

I hope the Members from Andhra Pradesh here, I can see one here will take note of it—

2. posts are lying vacant since November, 1982.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** May I interrupt you Mr. Sinha? The Supreme Court has given an order that by the 10th of December, all the posts which are lying vacant should be filled up. So, I think, at the moment, while you are making this special mention, it might have already been executed.

**SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:** I hope this is a direction which the Supreme Court has given. Madam, I have some experience about the appointment of the Judges and the procedure. I also know that the Supreme Court alone is not in a position to fill up the vacancies. There are other agencies also which are involved. Other agencies will also have to act in collaboration, in cooperation with the Supreme Court in order to fill up these vacancies. Now, the point I am making, Madam Deputy Chairman, is that so many posts are lying vacant, it is no wonder that when so many cases are also lying pending and the least which one expects of the Government is to expedite the process of filling up vacancies which exist.

Simultaneously, Madam Deputy Chairman, while I am on this subject, I would like to say that merely filling up vacancies in the High Courts will not perhaps reduce the pendency of these cases. Perhaps, the number of Judges will have to be increased; perhaps, the number of Judges in the lower courts will have to be increased. But the basic point is that the Government has to take a number of very urgent steps to remedy the

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri B. Satyanarayan Reddy) in the Chair.]

situation which exists today. There is a saying "Justice delayed is justice denied." I know that in my State a number of people are under-trial prisoners for years and years because

their cases are not being disposed of. If these cases are disposed of these unfortunate people will receive justice. So I take note of the assurance which has just been conveyed by the Chair that there is a decision of the Government that by the 10th of December all these posts—I expect all these 65 posts which are lying vacant, at the moment—will be filled up. I hope the Government will take urgent steps to reduce pendency before the lower courts and High Courts. Thank you, Sir.

#### Attack on a Bengali Daily Newspaper

**SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY** (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I have missed the opportunity of congratulating the newly elected Deputy Chairman just by a minute.

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY):** I will convey.

**SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY:** But I have no lamentation because I should take this opportunity of congratulating you also because this is my first occasion to take the floor while you are in the Chair.

Sir, the Parliament had a very turbulent time on the last occasion when it had discussed many sensitive issues and one of them was the issue of the Defamation Bill and when it was discussed the commitment of the Opposition was understood, seen and witnessed by us who unanimously tried to stall the introduction of the Bill and the move was spearheaded by the great champions of the freedom of the press, Marxist Communist Party. It was a different question altogether that because of the good gesture of the Government, the Bill was not ultimately introduced.

But that was the occasion for us to understand their commitment to the freedom of press and how sincerely the same commitment has been displayed by them again, in Bengal, in the matter of silencing the voice of one newspaper deserves to be brought

[Shri Deba Prasad Ray]

to the notice of the House so as to enure justice to that independent news daily called the 'Uttar Bango Sambad', which has become a victim of the wrath of the ruling party for publishing certain news item. This newspaper is one of the largest circulated Bengali newspapers (*Interruptions*).

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): Largest?

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: One of the largest, I have said, being published from Siliguri. It started publishing a particular episode concerning Himul, the milk dairy cooperative, based in Siliguri and in the process, revealed many sensitive pieces of information pertaining to the corruption indulged in by the senior officials of the organisation, in collusion with the CITU trade union leaders and it was when seven serials were published, the attack was unleashed on them. The attack was unleashed on the hawkers who were engaged in distributing the newspaper, the attack was unleashed on them. The attack was unleashed on the hawkers who were engaged in distributing the newspaper, the attack was unleashed on the delivery vans which were engaged in carrying the newspaper, the attack was unleashed on the journalists who were engaged in covering the whole story, the attack was unleashed on the stalls which were selling the newspaper and since 1st November, 1988, the paper is not being published. The newspaper has been withdrawn from the market. The management has been forced to withdraw the publication of the paper because they have not been able to satisfy the ruling party in the State. Pressure was mounted on them to stop publishing that particular story revealing sensational information about how corruption is being indulged in by the ruling party members, who are engaged in trade union activities in that particular organisation. Sir, an appeal has been made to the

local police administration by them. I have a letter with me from the proprietor of the newspaper that repeatedly, appeals have been made to the local police administration to ensure that the publication continues. But the police has turned deaf ear to their request as a result of which the paper is not being published for the last seven days from Siliguri. Sir, appeal has also been made to the Chief Minister of the State, appeal has also been made to the Chief Secretary of the State, appeal has also been made to the chief of the police administration, the Director General of Police of the State, but no sympathy, no support no cooperation has so far been accorded to them to restore the situation, to restore the normalcy to enable them to take out the publication again. I, therefore, take the opportunity of bringing this matter to the notice of the hon. Home Minister through your good office, so that immediate intervention is made to restore the publication of the same newspaper so that the voice of a press is not throttled in the land of Bengal, which has not been able to satisfy the desire of the ruling party, which has shown courage to publish the sensational information concerning the corruption indulged in by the ruling party members and which has been withdrawn from the market because of the undemocratic attack on them by the ruling party members in the State. I seek that the Government of India take note of this particular incident and interfere and intervene to ensure that the freedom of the press is not in jeopardy in the land of Bengal.

**Attempt to Enroll National Jute Manufacturers Corporation as a Member of Indian Jute Mills Association**

श्री मोहम्मद अमीन (पश्चिमी बंगाल) :  
सर, मैं आपके जरिये अवाम की तबज्जह बहुत ही जरूरी मामले की तरफ दिलना चाहता हूँ। पश्चिम बंगाल में जहाँ जूट मिल हैं वहाँ पिछले दस वर्षों में 6 कारखाने