

him on the 15th April, 1975 during Calling Attention regarding the reported burning of 60 houses of Harijans and murder of their 3 children in Navada district of Bihar. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-10345/76].

STATEMENT ON ANGOLA

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): As the House is aware, the Government has always given full support to the struggle against colonialism and racism in Africa. We have been in full sympathy with the Organisation of African Unity which has demonstrated the unity and determination of the continent in the struggle for emancipation. The House will recall that the OAU had recognised all the three liberation movements in Angola—the MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola), the FNLA (National Front for the Liberation of Angola), and the UNITA (National Unity for Total Independence of Angola). With the rising tide of liberation movements and after the change of regime in Portugal, the OAU and African statesmen sought to bring about reconciliation among these three liberation movements. When Portugal decided to end its domination over the country, the Government of India immediately recognised the Independence of Angola and welcomed the determination of the people of Angola to preserve the territorial integrity of their country. The Government of India also condemned categorically the unlawful violation of Angolan territorial integrity by the racist regime in South Africa.

As the House is aware, an extraordinary meeting of the OAU at the Summit level was held in January 1976 to discuss the problem of Angola. Even after several days of intensive discussions, the member States of the OAU remained evenly divided between countries which

supported the recognition of the Government of MPLA and others who wanted a cease-fire and reconciliation among the recognised Liberation Movements. Since then three more African countries—Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and Togo—have accorded recognition to the Government of MPLA based in Luanda, representing a clear majority of the 46 member States of the OAU. The MPLA Government alone seems committed to preserve Angola's integrity and independence and fight the South African armed intrusion.

In the totality of these circumstances, the Government of India have decided to accord recognition to the MPLA Government led by its distinguished President and freedom fighter Dr. Agostinho Neto. Our Prime Minister has today sent a message of greetings and felicitations to President Neto pledging our continuing cooperation in the common tasks of consolidating the long standing friendship between the Governments and people of Africa and India and in the continuing struggle for a just and peaceful world order. We have great admiration for the heroic liberation struggle waged by the people of Angola against Portuguese colonialism and rejoice in the independence of Angola. We are confident that in keeping with its declared policy the MPLA Government will join to strengthen the fraternity of Non-Aligned nations and help to build a world based on equality and cooperation among nations.

I am sure the House will join me in the hope that bloodshed and strife in Angola will soon come to an end so that the Government and people of Angola can address themselves unhindered to the task of national reconstruction at home, fighting racism and minority regimes in Africa and contributing to resolve the many international problems confronting the community of nations.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): All of us who are on this side wish to congratulate the Prime Minister on this bold step that she has taken.

11.07 hrs.

HIGH COURT JUDGES (CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT BILL, 1975

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): I beg to move for leave to withdraw a Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw a Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE: Sir, I withdraw the Bill.

SUPREME COURT JUDGES (CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT BILL, 1975.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): I beg to move for leave to withdraw a Bill further to amend the Supreme Court judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1958.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw a Bill further to amend the Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1958."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE: Sir, I withdraw the Bill.

11.09 hrs.

HIGH COURT JUDGES (CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT BILL* 1976

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954."

Mr. S. M. Banerjee.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): My opposition to this Bill is not with a view to undermining the position of the High Court or Supreme Court judges. I have got the greatest regards for them and I want that their service conditions should be improved because that should attract the talented persons in the Bar and we may have good judges in our country. My main objection is this. At a time when every one in this country, including the Central Government employees and workers, has been asked not to demand any more benefits, higher wages or higher bonus, these judges are being given conveyance allowance at the rate of Rs. 300/- per month and a sumptuary allowance at the rate of Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 per month; in addition to these, pension is also going to be raised and after retirement, they will be given medical facilities like Class I government officers. I am not against these things. I am only against discrimination. When, in this House, I raised the question of poor pensioners who are languishing in pain and who wanted four instalments of dearness allowances to be given to them because they were getting a pension of Rs. 30 or 40 or 50 per month and they were unable to live on that, and when I also demanded that the Central Government employees should be paid the sixth instalment of dearness