

Bill

[Shri K. C. Pant]

which was encouraging indiscipline in the PAC as a leader of the employees, then he deserves less or more punishment? That is the point to be considered. It is a fact that he is leader and that makes it difficult; if he were anybody else it would not have made it so difficult. I hope you appreciate it.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I have not appreciated it at all. Why do you not release him now?

SHRI K. C. PANT: Appreciation has two meanings, I meant the other way. He talked about the high prices and the organisation of bandhs. I was only saying that under the circumstances of today bandhs lead to disruption of distribution and thereby the vulnerable sections are the ones to be affected. Prices will not come down through bandhs. Price resistance—yes; creating an atmosphere against price rise, action against hoarders and profiteers, adulterators—yes. But bandhs disrupt distribution and that is something to be taken note of. If he gives some thought to this he will himself come round and the constructive part of him will respond to what I am saying.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Why not use the DIR against hoarders in Delhi? Why against the striking PAC men?

SHRI K. C. PANT: DIR is being used against hoarders in many parts of the country... (Interruptions) If you want information, I can tell you that in June itself, the Home Minister wrote to the State Governments—not after the President's rule in U.P. that stringent measures should be taken against all hoarders and profiteers and so on and he followed it up by another letter. They asked whether MISA could be used; we said: yes, by all means. Then we wrote a letter that DIR can be used. So, there is no question of giving any quarter to those antisocial elements.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the Bill be passed”.

The motion was adopted.

15.11 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE:  
CONTINUANCE OF PROCLAMATION  
IN RESPECT OF MANIPUR

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN  
THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI K. C. PANT): I beg to move  
the following Resolution:

“That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation, dated 28th March, 1973, in respect of Manipur, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 14th November, 1973.”

Members are fully aware of the circumstances in which the Proclamation dated the 28th March, 1973 was issued by the President. The justification for Parliamentary Proclamation was also debated in this House on two earlier occasions. There is, therefore, no need to go into that question now. As the House is aware, the Legislative Assembly of Manipur has been dissolved and Popular rule can be restored only after new elections to the State Assembly are held. However, article 82 of the Constitution requires after each census the allocation of seats in the House of the People to the States and division of each State into territorial constituencies shall be readjusted. The Election Commission have accordingly taken up the delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies in all States including Manipur. We hope that this process will be completed in the course of the year and elections will be held early next year. But meanwhile there cannot be a vacuum. The period for which the House had earlier accorded its approval will expire on the 13th

November, 1973 when the House will not be in session. Therefore, we have now come to this House with the request that the duration of the Proclamation made by the President may be further extended for a period of six months. Such an extension is constitutionally unavoidable. I would, therefore, request the House to accord its approval to the Resolution."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Resolution moved:

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation, dated 26th March, 1973, in respect of Manipur, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 14th November, 1973."

SHRI DASARATHA DEB (Tripura East): Sir, I oppose the continuation of President's rule in Manipur for a further period of six months. Mr. Pant says they are contemplating to have the elections in Manpur in early 1974. I say that he should keep his word.

It has become a regular practice in this country to keep certain States under President's rule for more than six months. The pattern of this ruling party has become such that they are in the habit of bringing more and more States under President's rule. Even if there is a single majority party in the Assembly, if a certain action does not suit the interests of the ruling party, immediately they impose President's rule. Once they have brought a particular State under President's rule for six months, it has also become a regular practice to extend it for another six months, another six months and so on, thereby depriving the people of that State the right of being administration by their own popular government. Manipur people want their own government and this practice should be put an end to.

I do not know what was the position earlier, but for the last two or three years, Manipur has become a deficit area and they are getting foodgrains from the centre. But because it is far away from the centre and transport is very difficult, every year it so happens that government do not take care to keep food stocks ready there for the difficult period. Since Manipur and Tripura are being ruled by the Centre and being far away from the Centre, I have suggested that in those States at least foodgrains must be stocked much earlier, long before the rains set in, because you cannot reach those areas once the rain sets in. I do not know what action Government have taken on this suggestion. I hope Shri Pant will refer to it in his reply. If they have not already done that, they should do it now.

I am happy that Manipur has got district and regional councils. But they could not develop the tribal area because of so many handicaps. First and foremost, adequate funds must be placed in the hands of these councils to develop these tribal areas. It is meaningless to set up these boards without giving them adequate funds because then they will not be able to serve the purpose for which they are set up. I feel that the Government must specifically set apart a certain portion of the funds exclusively for the development of the tribal areas. If they are to depend on the general revenues, sufficient funds will not be available to them and those areas will be neglected.

It was pointed out in the Consultative Committee on Manipur that hundreds of Manipuri women using handlooms are suffering because of shortage of yarn. The yarn supplied to them by the government is of 120 counts which cannot be used by the handlooms are suffering because of vers can use only upto 50 counts. So, this specific type of yarn which can be used by the handloom weavers should be supplied to them.

[Shri Dasaratha Deb]

Now that Manipur is under President's Rule and since the Home Ministry is dealing with this matter, the entire responsibility lies on the Home Ministry to see that all these difficulties are removed.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur): Sir, I support the Resolution for the continuance of President's Rule in Manipur for another six months. Though this cannot be a normal or very encouraging trend, we all remember the circumstances in which the administration of the State of Manipur had to be taken over by the Centre from the very-corrupt and high-handed ULP Ministry headed by Shri Alimuddin, supported by his gang of politicians of the M.P.P. and other alliances.

On earlier occasions we have discussed a number of grievances faced by that State. The importance of the strategic position of the State cannot be exaggerated. It is in the extreme east, having a long common border with Burma. The law and order situation in that State and its industrial development should receive the utmost attention of the Government of India. Now that it is under the able supervision of the Government of India, particularly, the Home Ministry, I think, we should expect reasonably certain vigorous steps. I do not like to repeat the issues I had already mentioned earlier, a few days back, when we discussed the Supplementary Demands in respect of Manipur for this year.

As you know, the geography of Manipur is such that flood and drought follow one another in quick succession. This year, after continuous drought of two years, there have been devastating floods in the valley of Manipur. I do not know what measures the Government of Manipur are going to take to meet the challenge of the floods this year. Crops have been damaged and, in certain areas, re-plantation of paddy has

been necessitated. I think, the Government of Manipur, with liberal assistance from the Government of India, will meet the requirements of the farmers so that they will not suffer.

The permanent aspect of flood control to which I have tried to draw the attention of the Government of India, particularly, the Irrigation Ministry is this. We have been so far raising the river bunds without identifying the primary causes of the floods. The present technique will ultimately increase the factors that have compelled the Engineers to raise river bunds. The raising of river bunds will not solve the problem. The river sources are near the valley; water comes quickly and goes quickly. Naturally, therefore, the suggestion has been put forward, times without number, that the rivers should be dammed at their sources so that there will be perennial navigation, so that there will be water supply throughout the year and also the dams and outlets that will come out will be used for power. These suggestions have been so far not properly attended to. I think, the Government of India will look into this matter.

