

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Mallikarjun, please take your seat.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: I am only provoking him.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please do not get provoked.

Mr. Balbir Singh, do not take a notice of him. He is going.

CHOWDHRY BALBIR SINGH: It is too bad for him to speak like that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Tombi Singh.

(iv) DECLARATION OF ENTIRE MANIPUR VALLEY AS A DISTURBED AREA.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with a sense of utter despair and deep anguish, I rise to raise an urgent matter of public importance. According to reports available so far, the entire Manipur valley area has been declared a disturbed and dangerous area under the Armed Forces (Manipur and Nagaland) Act, and the army and para-military forces have been called out to assist the civil administration in dealing with the law and order situation in the whole area. For the first time, the powers under the Act are reported to have been invoked to quell violence in Manipur since the enactment was placed on the Statute Book. This step, it is reported, has been necessitated in the wake of deterioration of law and order, including shooting and killing of policemen by underground elements in the last few days. Preceding the declaration, there were three violent incidents, one each on three successive days. They were: (1) shooting of two policemen dead; (2) looting of a bank and (3) shooting of two Jawans of the Manipur Rifles, all in broad daylight. In the absence of any mass unrest, the declaration of the entire Manipur valley, the most thickly populated part of the State, a disturbed area and deployment of the Manipur Rifles, Central Reserve Police and para-military forces for intensive combing operation throughout the

State is certainly a drastic step that the State Government has taken.

Underground activities in Manipur and the neighbouring States are as old as India's independence and the Union Home Ministry must have a long story of mistakes and failures in the handling of complicated situations over the years. Our serious apprehension is that the present situation smacks of complete failure of the present Janata Government in Manipur to tackle the delicate issue. I am not in any way a supporter of the underground movement in Manipur or in any part of the country. What is meant here is that there should be proper handling of this delicate situation.

It is not possible to say at this stage whether this drastic step is justified or not. As the hon. House is aware, Manipur is a very sensitive State in the north-eastern border of our country. Every care has to be taken before such a drastic step is taken. Under such circumstances, police excesses may take place disturbing the normal flow of social life.

May I request the hon. Home Minister to make a statement on the subject as early as possible to keep the hon. House well informed of the situation?

(v) CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN SHRI N. G. GORAY, HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA IN U.K. AND LORD MOUNTBATTEN re. DEATH OF NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH (Hoshangabad): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, may I, Sir, request you to permit me, under rule 377, to mention the following matter of urgent public importance?

It has been reported in the press that Lord Mountbatten, the last Viceroy and the last but one Governor-General of India and the Supreme of the South East Asia Command in the Second World War, has, in the course

[Hari Vishnu Kamath]

of his reply to a letter from Shri N. G. Goray, High Commissioner of India in the United Kingdom, regarding the alleged death of Shri Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in an air-crash over Taipeh in Taiwan in August, 1945, stated that there is no record of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's death in his archives. Considering the extraordinary national and international importance of this matter and in view of the fact that the Indian people's minds have been greatly exercised over the truth or otherwise of the report of Netaji's death in the alleged air-crash, it is the duty of the Government, in the national interest, to place on the Table of the House without any delay the full text of the correspondence exchanged between Shri N. G. Goray and Lord Mountbatten on this subject.

May I ask you, Sir, whether a copy of this statement will go to the Government?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It will be sent to the Government.

14-49 hrs.

PASSPORTS (AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up the Passports (Amendment) Bill, Mr. Kundu.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): Sir, I have great pleasure in moving this Passports (Amendment) Bill...

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA (Delhi Sadar): Sir, I rise on a point of order. The Minister wants to increase the fee, if I am not wrong, by this piece of legislation from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50. It is a Money Bill according to the Constitution. Therefore, the permission of the President is necessary. May I know whether the permission of the President has been taken for

moving this Bill? If the permission has not been taken, then it cannot be moved and it cannot be taken up for consideration.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is not a Money Bill in the sense that it is not an expenditure out of the Consolidated Fund of India. It is just a fee.

"A Bill shall not be deemed to be a Money Bill by reason only that it provides for the imposition of fines or other pecuniary penalties, or for the demand or payment of fees for licences or fees for services rendered, or by reason that it provides for the imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of any tax by any local authority or body for local purposes".

That is what the Constitution says. So, this is not a money Bill in that sense.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR (Gandhinagar): Further to Mr. Gupta's point....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, that has been disposed of.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: I am on another point.

Although this Bill is coming for the first time today for consideration, my information is that Government are already charging Rs. 50 pending Parliament's approval. I want to know whether that is in order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That does not arise out of this Bill. You can take it up with the Government when you speak on it, if this is so. This is not to be raised at this stage. If the Government is charging something illegal, other courses are open to you: you can speak about it when you speak on the Bill.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: We want to know whether this fee of Rs. 50 is being charged or not.