

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

for 10 to 15 years. These matters have been pending for the last 15 years. Who ever has gone there, whether it is the President, the Prime Minister or Home Minister, these two matters have been represented. May I know whether the Minister can assure the House that the consideration of these two questions and the decision thereon will be expedited so that this discontentment in the island can be removed ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I know these two problems are being agitated for quite some time. About the incentive, it is very difficult to agree with the hon. member, because I have myself gone into it. In the beginning, when there was dearth of local employees, there was a provision of giving some sort of incentive to those coming from outside. Now really speaking there is not that type of dearth. It is difficult to give that incentive to the local people, because once you give that, it causes to be an incentive. Other matters like rationalisation of pay, etc. are actively under consideration and I hope we will take a decision very quickly. About casual employment, it involves some human difficulties and that also will be carefully considered. But I do not think there is going to be one decision about it which is going to solve the problem. It has to be considered all along the line.

SHRI P. K. DEO : The Home Minister said that special pay is a sort of incentive. If is not so. It is given because the cost of living there is much higher and daily necessities cost much more there. When it is given to the recruits from the mainland, why should the local recruits be denied this ? Why should there be this discrimination ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : The hon. member does not know the facts.

SHRI P. K. DEO : I have been there.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : May be, but he has missed this fact that the special pay was given as an incentive. Whether the pay should be revised on the basis of the high local prices is a different matter altogether and can be considered. The demand of the hon. member was about giving the same incentive that is given to

the people brought from the mainland, to the local employees also.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN : Sir, I had been to these islands and I have stayed there for a longer period than the Home Minister stayed there. From the very beginning Andamans has not received any attention from the Central Government and it has been completely neglected by the Centre. Apart from the two points that Shri Ganesh has raised, there is another point with regard to housing. Housing scheme for industrial and other workers has been referred to in that memorandum. For that the reply of the Government is that the problem of providing housing facilities for industrial workers in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is a local one concerning the Andaman and Nicobar Administration and it is under active consideration. Sir, what is this answer ? After all, the Andaman and Nicobar Administration for each and every thing has to consult the Home Ministry here. It is a very big problem. This has been a burning problem for quite sometime. Apart from other pre-requisites that workers in any department would need, first and foremost they must have housing. I would like to know what the Government has done so far and what it proposes to do ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : As far as housing is concerned the hon. Member knows there are many difficulties about it. I cannot assure housing for everybody though I have my sympathy for those who have not got housing. Of course we are phasing the programme of providing housing facilities for the government employees there. Unfortunately, everyone becomes a government employees there.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN : You have not done anything for the last fifteen years. What is the expenditure so far incurred ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : You cannot go by the volume of expenditure in this matter. It is a question of giving them incentives so that they can build their own houses. The difficulty of housing is, once you give it to government employees they are liable to be evicted from there.