

Rule 377, permission is given for a member to raise a point. In this case, Mr. Chandrappan's name is there. But he was not quick enough. I called the minister and he has forfeited his right. Please don't insist. Because some mistake has been committed through oversight, let us not commit more irregularities.

SHRI S M BANERJEE (Kanpur)
 But it can be rectified by calling him now.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER Not in this way. The heavens are not going to fall if Mr Chandrappan does not have the right to intervene now. Under Rule 377 when a member has raised a point, if the minister concerned is ready with an answer he gives the answer. The member may not be satisfied. There should be some other opportunity. This should not be made into a debate.

(ii) REPORTED ATTACK BY BRTF PERSONNEL ON PEOPLE IN MEGHALAYA

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU Sir, a telegram has been received which is in fact very alarming that 18 days have passed and unspecified number of deaths have taken place in a region near Shillong.

The following telegram was received yesterday from Shri Pohshna, a Congress Member of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly and President of Jaintia Hills Movement:

Jaintia people by Resolution of Twentyfifth July last demand judicial enquiry into wanton brutal attack by Pioneer Company of Border Roads Organisation on innocent local people while celebrating annual festival on eleventh July at Eighth mile Jowai Bull Fighting Ground killing two persons and wounded many."

The facts of the case as could be gathered are as follows. On the 11th of July there was a bull fight at a place eight miles from Jowai, the headquarters of Jaintia Hills District

of Meghalaya on the Jowai-Badarpur Road. Since the year 1971-72 this road has been under the control of the Border Road Organisation and a number of camps of the Border Road Task Force were set up along the road. Members of the Border Road Task Force are centrally recruited from elsewhere and organised into work gangs. Owing to the high-handedness, misbehaviour and disrespect of local customs, feelings and susceptibilities on the part of the Border Road Task Force gangs, their relationship with the villagers had never been good.

Bull fight is a very popular sport with the people of Jaintia Hills and on this day, the 11th of July, a good number of villagers had collected to watch the fight. Members of the Border Road Task Force were also present in good strength. It was reported that after the bull fight was over these BRTF personnel misbehaved with girls and women who were selling tea at the place. This led to a fight with the local villagers, in which an unspecified number of deaths and injuries took place on both sides. Even though 18 days have passed we are in darkness. Pathmen is in darkness and newspapers have not given any news.

The occurrence has raised the resentment of the local people against the Border Roads Organisation on a new pitch and is fraught with grave consequences. It is now 18 days since the above unfortunate event took place. We would like to know the full facts of the case and what the Ministry of Defence, which exercises administrative control over the Border Roads Organisation, has done in the matter. Have any of the culprits of the BRTF been apprehended and punished? Since this organisation is reported to have achieved practically nothing in improving the road in question but, on the other hand, has created fresh problems in this sensitive area where the people are peace-loving, will the Government consider the with-

[Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu]

drawal of the Border Road Organisation and hand over the roads back to the civil PWD, as it was before the Border Roads Organisation took it over in 1971-72? They have to punish the culprits in an exemplary manner

The progress made by the Border Roads Task Force is very little, as against a very big target, and the result is that a number of traffic accidents are taking place. What I am trying to highlight with all the emphasis at my command is that an explosive situation has been created by the behaviour of this force towards the peace-loving people of that area when they were enjoying a festival and that should be condemned by this House. We want a statement to be made by the Defence Minister. This is happening repeatedly over the border areas. There were incidents the other day in Manipur, Naga Hills and other areas. This is the second time it is happening. In the whole of the north-eastern region there is complete darkness of the crimes committed by the Central Forces. I would like the Government to make a statement on this.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER We cannot expect the Minister of Defence to make a statement in short notice on a question like this. If the facts as stated by Shri Bosu are correct it is very unfortunate and it is surprising that the House is not aware of this. The country is not aware of this. If it is true then there has been a conspiracy of silence. It is a matter which not only wounds the feelings of the people in that area but poses problems of a security of this country. We know very well that the borders of our eastern areas are already an insurrection belt, in Manipur in Nagaland, in Mizoram. But there are certain areas which, because of the wisdom of the leaders or because of the combination of fortunate circumstances have been insulated from this belt.

