

[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

growers of dhan in Madhya Pradesh and specially the agriculturists of Beenaganj, Chachooa, Kumbhraj, Biao, ra of Guna and Rajgarh districts. The current prices fetch hardly Rs. 1.50 per kilo of dhan which is barely 30 per cent of the total cost of production and inputs for this crop. This has brought a total ruin to thousands of agriculturists of Madhya Pradesh, particularly on the background of the failure of other crops in the same area due to hailstorm and unseasonal rains.

The whole economic structure of the farmers of dhan in Madhya Pradesh has collapsed. Unfortunately, this downfall in the market prices of dhan is the direct result of the ultimately and unwise policy of the Government in banning export of dhan. Since the last two years the prices of this crop have fallen from Rs. 12 per kilo to Rs. 2 per kilo.

To avoid this plight of the poor farmers and growers of dhan who are now driven to a stage of starvation and distress sale of their animals and belongings to keep up their families, the Commerce Ministry should be urgently advised by the Minister of Agriculture to immediately lift the ban on export of dhan and further the Central Government as well as the State Government should come forward to subsidise the dhan prices and purchase the unlifted stocks now rioting in the market yards at remunerative prices and save the farmers from utter ruin.

(v) **MEDICAL TREATMENT OF KHAN ABDUL GHAFFAR KHAN IN DELHI**

PROF. SAMAR GUHA (Contai): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am making this statement under Rule 377 for making immediate arrangements for medical treatment of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, as was agreed upon by the Minister of External Affairs.

On December 21, 1978, during the last session. I had the privilege to raise the issue of extending necessary facilities for medical treatment in India to

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, popularly known as 'Frontier Gandhi' in our country. Hon. Minister of External Affairs informed the House that all steps would be taken for bringing him to India for his early treatment.

In the course of his statement, the hon. Minister for External Affairs stated:

"It is not only our national duty but our national dharma to arrange for Badshah Khan's proper treatment in India and we shall take early steps now that he wishes to come to India."

Although it is over two months since hon. Minister made this statement, steps could not have been taken yet for bringing Badshah Khan to India.

On 6th February, 1979, it has been reported in a Pakistani Paper (*Daily Maghribi Pakistan*) that Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan is reported to be seriously ill and lying in coma in Jalalabad hospital for the last six days. However, it is now known that although Badshah Khan is seriously ill, he is not in a state of coma.

According to available information, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan approached the Government of Pakistan, but it was suggested to him that he should go to Czechoslovakia for medical treatment. However, Badshah Khan preferred to come to India for his treatment.

We are anxious to know what stands in the way of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan's coming to India without further delay. During his visit to India in 1969 and 1970, there was no problem for his passport as at that time he visited India without any valid passport. If it happened earlier, why the Government is not in a position to allow Badshah Khan to come to India without further delay. It has been reported that the Government of Afghanistan is quite willing to provide him the facilities for early travel to India directly from Kabul to New Delhi.