

the House, and the other Members must also be permitted to come into the picture. thing takes place. That will be decided when such a contingency arises.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** There is no discussion. Since the hon. Minister has made a statement, if Shri Madhu Limaye seeks a clarification through a question, through just one question only, and not a discussion, what is wrong with it? He is only seeking one clarification in view of the fact that the board of directors is meeting today. Is the hon. Minister prepared to give it? If so, let him give it. Otherwise, let him say 'No'. Will Government approve or disapprove of the proposal to change the board of directors? Let him say 'Yes' or 'No'. That is all.

**SHRI MADHU LIMAYE:** When Parliament will not be in session.

**SHRI D. R. CHAVAN:** What does it matter? I cannot take a decision when the matter is not before Government.

श्री मधु लिमये : सुधीर कापडिया मारुति लिमिटेड का डायरेक्टर है सरकार इन लोगों का कब तक बचाती रहेगी ।

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Order, order. This matter ends there.

14 hrs.

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD (Bhagalpur):** When we raise a question in the House under rule 377, we expect the Minister to give a reply. If after the reply, something is left over—here there is an important question remaining, that the Kapadias are going to corner the directorships—we are perfectly within our rights to ask the Minister to reply to that. Otherwise, what for are the rules? What for are we here? This is surprising.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** In view of that, I have allowed Shri Madhu Limaye to seek a clarification. He has sought it; let the Minister reply, if he wishes, and then the matter should be dropped.

**SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN (Kangra):** On a point of order. Under rule 377, can a Member or the Chair direct the Minister to give an assurance in the House? You can ask for a clarification, not an assurance.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** I would say this: I have allowed Shri Madhu Limaye to seek a clarification. It is for the Minister, if he wishes, to reply or not to reply. It is up to him.

**SHRI D. R. CHAVAN:** The question that Shri Madhu Limaye has raised is concerning sub-section (5) of sec. 408. Now that question arises only if a particular

14.02 hrs.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

##### (i) Floods in Tripura

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** There are two matters under rule 377, to which consent has been given by the Speaker.

**SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY (Cooch Behar):** I am rising this matter of urgent public importance under rule 377.

It is reported that on the 8th May 1973 Agartala Town, the capital of Tripura, and its neighbouring areas have been heavily flooded and several persons rendered homeless. Some have taken shelter on the top of hillocks, several local institutions and local offices and also homes and houses have been totally submerged, and as a result thereof, these are not being used. The Chief Minister of Tripura has sent a message to the Government of India to help in the flood relief operation. The Defence Minister has been requested to send helicopters immediately for rescue operation in the marooned area. I understand one or two helicopters have already been sent.

This has created a great havoc somewhat unprecedented in that area. Therefore, I draw the attention of the Government of India to send immediately relief materials

[Shri B. K. Daschowdhury]

to Tripura. The Border Security Force and the defence personnel posted in Tripura should be pressed into service in the flood relief operation. Otherwise, a serious situation will follow.

I would request the hon. Minister of Irrigation and Power through you to make a statement on the latest situation concerning the flood in Tripura.

**SHRI BIREN DUTTA (Tripura West):** For the last two years, Tripura has been suffering from drought. I came on the 8th. I found there that the ration shops have collapsed. I met the Chief Minister of Tripura. He has appealed to Delhi for food. 267 people have died of starvation. Hundreds of people were coming to Agartala town and other towns, and the Tripura Government has promulgated section 144 debaring the starving people from approaching the Government authority. In this situation, the flood has come; serious floods have affected the State and the Agartala town. It is reported in today's papers that a helicopter has been pressed into service for rescue operations, and many portions of Agartala town itself are under deep water. There are already starvation deaths due to famine, and the Government has neglected the people and neglected to supply food in time. Now, this flood will create havoc.

I want to draw the attention of the House through you and the attention of the Government to this situation. If there is no emergency measure to relieve the situation, hundreds will die, because there is no railroad in Tripura, and the food is to be carried through the motor and the roads are in a bad condition. The Government of Tripura has declared openly that there is not an iota of food grains there. They are sending food from Dharmanagar by motor straight to the fair price shops. This is a very serious situation. I request the Government, through you, to make a statement here and now and let us know

how the people of Tripura are going to be saved in this situation. The promulgation of section 144 should also be withdrawn. The people are being beaten by the CRP and the entire State has been brought under section 144.

(ii) ALLEGED OBJECTIONABLE ACTIVITIES OF A U. S. CONSULATE OFFICIAL IN CALCUTTA

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur):** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with your permission I would like to raise a very important matter. We learn from today's papers—for instance, the *Patriot*—a news entitled "American official's recall requested". It says that Mr. Peter Burleigh, political officer in the US consulate in Calcutta, has been engaged in so many objectionable movements, and that "the US embassy in India has been 'politely' asked by the Government of India to withdraw Mr. Peter Burleigh, political officer in the US consulate in Calcutta, from India, it is reliably learnt". It is stated that he is a CIA agent. The new US ambassador is understood to have told Indian officials that Mr. Burleigh was not connected with the CIA and was not a 'bad man'. According to the US ambassador, he was not a bad man. But it is quite clear from the information available with the Government of India that he was seen in Jammu and Kashmir. "The alleged involvement of a CD cat in the alleged self-immolation of an Anand Marg 'avadhoot' is also considered in informed circles as significant." He was seen in Hazaribagh before the riots took place in Hazaribagh, and yet this officer has not been shifted. "According to reliable sources, Mr. Burleigh visited Gangtok sometime before trouble erupted there and was engaged in suspicious activities. He is also understood to be in regular and close contact with some important leaders including Congressmen in Bihar and Orissa. His visits to Hazaribagh are also regarded as suspicious."

I am not concerned with whom he is concerned, but the question is, the entire country is concerned, and he is under the