

acre during the year i.e. 1980-81. Union Government did not allow export of onion, so the price of onion remained abnormally low last year. Onion growers are much in number specially in the area of Nasik and Pune of Maharashtra, Mahava of Gujarat and Alwar and Khairthal of Rajasthan. This year also the onions have been grown over a large areas of Alwar and Khairthal of Rajasthan, Nasik and Pune of Maharashtra and Mahva of Gujarat State. But even today there is apprehension in the minds of the farmers that prices of onions might be abnormally low in the market if the Government of India did not allow its export. I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to allow the export of onions this year at the time of its harvest out-side India so that onion growers in India might not suffer a loss.

(xix) NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL STEPS FOR  
BETTER MAINTENANCE OF KHARAG-  
PUR RAILWAY COLONY.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnaport) Under 377, I make the statement. Khargpur town, the biggest and once the best Railway Colony in India is gradually fading up due to ultra neglect of the Railway Administration. All its roads are broken and some have been completely destroyed and turned into big drains. Pucca drains are broken here and these have been turned into pools. Seventy per cent of 14,000 quarters are more than 70 years old and require replacement by new quarters. New quarters are not being constructed. Almost all quarters are damaged and do not receive any care. The Railway vegetable market is full of dirt and filth and is the breeding place for pigs. The total township with a population of one lakh is quickly and steadily disintegrating. Repeated appeals to the authority have been of no avail. The authorities show utter neglect and irresponsibility and the great township which is a national property is being lost. I request the Government to rise to the occasion and take special steps

to save once the best Railway town, for without the special steps and by remaining in the frame work of common norms and form of the Railway Board, the town can no longer be saved from destruction.

(xx) REFUSAL OF ONAM FESTIVAL  
LEAVE AND FORCIBLE WORK IM-  
POSED ON WORKERS OF BORDER ROAD  
CONSTRUCTION AT LEH COMMAND

SHRI M. M. LAWRENCE (Idukki):  
Under 377, I make the statement.

A serious situation has arisen out of the refusal of Onam Festival leave and forcible work imposed on the workers of Border Road Construction by the Military Officer Commanding at Leh. Onam is the national festival of Kerala. The demand of Kerala workers for the festival leave is just but fate for asking the festival leave ended in such a way that nobody could imagine. The military officer commanding 55 Road Construction Company and Commanding Officer 16 Border Road Task Force drove his jeep on the crowded workers and injured many. Two seriously injured workers are fighting for life in Srinagar hospital. Not only that, the military officials have forcibly taken the workers into their custody. This is the result of the Malayali workers demanding their national festival leave which the Sector Commander granted but the Senior Commander refused. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to cause an enquiry into the matter and punish the guilty official and sanction leave for them.

13.15 hrs.

MARRIAGE LAWS (AMENDMENT)  
BILL

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954, be

[Shri P. Shri Shankar]

referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of 21 members, 14 from this House, namely:—

- (1) Begum Abida Ahmed.
  - (2) Smt. Usha Prakash Choudhari.
  - (3) Shri Digambar Singh.
  - (4) Shri Digvijay Sinh.
  - (5) Shri G. B. Gohil.
  - (6) Smt. Bibha Ghosh Goswami.
  - (7) Shri K. Mallanna.
  - (8) Shri R. K. Mhalgi.
  - (9) Shri C. Palaniappan.
  - (10) Shri Bapusaheb Parulekar.
  - (11) Shrimati Jayanti Patnaik.
  - (12) Prof. Satya Deo Sinha.
  - (13) Shri Vijay Kumar Yadav.
  - (14) Shri P. Shiv Shankar.
- and 7 from Rajya Sabha.

that in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee, the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of member of the Joint Committee;

that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the last day of the first week of the next session;

that in other respects, the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

that this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of 7 members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Hindu Marriage Act, 1965 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954, be referred to a Joint Committee of the