The next point that I would like to impress upon the Home Ministry is the shifting of the Assam Rifles from the very heart of the Imphal town. Immediately after the down fall of Manipur in the British hands, the British Government, as a defence policy and also to insult public sentiments, stationed the forces in the very Palace of the Maharaja and arranged the shifting of the Palace to another place. This arrangement continues in spite of the fact that there is justification for it. The valley is small, within its 700 sq. miles which receives all the pressure of agriculture and industry and two-thirds of entire population and, of the valley, Imphal is an important part

and, of Imphal, this portion, particularly, occupied now by the Assam Rifles which is known as the old Palace, is the most beautiful and most important place from different angles. This is the symbol of our prestige. Now, during the President's Rule, I would like to draw the attention of the Home Minister who has a thorough knowledge of Manipur and the sentiments of the people of Manipur that the Assam Rifles should be shifted elsewhere outside Imphal. There might be financial difficulties. I do not know. It will be, at worst, only some transaction between two Ministries. From Defence Ministry or whatever Ministry to which this Battalion belongs, the land will be transferred to some other Ministry. They can be given a very suitable place outside the town. This place can be utilised, apart from pleasing the sentiments of the people, for Civil purposes, for running of administrative offices and also the old Palace which is a symbol of sentiments can be thrown open to tourists and public pilgrimage because there are ancient sacred spots, which people visit round the year according to tradition and wherefrom people collect sacred dust or collect water for their rituals. This place can be thrown open to public by shifting the Assam Rifles.

Next, I would like to impress on the House that the working of telephones in Manipur is highly unsatisfactory. The link that was installed between Imphal and Calcutta is reported to have been removed. Now all the contacts from Imphal outside upto Delhi are to be made through Shillong which is quite out of the way. The direct line between Imphal and Calcutta which is reported to have been removed should be restored. The State Government, under President's rule, from the point of view of law and order and other public conveniences should take this up seriously. This has created a lot of anger to the people of Manipur.

The general working of the telephones is highly unsatisfactory. Over-billing is done and there are a lot of complaints about the inefficiency of the exchanges.

In spite of the demand and in spite of there being adequate justification for it, in this State Capital, no automatic exchange has been installed. I do not know how long it will take. I hope, Government of India will hurry up with this.

The next point that I would like to mention is about the poor sports facilities that are provided in Manipur. Naturally, our young boys and girls provide very rich talents for sports, particularly those in the northeastern region to which, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, you also belong. Our boys and girls do take part in the sports activities and their enthusiasm is second to none; and they have given good account of themselves. Considering this sports facilities provided in the State are very insignificant, particularly the absence of stadiums, outdoor as well as indoor, and separate playgrounds for hockey, football, tennis and such other games which the people love very much is seriously felt. This is a serious grievance and it should be removed. Now there is only one polo ground and there along with polo, hockey, football and several other games are being played. One can imagine the plight of sports lovers. I hope, Government of India will pay special attention to it.

Next, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the working of the Khadi and Village Industries Board in Manipur. The constitution of this Board during the erstwhile ULP Ministry was done purely on political basis. Now there are abundant reports of corruption and mis-handling of funds by this board. All kinds of favouritism are going on under the banner of Khadi and Village Industries Board. People who are particularly strange or foreign to the very idea of village

[**Shri N Tombi Singh**]

industries and khadi have been appointed and now they continue. What happens now is that almost daily the local papers are full of reports of corruption and mismanagement of this. So, this has to be looked into and the Board has to be re-constituted so that the objectives of the board may be achieved and the mishandling of funds and powers may end.

Next, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the working and the performance of the nationalised banks in Manipur. The nationalised banks in Manipur are not doing justice to the cause of agriculturists and industrialists in the matter of loans and assistance....

**SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA** (Serampore): Nowhere. Not only in Manipur.

**SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH:** Of course, I am referring to my State. I am not surprised and I hope the Government will perhaps look into this. There are only two branches of nationalised banks—the State Bank of India and the United Bank of India and they have sub-branches in the rural areas also. According to my information, the branches as well as the head offices are extending loans to some businessmen only on the basis of security. Of course, it is public funds and security is a very important consideration. But, unless we support the industrialists and agriculturists by allowing certain concessions in procedures etc. the very purpose of nationalising the banks will be defeated. So, the performance of the nationalised banks in Manipur, particularly, in the rural and the hilly areas should be looked into so that agriculturists and small industrialists in the rural and the hilly areas will get the benefit.

But, not only this, the prospect of tea plantation in Manipur has not been properly attended to. There is a lot of wild growth of tea in Manipur in certain areas. The tea-planters the world over know that the Manipur variety of tea is very good for spreading. Therefore, we fail to understand under the existing circumstances, after the development of the means of communication, why the Tea Board has not taken up the prospect of having a few tea gardens on an experimental basis in certain selected areas of Manipur. I understand that the Chairman of the Tea Board visited Manipur sometime ago. I do not know what happened and what dialogue he had with the Agriculture or the concerned Department of Manipur. All these things cannot be taken up casually.

Now, in this connection, what I would like to say is that the economic development of Manipur can be done only through a few projects namely, setting up industries like paper and cement about which I had occasion to refer to in this House repeatedly and I would not like to repeat them now. Over and above the facilities for paper and cement, the abundant prospect for setting up tea gardens in Manipur is still there and we have not been able to tap this resource. The Government of India not only from the point of State's economic development but also from the point of general development of tea industry in the country should take necessary steps and a place like Manipur should not go by default and I think serious attention will be given to this aspect.

Another point I would like to mention is the affairs of the Regional Medical College started last year in Manipur. This Regional Medical College has been started in order to serve a number of States including yours, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, etc. Tripura is also included. Now, the number of seats

because of its many stage is limited. Now, it is very difficult to accommodate the requirements of the States. Particularly, the host State is the victim because according to the arithmetic of the population figures, the host State gets only 11 seats. The question is whether the Ministry will help the State Government to find opportunities for more students than allotted in the present quota so that the usual quota of seats outside Manipur be restored to Manipur irrespective of the regional college which cannot meet the present requirements. I understand in this connection that the Government of India have agreed to allot a few more seats outside Manipur to accommodate the usual quota of seats. The question of re-opening of the waiting list which was prepared on the basis of the Gauhati University admission programme should receive the topmost attention of the Government. There are quite a number of students who were left out of the list only because they inspite of good performance could not submit the marks sheet in time. They should be accommodated. With these words I support the Resolution. Thank you

श्री राधावल्लभ झा (पटना)  
उपाध्यक्ष जी, मनीपुर में राष्ट्रपति के शासन को 6 महीने की अवधि के लिये और बढ़ाने के प्रस्ताव का मैं विरोध करता हूँ। यह बात मेरी समझ में नहीं आती कि 6 महीने की अवधि बढ़ाने की क्या आवश्यकता आ गई? मैं मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि वे चाहते हैं कि 1974 में वहाँ चुनाव करवाये जायें और उसी की तैयारी के सिलसिले में इस अवधि को बढ़ाया जा रहा है। पिछले 6 महीनों में वे चुनाव क्षेत्रों का परिशीलन नहीं करवा सके, दूसरी तैयारी नहीं करवा सके। 6 महीने का समय थोड़ा समय नहीं है। अगर वह दिल से चाहते कि वहाँ की जनता के हितों में लोकप्रिय सरकार दी जाये तो वे परिशीलन का काम भी करवा सकते थे,

वोटर लिस्ट की तैयारी तथा दूसरे काम भी करवा सकते थे लेकिन यह काम उन्होंने करवाया नहीं और उसको आधार बनाकर यह चाहते हैं कि मनीपुर में 6 महीने तक और राष्ट्रपति का शासन लागू रखा जाये, वहाँ के सरकारों को और मनमानी करने की छूट दी जाये। इसीलिये मैं इसका विरोध करता हूँ और मांग करता हूँ कि वहाँ पर शीघ्र से शीघ्र चुनाव करा कर वहाँ की शासन व्यवस्था को वहाँ के चुने हुए प्रतिनिधियों के हाथ में सौंप दिया जाये।

15.38 hrs.

