

[Shri Shambhu Nath Chaturvedi.]

Most officers retire at the age of 50 and there is no proper plan for their absorption in civilian employment. Particularly galling is the fate of those assigned to lower category on medical grounds because of disablement of injury suffered during active service. This is likely to have an adverse effect on their spirit of adventure and an inducement to play safe.

There is also considerable disparity in the status and ranking between the military and civilian officers. A civilian has to put in about 17 years of service to become a Joint Secretary while it takes 26 years for an Army officer to attain the equivalent rank of Major General. Their position has worsened after Independence. Formerly the Chief Secretary of a State was equal in rank to a Brigadier but now he is senior to the Lt. General. What is even worse that a Deputy Commissioner with less than half the length of service ranks equal with a Brigadier with 25 years of service, and in some States even takes precedence over him. Such stagnation and disparities tend to affect the morale of the force and therefore call for urgent review and rectification.

(iii) FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE AGENTS IN SUNDERBANS IN WEST BENGAL.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Under rule 377, I wish to raise the following:

It is a matter of deep concern that in a sensitive and border area like Marichjhepi in Sunderbans in West Bengal foreign intelligence agents have been allowed to penetrate and consolidate themselves. These foreign intelligence agents with the help of certain thoughtless political workers including discredited ones and about 10,000 refugees have created a serious law and order situation, creating immense difficulties for the government in the State of West Bengal. The Central Government should take immediate steps to clearly identify the disruptive forces

who are functioning there and suitable action should be taken against those discredited political personnel so that the refugees could be made to return to Dandakaranya from where they had come and normalcy could be restored in the area. At present there is looting of government property taking place by the combined forces.

PROF. SAMAR GUHA (Contai): Sir, I do not know how this matter has come under 377 when there are already a number of Calling Attention Motion notices pending before the Speaker. This is one version and this is a sensitive issue. People are killed there, people are dying there and now in this way this matter is brought before the House. This is a strange thing that is happening. (Interruptions)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, he should not go on record. The Speaker has allowed me to make a statement. (Interruptions)

PROF. SAMAR GUHA: The Prime Minister has given an assurance that a delegation consisting of Members of Parliament would go there... (Interruptions) Now, this kind of statement has been allowed. I strongly protest this. When there is a commitment by the Prime Minister himself that a delegation consisting of Members of Parliament would be sent there, I do not understand why this kind of statement has been allowed to be made under 377. People have been fired and killed there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Guha, you are a senior Member. There is a method for saying anything. I am afraid now I cannot say anything. (Interruptions)

(iv) REPORTED DECLINE OF MARKET PRICES OF DHANIA CAUSING HARDSHIP TO GROWERS IN MADHYA PRADESH.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the steep fall in the market prices of dhania in the current crop season has caused serious concern to the farmers, particularly to the large-scale