

Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tripura and West Bengal".

Enacting Formula

2. That at page 2, line 6,—
for "Twenty-fourth" substitute "Twenty-fifth". Clause 1.
3. That at page 2, line 11,—
for "1973" substitute "1974"
4. that at page 2, line 13,—
for "Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka and Kerala".

substitute—

"Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tripura and West Bengal".

5. That at page 2, lines 17 and 18,—
for "Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka and Kerala"
substitute—

"Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tripura and West Bengal".

Clause 3

6. That at page 3, lines 32 and 33,—
for "Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka and Kerala"
substitute—
- "Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tripura and West Bengal".
7. That at page 4, line 13,—
for "Boards" *substitute—*
- "Boards, of whom not exceeding two shall be from those".

NORTH-EASTERN AREAS (REORGANISATION) AMENDMENT BILL

AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table of the House the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Amendment Bill, 1974, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

13.10 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. ALLEGED ASSAULT ON SHRI RAM HEDA00 M.P. AT NAGPUR

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): According to information received from the Government of Maharashtra, Field Marshal Manekshaw was invited by the Nagpur Municipal Corporation to inaugurate, on the 28th February, 1974, the newly constructed Martyrs' Memorial at the Cotton Market Chowk in Nagpur in memory of soldiers killed in the 1971 war. The leaders of the Maha Vidarbha Rajya Sangharsh Samiti started an agitation, demanding that the statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose should be erected at the site.

On 28th February, 1974, at 3-30 a.m., the police received information that some workers of the Samiti had gone to the Cotton Market and were trying to damage the Memorial. Police rushed to the spot and arrested two persons under 151 Cr. P.C. while the others ran away. At about 9-30 a.m., Shri Ram Hedao, M.P., along with 30 other followers, started a 'Dharna' at the Memorial and wiped out the painted names of war martyrs. To avoid a confrontation with the Samiti the Corporation authorities decided to hold the function at the Corporation Hall.

However, the Field Marshal along with Mayor, Deputy Mayor and a few corporators went to the Memorial to place a

[Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha]

wreath thereon. At that time, Shri Ram Hedao, who was standing on the top of the Memorial jumped on him to prevent him from placing the wreath on the Memorial. The Mayor and others intervened and took Shri Ram Hedao aside. The Field Marshal left the Chowk after placing the wreath. Immediately thereafter some miscreants started pelting stones on the persons gathered and also on the nearby shops. As a result of stone-pelting two members of the public, one officer and 9 policemen, received minor injuries. To avoid damage to property and to maintain law and order, the police resorted to a mild cane-charge and teargas and dispersed the crowd. A case was registered by the police under sections 341, 147, 148, 149, 323, 332, 336 and 337, IPC. The police did not, however, detain or arrest Shri Ram Hedao. They did not go near him at all. On the next day Shri Ram Hedao addressed a public meeting and criticised the police and the organisers of the function. The allegation that Shri Ram Hedao was beaten up by the police as a result of which he was not in a position to attend the Lok Sabha is not true.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contd.): On a point of submission, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: No question, please, when the Minister makes the statement.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I was not arguing. I was trying to make a submission.

MR. SPEAKER: Submission for what?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: My submission is this, Sir. Already the statement of the hon. Minister has made it very evident that there was a proposal for erecting a statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and that decision taken earlier has been violated. Sir, it is not that they did not like to have a memorial for the martyrs of the 1971 war....

MR. SPEAKER: You can discuss it later on.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: This is a serious issue. We should have a discussion on it.

MR. SPEAKER: Not, now.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Sir, while erecting the memorial for the martyrs of the

1971 war, they were going to show disrespect to another great son of this country....

MR. SPEAKER: You are coming to what?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I am not entering into any argument or any discussion. I know it is not permissible. But in view of the gravity of the issue, (1) that in having a memorial for the 1971 war martyrs, they dishonour a great son of India, (2) there was the question of man-handling of one of the Members of this House and preventing him from doing his rightful duties in this House, I want to make a submission to you that this statement should be taken for discussion in this House in the form of a half-an-hour discussion....

