

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, matters under rule 377....

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): Sir, I have given notice of a Privilege Motion. What is your decision on that?

MR. SPEAKER: It is under consideration.

Nothing else on this will go on record.

12.57 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) SAFETY OF PEOPLE OF INDIAN ORIGIN AND TAMILIANS IN SRI LANKA

SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM (Tiruchendur): Under Rule 377 I am raising this point. During the recent rioting in Sri Lanka, in August, arson rape and huge loss of life were caused especially to the South Indians and mostly Tamilians. The State Legislature of Tamil Nadu unanimously passed a resolution that it is necessary to send a Parliamentary Delegation to Sri Lanka. I wrote in great detail (to send a Parliamentary Delegation headed by a Cabinet Minister or Goodwill Mission), to the Minister for External Affairs, to assuage the sufferings there and express our feelings here. While Shri Vajpayee, the Minister for External Affairs, in his reply dated the 18th September, 1977, stated that the question of sending a goodwill delegation to Sri Lanka is under consideration, strangely enough, Shri Kundu, the Minister of State in External Affairs Ministry in his letter dated the 13th October, 1977, has stated categorically that it is not necessary to send a Minister or a Parliamentary Delegation, stating that it is an internal affair of Sri Lanka,—evidently holding contrary views to those

of his own Minister. The riots in Sri Lanka in August, 1977, have caused wide concern among the Indian community in Sri Lanka and among the people of India and they are genuinely agitated about the safety of the lives and properties of the people of Indian origin in Sri Lanka.

I want to know whether Shri Kundu knows about the history of the association of Sri Lanka and the Tamilians. It may be mentioned further that all along India has been adopting an attitude of mutual cooperation with the Government and the people of Sri Lanka.

During the British regime, lakhs and lakhs of labourers from Tamilnadu were taken to Sri Lanka for work in plantation and other developmental works with the assurance that they will be given treatment in all respects equal to that given to the Sri Lanka citizens. In the year 1973, at the request of Sri Lanka Government, our Government made available our troops to them in maintaining law and order in that country. Government is aware of it. Shri Kundu is unfortunately not here.

In the context of the threats faced by the Indian community in Sri Lanka to their lives and properties, a large number of them, though they are citizens of Sri Lanka, have expressed a desire to migrate to their motherland. If we are to respect their wishes, Sri Lanka will lose more than 250 crores of rupees of foreign exchange from the export of tea, coffee, coconut, rubber etc.

13 hrs.

Keeping all these in view, the Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs are requested to start a dialogue with the Sri Lanka Government to mitigate the sufferings of the people of Indian origin and Tamilians in Sri Lanka and arrive at proper of solu-

*** Not Recorded.

tions. This is a matter of vital concern to both Sri Lanka and India requiring attention. The hon. Prime Minister informed me that a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs had been sent to Sri Lanka for the riot victims through our High Commissioner. But, I do not know how the money has been spent. My friend, Shri Vajpayee has written to me about two months ago that deputation of a goodwill mission is under consideration. I do not know what has happened to that. Government has not at all cared for the people who are suffering even to-day. What are the concessions given to them? Everyday they are coming as refugees. What concessions are being given to these people? They should give all help to them. I wanted to know about this. I also want to know when the Government is going to send a goodwill delegation.

MR. SPEAKER: We now adjourn to meet again at 2 O'clock.

13.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The House re-assembled after Lunch at eight minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377—Contd.

(ii) DEMONSTRATION BY UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE TEACHERS AT BOAT CLUB

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR (Gandhinagar): Mr Deputy-Speaker Sir, I am grateful to you for permitting me to raise a very important matter under Rule 377. As the House probably knows, a very large number—in fact, several hundreds—of university and college teachers have come to Delhi and are now actually, while I am speaking here, demonstrating outside Parliament House at the

Boat Club and they are doing so under the auspices of All-India Federation of University and College Teachers Organisations. My feeling is that the college and university teachers and many others like liberations physical education directors, tutors, demonstrators etc. in our academic and educational institutions are not treated fairly and justly and promptly. This was the grievance against the previous Government and I am sorry to say that the present Government is also very slow in dealing with the problems of the academic community. Why I am sorry, all the more, is because I find so many of my esteemed colleagues of the Janata Party belong to the same fraternity which I have the honour to belong. And when professors are making certain legitimate and just demands, I do not understand why Government should take so much time in deciding these matters and why a good deal of time and energy and resources of this country, and academic and other resources should be spent by forcing them to come to the capital and demonstrate our own Government. I do not understand that. That is why, I feel concerned, because the honour and status and freedom of the academic community is vital to any democracy, particularly to a developing democracy like ours. These teachers have come from all over India and hundreds of them are demonstrating outside at Boat Club. They have not been able to get justice to their very long, outstanding and just demands. I would only list very briefly some of their very pressing demands going on for some years. I hope the Janata Government will look into this problem. The first and foremost point and demand is that excesses under the emergency ought to be looked into. There have been thousands of students and teachers who are unlawfully, wrongly and immorally arrested and thrown out of their places. It was worse than the Preventive Detention Act. All those cases of