[SHRI S. A. KADAR in the Chair]

यहाँ पर सरकार की तरफ से बार बार यह दावा किया गया और कहा गया कि देश में जनतन्त्र को हम विकसित कर रहे हैं, उसकी जड़ को मजबूत कर रहे हैं लेकिन इस तरह से राष्ट्रपति के शासन को स्थापित करके वहाँ की जनता के अधिकारों को छीन कर जनतन्त्र के ऊपर भी इस तरीके से चोट की जा रही है जिसका जनतन्त्र के साथ कोई मेल नहीं है। इस लिये वहाँ पर जब तक लोकप्रिय सरकार नहीं होगी, आप कितना भी प्रयास करेंगे वहाँ के पिछड़ेपन को दूर करने के लिये, वहाँ की समस्याओं का समाधान निकालने के लिये, आप समर्थ नहीं हो सकते क्योंकि वहाँ राजकाज का काम चलाने की जवाबदेही वहाँ के नौकरशाहों के हाथ में होगी और नौकरशाही हमारे देश में कैंसा मनमानी मचाये हुए है इस बात का अहसास आपको है। पिछली बार जब हिन्दुस्तान में लोको रनिंग स्टाफ ने हड़ताल की तो हमने देखा कि किस तरीके से पग-पग पर रेलवे बोर्ड के लोगों ने इकावट डालने की कोशिश की। तो इसीलिये हम नौकरशाही पर ज्यादा धरोसा नहीं कर सकते। अगर आप करेंगे तो आप का काम नहीं चलेगा। इसलिये वहाँ लोकप्रिय सरकार बनायी जाय।

[ श्री राजाबहादुर शास्त्री ]

सीसरी बात यह है कि वह देश का बहुत ही पिछड़ा हुआ हिस्सा है लेकिन उस की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका है क्योंकि वह हमारी सीमा क्षेत्र है और बर्मा से लगा हुआ है। इस तरह के क्षेत्रों के विकास के ऊपर आप को ज्यादा से ज्यादा ध्यान देना चाहिये। आप ने सुना कि वहाँ उद्योग धंधे की स्थिति खराब है, लोगों में बेकारी है। जमीन पर कुछ लोगों ने कब्जा कर रखा है, ज्यादातर लोगों के पास जमीन नहीं है। वहाँ की प्राथिक व्यवस्था बहुत विकसित नहीं है, यातायात के साधन भी अत्रिकमिन् हैं जिस के कारण बरमात में आवश्यक सामान से जाने में भी काफी कठिनाई होती है। तो वहाँ के पिछड़ेपन को दूर करने की जिम्मेदारी आप की है। आप के चाहने के बावजूद इन समस्याओं का समाधान तब तक नहीं होगा जब तक वहाँ जनता की राय से उद्योग धंधे स्थापित न किये जायें। वहाँ के बेकारों को काम देने के लिये योजनायें चालू न की जायें। वैसे प्लानिंग कमीशन ने बेकारी दूर करने के नाम पर कुछ माल पहले कौशल योजना चालू की थी। लेकिन उसको भी आपने समाप्त कर दिया। तो वहाँ की बेकारी कैसे दूर होगी। जमीन के बटवारे का सवाल है। इन सबालों का हल आप नीकरशाही के जरिये नहीं कर सकते, बल्कि जनता के प्रतिनिधियों के हाथ में शासन की बागडोर सौंप कर के ही कर सकते हैं। आप 6 महीने के लिये और अवधि बढ़ाने जा रहे हैं, वह बढ़ा देंगे, लेकिन इस बीच में इन कामों की तरफ आप का ध्यान जाना चाहिये ताकि वहाँ का पिछड़ापन दूर हो सके और वहाँ की जनता यह समझे कि भारतवर्ष की जनता के साथ वह भी कदम से कदम मिलाकर हूँ माने में चल रही है और वह क्षेत्र केवल हिन्दुस्तान का हिस्सा ही नहीं है बल्कि हर तरह से आगे बढ़ने का उन को अधिकार है वह महसूस कराना वहाँ के लोगों को आप का कर्तव्य है।

वहाँ की सांस्कृतिक परम्परा बहुत समृद्ध-शाही रही है। मणिपुर नृत्य का नाम ही अजर जायते हैं और देवा भी है, उस तरफ भी ध्यान का ध्यान जाना चाहिये ताकि सांस्कृतिक जीवन समृद्ध हो। हमारे एक माननीय सदस्य ने खेल कूद के बारे में कहा है, लेकिन मैं इस तरफ ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि वहाँ की सांस्कृतिक परम्परायें समृद्धि की ओर बढ़े उसके लिये ज्यादा से ज्यादा सहायता आपकी देनी चाहिये। जितने भी विकास के काम हैं या सवाल हैं उनकी कुंजी 6 महीने तक आपके हाथ में है इसलिये उनको ज्यादा से ज्यादा रसा बीजिये। अगर धन नहीं देंगे तो कोई काम नहीं होगा। अगर आपने वहाँ की जनता की हर क्षेत्र में सहायता की तो प्राज्ञ ज्ञान क्षेत्रीय विषयता और पिछड़ापन है वह दूर होगा। इसकी जिम्मेदारी आप के कंधों पर है क्योंकि 6 महीने तक आप का शासन वहाँ और रहेगा। मणिपुर, त्रिपुरा, मेघालय, मारे पिछड़े हुये इलाके हैं उनकी तरफ ज्यादा ध्यान दीजिये, और खास तौर पर मणिपुर की तरफ क्योंकि 6 महीने तक आप का ही शासन है।

आप संकट वहाँ भी है क्योंकि वह सर्वव्यापी है और मणिपुर अछूता नहीं है। वहाँ भी महंगाई है, गल्ले की कमी है और आप को यालूम है कि वह क्षेत्र कम गल्ला पैदा करने वाला इलाका है। तो, ऐसे इलाकों को आपके ऊपर निर्भर रहना पड़ेगा। अगर आप गल्ला नहीं देंगे, या पास पड़ोस के राज्य गल्ला नहीं देंगे तो वहाँ की जनता भूखा मरेगी। इसलिये वह आपकी जिम्मेदारी है कि वहाँ की जनता को ज्यादा से ज्यादा गल्ला दीजिये। देश के और हिस्सों की तरफ मणिपुर में भी और बाजारी, सड़तेबाजी