MR. SPEAKER: You can do it later on, but, not at this stage. Shri Bhogendra Jha.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): What will happen to the privilege motion--the one moved by Mr. Dhote.

MR. SPEAKER: I had sent it for a statement which has now come.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Kindly hear me for a minute. It is a statement of the State Government. The State Government has sent this information. Whether the Member pounced on the Field Marshal or the Field Marshal pounced upon him....

MR. SPEAKER: I am not concerned with it. There is no privilege involved. The hon. Member when he was jumping on the Field Marshal, he was not coming to this House.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Who says that?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: If he has done so, he has defended the honour of the country. When a decision was taken to set up the statue, Field Marshal or Heavens Marshal has no right to change that decision. The hon. Member has done that to defend the honour of the country.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Banerjee, I am not allowing you; there is no privilege

motion involved on that. Now, Shri Bhogendra Jha.

13.15 hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377

REPORTED OBSERVATION BY U.S. AMBASSADOR ABOUT U.S. BASE AT DIEGO GARCIA

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Jainagar): Mr. Speaker, through you, I am drawing the attention of this House and of the Government particularly to a happening of great importance and which is a great danger to our country and which is concerning our sovereignty. And this reminds us of the days of the 'gunboat diplomacy' of the erstwhile East India Company days! Sir, just on the 4th of this month, that is, day-before-yesterday, the US Ambassador in India, at Madras, made a statement that the Diego Garcia Island in the Indian Ocean is more important to the USA than to India, and that USA's interests there are more valuable than those of India. Not only that, Sir, but he has cast aspersions upon our Government, upon the Government of the littoral States. He has said that the protest of the Government of India was 'normal, sensible and tolerable'. He has determinedly said that the USA Government is going to establish this war base there, thereby meaning that the protests of the Government of India were not serious or not seriously meant nor seriously taken. So, that is casting aspersions upon our Government, upon other Governments like Australia and Sri Lanka and other States and upon the Prime Minister and upon the august House itself, Sir. And, the other thing which he said is more sinister. He said: "Why call it the Indian Ocean? One may well call it the Madagascar Sea." We have no enmity with Madagascar. What he meant is, not only changing the name of Indian Ocean, but to split the littoral States, that is to say, spreading quarrel among them. This he said particularly at a time when even the Government of Australia agreed to our Prime Minister's view in denouncing this establishment of the war base in the Indian Ocean.

When he was asked by the Pressmen with regard to the utterances of the Chairman

of the House Committee on Agriculture in the USA, what has he said, Sir? He has said that 'probably the Indian sugar lobbyist had got tough with the House Committee Members'. He said this. I don't know who went there, whether they went with the sanction or with the permission of the Government of India or not to sell sugar there. But then, the behaviour of the Chairman of the House Committee was that unless India ditto the line of the USA Government, unless India supports or relents or repents for its opposition to the US aggression in Vietnam or on the issue of Bangladesh and other issues, USA is not going to permit the import of commodities particularly sugar. In such a situation I want to know whether the protests made by the Government of India were meant to be taken as some strong feelings or whether it was meant to be treated lightly. What the US Ambassador is saying is insulting our country and our sovereignty, and in such a situation I would like to ask whether the Government of India would think of declaring this ambassador a *persona non grata* and asking him to quit. Or will Government declare these utterances by the US representative as hostile to India?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vasant Sathe had also given a similar notice but he is not here. Now, the hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): On the establishment of the British and US base at Diego Garcia we have expressed our opposition in unmistakable terms. We are totally opposed to the establishment of any foreign base because this goes against the spirit of the UN resolution where it is the objective that the Indian Ocean should remain an area of peace and tranquillity. We have, therefore, taken a position totally opposing the establishment of this base. We have conveyed our views in unmistakable terms both to the United Kingdom and to the United States of America.

It is true that the British and the American decision to go ahead with the establishment of the base is there and they