

[Shri A. K. Gopalan]

have an immediate discussion in the House on Government's foreign policy. It is strange, Sir, that the agenda for the day in the House does not find a place for these big issues agitating the country and I ask the Leader of the House to make instant amends for this extraordinary lapse.

I wish also to say that during the last session, when the House rose, we were in the midst of discussion of the Special Marriage Bill. The idea was that we resume the discussion as soon as the House re-assembles. In the agenda, however, it is not seen. I cannot imagine why the Government does this. I assume—and I feel that my assumption is true—that Government is deliberately delaying social legislation.

Some Hon. Members: No, no. There is this scandalous position and we are entitled to some explanation on this score from the Leader of the House.

The third point that I wish to raise will, I am sure, evoke universal support. Flood havoc in Bihar, West Bengal, Assam and U.P. has been stupendous and the House desires to know in all relevant details how the Centre proposes to help the States in relieving a frightful situation. On such an important matter, affecting the lives of so many people, I wish that a day may be set apart for discussion.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I entirely agree with the hon. Member opposite in regard to the important events that have happened in the international sphere during the last two or three months and also I entirely agree that this matter deserves the earnest consideration of this House. I have informed you that it is my intention to make a statement in regard to foreign affairs in this House day after tomorrow. But, I would suggest that the debate on foreign affairs on the basis of that statement as well as other connected matters should take place somewhat later, so that we can

fully consider them. These are very important matters which, of course, have, in a sense, a certain urgency from day to day and yet which are continuing and there is no immediate urgency. I think it will be better to have a debate at some later stage. But, I propose to make a fairly full statement the day after tomorrow.

In regard to the Special Marriage Bill, I have made enquiries into the matter and I understand that it is coming up first thing next week. It is a matter of convenience for the House how to arrange the work and also to some extent to deal with matters which can be sent on to the other House. So far as the Government are concerned, they are very anxious and determined to see that this Bill and other legislation are passed by this House.

In regard to the flood situation, it is not quite clear to me how we will benefit the flood situation by a debate in this House. It is right and the House is entitled to the fullest information on the subject. If, in regard to that information, any point arises, naturally, if the House so wishes, it can discuss it. My colleagues, may I say, will make a statement from time to time about the situation. I think,—I speak subject to correction—my colleague the Home Minister will make a statement tomorrow on this subject and my colleague, the Minister for Irrigation and Power, who is actually visiting these areas, on his return, may give further information from personal knowledge.

ISSUE OF ORDINANCES

Dr. Lanka Sundaram (Visakhapatnam): Three Ordinances, which have been promulgated since the House rose last, have just been placed on the Table. You, Sir, on the 16th February, when a point of order was raised about Ordinances by the Finance Minister, said as follows:

"It will be recognised that that is not a democratic way of doing

things and it is only in exceptional circumstances that Government must issue Ordinances."

I am not going into the merits of these Ordinances. You will see that all the three Ordinances are in the field of finance, matters of a routine character. If you will permit me, I would like to make two points for your consideration and the consideration of the House.

Mr. Speaker: I think we have had a full general discussion on the question of the policy of issuing Ordinances. I do not think it will do any better by having the same discussion practically repeated again. But, the hon. Member will get an opportunity of having his say when the Ordinances in the form of Bills come before this House and he can have three different opportunities.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: I am not going into the merits of the Ordinances at all. I am only suggesting a formula and a procedure for your consideration and for the consideration of the House. Briefly, it is like this.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I think he may defer it to the occasion when the Bills come up to the House. Otherwise, it is practically getting round what I am saying, and initiating a debate just at the moment. I do not think we need spend time over that. He may make his suggestion when the Bill comes and when he lodges his protest with reference to the issue of an Ordinance. He will get an opportunity there at that time.

Dr. N. B. Khare (Gwalior): I want to know from you what has happened to my adjournment motions on Goa and the hoisting of the Pakistani flag in India.

Mr. Speaker: I was going to say that I am going to take up the adjournment motions. The hon. Member is in a hurry. It seems, in view of the statement made by the Prime Minister, the motion has met its natural death.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Speaker: There are a number of adjournment motions. I need only refer to them and mention the name of the hon. Member who seeks to move them and give my short reasons, if necessary.

HOISTING OF PAKISTANI FLAG

Mr. Speaker: One is by Dr. N. B. Khare, regarding "the hoisting of the Pakistani flag in Indian territory on the last Independence Day." I do not think this matter is admissible. It does not raise and question, at present, of an all-India character. The matters are under investigation and I think an adjournment motion was moved in the Hyderabad Legislative Assembly. I do not think this motion can come just at the moment in this House. We do not know all the implications of the incident what it was and what it was not. The best course for the hon. Member would be to try to get information first on which to base his adjournment motion. I do not consent to it.

BAN ON ENTRY OF INDIAN NATIONALS INTO PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES

Mr. Speaker: The other one is regarding "the official ban recently imposed by the Government of India on the entry of Indian nationals into Portuguese territories." This anticipates probably the statement which the Prime Minister is going to make as he just announced and also the debate which is going to take place in this House at some day which is not yet fixed.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): May I make a submission, Sir? You referred to the question of anticipation. I am one of the signatories to the adjournment motion. When we tabled this adjournment motion, we had absolutely no idea about the Prime Minister's mood to have a debate. At that stage it could not be said to have been anticipated.