Houses consisting of 21 members, 14 from this House, namely:—

- (1) Begum Abida Ahmed.
- (2) Smt. Usha Prakash Choudhari.
- (3) Shri Digambar Singh.
- (4) Shri Digvijay Sinh.
- (5) Shri G. B. Gohil.
- (6) Smt. Bibha Ghosh Goswami.
- (7) Shri K. Mallanna.
- (8) Shri R. K. Mhalgi.
- (9) Shri C. Palaniappan.
- (10) Shri Bapusaheb Parulekar.
- (11) Shrimati Jayanti Patnaik.
- (12) Prof. Satya Deo Sinha.
- (13) Shri Vijay Kumar Yadav.
- (14) Shri P. Shiv Shankar.

and 7 from Rajya Sabha;

that in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee, the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee;

that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the last day of the first week of the next session;

that in other respects, the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

that this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of 7 members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI HARISH KUMAR GANGWAR (Pilibhit): Sir, I want one clarification from the hon. Minister. Only 3 women members have been included in the Joint Committee. I submit that more women members should have been included in it.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: I may tell the hon. Member that in the Joint Committee on Dowry Prohibition

Bill, I think out of 21 members, we are having 15 or 16 lady members. You will kindly appreciate that men also have the same say.

13.18 hrs.

RE. ARREST OF MEMBERS

श्री राबेन्द्र कुमार सिंह (फीरोजाबाद) :  
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, प्रो. अजित कुमार  
मंहता, जो कि इस माननीय सदन के  
सदस्य हैं, उन्हें समस्तीपुर में 16 सितम्बर  
को गिरफ्तार किया गया है। नियम 229  
के अन्तर्गत सदन को निर्देश है कि यदि  
सदन का कोई माननीय सदस्य गिरफ्तार  
होता है तो उसकी अविलम्ब सूचना देनी  
चाहिए। उन्हें भूतपूर्व मुख्यमंत्री,  
श्री कर्पूरी ठाकुर व अन्य 1500 लोकदल  
सदस्यों के साथ गिरफ्तार किया गया,  
जिसकी सूचना अभी तक नहीं आई है।  
श्री रघुनाथ सिंह वर्मा, जो कि इस सदन  
के माननीय सदस्य हैं, उनको मैनपुरी जेल  
में गिरफ्तार करके रखा गया है। उनकी  
हालत बहुत नाजूक है। उनके जीवन को  
मैनपुरी जेल में स्वयं उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार  
के इशारे पर खतरा बना हुआ है।

I want to seek the protection of  
the life of the hon. Member.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This will  
be checked.

13.19 hrs.

ASSAM STATE LEGISLATURE (DE-  
LEGATION OF POWERS) BILL—  
contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The  
House will now take up further consi-  
deration of the following motion  
moved by Shri P. Venkatasubbalah on  
the 17th September, 1981, namely:—

“That this Bill to confer on the  
President the power of the Legisla-  
ture of the State of Assam to make  
laws, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be  
taken into consideration.”

Shri Balanandan.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN (Mu-  
kundapuram): Mr. Deputy-Speaker,  
Sir, normally, nobody can support this  
kind of delegation of powers. Specially  
with regard to Assam, it is coming  
often. Therefore, any body normally  
will oppose this kind of a measure.  
But I am not doing that now as such.

I want to bring to the notice of the  
Government certain important matters  
in this regard and I want a positive re-  
ply from the Government. We are told  
that marathon discussions are being  
held between agitators and the Gov-  
ernment on the Assam issue. It is re-  
ported in newspapers that settlement  
is nearly going to be arrived at and  
that the differences have been narrowed  
down. But details are not known.

It appears from the press reports  
that the main demand of the agitators  
is that those people who came to  
Assam after 1971 are to be deported.  
That is the main demand. I do not  
know whether the Government is  
coming to that position. Earlier, the  
Government had made their position  
clear that the so-called cut-off year  
will be 1971. I do not know whether  
they are changing their previous  
stand.

Now, the disturbing situation there  
is that this agitation, as we have told  
you previously also, has now turned  
into having some kind of an inter-  
national connection. It is absolutely a  
very bad connection. Recently in Gau-  
hati, tonnes of ammunition worth lakhs  
and lakhs of rupees was found out.  
Together with it some secret documents  
were also found. In these documents,  
I am told, some important places in  
Assam area are marked.

Some newspaper editorial commen-  
ted that Assam belongs to South East  
Asia and not to India. From this, you  
will find that international agencies  
are operating there to disrupt the  
unity of the country and they are  
also taking advantage of the situation.