

12.46 hrs.

**MAINTENANCE OF INTERNAL
SECURITY (REPEAL) BILL***

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Maintenance of Internal Security Act, 1971.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Better late than never. If they had done it earlier and done it more gracefully, it would have been much better. But I would like... (Interruptions)

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): He can only object. He should say whether he is objecting or not.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I would draw your attention to article 22...

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: No.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I want an assurance from the hon. Minister...

SHRI VAYALAR PAVI: On a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Only if you object. Are you objecting?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Under what rule did you allow Mr. Stephen last time? He did not oppose.

MR. SPEAKER: They objected to it. Only when a Member objects, is he allowed.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Mr. Stephen was allowed to raise...

MR. SPEAKER: Please look into the records. I posed this question to him, and Mr. Stephen said: "I am opposing the Bill". If you are opposing, I will allow you.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I want to draw your attention...

MR. SPEAKER: That is not allowed under the rules.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I wanted to know from the hon. Minister...

MR. SPEAKER: You can do it when the Bill is discussed.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: They have succeeded in putting you out of gear.

MR. SPEAKER: I am heavy enough for that.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: May I, with your permission, seek an assurance from the hon. Minister...

MR. SPEAKER: No. Nothing of the sort. No such assurance.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: ...whether article 22(4)...

MR. SPEAKER: Under this guise, you cannot make a speech.

Mr. Kanwarlal Gupta: Are you opposing the Bill?

SHRI KANWARLAL GUPTA (Delhi Sadar): I am not opposing the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Maintenance of Internal Security Act, 1971."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHARAN SINGH: I introduce the Bill.

12.50 hrs.

INDIAN EXPLOSIVES (AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Explosives Act, 1884.

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II, section 2, dated 19-4-1978.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Explosives Act, 1884."

The motion was adopted

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I introduce the Bill.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(1) PLIGHT OF DANDAKARANYA REFUGEES AT HASNABAD IN WEST BENGAL

MR. SPEAKER: Now 377 statements.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contal): I rise to raise the horrible plight of 45,000 Dandakaranya refugees now at Hasnabad in West Bengal.

[SHRI N. K. HEJWALKAR in the Chair].

Sir, I have recently visited the Hasnabad area in West Bengal where 45,000 Dandakaranya refugees have assembled in search of their economic rehabilitation in Sunderban area. For weeks, these refugees are facing horrible condition of living amidst death, disease and squalor.

95 per cent of these refugees are Harijans or Scheduled Caste migrants from former East Pakistan. Already over 150 of them died of hunger and gastro-conteritis. A few elderly regastro-enteritis. A few elderly re-hanging and others attempted to end their lives because they failed to feed their famished children. They are eating wild vegetables and grassroots and drinking muddy water from ditches and marshy pools. Hundreds of them are suffering from gastro-enteritis and it is feared that cholera may break out at any time as disastrous epidemic.

Tragically, the authorities are denying them any kind of relief whatsoever. The Central Government is

also, it appears, apathetic towards them. They have no food, no shelter, no drinking water, no medical aid and the condition in which they are living can be verily described as nothing but harrowing and hellish.

Two days before, a cyclonic storm destroyed their huts and shattered their polythene sheds leaving them in a horrible condition in the open fields there. The only relief organisation, named, Bharat Sevaram Sangha, was doing some relief work among the refugees but it has not been allowed to move to the other side of the river Ichamati, where about 25,000 refugees have assembled. It appears that the authorities want to starve these refugees to break their morale so that they could be huddled off to Dandakaranya without making necessary arrangement for their re-settlement there.

Sir, I appeal in the name of humanity, in the name of welfare of Harijan and the Scheduled Castes and hapless and homeless minority victims of partition who have been thrown out of their homeland for no fault of theirs that the Government should undertake immediate measures for giving relief to them so that the Hasnabad area in West Bengal may not turn into a graveyard of thousands of the Bengali refugees.

This House had emotive and heated discussions on the problems of Harijans on innumerable occasions. But what about the 40,000 Harijans or Scheduled Caste refugees, the squeezed out minorities from former East Pakistan, who are facing a horrible situation in Hasnabad area in West Bengal? Why the conscience of the House seemed to remain so benumbed? I demand that a time be fixed for discussing the problem of economic and cultural rehabilitation of the Bengali refugees, most of whom are Harijans or Scheduled castes and minorities from former East Pakistan, without any further delay.