

[Shri A. K. Sen]

sewage. Mosquitoes and flies abound and it is really remarkable how millions of people have settled and have still survived rigours of nature. Yet, they continue to survive thanks to the remarkable strength of the human system, they somehow survive the worst of misfortunes. This problem is so grave that it does not brook a moment's delay any longer. Calcutta and its suburbs have to be treated on a special plane. We have been demanding for a long time that the responsibility for this work is not that of the State of West Bengal alone because on that city and its suburbs depend so many things which are of an all-India character—for instance the border problem, the refugees who have come and so on. So many of the other facts of this vast problem are of an all-India character. Therefore, it will not be fair to say that this problem must be solved by that State with its own resources. I think it will be a fair demand and that it will be voiced by all sections of the House that the Central Government must decide to bear responsibility for solving this great human problem which is Calcutta.

16.00 hrs.

In one word, Calcutta. I remember when Panditji was alive he did realise the gravity of the problem and he did send the Finance Minister once, I remember, to visit this area and to see what can be done, but that was nearly seven or eight years ago and very little has been done since then. And those of us who visit from time to time the city and its suburbs still feel so disappointed that notwithstanding the lapse of so many years we have not been able to make even a beginning for the development of the metropolis, the greater Calcutta area, and also ...

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is time to take up non-official business.

SHRI A. K. SEN : Sir, I shall take only a few minutes. Then the problem of development and unemployment are so vital today because I think in that State we have a miserable picture of thousands

and thousands of well-educated middle class and non-middle class people who are really eager to employ the hands which really can produce much better and also to use their brains which possibly might be fruitful, and yet, there is no scope for employing their full energies and full vigour and this is a problem which can only be solved by a bold industrial regeneration programme, and in that system of licensing through which alone industrial development in this country is possible.

16 02 hrs.

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair]

I would impress on the Government to devote a little bit more of sympathetic consideration for that area of India which possibly relatively has not received that fair treatment which other parts of the country might have received though they are beset with much less problems. This is not a parochial problem, nor a regional problem but a problem which is of such a vast human significance.

I therefore hope that not merely the interim government which is headed by the President today through the Governor but the future government to come, the democratic government to come, and the Government at the Centre—both—will realise the gravity of the problem of Calcutta and West Bengal and do something really concrete.

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16.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Thirtieth Report

SHRI K. M. Koushik (Chanda) :
I beg to move :

"That this House agrees with the Thirtieth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 30th April, 1968".

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House agrees with the Thirtieth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 30th April, 1968".

The motion was adopted

16 04 hrs.

RÉSOLUTION RE: DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION OF GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC—*Contd.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we are taking up the discussion of the resolution moved by Shri H. N. Mukerjee on the 19th April. Two hours were allotted and he has taken just one minute.

SHRI BAKAR ALI MIRZA (Secunderabad) : Sir, before the hon. Member begins his speech, may I make a submission ? This is a question of major policy, and the decision cannot be taken by the Minister of State without the approval or sanction of the Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs. Do you think that any useful purpose will be served, because, even if he has come with an open mind on this issue, he cannot express in this House any change in policy. So, we may take it up some other time—

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Bhagat, the Minister of State, is here and we must presume—and of course—he knows the Government's mind on the issue.

SHRI INDER J. MALHOTRA (Jammu) : Mr. Bhagat may be here. But what Shri Mirza has pointed out is such an important issue that if the Prime Minister could be here that would have really helped us.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That would have been far better but, at the present juncture, Mr. Bhagat is here.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta North East) : Sir, on this point, perhaps you do not know, the Prime Minister wrote to me that she had informed the

Speaker and she wrote to me to inform me that she had to go to Bhutan and Sikkim, otherwise she would have been here. She had the courtesy to do that which is why I mention it to you.

Last time, I read out my resolution, which is to the effect that this House is of opinion that the Government of India should accord immediately full diplomatic recognition to the German Democratic Republic. I hope to be able to secure some positive response from the Government in regard to the proposition I am putting forward and I expect that there should be some positive response on point of principle as well as for reasons of practicality. On both these counts, there is no reason why we should not fully recognise the German Democratic Republic without any further delay. In my view, already delay has been unconscionable and unworthy of our country.

There is, as a matter of fact, some kind of *de facto* recognition for quite some time as far as India and GDR are concerned and there is a large number of friendly exchanges between our two countries. We have had official trade agreements since 1954 and up to 1964, trade increased tenfold to Rs 240 million. GDR, as a friendly country, was the first among the different countries to introduce rupee payment in its trade with India, thus helping us in our foreign exchange difficulties. In November, 1963, we had a shipping agreement. In February, 1964, we had a cultural agreement.

The late Prime Minister of GDR Otto Grotowohl visited India. The President of the GDR Parliament has been to this country twice. Minister and other personalities including the GDR Foreign Minister Otto Winzer have visited this country.

I particularly wanted to say, Sir, if you don't mind, that you have been among those dignitaries in our country who have been very hospitable to some of these visitors, like the Foreign Minister, Otto Winzer who was here only the other day.

As early as 22nd and 23rd August, 1961 Jawaharlal Nehru said in Parliament some very important things in relation to the position as between India and GDR. He wanted the country to take note of the fact of the existence of the two Germanys.