

[Shri F. A. Ahmed]

representation is received by us and, if there is any trouble any where and they ask for finance assistance, we give assistance by way of loans which are later on adjusted according to the pattern of assistance which the State Government can get according to the rules.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : rose—

MR. SPEAKER : No more debate.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछबाय : स्वालियर डिबिजन के अन्दर तीन सौ गाव पानी मे डूबे है । न राज्य और न ही केन्द्र की सरकार वहा राहत कार्य कर रही है और कोई पैसा नही दे रही है । मध्य प्रदेश ने कुछ नही मागा है तो आप कुछ भी नही देंगे ? उनका अनाज बह गया है, मकान गिर गए है, फमल समाप्त हो गई है । वहा की सरकार मागेगी नही तो आप भी क्या कुछ नही देंगे ?

SHRI F. A. AHMED . Whatever is permissible according to rules will be given to every State. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order. I am not going to allow it.

SHRI F. A. AHMED : We are taking up the matter with the Finance Ministry for the purpose of providing them *ad hoc* relief by way of loan.

19.15 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : REPORTED TRIAL OF SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN BY THE MILITARY REGIME OF PAKISTAN

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Sir, in the morning, I requested, through you, the Prime Minister to say something about Shri Mujibur Rehman and his safety. I know that a resolution cannot be moved at the fig end

of the day. But since the Prime Minister is here, and she has also issued a statement appealing to all the countries to come to the rescue and see that the execution of Shri Mujibur Rahman is halted, I would request her, through you, Sir, to say some good word so that the world may know that this Parliament is equally concerned with it and that the execution with the help of the American imperialists by Yahya regime is stopped. With the death of Shri Mujibur Rahman, it might be the death of the parliamentary democracy and secularism in Bangla Desh. I would request the Prime Minister to say something about that.

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can fully appreciate the deep concern, anxiety and, indeed, agony of the mind of the hon. Members with regard to the news which has been coming across from West Pakistan.

I can only say that the Government shares this agony and anxiety. I do not agree with the last sentence of the hon. Member that the freedom movement in Bangla Desh will die. Because we all know that martyrdom gives immortality. We all know, that far from weakening a movement, it strengthens it. Everywhere in the world, freedom struggles have gone from strength to strength, the more the authority has tried to suppress them.

Sir, we have tried to get some news. This is from the United Press International—the hon. Members can take it or leave it.

“But the Pakistani officials to-day refused to say whether the trial of the Awami League leader Sheikh Mujibur Rehman started on schedule yesterday.”

There has been no other news. No mention on any of the Pakistan Radio broadcasts.

Just now we have been discussing the natural calamities of drought and floods which cause hardship and suffering to our people

year after year. But, here there is a calamity of great magnitude, not caused by nature but by man and one which is quite unnecessary. As I have said on previous occasions, we are concerned not only because of the ideals of freedom and human dignity and human suffering but also because this tragedy has a direct effect and impact on our own country.

I can understand the desire of the Members for greater effort on our part. Many Members have sent telegrams to various organizations and Parliaments abroad. The Government of India also has approached the Secretary-General of the U. N., U Thant. I myself have written on more than one occasion the Heads of States and Prime Ministers to try their best to save the life of Sheikh Mujibur Rehman. I know that there is a feeling in Parliament that Parliament itself should move a resolution. I have no objection to such a resolution, but I feel that it would not serve much purpose except to reiterate our own strong feelings. We know that the sort of military regime which exists in Pakistan is not going to pay any heed to our resolution or even to the opinion of other peoples of the world. Perhaps it could be pressurised by certain Governments and we are doing our best that such pressure should be exercised.

We have also to take into account the fact that anything we do could harm the cause. We know that there is an effort on the part of the military regime to propagate the view that Sheikh Mujibur Rehman's actions are activated by India and that India is encouraging him. All kinds of other allegations which have no foundation whatsoever are being made. In fact....

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : It is all lies.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : They are lies, but we should not do anything which could encourage this propaganda and might go against him.

One more point I should like to make to the hon. Members. Sometimes in our speeches, we tend to talk about West Pakistan. At all times we should make a distinction between the people of West Pakistan with whom we have no quarrel whatsoever... (Interruptions) and the military regime which is responsible for the atrocities in Bangla Desh and which is

suppressing the legitimate political rights of the people even in the different provinces of West Pakistan. Now we come to the end of the session. As we do so, we reiterate our strong feelings about Sheikh Mujibur Rehman and all that is happening to the long-suffering people of the Bangla Desh. They are a gifted people who have perhaps given more revolutionaries in this sub-continent than any other part of the region. To-day they are undergoing great hardship.

As I said earlier, Sheikh Mujib is not just an individual. We should be concerned about the liberty and the rights even of an individual and a revolutionary. But, to-day, he has become the embodiment... (Interruptions) of the aspirations and urges of the people of Bangla Desh and of the suffering and spirit of sacrifice which they are enduring with such courage and fortitude.

This is a good note on which to end the session. It is a very sad note but such are the circumstances of the situation....

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISRA (Bengal) : What are the reactions of other countries to your approach to the trial of Sheikh Mujibur Rehman ?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : Several have written to us that they are taking up this matter or that they have taken up the matter.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISRA : U Thant has no initiative in this matter so far ?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : The hon. Member must have seen the statement issued by U Thant. It appeared in the morning papers. I don't know whether it is the full statement or not. But, that it will give the Hon'ble Members some idea of the difficulties of the situation. We are aware of the weaknesses of the U. N. which have been obvious in other situations also.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH (Nandal) : In-built weaknesses.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : Another question is what will help Sheikh Mujibur

[Smt. Indira Gandhi]

Rehman at this particular moment. I am glad that the House has shown such unity and solidarity in this matter, because, this is a source of strength to us in this situation. We are interested not merely because of our opinion about Sheikh Mujibur Rehman, but, because we think that the action proposed by the military regime of West Pakistan will have an impact, not only on Bangla Desh and on our country, but we feel, that will have a much wider impact all over the world. Nor will it help even those countries who think

they are helping the military Government of West Pakistan. Even that end will not be served.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House stands adjourned *sine die*. Wish you very comfortable and happy vacation ; we will meet again sometime in November.

19.21 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.