

Territories were also urged to take exemplary action in respect of the activities of blackmarketeers, hoarders and other antisocial elements with a view to dislodging the hoarded stocks and bringing the offenders to book. It is important that you understand what the Government has done. Recourse to the relevant provisions of MISA was also advised in serious cases of defiance of law or *mala fide* intentions. These suggestions have been generally accepted by the State Governments.

On 10th August, the Home Minister again addressed all the Chief Ministers and Lt. Governors suggesting that the present difficult conditions warrant recourse to the DIR. This has appeared in the press. You may have seen that Government of Maharashtra has used this. I am only mentioning this because some friends want to create an impression as though they are the only persons who are interested in this. Government alone can do this in an orderly manner and the Government is taking steps. I accept that individual protest has its place and importance. Any attempt to create an atmosphere against hoarding and malpractices has also its importance. But the trouble is all too often this goes beyond limits and it leads to violent clashes. If everybody takes the law into his own hands, who is to obey the law? You cannot substitute individual function for the function of the State. In this case, there have been many instances where looting has taken place and the law has been broken. I do not want to blame anybody for it, but once this happens, it gets out of hand. This is the whole danger.

Secondly, these *bandhs* interfere with distribution. The intention is to help the common people in getting food-stuffs. But when distribution is interfered with, it is the common people, the most vulnerable section, who suffer most. I would request hon. members to bear this in mind that anti-social elements tend to take advantage of such situations. Government is doing all that is possible

and with some success, as mentioned by my friend, Shri Ram Gopal Reddy. He said, there were certain raids and prices of dal came down rapidly. It is just an instance. I know that prices are high in several other areas but he mentioned this. The main thing is, we have to see that production and distribution are maintained. This is the best way to tackle this basic problem of distribution of essential commodities.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation, dated the 18th January 1973, in respect of Andhra Pradesh, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 1st September, 1973."

*The motion was adopted.*

15.35 Hrs.

RE. HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We will now take up Private Members Business.

SHRI DINEN BHATTARCHARYYA (Serampore): Sir, before you take up that may I mention that the half-an-hour discussion on Starred Question No. 211 regarding starvation deaths in Orissa is going to lapse. Sir, you will remember that when this question originally came up in the House, the member in whose name the question was standing was whisked away by Shri Raghunathaiah. Subsequently, when so many members protested against this, this half-an-hour discussion was assured. Now it is going to lapse. So, I would request you, Sir, to find some way in which this can be discussed in this House. We have also given our names for asking questions on this.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Ausgram): Why should

[Shri Krishna Chandra Halder]

Government try to evade this discussion on starvation deaths?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is no question of evasion.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta-North-East): Is there no propriety involved in this? I recall that this very question caused a storm in the House and the Government finally agreed to this discussion when the Speaker himself insisted that there should be a discussion. Now why by the back door this discussion is allowed to lapse? Is it not something against the grain of parliamentary democracy?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is no question of back door or front door. The hon. Member who gave notice of this, in whose name this discussion stands, has written that he is held up in Patna and he could not reach Delhi in time. Therefore, he has requested that this question may not be taken up today. There is no question of front door or back door. So far as lapse of the discussion is concerned, the rules will take care of this.

15.37 Hrs.

#### COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

##### THIRTIETH REPORT

SHRI AMAR NATH CHAWLA (Delhi Sadar): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Thirtieth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 16th August, 1973."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Thirtieth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 16th August, 1973."

The motion was adopted.

15.38 hrs.

#### RESOLUTION RE: OWNERSHIP OF NEWSPAPERS AND NEWS AGENCIES—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up further consideration of the Resolution moved by Shri H. N. Mukherjee. Shri Somnath Chatterjee will continue his speech.

श्री मधु लिखड़े (बाका) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज बिना सूचना दिए प्राप्ते बंटे की बहस को टाल दिया गया है। अगर प्राप्ते बंटे की बहस होती तो तीन बजे कार्यवाही शुरू हो जाती और मेरा जो मसौदा है अगले प्रस्ताव पर उसे पेश करने का मौका मिलना। मेरा टिकट रिजर्व हो चुका है, मुझे बम्बई जाना है। अब मैं क्या करूँ प्राप्ते बंटे आपने काट दिया, इसमें मेरा दोष नहीं है। आपने कार्य-पूची में कहा था कि तीन बजे पाइवेट मेम्बर्य विजनेस होगा, 6 बजे का प्लेन था, मैं अपना मा'खन पेश करके चला जाता लेकिन अब दिक्कत हो गई है। आप मुझे इजाजत दीजिए। इन तरह कार्य-पूची में जब आप नब्बेदिलिया करके तो मेम्बरों के साथ अत्याय नहीं होना चाहिए। मैं लिखकर देता हूँ, मैं अपना मसौदा अगले प्रस्ताव पर मूव कर रहा हूँ, आप मुझे इजाजत दीजिए और बहस जो चलानी है वह चलायें।

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no question of injustice to anybody. (Interruptions). You have made your point Kindly listen to me. (Interruptions). Order please. Why don't you listen to me? There is no question of injustice to anybody. There are certain exigencies of the debate, certain exigencies of the proceedings of the House and certain unforeseen things happen. I will do everything according to the rules. I cannot break them. Now, I had announced this fairly early that this had happened and, therefore, we shall take up the Private Members' Business at 3.30. Please don't raise this thing now.

Shri Somnath Chatterjee to continue his speech.