Now, by these alleged high-handed activities of para-military forces from here, if it creates that feeling and extends that belt to this area also, it is very unfortunate.

I would request the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs who is here to kindly take note of whatever Mr Jyotirmoy Bosu has said and whatever has been observed and to pass on to the Minister of Defence. In the interest of the country, in order to put at rest any kind of feeling in that part of the country, I am sure, if this House takes note of that, it will act as a kind of tranquilliser in the minds of the people there. I am saying this with a certain amount of responsibility that it is in the interest of the country that the Defence Minister should come forward at the earliest opportunity to make a statement as to what the facts of the case are, what action has been taken and what is proposed to be done.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

12.31 hrs

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

The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunch at thirty-three minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER We resume discussion on the Cinematograph (Second Amendment) Bill....

श्री ज्योतिरमोय बोस (बीसी) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं एक बात की तरफ आप का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। उत्तर प्रदेश के हजारों आसामी बेकार हो गए हैं। बेकारीज जितनी ही सब बन्व हो गई है। 10 हजार टन मेट्रु भारत सरकार की तरफ से न दिए जाने के कारण 50 हजार आसामी

बेकार हो गए हैं। मैं चाहूंगा कि भारत सरकार बस हजार टन गेहूं उत्तर प्रदेश का दे दे तो ये बेकरीज बन्द नहीं होगी और मजदूर बेकार नहीं होंगे।

CINEMATOGRAPH (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL—contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We resume discussion on the Cinematograph (Second Amendment) Bill which was adjourned in the last Session.

Mr. N. K. Sanghi to continue his speech. He is not here.

Mr. P. G. Mavalankar.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad) Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am sorry that this Bill has had to wait until this Session for consideration and final passing. But I am glad that it gives me now an opportunity to speak briefly on some of the provisions.

This House will recall the debate, interesting and instructive as it was, on the various provisions of this Bill. Many hon. members expressed their views on subjects ranging from censorship and the duties and functions of the Board of Censorship to what kind of problems are faced by the film producers and so on. I feel that the job of censorship is, of course, important in any decent and civilised society, but it is very difficult in any such democratic and free society to determine where exactly the Board of Censorship should stop and let the public taste and public opinion play a dominant role over the Board of Censorship. After all, the Censorship Board is there to determine that certain things are good for public taste and certain things are not good for public taste. But if you, in that anxiety and enthusiasm, let this Censorship Board do somethings which ought to be governed by public opinion and public taste and public education, then, I am afraid the Board

of Censorship will have much vaster powers and there will be areas where in the Censorship Board's intervention would be rightly and legitimately termed as interference. Therefore, I feel that many important and delicate questions and issues arise out of the functioning of the Censorship Board and I hope the Minister with his usual skill and enlightenment and understanding of the problems and issues involved, will see to it that both in terms of the enactment of the Parliament and in terms of rules and regulations and conventions which are much more important—than the first two, conventions and traditions—good films are exhibited in this country and good films are produced which is much more important, and the functioning of the Censorship Board is arranged in such a way that although it is bound to keep good, rather reasonable, restraints on the production and exhibition of various films, in doing so, the individual citizen's freedoms and fundamental rights are in no way jeopardised. So, this difference or distinction between liberty and licence is always very thin. One can always take the argument that one is for liberty and one can go on extending that argument and stretch it to the logical and which may perhaps result into some sort of a licence.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, it is not only that this dividing line is thin, it has become blurred altogether.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: I think it is very important that we do maintain this distinction between liberty and licence and I remember it was the great poet Milton who in his epic poem 'Paradise Lost' also said—I think I am almost right in quoting his couple of lines. He was talking about the people at large.

"Licence they mean when they cry liberty."

So, after all one can really degenerate into a sort of a licentious position in the matter of freedom and fundamental rights.