

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

*Saturday, December 18, 1971 | Agrahayana
27, 1893 (Saka)*

The Lok Sabha met at Fourteen of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

RE: PRESENCE OF U.S. SEVENTH FLEET IN BAY OF BENGAL

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): I have given notice under rule 377 about the presence of the Seventh Fleet. May I say a few words with your permission?

In a Washington news of the U.S. Defence Department dated 17-12-71 (the time is about 10½ hours behind Indian Standard Time), it has been revealed that the U.S. Navy ships would stay in the Bay of Bengal under the pretext of arranging security for American citizens in Pakistan. With the object of complicating the issue further, the United States Government Pentagon spokesmen has stated that it is too early to draw any conclusions from the unilateral cease-fire ordered by India, and has added that the U.S. Naval task force is continuing its course towards East Pakistan even after the Pakistani surrender to Indian forces. They have summed up by saying that the surrender does not really change a thing and the situation in East Pakistan is still confusing. This they have called a show by U.S. force and the task force is on a political mission. This U.S. design which is revealed further by the utterances of the U.S. Commander in the Pacific, Admiral John S. Cain Jr., who has said that the U.S. Seventh Fleet may play a larger role in the Indian ocean as the Viet Nam war winds down.

This is a very serious matter and we must have a discussion on the floor of the House.

14-02 hrs.

RE: ELECTIONS TO STATE ASSEMBLIES

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi): I have given notice under rule 377. We want a categorical answer from the Government as to how the elections to the State Assemblies are going to be held. It was decided in all-party meeting in the Prime Minister's room that the elections to the various Assemblies would be suspended at least till the end of October. And now there is a state of emergency as also the Defence of India Act. The fundamental rights and the right of expression, freedom of speech etc., have been suspended. I learn from the Lok Sabha Secretariat that no notice has been given of a Bill for extending the life of the various Assemblies by one year more. Under the circumstances, I want a definite statement whether the elections are going to be held and how it can be done when the fundamental rights are suspended and there is the Defence of India Act.

RE: DECLARATION OF CEASE- FIRE

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): I would like to know whether the declaration of the "cease-fire" means that we have committed ourselves to the position of the *status quo ante* (Interruption) I have the right to raise the issue, and I will do it in the most dignified manner. Sir, I am raising this issue with your prior permission. Therefore, I would like to know whether after the declaration of "cease-fire", there is commitment to "*status quo ante*" and whether there is an obligation on our part to hand over those Indian territories which were liberated in the course of the recent war back to Pakistan or whether the government intends to keep the liberated territories with us.

14-06 hrs.

UNION TERRITORIES TAXATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI