

[Shri Raj Bahadur]

As for the future, I shall intimate to you the time convenient to them every day in the morning at 9.30 or quarter to 10 O'Clock and you may inform the House at the commencement of the sitting.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : We should be given an opportunity to congratulate the Soviet Union for their veto. The entire country has known who our friends are and we see the unmasked American imperialists.

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam) : I suggest that every day at 12 O'Clock the Government spokesman, the Prime Minister or the Defence Minister, comes before the House with a statement.

MR. SPEAKER : Would 11 O'Clock every day be convenient ?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : I would certainly suggest it to the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister. But may I pray that because of certain exigencies of the situation it may not be possible always to make a statement at a fixed hour.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, एक समय तय करने से उन को असुविधा हो सकती है। इस के वजाय आप सबेरे एनाउंस कर दिया करे की उन का वक्तव्य कब होगा।

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : I will inform you everyday as to what time will suit them.

10.10. hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE. CONTINUANCE OF PROCLAMATION IN RESPECT OF THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up further consideration of the Resolution moved by Shri F. H. Mohsin regarding the continuance of the Proclamation in respect of West Bengal. Shri Dinen Bhattacharyya to continue his speech.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset I want to stress upon one thing that at this juncture when the military junta of Pakistan has thrust war on our country because of our full-fledged support to the liberation movement of Bangla Desh and state again that our party has pledged full support to the Government for strengthening all kinds of war effort to defeat the military junta. At this moment, we want that there should be full unanimity in all respects. As such, when the Government is coming again for the extension of the President's Rule, I may say that the President's Rule is not liked by the people of West Bengal inasmuch as the President's Rule is nothing but a rule of the bureaucrats and the rule of bureaucrats means that you cannot fully mobilise the whole nation behind this solemn cause of defeating the Pakistani military junta.

It would have been better if at this moment there would have been a popular Government in West Bengal. However, it is not so and still we again pledge our full support to the cause of the liberation struggle of the Bangla Desh people. In this connection, in order to fully mobilise the effort of West Bengal, I may remind the House that it may be a new thing, a new feature, to some of the people of other parts of the country but, in West Bengal, from the day the liberation struggle of Bangla Desh started, all the people irrespective of the parties supported the cause of the liberation fighters in Bangla Desh.

Today, I would request the Government to see that the bureaucrats do not rule there. Day before yesterday, I said something about the terror rule that is there. There is no rule of law in West Bengal at the present movement. The police, the C. R. P. goes there, not to fight against Pakistani aggression but to fight against the young people of West Bengal. About 200 youngmen have been killed by police. This is going on day in and day out. We have cited here so many cases. But nothing has been done. When the Defence of India Bill was discussed here, Mr. K. C. Pant assured that there would be no misuse of the powers given by the Defence of India Bill. I can cite so many examples here. (*Interruptions*)

For full mobilisation of the people against the military aggressors, all these

things should go and I may state that not only politically but also economically the position of West Bengal should be fully realised. The other day the Governor held a press conference and it was decided that at least 2000 small-scale industries would be developed within a year in West Bengal. The Governor, Mr. Dias, himself admitted that only 68 small-scale industries were set up there after this declaration. But what is the state of affairs in the employment matter? More than 30 lakhs of people are unemployed in West Bengal and they want that immediately all the closed factories should be re-opened and the new factories which are necessary not only for the development of the economy but also to augment the cause of war efforts against Pakistan should also come up and all the idle capacity in the factories should be utilised. There are factories whose full production capacity is not utilised because of the shortage of raw materials and other reasons created by the employers themselves. So, our demand is that not only the closed factories should be re-opened but all the existing factories should be run to their full capacity and for which the raw materials required should be fully assured and supplied by the Central Government.

I know there are cases where there is no need of steel. Steel is supplied there as in U.P. so many cases of mis-use of licences came before courts of law, but in West Bengal where steel is very necessary to keep the factories running, required quantity of steel is not supplied. So, I will say that not only steel but also non-ferrous metals should also be supplied according to the requirements of the industry in West Bengal. We demand that all the factories belonging to the Birlas and the Tatas and the key industries should be nationalised, but in the name of fighting monopolies, discrimination is practised against the West Bengal people. When some of the factories are asking for expansion and extension, they are told, 'You better have it in Tamil Nadu or you better have it in U. P. and then we will give you the licence, 'but not in West Bengal.' I can cite so many examples if I am given time. My demand is that if you want to fight against the monopolies, you take over these factories, but don't discriminate us in this way in the name of fighting monopoly. This discriminatory attitude should go.

