

5. Consideration of the Resolution seeking extension 2 Hours
Of President's Rule in the State of Manipur
imposed Vide the proclamation issued on June
2, 2001 under Article 356 of the Constitution.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that a letter has been received from Shri Mrinal Sen stating that he is unable to attend the House due to pre occupation with his film production work. Shri Sen has, therefore, requested for the grant of Leave of Absence *w.e.f.* 20th November, 2001 till the end of the current Session of the Rajya Sabha.

Does he have the' permission of the House for remaining absent, from 20th November, 2001 till the end of the current Session.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Arrival in Kabul of the Indian Diplomatic Mission to Afghanistan

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Sir, I am happy to inform hon. Members that a diplomatic Mission to Afghanistan landed at Bagram Airfield near Kabul at 0955 hrs. this morning.

This Mission Team comprises Special Envoy for Afghanistan, senior officials of the Ministry of External Affairs, interpreters and other essential staff. It also has a medical and nursing component which will stay on in Kabul with the Liaison Officer of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

Members are no doubt aware that the Indian Embassy in Kabul closed on September 26, 1996. This is the first Indian diplomatic Mission, thereafter.

THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION (INDIA) TRANSFER OF FUNDS (REPEAL) BILL, 2001.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce the Bill to repeal the St. John Ambulance Association (India) Transfer of Funds Act, 1956.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.