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Title: Need to repeal the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 in Manipur.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Thank you, Sir.

Sir, I want to draw the attention of this august House and through this august House, to the Government of India to the critical condition of Miss Irom Chanu Sharmilla who has been on fast unto death for the last six years. She is demanding for the repeal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958.

Now, when I say that she has been on fast for the last six years, the House must be wondering how she is still alive. She is still alive because she has been arrested and taken to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. She is being forced-fed through her nose. Now, her condition has become very critical. Recently, the hon. Prime Minister has visited and there the hon. Prime Minister has offered to amend the law. The people want the repeal of the law and the hon. Prime Minister wants the amendment of the law which is not acceptable. Therefore, she has removed her life support. Therefore, I thought it is a matter which is very urgent.

Sir, I am here to support her cause, the cause of the people of Manipur and I also demand that the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 should be repealed. I am demanding it not only to save the precious life of Ms. Sharmila but also on its merit. I have gone through the law.[\[a20\]](#)

13.00 hrs.

I have gone through the law. If you go through it, you will find that the law does not deserve to exist. ...(*Interruptions*)
Sir, I require two minutes only.

This law was passed in 1958. It is almost 50 years now. When this law was passed, there was only one insurgent group. In 1980, when it was implemented, there were only four insurgent groups. Today, in Manipur alone, there are more than 25 insurgent groups. Therefore, Sir, this law, which is intended to curb the insurgency, has totally failed. Hence, it should be repealed. This Act has become a symbol of domination and repression. The Jeevan Redy Committee, which was constituted by the Government of India, went into it and the report says:

"The Act, for whatever reason, has become a symbol of oppression, an object of hate and an instrument of discrimination and highhandedness."

Further, the hon. Prime Minister himself says that it is an inhuman Act. When the hon. Prime Minister admits that it is an inhuman Act, why should this law be there? Therefore, the conclusion is that the Committee which went into this has specifically said:

"The Committee is of the firm view that the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958 should be repealed. "

Therefore, on behalf of the people of the North-East, on behalf of the people of Manipur, and in order to save the precious life of Ms. Sharmila, I demand that the Act be repealed....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: All right, you send your slips. Can I, through you, request the lady Sharmila to withdraw the fast, call off the fast? Please tell her. I am sure, everybody will join me in making the request that she should call off the fast.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma, Shri Mohan Singh, Shri Omar Abdullah, Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy, Shri B. Mahtab, Shri Tathagat Satpathy, Shri Brahmananda Panda, Shri Prasanna Acharya, Shrimati Archana Nayak, Shri Francis Fanthome and Shri Dharmendra Pradhan are allowed to associate in this matter.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I have a small suggestion to make. Let the Matters under Rule 377 be laid and the Lunch Hour be skipped. We have to continue our Legislative Business which we could not do for the last three days.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Today, there is no Lunch Hour. I will take up two matters and then we go back to the other business.

Shri Jyotiraditya Scinda. There is one more matter. I will call you.