

[Ma. Deputy-Speaker]

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament Act, 1954."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: I introduce the Bill.

13.34 hrs.

### MATTER UNDER RULE 377

#### REPORTED AGITATION BY BODO TRIBE PEOPLE IN ASSAM

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There are some matters under rule 377 already listed.

SHRI NOORUL HUDA (Cachar): I wish to draw the attention of the House to the grave situation arising out of a peaceful agitation by the Bodo tribal people, a linguistic minority in the State of Assam, about 7 lakhs; the majority of them are concentrated in Goalpara, Assam. I would urge the Home Minister to make a statement clarifying the position of the Government. The Bodo tribal people launched a peaceful agitation demanding the introduction of Roman script for Bodo language in the place of the Assamese script. What happened after that is a shameful chapter. The Government of Assam deployed the 9th battalion of Assam Police and the CRP personnel who committed brutal and barbarous atrocities on the innocent and peaceful Bodo tribals.

During this reign of terror, the agitation lasted only for a short ten days from 18th November to 27th November, six satyagrahis were killed by police firing, 1,500 persons were arrested, two women were kidnapped, ten people were untraced and 50 persons sustained bullet injuries, all of them belonging to the Bodo tribal community. Police fired 13 rounds at Sidli and 20 rounds at Bijni and several rounds at Kokra-

jhar and Gossaingaon in the district of Goalpara. Not only that, the police ransacked the houses, destroyed valuable properties and looted ornaments, household utensils, cycles, clothes, cash, radios and furniture and burnt houses in North Gargaon village in Bijni police station. They raped young women and mercilessly assaulted old and young persons. The houses of Prof. Laksheswar Brahma, Secretary, Kokrajhar District Bodo Sahitya Sabha, was ransacked and his certificates and documents were seized and destroyed.

At Bijni the Assam Battalion police destroyed the Bodo library and hall. At Banargaon the armed police attacked the Bodo Sahitya Sabha camp and tortured and arrested the Headmaster of the local High School, Shri Brajen Brahma and destroyed the school implements, records and papers. The house of Shri Chandra Narzary the Assistant Commandant of SSB, a security organisation, was not spared. His house was ransacked. Even the houses of Bodo Congressmen were not spared; they were also assaulted. The buses were stopped and Bodo passengers were severely assaulted.

It is specially very unfortunate that the 9th Assam Police Battalion behaved like hooligans and committed untold atrocities on these peaceful tribal people in Goalpara district.

The allegation of the Government that the Bodo demonstrators carried lethal weapons is completely false. It is a fabricated story. What weapons did the police collect during the raid? The police collected spears, axes, spades and similar other things which are normally used by the tribals. They have been described by the police as lethal weapons.

There was a photograph in the newspapers to prove that the Ram-

chaidhan Bridge was damaged by the agitators. On an enquiry it was found that this charge was false. In fact, the enquiry revealed that the approach roads to the bridge were washed away by floods three years ago and they were never repaired.

The Bodo demonstrators remained completely peaceful. Government cannot claim even a single case of intimidation of non-Bodo tribal people by the Bodos. Dr. Phani Narzary of Ballampur Primary Health Centre was arrested for giving first aid to the injured persons. The Bodo Sahitya Sabha has temporarily suspended agitation as a result of the agreement with the Government. The agreement says that all those people who were arrested by the Government should be released. Though two weeks have passed since then, not a single arrested person has been released so far. In fact, arrests are still going on.

Recently, the Bodo villagers coming to market at Kachibotra were beaten up and chased away by the police. The people at Sidli and Bijni areas are panicky and harvesting of paddy has greatly suffered due to all these things.

The students cannot attend classes. The Kokarajhar High School Hostel has been converted into a temporary jail. Two political leaders had, visited that place, one belonging to the Socialist Party and the other belonging to the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and found that the police firing at Kokrajhar and Bijni was unwarranted and unjustified.

The Government of Assam have done greatest harm to the interest of the State by adopting inhuman and wanton repressive measures on the peaceful Bodo people.

We condemn the brutal police atrocities. We demand an impartial inquiry and severe punishment to the

guilty persons. We also demand adequate compensation to the families of those killed in police firing and to those whose properties have been destroyed and looted. All those detained must be released forthwith and necessary steps taken to restore normalcy.

Lastly, I say that three leaders of the Bodo tribal people have come to Delhi. They are trying to meet the Home Minister and also the Prime Minister. I would urge upon the Government and specially the Prime Minister and the Home Minister to meet them and find out what their grievances are and also to direct the Assam Government to reach an agreement with the Bodo tribal people so that normalcy can be restored. With these words, I would like the Home Minister to make a statement on the situation arising in Goalpara district.

13.43 hrs.

#### RE DURGAPUR STEEL PLANT WORKERS

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Ausgram): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to make a small submission.

Ten days back when I raised the starving conditions of Durgapur Steel Plant Contractors' workers who were thrown out of employment by the Durgapur Steel Plant management, Shri Chandrajit Yadav, the Minister of Steel, assured that he would take necessary steps to settle this matter positively. But he has not taken any such step till this date.

A telegram which has been received by me yesterday states as follows:

**"ONE EVICTED WORKER AND ONE CHILD OF AN EVICTED WORKER DIED OF STARVATION. STATE LABOUR AND CENTRAL**