know whether it is not a fact that our Central Ministers dash to Calcutta and try to magnify the problem and try to present to the world the problem in a much bigger form, which creates an impression in East Pakistan and other areas that something very big has happened