

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

**Saturday, December 4, 1971/
Agrahayana 13, 1893 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

STATEMENT RE. ATTACK BY PAKISTAN

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, this morning, according to the news, the Government of West Pakistan have declared war upon us. Last evening the West Pakistan Air Force violated our air space wantonly and attacked a large number of our air fields. Simultaneously their ground forces shelled our positions along the western border. Their propaganda media has made a totally baseless allegations that India had launched an attack and assault.

The news reached me just as I was leaving Calcutta. Immediately on my return I took counsel with my colleagues and with the Leaders of the Opposition Parties. We were all of one mind, united in our resolve that the nation's freedom should be defended and unanimous that the aggressor should be beaten back. I am sure the same sense of solidarity will mark our work in the difficult days ahead. A state of Emergency has been proclaimed.

I lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 1789 published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd December, 1971 under sub-clause (b) of clause (2) of article 352 of the Constitution, publishing the Proclamation of Emergency issued by the President on the 3rd December, 1971 under clause (1) of the said article. *[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1219/71]*

We are approaching the House to adopt the Defence of India Bill.

Our feeling is one of regret that Pakistan did not desist from the ultimate folly and sorrow that at a time when the greatest need of this sub-continent is development, the peoples of India and Pakistan have been pushed into war. We could have lived as good neighbours by the people of West Pakistan have never had a say in their destiny. In this grave hour our own dominant emotion is one of confidence and faith.

For over nine months the military regime of West Pakistan has barbarously trampled upon freedom and basic human rights in Bangla Desh. The Army of occupation has committed heinous crimes unmatched for their vindictive ferocity. Many millions have been uprooted, ten millions have been pushed into our country.

We repeatedly drew the attention of the world to this annihilation of a whole people, to this menace to our security. Everywhere the people showed sympathy and understanding for the economic and other burdens and the danger to India. But Governments seemed morally and politi-

*Under Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, the Speaker directed that Lok Sabha which had been adjourned till 11 A.M. on Monday, the 6th December, 1971 would meet at 11 A.M. on Saturday, the 4th December, 1971.

[Shrimati Indira Gandhi]
cally paralysed. Related efforts to persuade the Islamabad regime to take some step which would lead to a lasting solution fell on deaf ears.

The wrath of the West Pakistan Army has been aroused because the people of Bangla Desh have stood and struggled for values which the Army is unable to comprehend and which it has suppressed in every province of Pakistan.

As the Mukti Bahini's effectiveness increased the West Pakistan Army became more desperate. Our tradition is to stand not with tyrants, but with the oppressed and so the anger has been turned upon us.

West Pakistan has escalated and enlarged the aggression against Bangla Desh into full war against India. War needs as much patience and self-restraint as does peace. Military regime of West Pakistan will go all out to sow suspicion and rumour in the hope of fomenting communal tension and internal trouble. Let us not be taken in by their designs. We must maintain unity and a sense of high purpose.

We should be prepared for a long struggle. High production, agricultural and industrial, is the foundation upon which defence rests. The courage and fighting capability of the jawans have to be backed by the dedication of the farmer, the worker, the technician and the trader. The business community has a special responsibility to resist the temptation to hoard or to charge higher profit. Artists and writers, teachers and students—the nation looks to them to defend our ideals and to keep high our morale. To the women of our country I make special appeal to save every possible grain and rupee and to avoid waste. The sacrifice of each of us will build the nation's strength and enduring power.

We have stood for peace, but peace itself has to be defended. Today we are fighting to safeguard our territorial integrity and

national honour. Above all, we are fighting for the ideals we cherish and the cause of peace.

11.06 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE. PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : I beg to move :

"That the House approves the Proclamation of Emergency issued under article 352 of the Constitution by the President on the 3rd December, 1971."

MR. SPEAKER : Resolution moved :

"That the House approves the Proclamation of Emergency issued under article 352 of the Constitution by the President on the 3rd December, 1971".

SHRI A. K. GOPALAN (Palghat) : By its large-scale air-raids and shelling on various sectors yesterday, the military junta of Pakistan has confronted this country with a full-fledged war. This has come because of the support India has given to the liberation struggle of the people of Bangla Desh, and our Party has always stated that in case of such a development, the nation will rally to a man to defeat the military junta's aggression, because it is essential for the victory of the Bangla Desh struggle, to defeat the game of imperialism in the sub-continent and to strengthen democracy not only in Bangla Desh but also in West Pakistan. We reiterate this stand of our party. We would appeal to the Government of India to end all hesitation, resist all pressures and accord immediate recognition to Bangla Desh because we are fighting for Bangla Desh, and today formally we have to recognise Bangla Desh.