चल रहा है, लोग नल्ला खूना कर रहे हैं, इसलिये बड़े बड़े नल्ला पैदा करने वाले एवं मुजाफाखोरों पर छापा मारना होगा, ऐसे लोगों को भारत सुरक्षा कानून के अन्दर पकड़ कर जेल में भेजना पड़ेगा ताकि जनता के जीवन के साथ यह खिलवाड़ न कर सकें, सामान को श्रीर ज्यादा कीमत पर बेचने का प्रयास न करें। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इसका विरोध करता हूँ। श्रीर प्राणा करना है कि आप जन्दी से जल्दी बहा चुनाव करा कर वहाँ की व्यवस्था बहा की जनता के हाथ में देंगे ताकि वह अपने भविष्य का निर्माण स्वयं कर सकें, प्रागे बढ़ सकें और देश के साथ कदम से कदम मिला कर चल सकें।

**SHRI PAOKAI HAOKIP** (Outer Manipur): I rise to support the resolution seeking to extend further President's rule in Manipur State. The need for this extension would not have been there if only there had not been failure to conduct elections during the period between the day of the proclamation and now. But then this has been the only course possible, because even if there had been completion of the delimitation, it would not have been possible for the people of Manipur to go to the polls, because of the circumstances that obtained there and that are still obtaining there, such as the famine condition, the law and order situation and such other things. So, there is need to extend further the President's rule there. But I hope that this would be the last such extension, and elections would be conducted in the early part of 1974.

Actually, I did not intend to make a speech on this resolution, but since I have risen, I would like to make a few points. Firstly, I would like to touch upon the law and order situation. As the House knows well, the law and order situation has been very bad there for the last so many years, especially during the recent months. On the earlier occasion when Manipur was discussed in this House, there was reference to the

incidents that took place between the underground guerillas and the jawans, in which 17 jawans and some civilians had lost their lives.

This has been the recent situation and this situation is still continuing. This is what agitates the mind of the people, specially those living in the hill areas. Day to day they are living their lives under great consternation and fear. In this atmosphere, in this wretched condition, these people have been trying to survive.

No doubt, Government has been doing such, but that is not sufficient. I am sorry to say this. On this aspects of the problem, it has been my desire, and now also, that to prevent to a certain extent the occurrence of these incidents, to prevent anti-people elements committing such crimes, there should be on the borderline a number of armed forces posts installed so that these elements cannot infiltrate from abroad. But so far this has not been done by Government. I must say that the incidents that have been taking place in recent times have been due to the lack of such an arrangement. Had there been such an arrangement on the borderline, it would have been quite impossible for those elements to commit such crimes so easily. This is one of the aspects to which I would like to draw the attention of the Home Ministry

The second thing I would ask Government to tell us is about what has been done to the bereaved families of the jawans as well as the civilians killed not only in the recent months but in past years also. I am not aware that Government has been doing anything with regard to this. So when the Minister replies, he will kindly enlighten the House on this aspect.

The second point I would make is that since the creation of the State, there have been created four districts and recently two new districts



[Shri Paokai Haokip]

have been added. Now they are six in number. I am informed that these two new districts have not been declared as full-fledged districts as in the case of others. What is the difficulty in making them full-fledged districts? If my information is incorrect, this may be ignored; if correct, I would request Government to make these two districts full-fledged districts, as immediately as possible so that they could function properly for the welfare of the people. Five years ago some kuki refugees came from Burma and after three years of their arrival they were given some help, about Rs. 2 lakhs. After that the Government has not been giving them further help. I know their conditions. I request that in this matter also the Government should do something.

There is one sorry aspect of the problem so far as security measures are concerned. Recently, the Home Ministry and the Government of Manipur have issued orders that the village chiefs and the tribals in the hilly areas of Manipur should inform the Government when hostile elements come to their places and try to do something. If they fail to inform the Government or if they informed the Government after the elements had done something, they would be punished or they would be fined. This is a new method to prevent the crimes. Formerly this was practised only in the State of Nagaland. This has come to Manipur now. I am not going into the question how far this measure will prevent the crimes. But are there not more effective measures that the Government could take? There could be more forces. More alert could help. I know there are a number of forces in the hilly areas and their number could be increased. I must express my fear in regard to this matter. It might so happen that a villager might be ignorant of the presence of hostile elements and in such cases, if the Go-

vernment punishes him, what will happen?

16 hrs.

Manipur is a backward State. Where does the backwardness of Manipur lie? This has to be discovered by the Government. Its backwardness lies in the hilly areas of Manipur. All these years development has been going on in the heart of the State, Imphal, in the valley only. Hardly anything has been done for the hill areas. In order to improve the condition of the people of Manipur as a whole and further beautify the picture of Manipur, the only thing that can be done is that the hill areas and tribals should receive special consideration and more special programmes and projects should be taken up there. No doubt huge amounts of money have been spent, but where have they gone? This should be looked into. I would request the Government to consider the possibility of setting up a special committee to review the progress and developmental work over the years in order to ensure that effective measures are taken to eradicate the poverty of the hill areas, so that the rate of progress of Manipur as a whole can be stepped up.

श्री आर० बी० बड़े (खरगोन)

सभापति महोदय, श्री पन्त ने जो यह इल्फाव रखा है कि मणिपुर में राष्ट्रपति शासन और उः महीने के भिन्ने बढ़ाया जाये, मैं उसका विरोध करता हूँ। हम देखते हैं कि मणिपुर के प्रतिरिक्त उड़ीसा और उत्तर प्रदेश में भी राष्ट्रपति शासन लागू किया गया है। क्या सरकार का इरादा नारे हिन्दुस्तान में राष्ट्रपति शासन लागू करने का है? ऐसा मामूक होता है कि सरकार पागल-मिड-हो गई है।

मणिपुर एक बाइंडर स्टेट है और एक पिछड़ी हुआ प्रदेश है, जहाँ भाँबिकासी कीम

रहते हैं। अब लोगों का प्रश्न इसका क्या अन्तर होगा ? राष्ट्रपति शासन का मतलब है अत्यधिक शासन। मणिपुर में राष्ट्रपति शासन लागू करने का मतलब है कि हमारे पास डिमोक्रेटिक व्यवस्था का मतलब है कि कोई राजा नहीं है, हमारे पास कोई नौकरशाही व्यवस्था नहीं है। अगर आदिवासीयों को यह प्रश्न पड़े तो यथा कि उनको यह डेमोक्रेसी नहीं बन सकती है, तो डेमोक्रेसी पर वे उनका विश्वास उठ जायेगा और देश के लिये यह एक दुर्भाग्य का दिन होगा।

मणिपुर एक बड़ा सुन्दर राज्य है, जहाँ अच्छे टूरिस्ट सेंटर बनाये जा सकते हैं। लेकिन डेमोक्रेसी में यह धामा नहीं की जा सकती है कि वह हम बिना ये कुछ करेगी। जैसा कि अभी बताया गया है, मणिपुर का नृत्य और मधीय बहुत प्रसिद्ध है, जिसके कार्यक्रम हर टी० वी० पर देखने हैं। बड़ा की एक विशिष्ट संस्कृति है। लेकिन उनको कौन डेवेलप करेगा ? मणिपुर में राष्ट्रपति शासन लागू करने में वह क्षेत्र प्रजातन्त्र के प्रवाह में अलग हट जायेगा। अगर सभी महोदय यह धारणा रखते कि तीन चार महीने में बड़ा चुनाव कराये जायेंगे, तो हम, इस प्रस्ताव का औचित्य समझ सकते थे लेकिन इस प्रस्ताव के द्वारा राष्ट्रपति शासन की अवधि छ महीने के लिये बढ़ायी जा रही है और उनका कोई कारण भी नहीं बताया गया है। इसलिये इसका विरोध करने के अलावा और कोई चारा नहीं है।

