

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That the Bill further to amend the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 and also further to amend the Sixth Schedule, to the Constitution and the Representation of the People Act, 1950, be taken into consideration.”

SHRI DASARATHA DEB (Tripura East) :

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Union territory of Mizoram has come into being after the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Bill, 1971, was passed in this House. This Union territory of Mizoram will now be having a Legislative Assembly with a Council of Ministers. Certainly this is a welcome feature, and we welcome this Bill.

But on this occasion, I want to express the opinion that if this Union territory of Mizoram, in the place of a District Council under the State of Assam, and a Legislative Assembly with its Council of Ministers had come without much shedding of blood of the Mizo brethren, it would have been a much happier one. I say this because a lot of blood-shed had occurred in the Mizo area, and this bloodshed and disruption could have been easily avoided if the Government of India had taken this measure much earlier. However, it is better late than never.

My complaint against the Government of India was that this Government failed to see the sentiments and aspirations of the tribal people who had been suffering, for a long, from handicaps in every walk of life in society.

I have a strong feeling that if this present arrangement which we are now seeking to introduce in Mizoram had come earlier, then, most of the misguided Mizo brethren who took up arms for the secession of Mizoland from the Indian Union and making it an independent Mizoland could have been persuaded not to take up such steps as they had taken already. That way, I say much bloodshed and much agitation in the minds of the Mizo people there could have been avoided.

You had denied their legitimate and fundamental rights and aspirations of the tribal people so long, and you suppressed them when they raised their head to achieve their objectives through constitutional means. Therefore,

you forced them to take the course which might not be considered good for the unity and solidarity of this country. That was a very unhappy affair. When these neglected and oppressed people, having been frustrated, took up arms, you suppressed them mercilessly and you declared them hostile, and now you have had to do this because none of us wanted secession of any part of India.

But before the situation took such a turn, you should have handled the matter in a manner in which the just cause of the aggrieved tribal people was respected. But the Government did not make any effort in time and we are sorry. Because of that you are responsible for the loss of life of so many Mizo brethren who were misguided and who had to struggle and then they wanted secession, though it was a wrong course. But even then the Government could have tackled the matter in a different way. By this 27th Amendment, I see that the Mizo brethren are getting a legislative assembly and a council of ministers. Even then so many interfering acts of the Administrator will be there because we have already given that power under the 27th Amending Bill.

In the Mizo area, there are Chakmas and Pawi-Lakhers; they are very weak. The Government has suggested regional councils. They want district council or something like that. That safeguard is well deserved. I am happy about those safeguards. The Chakmas were agitated; they were agitating for district councils. I am happy that that provision is there. At the same time I request that when the Assembly and the Council of Ministers come into being the Central Government and the Administrator should without delay hand over almost all the departments to them and allow them to tackle their problems in their own way. With these words, I support the Bill wholeheartedly.

13.25 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE. SITTING OF THE HOUSE ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1971

MR. SPEAKER : Before I call the next speaker, I want to say this. Originally we planned to adjourn *sine die* on the 22nd. Now

[Mr. Speaker]

the Minister says that there is a lot of business and we must have one day more....(*Interruptions*).

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : Three Bills that have got to be passed by this House tomorrow are : the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Bill, the Northeastern Council Bill and the Constitution (28th Amendment) Bill. It is more or less non-controversial and I expect it will be finished as No. 1 in the morning,

MR. SPEAKER : As No. 1 ?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : Some Members were keen to go early; they want to fly tomorrow. I hope they will co-operate with me. We shall take it up at 10.30 tomorrow. Anyway I leave that matter to you.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore) : Is this sufficient to carry on till the 23rd ?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : We have got other business also. A dozen Bills are there; the Supreme Court Judges Bill, the High Court Judges Bill, etc. They have been introduced today. The Gratuity Bill is coming today and we shall refer it to the Select Committee.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : (पटना) आज हम लोगों ने ग्रेचुअटी बिल पर एमेंडमेंट्स दी हैं यह समझ कर कि कल दस बजे इस बिल को लिया जाएगा और आज हम एक बजे तक बैठेंगे। लेकिन हम उस बिल को आज ले रहे हैं। क्या उन एमेंडमेंट्स को आप स्वीकार कर लेंगे ?

श्री इन्द्रजीत गुप्त : हमने एमेंडमेंट्स दी हुई हैं कल के लिए। अब कह रहे हैं कि अभी हम बैठेंगे। उन एमेंडमेंट्स का क्या होगा ?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : I have been in consultation with the opposition parties. We are going to refer the Gratuity Bill to a Select Committee.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Since we have decided to sit on the 23rd and are

going to pass whatever Bills Government brings, I only request that some time should be fixed for a discussion of the international situation, because there are two things. Firstly, there are various news items that Mujibur Rahman is being taken to Peking etc, and we should condemn the attitude of Bhutto. You must have heard his speech yesterday. Secondly, let us get an opportunity to compliment and express our gratitude to those countries which helped us. Five minutes may be given to each party. But some discussion should be there.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampore) : I agree with Mr. Banerjee.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : Last time when this question was raised, I begged of the hon. Members to consider that Shri Swaran Singh, our Minister of External Affairs, was not yet back. He knows the latest position. What is latest today may become out of date tomorrow. If he comes back, we shall certainly try to have a discussion.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : We are not going to discuss the niceties of the United Nations proceedings.

13.29 hrs.

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORIES (AMENDMENT) BILL—*Contd.*

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur) : I support the Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill.

This session has turned out to be a most historic one. I would like to associate myself with the assessment made by the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that this is one of the most historic sessions. This is historic in so many respects. During this session we have liberated Bangla Desh and paved the way to further progress and world peace. This session has also passed many legislative measures which will remove the disabilities that have been prevailing in some areas of the Country like the North-eastern area:

This Bill is the fourth in a series. It is a welcome measure, and my observations will