

5. Shri P. S. Patil
6. Shri Sasankasekhar Sanyal
7. Shri Sawaisingh Sisodia.

(ii) I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha has its sitting held on Friday, the 4th May, 1973, adopted the following motion in regard to the Committee on Public Undertakings :—

“That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate five members from the Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the Lok Sabha for the term ending on the 30th April, 1974, and do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, five members from among the members of the House to serve on the said Committee”.

2. I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above motion, the following members of the Rajya Sabha have been duly elected to the said Committee :—

1. Shri M. S. Abdul Khader
2. Shri Lal K. Advani
3. Shri U. N. Mahida
4. Shrimati Purabi Mukhopadhyay
5. Shri Suraj Prasad.

ASSENT TO BILLS

SECRETARY : Sir, I also lay on the Table following two Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current session and since assented to :—

- (1) The Finance Bill, 1973.
- (2) The Orissa State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Bills, 1973.

12·04 hrs.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

MR. SPEAKER : The Committee on Absence of members from the Sittings of the House in their Tenth Report have recommended that leave of absence be
2—M416LSS/73

granted to the following Members for the periods indicated against each :

- (1) Shri Dinesh Singh— 9th to 24th April, 1973 (Seventh Session)
- (2) Shri Anant Prashad Sharma— 16th to 30 April, 1973 (Seventh Session)
- (3) Shri Tulsidas Dasappa— 14th April to 16th May, 1973 (Seventh Session)
- (4) Shri K. Gopal -- 10th April to 2nd May, 1973 (Seventh Session)
- (5) Shri Syed Ahmad Aga— 16th March to 26th April, 1973 (Seventh Session)
- (6) Shri Bishwanath Jhunjhunwala— 9th March to 6th May, 1973 (Seventh Session)

I take it that the House agrees with the recommendations of the Committee

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes .

MR. SPEAKER : The Members will be informed accordingly.

12·05 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) RE. PAKISTAN'S APPLICATION TO THE WORLD COURT ON THE QUESTION OF THE PRISONERS OF WAR

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kangra) : With your permission, I should like to raise one issue. The Pakistan Government has moved the World Court on the question of prisoners of war. Their contention is that India should not hand over these prisoners of war who are accused of genocide, rape, arson and other crimes by Bangla Desh Governments. They are going to delay the settlement of this issue by referring this matter to the World Court. The newspaper report says

“A statement issued by the World Court said the case concerned a number of Pakistan nationals taken prisoner by the Indian Armed Forces in 1971 and now held in India. It is said to appear from a joint statement put out on 17th April, 1973, by India and Bangla Desh that the Indian Government proposes to hand these prisoners over to the Government of Bangla Desh, and that the latter

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

intends to try them for acts of genocide and crimes against humanity.... the statement said ; Pakistan was contending that only Pakistan had the right to exercise jurisdiction over these persons by virtue of the 1948 Geneva convention on the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide."

The Bangla Desh Foreign Minister Dr. Kamal Hossain, according to press reports, described as the latest 'stunt' of Pakistan the application made by Islamabad to the world Court seeking to prevent the transfer of prisoners of war from India to Bangla Desh for trial. The report goes on :

"He told newsmen at the Foreign Office that by doing so Pakistan was merely seeking to divert attention and heap 'those who had committed' the worst atrocities Justice would, nevertheless, take its course, he added"

I expected a statement from the hon. Minister of External Affairs. I expected him to be present because I sent a slip on Friday itself. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is not here. The External Affairs Minister should be asked to make a statement as early as possible, today or tomorrow. On this question under no circumstances should we be bullied by Pakistan, and Bangla Desh should be consulted in this matter.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contd) :

It is a very serious matter in the sense that it amounts to a violation of the Simla Pact. Pakistan is trying to have some kind of injection to stop us sending some persons for being tried in Bangla Desh. The Indo-Bangla Desh joint communique mentions the details about the release of prisoners of war and exchanging of civilians on both sides of Pakistan and Bangla Desh which was appreciated all over the world as a humanitarian move. What steps do the Government propose to take in this matter ? Are they also going to contest the matter in the World court ? We want the Minister of External Affairs to make a statement as early as possible clarifying the whole position and the stand of the Government of India in this matter.

(ii) HARASSMENT OF AGRICULTURISTS BY BANKS IN TELANGANA

SHRI MALLIKARJUN (Medak) : It is extremely painful to note the conditions in Telangana. In these conditions the agriculturists have had to face unparalleled harassment by the banks. It is true that the State Bank of Hyderabad and other district co-operative banks and agricultural credit societies have been advancing loans to the agriculturists.

Now, they are pressing for the recovery. Drought conditions are prevailing; famine is prevailing and there is no drinking water. Even cattle are dying. There is no fodder available. People are moving from one village to another. Under these prevailing circumstances, why are the Banks pressing for the recovery of loans in spite of the fact that the agriculturists have made repeated representations to the Government of Andhra Pradesh. I do not know why the Advisers to the Governors are not attending to the needs of these agriculturists. Irresponsible attitude of the Advisers towards agriculturists in Telangana is highly deplorable.

I make a humble submission in this House on one more thing. Just now the Home Minister is only available. Both the Finance Minister and the Minister of State for Agriculture have left the House. I feel that these Ministers, by mutual consultation, should take some measures to instruct the Bank people in order to avoid the harassment in Telangana. After all, the agriculturists are under very heavy stresses and strains. After some time they will probably be able to pay the loan with interest. After all, these loans are given to the agriculturists for their betterment when they are in great difficulties due to famine etc. in regular way.

MR. SPEAKER : You just draw the attention of the Minister and do not make a speech. Kindly sit down.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Why should they press for the recovery ? They are issuing notices for the recovery of the loans and to auction their land. Is this a service to the society ? Lastly, Sir, I request the hon. Minister to instruct the two Advisers, against whom I have framed allegations for having not attended to their problems, to do the needful in the matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bosu.