देश के अलग अलग क्षेत्रों की तरह बड़ा की राजा की समस्या बड़ी कठिन है। वहाँ की क्षेत्रों में प्रजातन्त्र सिजना बहुत आवश्यक है, क्योंकि जहाँ भी राजा का सम्बन्ध है वहाँ है, अगर वहाँ राजा न रहेगा, तो जनमानस ही जाने कि राजा का क्या हुआ होगा। जहाँ तरह तरह के राजा के अन्तर्गत में राजा

से पहले प्रजातन्त्र न रहेगा, जो बड़ा की जनता भूखी मरेगी।

इस उद्देश्य से कहा गया है कि मणिपुर में प्रजातन्त्र है। इस बारे में तो भावे का भाव है कि विचार गया है। जब सब तरफ प्रजातन्त्र है, तो किनको दोष दिया जाये ? प्रजातन्त्र प्रजातन्त्र कहाँ नहीं है वहाँ प्रजातन्त्र होने का मतलब यह नहीं है कि वहाँ राष्ट्रपति शासन लागू कर दिया जाये। आज आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि बड़ा के लोगों के हित में सत्ता दी जाये। जब तक ऐसा नहीं किया जायेगा नौकरशाही के अन्तर्गत उस राज्य का विकास और प्रगति नहीं हो पायेगी और प्रजातन्त्र जारी रहेगा। वास्तव में राष्ट्रपति शासन इसलिये नहीं लागू किया गया है कि बड़ा प्रजातन्त्र है। उनका कारण यह था कि वहाँ जूतों में दाल बटने लगी थी, आपस में मगड़ें शुरू हो गये थे। इसलिये मैं इस प्रस्ताव का विरोध करना हूँ।

**SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GO-SWAMI (Gauhati).** Mr Chairman, I take my stand here to support the Resolution I feel that normally President's Rule in any State should not be extended. But there may be compelling reasons for doing so in some special cases. In the case of Manipur, one such compelling reason has already been mentioned, namely, that delimitation is going on and if the election takes place before that process is completed, it will not be in the interests of the State.

The last speaker spoke in a critical vein about the promulgation of President's Rule in Manipur. It seems that he is not aware of the conditions and circumstances under which President's Rule had to be promulgated in Manipur. The House has discussed in detail the circumstances in which the Alimuddin Ministry had to go and President's Rule had to be promulgated.

[Shri Dinesh Chandra Goswami]

I am in agreement with him when he says that Manipur is a backward State located in a strategic region. Because of its strategic position, I feel we should try to understand and appreciate the problems of not only Manipur but all the other strategic States which are located in that region and adjacent to Manipur.

We should bear in mind that a serious effort is being made in that region by forces which are hostile to us to bring disharmony in that region. We have read in the newspapers about it and I hope the hon. Minister will clarify the position in his reply. Recently, the underground Nagas have increased their activities in this part. We have also come to know that various unlawful forces are trying to entrench themselves in this region. Therefore, this being in a strategic position, it should be our utmost effort to see that an efficient Government is in power in that area. If a particular popular government is incapable of running the administration efficiently, what alternative have we except to promulgate President's Rule?

By extending the President's Rule for another six months Parliament today is taking upon itself a very serious responsibility. The moment we say that we authorise the President, or through the President the Union Cabinet to run the Government of this State, it is our responsibility to see that the expectations of the people of that region are fulfilled.

What are the maladies of Manipur and other States in that area? I think no serious effort has been made up till now to identify these maladies. As far as I can see, the three basic maladies are backward agriculture, absolute lack of industrial climate and lack of infra-structure. The last speaker has referred to the

food position in Manipur. The agricultural pattern in Manipur is primitive. I had the opportunity of going through some of the statistics of the Agricultural Refinance Corporation recently. I was struck by the fact that though this Agricultural Refinance Corporation was brought into being to improve agriculture, especially of the backward regions, the entire eastern region has been completely neglected. The total amount allocated to the eastern region comprising of Bengal, Orissa, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura and the two Union Territories of Arunachal and Mizoram was less than Rs. 5 crores when the total all India allocation was nearly Rs. 500 crores. How can we expect the industrial growth, how can we expect the pattern of agriculture to change, if you only allot 1 per cent of the total resources of the country to these eastern areas? Now, this State being under the President's Rule, I hope, the Home Minister will see to it that more allocations are given so that there is agricultural growth and the pattern of agriculture can be changed.

The second aspect which we should keep in mind is that the mere allocation will not do because expertise is a thing which is extremely essential in this region. Therefore, we should try to provide expertise also.

Then, there is lack of industrial climate in this region. I have myself a bitter experience. When we ask for industries in this region, the obvious, the routine, answer that is given is we cannot have industries because there is no infra-structure. When we ask for infra-structure, the reply given is that there are no industries to support the infra-structure. Therefore, we cannot have industries. This is the answer given to us every time. Who is to resolve this paradox? After all, the Government must resolve this paradox. Unfortunately, nothing has been done to resolve this paradox. In this region,

the people's patience has almost reached the last point of elasticity. Therefore, I would like the Government to keep these aspects in view very seriously.

My learned friend said about sports and cultural activities. Though in the present physical state, I do not look like a sportsman, I am one who is actively interested in sports. I can tell you, if properly groomed, the Manipur boys can really make a mark in Indian sports, particularly, in the athletic events. I know it from my experience and I ask the hon. Minister to keep this in mind.

In this context, before I conclude, I want to draw your attention to a very serious thing which is prevalent not in Manipur alone but in the entire eastern region. The paradox today is that there is a lack of harmony, a lack of emotional integration, in these eastern States. If you look at States of Bihar, Bengal, Assam and other States, there is a lack of harmony amongst the population of these eastern States. Therefore, because of lack of harmony, we have seen disruptive forces coming to a surface. The eastern region is the most strategic one. The forces which are hostile to us inside the country, the reactionary forces, the vested interests, and the forces which are hostile to us outside the country are trying to capitalise these forces and are creating a sense of imbalance in the eastern region.

Now, the entire lack of harmony in the eastern region is the cause of economic uncertainty there. Because there is no economic certainty or there is economic uncertainty, there is a restlessness amongst the younger generation and this younger generation falls an easy prey on sentimental issues. Therefore, if you want to have real harmony and emotional integration in the eastern region, we must have economic development in this region. Unfortunately, there has not been economic development in

this region because the people of the eastern States, we the politicians, have not been able to fight from a common platform. That is the paradox. The people cannot fight from a common platform because there is mistrust resulting from economic conditions. The economic conditions cannot be improved because there is mistrust amongst the people. This paradox must be resolved.

Now, a body was formed to resolve this paradox, that is, the North-Eastern Council under the initiative of Mr. K. C. Pant. I do not know what this Council is doing. Up till now at least, no ostensible sign has come to us as to what the Council is doing. I would like him to enlighten us as to what the Council is doing so far as the backward States of Manipur and its adjoining areas are concerned. I hope, he will do it.

