

Statement :

Time to Repeal AFSPA, says Agatha Sangma in Lok Sabha

An MP of the National People's Party, a BJP ally, Agatha Sangma on Tuesday said in the Lok Sabha that it was time to repeal the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, which had failed to curb insurgency in the Northeast.

Speaking during the Zero Hour, the Meghalaya MP said the killing of 14 civilians by security forces in Nagaland on December 4 and December 5 was not the first time that such an incident had occurred, "where innocent civilians have to bear the brunt of a draconian law like AFSPA".

She said though Home Minister Amit Shah gave a statement in Parliament on Monday and announced the setting up of a Special Investigation Team, "but I also believe that it is time that the elephant in the room be addressed, which is that AFSPA be repealed."

Ms. Sangma said the incident had been condemned by all students' unions from the Northeast, other groups from the region and her political party.