I would have very much liked that Mr.

Pant should have been present here because the other day we have categorically stated that in this hour, especially, when all efforts should be geared against the military aggressors, there is no Assembly in West Bengal. A Consultative Committee has been set up here but what is the fate of this Consultative Committee? During the six months of its existence only two sittings were held and that too only for 6 or 7 hours. Important issues could not be discussed. Some problems were placed before the Consultative Committee and they were got through in an hour. If this is the state of affairs and if this is the attitude felt by the Centre who are at the helm of the affairs, what do you expect from the ordinary people?

So, my definite demand before the Government of India is that the consultative committee should regularly meet and discuss the issues that are there and the important issues that come up daily.

We have pledged our support to the Government so far as the question of fighting the aggression by Pakistan is concerned. But in the meantime we find that our party members and supporters of our party and also large number of young people who are connected with the democratic movement, whose total number may exceed about five thousand, have been put behind the bars without any trial, under the Preventive Detention Act and the Maintenance of Internal Security Act. They have committed no offence, but merely on suspicion they have been put behind the bars and they are not being given even humane treatment in jail. Conditions in jails there beg any description. Only the other day we had a discussion here about the affairs of the Alipore Central Jail. I have already referred to the conditions in the Hooghly jail. In one ward I may say where hardly a hundred people can be accommodated, about 250 persons have been accommodated. Therefore, I would demand of the Government...

SHRI S. B. GIRI (Warangal): On a point of order. All these matters relating to law and order in West Bengal had been discussed here only the other day. He is only repeating what had been discussed here already. If he has any concrete suggestions, then he may make them now.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: My hon. friend comes from some other

[Shri Dinan Bhattacharyya]

State, and, therefore, he does not know the conditions in West Bengal.

MR. SPEAKER : This is hardly a point of order. Let the hon. Member not interrupt in this manner.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : I have two humble suggestions to make. One is that Government must come forward with a gracious attitude and release all the political prisoners. One of my comrades, Shri Pravir Sen who is a member of the district committee of the Hooghly district of C.P.I. (M) has been put behind the bars under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act without there being any charges against him.

In fact, not only our party members, but even ordinary share-croppers who were not prepared to yield before the greed of the big jotdars have been arrested and kept under detention for months together. So, I would urge Government to immediately release all the political prisoners, so that there may be all-out unity against the military aggressors of Pakistan.

I would also like to make another humble appeal. The Governor of West Bengal has dismissed some State Government employees. I do not know under what rule he has dismissed them. But my doubt is that the top bureaucrats had advised Mr. Diaz, the Governor to dismiss the 13 State Government employees without issuing any show-cause-notice to them and without assigning any reasons for their dismissal.

At this hour, after 25 years of Independence, and at a time when with the help of the USA, Pakistan is trying to crush the liberation movement of Bangla Desh, I would like to make an appeal; I am glad the hon. Prime Minister is present here at this moment in the House. She should know that the Governor of West Bengal has arbitrarily dismissed 13 State Government employees who have committed no offence. The only reason is that they worked for the cause of the employees and they are trade unionists. I can assure the Prime Minister that if she personally intervenes, the matter can be settled. I urge upon her to call the 13 employees or their leaders, not only the State Government employees but the 32 employees of the Defence Department who were similarly

arbitrarily dismissed without any show-cause notice or charge-sheet or asked to appear before anybody to prove that they are not guilty. I would appeal to the Prime Minister to take personal interest in the matter. Let their cases be reconsidered and justice be done to them. I know they have no ill-intention against the administration; their only fault that they fought for the right cause of the employees. So I would request Government to please release all these political prisoners who have been detained and reinstate the State Government employees and the Defence department personnel who were dismissed or discharged.

With these words, I would again appeal to the Prime Minister to look into the cases of these dismissed employees, both of the State Government and the Defence department, and also release all the political prisoners.

SHRI K. BALATHANDAYUTHAM (Coimbatore) : I have to raise an important question concerning the availability of kerosene. Kerosene oil is selling in the black market and since yesterday nobody is able to get this commodity in the open market. I would request the Minister to make a statement about this.

MR. SPEAKER : I have sent this to the Minister to make a statement.

10.28 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : RECOGNITION TO BANGLA DESH

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : The valiant struggle of the people of Bangla Desh in the face of tremendous odds has opened a new chapter of heroism in the history of freedom movements.

Earlier, they had recorded a great democratic victory in their elections and even the President of Pakistan had conceded the right of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to become Prime Minister of Pakistan. We shall never know what intervened to transform this