With these words, I support the Resolution.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): I find it rather difficult to support the Home Minister's Resolution, although, I must admit, the grounds of objection are not as strong as they were at the time of the Resolution on Uttar Pradesh. There was, undoubtedly, a Constitutional crisis and there was no possibility of forming an alternative Government in Manipur; therefore, the president's rule had to be introduced. But, Sir, the Minister of State for Home Affairs has not given any arguments for extending this period by another six months except to say that the Election Commission requires some time for the electoral rolls to be revised, etc., he has not come out with any specific or valid reason as to why the President's rule should be extended. I should have thought that revision of electoral rolls would be a normal process, would be going on continuously and that that would not be, in itself, the major reason for extending the President's rule. Therefore, I feel it is very pathetic to see

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my esteemed friend, Shri K. C. Pant, moving this Resolution today—earlier he moved the Resolution on Uttar Pradesh and after this Resolution on Manipur he will be moving a similar Resolution on Orissa. It does undoubtedly mean erosion of the democratic processes in our country. The Constitution envisaged President's rule in one or more States of the Union as a rare phenomenon. But I find, of late, what should be a rare phenomenon has become a matter of daily occurrence. If you go on extending the President's rule like this not only in more than one State but also in the same State for more than six months without giving any valid reason why you are extending the President's rule in that particular State, I am afraid the erosion is still deeper and still wider. That is why, on that count, I would like to object to Mr. Pant's moving this Resolution and asking this House to give its endorsement.

If I now take this particular case of Manipur, it is a very small but significant area; it is far-off from the Centre, *i.e.*, the Capital, and is loosely connected with the rest of the country; nonetheless, one cannot ignore the significance and importance of this border area. The people who live there are already economically under-developed—I do not like to use the word 'backward'—and coupled with their economic under-development is also the political under-development—they are denied their very legitimate and natural right of a popular Ministry in their State.

I had the good fortune of making a somewhat leisurely and good visit to the State of Manipur in April this year. I spent nearly four or five days there. I went round not only Imphal but also the other parts of the State; I went as far as Moreh, the border between India and Burma. When I had that pleasure of visiting the entire

State of Manipur, I could see that the places I visited and the people I met were impressive; I found the people of Manipur to be cheerful, charitable and considerate; their spirit was indomitable; their desire to make progress was very good. But every time I found that they had only one complaint by and large; that was, whatever they want in their State is not done either because of lack of funds or because of lack of interest. If this happens even when they have their own Ministry, they have a justifiable grievance that they are being neglected, that adequate Central funds are not being made available, that adequate Central attention is not being paid. And under the President's rule, this grievance becomes all the greater. They get the feeling that the whole country does not look to them and their problems as their own problems and their own people. In other words, the people there get the feeling that they are not yet totally accepted as part of the Indian Union, they are not yet nationally integrated with the other peoples of the Indian nation. Therefore, I should think that extension of President's rule comes as an obstacle or hindrance in the path of the people of Manipur feeling that they are part of the nation. If people in the other parts have democratic processes, enjoy all these rights, enjoy the Central attention, the Central assistance and get adequate funds for drought and other purposes, even for industrial growth and economic development, how is it that people in this far-off place, but one which is very much part and parcel of our own nation, are neglected and ignored? I hope the Minister of Home Affairs will kindly look into this matter and see to it that this is properly attended to, because this is not merely an economic and political problem. This is also a psychological problem. They must not be allowed to feel, having got into the mainstream of our political life, that they are separate from us or away from us or that they are in any way

neglected. Therefore, I feel that these people of a beautiful State—it is a very lovely State in terms of natural scenery and the drive from Imphal to March on the Indo-Burma border as very delightful—should not be ignored. As I said the people are a cheerful people and they have a rich cultural heritage. I do not want to go into those details but they have a feeling of being neglected, a feeling of being ignored. I want to suggest that the under-development both economic and political and this continued forced spell of President's rule make things worse. Therefore, I feel that Mr. Pant, while asking the House to endorse his resolution, will see to it that priorities and speedy action with regard to the peoples and problems of Manipur are looked into and attended to.

Then, Sir, I am concerned, and I feel that if there was President's Rule for a spell of six months only, and from November onwards with the elections taking pace, there were a popular ministry again, than it would have been possible for the Manipur people to feel that they can have participation in the democratic processes. Whenever there is an extension of President's rule, it means that you are asking the people not to feel concerned, not to feel involved in what is happening around or not to feel interested in their own problems. Therefore, I feel that the absence of a popular Ministry for yet another period of six months will mean that there will be no people's participation. After all when people participate, that is how they begin to get educated in the art of democracy. No country in the world, not even America or Britain, are fully developed in terms of democracy. They also learn through the process of trial and error. These people should get a chance to feel that they are involved in the public affairs of their own area. I feel that this absence of a popular Ministry for another period of six months will to that extent deny them their natural rights and the

democratic rights. Now, during the debate, even if there is a thin house and sometimes there may not be even the quorum in the House, we are sure this resolution is going to be passed because the Government have the majority. Therefore, I want to suggest, when it is going to be passed and we are going to have President's rule in Manipur for another period of six months, I invite Government's attention to some of the problems of that area, namely, the question of weavers, the problem of yarn prices and the non-availability of yarn and the problems of defence and the problems of economic development, the problems of industrialisation, and also the problem—which one of my friends from the ruling side referred to it, the problem of persons of Indian origin from Burma who have come to India. When I was in Moreh, the border village, I saw the people of Indian origin coming from Burma and settling down there. They have many complaints. They feel that though they have been there for many years now, they are denied even elementary facilities like water, electricity and housing, etc. I hope, now that the President's rule will be extended by another six months, the bureaucracy will administer with a certain amount of sympathy, speed and understanding so that development in Manipur takes place rapidly.

In conclusion, I want to say this. While the President's rule is being extended, I find some people, particularly, young journalists in Imphal have been arrested under some Government of India Act, either DIR or MISA. I want the Minister to look into these cases because I feel as reports go that some of these young people who were arrested are only political opponents. I feel they were arrested on the grounds of their political views and opinions rather than on the grounds of any violent action. If that is so, I want to suggest that this is a gross misuse of DIR or MISA and that the Government,

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especially under the President' rule, should see to it that while the President's rule goes on and the bureaucracy administers the State, even the normal rights and the civil liberties of the people are not damaged or violated in any way. Therefore, I want to conclude by saying this. If democracy is found unworkable in a particular State or, for that matter, in the whole country, I have always felt and I always believe, the remedy for that is not to get rid of even the little democratic process that is left but to see that you inject a greater dose of democracy. The remedy is not dictatorship or the President's rule for a short or long time, but to inject a greater dose of democracy so that people learn through the democratic processes and in terms of public opinion and in terms of development all round both economic and political. I hope therefore that while extension of President's rule takes place, the Governor and the bureaucracy in Manipur will see to it that derain problems which need to be tackled with sympathy, with understanding and speed, will be tackled soon, so that, in February 1974—I hope that would be the last date—the elections could take place and then Manipur will have a democratic Government. And I also hope, Sir, that certain of the maladies to which I referred to, will be eliminated.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to the Hon. Members who have participated in the Debate,—not only for pinpointing some of the problems of Manipur,—but for expressing sympathy for the problems of the North-Eastern region of the country, as a whole.

