

SHRI K.D. MALAVIYA (Doramariaganj)
May I seek a little clarification with regard to our present agenda? How long do you propose to continue this discussion in which most of us are not very interested? If you clarify when the Prime Minister is going to make a statement, that may clear the whole situation. We cannot indefinitely go on this way. Otherwise, let us have a more purposeful discussion on a more interesting subject.

MR. SPEAKER : I know. But we have to do it. Discussion on this Bill is continuing now. We have all been very busy since this morning. We may adjourn now and reassemble again at 5.30 P. M.

16.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirty minutes past Seventeen of the Clock

17.30 hrs

The Lok Sabha reassembled at half past Seventeen of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

Statement Re. Unconditional Surrender of West Pakistan Forces In Bangla Desh

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have an announcement to make, which I think the House has been waiting for, for sometime. The West Pakistan forces have unconditionally surrendered in Bangla Desh. The instrument of surrender was signed in Dacca at 16.31 hours I.S.T. today by Lt. Gen. A. A. K. Niazi on behalf of the Pakistan Eastern Command, Lt. Gen. Jagjit Singh Aurora, GOC-in-C of the Indian and Bangla Desh forces in the Eastern Theatre accepted the surrender. Dacca is now the free capital of a free country.

This House and the entire nation rejoice in this historic event. We hail the people

of Bangla Desh in their hour of triumph. We hail the brave young men and boys of the Mukti Bahini for their valour and dedication. We are proud of our own Army, Navy, Air Force and the Border Security Force, who have so magnificently demonstrated their quality and capacity. Their discipline and devotion to duty are well known. India will remember with gratitude the sacrifices of those who have laid down their lives and our thoughts are with their families.

Our Armed Forces are under strict orders to treat Pakistani prisoners of war in accordance with the Geneva Convention and to deal with all sections of the population of Bangla Desh in a humane manner. The Commanders of the Mukti Bahini have issued similar orders to their forces. Although the Government of Bangla Desh have not yet been given an opportunity to sign the Geneva Convention, they also have declared that they will fully abide by it. It will be the responsibility of the Government of Bangla Desh, the Mukti Bahini and the Indian Armed Forces to prevent any reprisals.

Our objectives were limited—to assist the gallant people of Bangla Desh and their Mukti Bahini to liberate their country from a reign of terror and to resist aggression on our own land. Indian Armed Forces will not remain in Bangla Desh any longer than is necessary.

The millions who were driven out of their homes across our borders have already begun trekking back. The rehabilitation of this war-torn land calls for dedicated team work by its Government and people.

We hope and trust that the Father of this new nation. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, will take his rightful place among his own people and lead Bangla Desh to peace, progress and prosperity. The time has come when they can together look forward to a meaningful future in their Shonar Bangla. They have our good wishes.

The triumph is not theirs alone. All nations who value the human spirit, will recognise it as a significant milestone in man's quest for liberty.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Indira Gandhi zindabad.

" SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) : The name of the Prime Minister will go down in history as the golden sword of liberation of Bangla Desh.

17.37 hrs

INDIAN TARIFF (AMENDMENT)
BILL—Contd.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall take one minute and after that we shall adjourn. We were discussing the Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill. The question is

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

17.38 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Ten of the Clock on Friday December 17, 1971/Agrahayana 26, 1898 (Saka).