

[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 debarring 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 The promulgation of section 144 should also be withdrawn.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 car 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

leadership and wise guidance of the chief CIA agent here in the US embassy getting all sorts of guidance. I want to know whether the Government of India has taken a decision. I am happy that the Minister of State for Home Affairs is here. Let him listen. After all, he is one of the two Ministers of State in the Home Ministry. I am referring to a matter which is entirely a matter concerning the Home Ministry. A known CIA agent is moving about the country with a view to sabotaging everything and creating conditions for disaffection in the country through communal riots and other activities, namely, Mr. Peter Burleigh, political officer in the US consulate in Calcutta. So, if this is the position, and if the US Ambassador is still refusing to transfer this man, what happens? The Government of India have said that before the Government of India declares him *persona non-grate* he should be transferred from this place. If that has not been done by the Ambassador, I would request the Minister, through you—he is not listening and has not listened at all—to note the feelings of the House and take suitable action and see that this man, Mr. Peter Burleigh, CIA agent, is arrested immediately. They are arresting so many people despite the Supreme Court ruling, people are not released; thousands are in jail. He is going free in this country. There should be no discrimination in favour of foreigners. He is moving throughout the country. Why has he not been arrested? I want an assurance from the Government. Kindly direct the Minister to make a statement tomorrow. It is a very serious matter. I am reading from the newspaper. I want an assurance from the Government, more about him and he will bear me out, that this officer is moving throughout the country though his office is in Calcutta. He should be arrested or kicked out from this country.

(iii) Purchase of Planes by India Airlines

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We shall now take up the next item . . .

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): I have written to the Speaker and he said it would come . . .

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have written to the Speaker. I have no doubt about it. It seems the Speaker has permitted only these two to be raised.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Rules 377 is quite clear; it is a question of drawing attention to a very important issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You need the consent of the Speaker.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: You can give the consent now. Why do you want to withhold consent? It is about the purchase of Boeing planes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Do not be too sure that your question may not come up tomorrow or the day after. But it is not a healthy thing. You have given prior notice to the Secretary. That has been considered by the Speaker. After taking everything into consideration, he has seen it fit to permit these two. It is not a healthy thing for a person in the Chair, off the cuff, *ad hoc*, to give a decision or permission. I assure you that this will be conveyed to the Speaker, your strong feelings. Please do not insist.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I would insist. I would like to raise the matter now because it is a very important matter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There are two things; kindly sit down.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: In course of time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am on my legs.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: So am I.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The rule is clear that when the Speaker is on his legs