I think, Sir, it is necessary that more interest should be taken in regard to the problems of the North-East. It is an area which does not have very ready communications with

the rest of the country, in the sense that the road and rail links are rather long. Today it is true that by air it is easily reached,—any part of it,—but sometimes the weather intervenes, the air travel is disrupted, though that is happening less and less, as better planes are being used.

Apart from that, the one point which Shri Mavalankar mentioned just now is something which is important and that is, that the people of the North-Eastern region must feel that the rest of the country is deeply and intimately concerned with their welfare, they must feel that they are not only to be developed only, but any psychological barriers that might exist, must be demolished.

Sir, I have often had the chance to visit these areas. I am glad to say that by and large the feeling and the sense of belonging is very much in evidence everywhere that I went, by and large there is no sense of separateness among the people of the North-East. It is true that there is the Naga underground, there is the Mizo underground, etc. But, over the years, these underground movements have also come down. They have declined in strength and been reduced to terrorist activities rather than indulging in organised underground movement. Apart from this, there is the sense of belonging, even among these sections, and we also find that Mizo rebels have been surrendering more and more in the recent months. Many of the top leaders have surrendered. Hon. Members must have seen in the papers the news that a large section of the Naga underground has surrendered. I think about a thousand of them have surrendered at the ceremony where the Governor was present. They surrendered their arms. It is true that it was a break-away faction of the N.F.G.

But, nevertheless, it was a biggest group and it surrendered. These are the happy developments in the North-

East. I hope that the rest of them who are still underground would take advantage of the opportunities now offered in all the States and Union Territories of North-East to participate in the act of construction, the act of development and also participate fully in public life in that area.

In Manipur, the question of this aspect of separateness hardly exists today. It is true that there was a small group there in that valley among the mighty youth which was talking in terms of secession some years ago. But, today, there is hardly a trace of it. There may be a certain amount of resentment even to-day. There may be other causes for that, unemployment, etc. But, by and large, the situation in the valley, so far as this aspect is concerned, is very much improved after Manipur became a State because, that was the demand of the people there and when it became a State, there was a perceptible improvement, change, in the political atmosphere of the State. Also in the Hills, there was relative peace, as has been mentioned by some hon. friends, particularly, the Member from the Hill region, Shri Haokip. There have been, of late, instances of infringement of law and order, of violence and of killings. This is the work of a group of underground Nagas to which I referred earlier. This is perhaps to demonstrate that they still exist to demonstrate that they still can create trouble. But, whatever it is, I can assure him and I can assure the other friends that the State Government there as well as the security force of the Centre are vigilant or are fully alive to the dangers of the situation and are taking action wherever it is necessary. We know that it is a border State and, as a border State, there is particular need to be vigilant and to take all action that is necessary.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA (Muzaffarpur): May I ask a question? A short while ago, he referred

to the capture of 1,000 Nagas and some arms.

SHRI K. C. PANT: I said 'surrender'.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA: May I know the name of the manufacturers of these arms on inspection and the country in which they were manufactured?

SHRI K. C. PANT: I cannot really answer that question just now. I do not have the information with me. But I shall certainly give that information to the House later; if a proper question is put, I can collect it and give it to the House. I was pointing to the positive features in the North-Eastern region because, there has been publicity of late, naturally, about instances of firing and shooting by the underground, instances of infringement of law and order, instances of ambushes of our security forces. But these special developments are not so widely known. Therefore, I choose this opportunity to mention those. I was saying that the people must be protected against the harassment that these hostile elements want to inflict on them and it is the function of the security forces to take all necessary measures. That they are doing. Apart from that, I think Shri Haokip mentioned about security on the border. That is a question which I can hardly discuss in detail but, I can assure him that that aspect is also being fully taken care of.

There was some reference to the food situation. Some suggestion was made by Shri Dasaratha Deb and by some other hon. Member that food should be stocked, in view of the communication difficulties. I agree with them, and in fact, this is what we have been trying to do in Manipur. According to my information, the food situation in the State is on the whole satisfactory. The Administration had come here to ask for more foodgrains. I do not know whether they will get



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all that they want, because you are fully aware of today's food situation and to some extent every part of the country has to share in the shortages. But this whole area is a sensitive area, and, therefore, we would like to take care of their requirements even perhaps at the cost of some of the other States that might not mind this sacrifice. More than 100 public vehicles were commandeered to transport foodgrains in Manipur and to reach them out to various points where they were stocked, and this has been done in response to the natural difficulties that arise in movement once the rains set in.

On the basic question of why there was extension of President's rule, I was surprised that Prof. Mavalankar also did not quite understand why it should have been done, and he disapproved of it. He said that no valid reasons had been given.

When President's rule was imposed, it was imposed at a time when the alternative to President's rule was a communist government. I want the House to understand that once the other government fell, namely the coalition government of the MPP and other parties, the Congress would have come into power, but at that point, instead, we chose to have President's rule, for various reasons which I need not repeat in the House today. But that was how it started.

He seems to think also that the process of delimitation of constituencies is a continuous one. It is not so. After the census, it is a constitutional requirement that the number of seats in Parliament from each State has to be determined afresh, depending upon the changes in population in the various States, subject to a total number in Parliament which is decided, and then for the State Assemblies also, seats have to be delimited and electoral rolls have to be

drawn up accordingly. This is a process that must follow after the census figures are known, and there is no escape from this, and it cannot be done quickly. Sir, you are aware of the whole process. Certain proposals are drawn up, they are discussed with some non-official members like MLAs, MPs and so on, and then they are published, and objections are invited, and later on, final lists are drawn up. All this takes many months. Work has been going on. But even with the best of will, many months do pass in this kind of work.

As I have said earlier, our effort is to see that the elections are held as quickly as possible. But I do not know whether any blame can lie either with the Central Government or with the Election Commission in such a situation, and I think that it is less than fair on the part of a fair-minded person like Prof. Mavalankar to blame the Government for this situation.

There was some reference to yarn. I know that yarn is very important for Manipur. It has lovely handlooms, and it has a number of persons who use this yarn. In the consultative committee, this question had come up earlier, and the Ministry of Commerce was asked to take this matter up, and they have taken it up, and I am told that the earlier difficulties that were felt in the beginning perhaps for want of adequate information that yarn of such counts were going to the consumers as they did not want, have been sorted out. The right kind of yarn is reaching the consumers and today the situation, I am told, is much better. But in this matter, if the members from Manipur, for instance, feel that any further improvement is called for, something is happening which I am not fully in the know of, I will be glad to know about it so that remedial action can be taken.

My friend, Shri Tombi Singh referred to various matters of great im-

portance to the development of Manipur. I do not have the time to go into all of them. He referred to the drought situation. I am sure he knows that the administration has done a good job in dealing with the situation that arose on account of drought. It was not merely drought; it was a water famine. Water had to be reached to the villages because they did not have water to drink. In that situation, new pipelines had to be laid. Even in Imphal City, there was no water for some time. He knows that in Imphal City, new pipelines were laid with tremendous speed and water supply restored very quickly. So it was a difficult situation. There is no denying that. It was a situation in which one could not help a certain amount of difficulty arising for the population, but I think he will agree with me that the administration had to deal with the difficulty in a manner which lessened that difficulty as much as possible.

