

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