

कुर्बानी दी है। उस जेल के बारे में नेताजी सुभाषचन्द्र बोस ने, जब पहली बार उन को बाबाद हिन्द फौज का कमान्डर इन चीफ बनाया गया था, और उन्होंने पोर्ट ब्लेयर जेल के मुख्य द्वार पर खड़े होकर प्रतिज्ञा की थी, कहा था कि वहाँ एक शहीद-स्मारक बनाया जायेगा।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Member may continue next time.

16.59 hrs.

RE : SITUATION ON THE BORDERS

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, I have to make a submission. It is true, it has been continuously upheld that the Government should treat the House with utmost respect and should take it into confidence in all matters of public importance. It is also true that in matters of policy...*(Interruption)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What are you trying to read ?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Some confusion has been created among the press by what happened in the House this morning. As a result of that the whole country has been deprived of news and what is happening in Agartala and surrounding areas. It is a very tricky matter, you will appreciate.

When the House is in session, it should come before it first with a statement before giving it to the press. But a distinction has to be made between policy and news. If what transpired this morning.....*(Interruption)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What transpired this morning ?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : This morning, during the Zero hour, some hon. Members had raised issues concerning the bombing of Agartala and it was alleged here that the Government was taking the press into confidence but was not coming before the House. As a result, what is

happening is that the press is in utter confusion because, unless the matter is placed before the House, they cannot publish anything. Tomorrow is a holiday; day after tomorrow is a holiday...*(Interruption)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have heard you.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : This is a very tricky matter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What I understand is this.....

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Before you say anything, let me clarify one point.

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi) : Sir, in the morning, the Speaker gave a specific directive to the Government that they should come out with a statement as to what is happening in Tripura, etc. Tomorrow is a holiday; day after tomorrow is a holiday. So, for three days, the country will be absolutely in the dark as to what is happening on our borders. It has been kept secret from the House and from the country. The Speaker gave a directive to the Government and, at that time, Mr. Shukla nodded his head and we expected that some statement will come from the Government before the House adjourns today.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : This House should not come in between the press and the people. The whole country is news hungry. Unless all the things are given correctly, there will be more confusion and more damage done.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : When this question was raised by the hon. Member, Shri Indrajit Gupta, and others, I do not think anyone of us thought the Government should not come out with a statement before the House. The briefing is done to the press. But the Members are not taken into confidence and no statement is coming from the Government. I do not think we stand in the way of briefing the press. I do not think the Speaker's directive has caused any confusion. I think, there was no confusion. The Speaker said that the Government should come out with a state-

ment and some procedure should be evolved for that, so that the House is taken into confidence in regard to what is happening on our borders.

I wish to make it clear on behalf of my group that we do not stand between the Government and the press. But this House should not be deprived of a factual statement by the Government. We are entitled to that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, if there has been a confusion like that, I think, the confusion should be cleared. These are days when the whole country is anxious to know what is going on on our borders. A distinction has to be drawn between what is policy and what is news. It is true that in the matter of policy, the Government should first come before the House, before going to the press. If information and news of what is happening on our borders should be withheld or delayed, until the Government is able to make a simultaneous statement in the House and to the press, then, I think, it is unfortunate. It will not be in the national interest. It will give rise to all sorts of speculations.

I understand from the Members that

the Speaker said that a procedure is to be evolved. Until a procedure is evolved, the present practice of the Government giving news to the press should continue and it is only in matters of policy that the Government should first come before the Parliament.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Do I understand they will continue to publish things as they were doing before ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have said the Government should continue to give whatever news it wants to give to the Press, because for the next two days, the Parliament will not be in session. If there is a black-out of news, all sorts of speculations will arise in the country. That will not be good for the morale of the people and that will not be in the national interest.....  
(Interruptions)

Now the House stands adjourned to meet again on Monday at 11 a.m.

17.06 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, December 4, 1971|  
Agrahayana 13, 1893 (Saka)*