In the matter of drought, what is important is that a large number of pump sets have been distributed. This will not only take care of the problem this year but is an insurance for the future also.

He referred to the Battalion office of the Assam Rifles. We have been going into this matter. The point is that the Assam Rifles is important from the law and order point of view. This was a very central location in the city. It was for that purpose that we chose this area. But in view of the sentiments expressed by my hon. friend, which was expressed also when I went to Manipur we have agreed in principle to find some other place. We are trying to find about 200 acres. The Manipur Government has located about 120 acres. It will take some time to build it up. But in principle, we have accepted this. This is purely in response to the wish of the people of Manipur, of the people of Imphal. As far as I know, almost all sections had agreed on this particular matter. I think it

is in the fitness of things that I expressed this agreement in principle, in particular in deference to the wish of Prof. Tombi Singh, who has worked ceaselessly for this as well as other development projects in the area.

There was a reference to funds being provided for the development of tribal areas. A sum of Rs. 137.9 lakhs has been provided in the current plan, Rs. 120 lakhs for tribal development blocks, Rs. 11 lakhs for post matric scholarships, Rs. 2 lakhs for girls' hostel and so on.

My friends also know that a special administrative arrangement is made for the hill areas, that district councils are elected particularly to safeguard the interests of tribals in the hill areas. Some elections to the district council have already taken place.

He referred to sports facilities. I am entirely at one with him. As he knows perhaps, I have great personal interest in sports and I think it is very necessary that we should have proper sports grounds, stadia and other facilities for young sportsmen.

He wanted the Home Ministry to help in the matter of seats in Medical colleges for Manipur students. I can assure him that we are seized of the matter and I have in fact personally taken it up with Mr. Khadilkar. I shall be very happy if some way could be found out to accommodate more students from Manipur without doing injury to the concept of a Medical college for the whole region. That naturally is a concept which we will all welcome, but there may be seats in other parts of the country which could be made available. This matter is being explored.

On the question of industries a very important contribution was made by my friend Shri Goswami. He referred to the need for having an industrial climate and industrial *infra-structure*. It is quite true that because of the long commu-

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nication lead to the northern region there is a certain handicap in regard to the industry which has to send its products to the rest of the country. But he knows that the Planning Commission and the Government have agreed sometime ago to subsidise the transport cost to the north-east which should definitely contribute to the creation of the *infra-structure* which he spoke of. These were the inhibiting factors which are being got over. The importance of communication is obvious. I do not want to go into details in regard to the entire north-east region. In respect of Manipur, for instance, previously there was only one road *via* Nagaland which was the connecting road and one had to go from Imphal through Kohima to Assam. Today there is an Alternative route. Apart from that there are other roads Imphal-Ukrul, Imphal-Taminglong, Imphal-Tiddim road and Imphal-Sugun road on which a lot of money has been spent in recent months. These are the important roads in that region.

This alone will not bring in industry and we have to consider the point, how the lack of entrepreneurship is to be made good. This is a very serious question in respect of a backward region. I cannot give you a ready solution. But coming from a backward region, myself, from a hilly area in U.P. I know the problem. The only thing we can do is to hope, that given the basic favourable condition for industry, entrepreneurs will come forward either from the area or from outside and once this process of industry starts, once people see industry coming up, this itself will create the nucleus for further industrialisation.

Mr. Tombi Singh referred specifically to cement and paper industry. Perhaps he knows that work has been taken up in respect of both cement factory and paper mill. Samples of local lime stone were despatched for determining the suitability for manufacture of cement and later on this has been followed up

by various negotiations with the regional research laboratory and the Cement Corporation is coming into the picture. A project for 30-50 tonnes conventional plan was referred to the Cement Corporation for advice. They have found certain difficulties in this project. I do not want to mention more about it now. If he is interested I can tell him what is the difficulty. In respect of the paper mill the project report was prepared by the NIDC for setting up a 200 tonnes per day paper cum pulp mill at Chandi ghat end for a 25 tonnes per day insulated paper mill at Karong. These were referred to the Government of India and vigorous efforts were made to pursue this project, preliminary discussions reveal reasonable prospects for their establishment in Manipur during the Fifth Plan. That is the report from the Government of Manipur. And I will add a word of caution to the optimism expressed here because they naturally are perhaps a little more optimistic than you or I might be, knowing the situation today in Delhi, knowing the Planning Commissions difficulty in the resources sector. There is a proposal for a vacuum pan sugar factory-cum-distillery. There is the Manipur spinning mill in which work has gone ahead and in fact the General Manager has been appointed. These are the steps that have been taken in the field of industry.

The only other point that remains is about the North Eastern Council. I will be the first to admit that the Council had a slow start but of late, there has been increased activity with the appointment of the Secretary and now the entire work of preparing the fifth plan is on hand. This is very important from the point of view of the entire North Eastern Region to take an integrated view of the entire region, which really was the basic purpose behind the North Eastern Council. That is being fulfilled in respect of the preparation of the fifth plan. I would ask my friend, who is very knowledgeable

about these matters, to wait for the formulation of the fifth plan to judge the work of the North Eastern Council. I think he will have reason to be satisfied with the work that is now being done.

There was some reference by Prof Mavalankar to certain arrests on political grounds. I can assure him that we do not arrest people on political grounds. Politicians are arrested sometimes but not for political reasons. Sometimes politicians break the law or have intentions of breaking the law. Sometimes they provoke the people. For one of these reasons which the local administration considers valid, it may arrest people. But it can never be for holding a political opinion. If there are specific cases brought to my notice, I will be glad to find out the facts and let him know the exact position.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: I also referred to the people who have returned from Burma. You have not replied to that.

SHRI K. C. PANT: I am not just now aware of the exact position of the people who have returned from Burma. They are in different areas spread in various States. As to the precise difficulty of the people who have come to Manipur, I cannot say of hand. Sir, I have done.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There was some reference to Manipuri dance.

SHRI K. C. PANT: I may remind you that I had the privilege of piloting the North Eastern Council Bill in this House. On that occasion, I allowed myself full freedom to dwell on matters like Manipuri dance, the cultural refinements of the area, its heritage and scholarship, the beauty of the terrain, the beauty of the people, the enormous impact it has on any visitor from any part of the country, etc. These are things which I have mentioned every time I have participated in any debate on Mani-

pur. This time I thought the House has had enough of this. But since you have reminded me, I think it is my duty not only to acknowledge the beauty of Manipuri dance but also to acknowledge the interest you have taken in it and to say how happy we are that you are keeping up that interest.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri N. K. Sinha has raised one point to which the hon. Minister has said that he has no information now. When he gets that information, will he pass it on to the House, because this is a very important point?

SHRI K. C. PANT: May I suggest that he may ask a question.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA: (Muzaffarpur): There are many subjects on which question are asked. Will be accept a Short Notice Question?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He can find out some way.

Now the question is:

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation, dated the 28th March, 1973, in respect of Manipur, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 14th November, 1973."

*The motion was adopted*

16.56 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE:  
CONTINUANCE OF PROCLAMA-  
TION IN RESPECT OF ORISSA

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will now take up item No. 9, Statutory Resolution on Orissa.