

The question was proposed and the motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the statement by Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha will be made after lunch.

सदन को कार्यवाही 2 बजकर 10 मिनट तक के लिए स्थगित की जाती है।

The House then adjourned for lunch at twelve minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirteen minutes past two of the clock, **Mr. Deputy Chairman** in the Chair.

RE. SITUATION IN SRI LANKA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the situation in Sri Lanka has taken a grave turn in the course of the last fortnight. Our reports indicate that the Sri Lankan armed forces are conducting large scale operations in Jaffna, Velvettiturai, Chunnakam, Mannar and other parts of the Northern Province, where the Tamils constitute the overwhelming majority of the population. There has been heavy loss of life and property of the Tamils.

In the statement made before the House on the 3th August, 1984, I gave details of the shelling of Velvettiturai and the extensive damage to life and property caused there. The latest reports indicate that armed action in other parts of the Northern Province, particularly in the Jaffna and Chunnakam area, has resulted in even greater loss of life and property in recent days.

Extensive security operations now appear to have been launched in the Mannar area. It is reported that Tamils of India origin have also been seriously affected in these security

operations. Apparently, the Government of Sri Lanka has embarked on a series of military operations and the Tamil population of the Northern Province feels terrorised. What is worse, the Army seems to have gone out of control as admitted by a Sri Lankan Minister, and is reportedly on a rampage in various areas where whole bazars and houses have been burnt. Civilians have been arrested and killed indiscriminately.

When President Jayewardene was heard recently, the Prime Minister had impressed upon him the necessity of continuing with the political process which alone could lead to a viable solution acceptable to all concerned. He seemed to agree with this view. At the meeting of the All Parties Conference on July 23, 1984, he outlined some proposals which are expected to be discussed at the All Parties Conference this week. We regret that no progress has been made in these parleys. We still hope that the Government of Sri Lanka and particularly President Jayewardene will give a constructive lead to these discussions.

It is tragic that this new cycle of violence has erupted and generated a climate of tension, confrontation and conflict. The Tamils are gripped by fear and understandable resentment.

Recently, President Jayewardene sent a message to the Prime Minister on the unfolding situation in the Northern Province. He thought that Tamil extremists had decided to come out in the open and challenge the security forces. The Prime Minister's reply pointed out that the number of Tamil militants being small, it was difficult to see what they would gain by challenging the armed forces. The Prime Minister had emphasised that the security forces should not overreact and further alienate the Tamil population as a whole. Unfortunately that is precisely what seems to be happening. There are reports of reprisals against entire villages and mass arrests in various places in the Northern Province.

[Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha]

We take serious note of this situation. If this spate of violence in the Northern Province continues, it is bound to have grave repercussions in other parts of Sri Lanka and precipitate an influx of refugees into our country. As the House knows, we already have over 40,000 Sri Lanka refugees in Tamil Nadu. On every possible occasion, we urged upon President Jayewardene and his Government the necessity for the security forces of Sri Lanka to exercise maximum restraint and reduce their visible presence which has a provocative effect. De-escalation is the need of the hour.

The ethnic problem in Sri Lanka cannot be solved by military action. It is a political problem involving the just rights of the Tamil minority and only the determined pursuit of the political process of consultations and mutual accommodation can lead to a constructive way out. This has been our view all along and we have repeatedly conveyed it to the President of Sri Lanka.

We have reaffirmed our stand for Sri Lanka's integrity and unity and expressed opposition to all forms of violence. We have taken steps to curb activity which may be directed against Sri Lanka from our soil. Nevertheless to our profound regret and unease, we find the Sri Lankan Government has thought it fit to induct outside security agencies into a domestic political situation. This can only aggravate matters not only in Sri Lanka but also in the region. Our strong feelings over this development have been conveyed to President Jayewardene. On the diplomatic front we have expressed deep concern to the leaders of some important countries over the serious situation and repercussions to our country.

The whole nation feels anguished over these tragic events in Sri Lanka and we share the emotions of our

brothers and sisters in Tamil Nadu. The Government have been doing everything possible so that these indiscriminate killings and the large scale operation directed against the Tamil population of Sri Lanka are stopped.

The Government are seriously concerned at these developments, including the induction of elements of foreign security agencies. In whatever we do, must ensure that the plight of the Tamil community, which is already bad enough, does not worsen even more. I appreciate the strong feeling of the House, more so since many Indian nationals and others of Indian origin may also be affected. The government are keeping a close watch on the evolving situation and will take whatever steps are called for.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I have heard the statement made by the Minister in great details and I am happy that for the first time Government of India, ever since the situation Sri Lanka developed, has come out with a very strongly worded statement about the incidents which are happening there. Sir, I also heard with rapt attention the speech of our hon. Prime Minister made yesterday from the ramparts of the Red Fort where she had also expressed her grave concern for the happenings there and her deep sense of sorrow about what is happening there. I am sure all of us, to whichever part of India we belong, share the deep anguish and great sense of shame over the things which are going on there particularly during the last one week when the things have taken a turn for the worse.

Sir, the situation in Sri Lanka today is so serious that perhaps sitting here, in distant Delhi—this is not to say that the people do not feel it so much but the people in Tamil Nadu having close links over so many thousands of years and close family relationships

and other sorts of kinship feel it much more, apart from the nexus which we have got from Tamil Nadu to Sri Lanka.

Sir, Mr. Jayewardene, whatever may be his statements to the outside world and to the Prime Minister, is being clearly guided by the hawks there and recently he has, misguidedly perhaps at the behest of one faction or the other, let loose a reign of terror and hundreds of thousands of Tamil are losing their lives every day. So much so that a team of foreign correspondents led by the Washington Post who made a secret visit to the important Tamil town of Jaffna in the north, found it desolate and like a ghost town of the eighteenth century. This is the seriousness of the situation that people are afraid to come out in the streets and the army is really shooting indiscriminately all sorts of persons. Mr. Amrithalingam who had been in India for so long and has now returned to Sri Lanka, and who had thought of attending the round table conference for solving the situation, only yesterday had given a statement that 16 persons were drawn out from a van and shot dead by the army madcaps. On top of this, the Ceylon Prime Minister, Mr. Premadasa is fanning the extremist Sinhala feelings by saying that the foreign power, namely India, without mentioning it by name, is wanting to invade Sri Lanka. Our Prime Minister, as also this statement, has very clearly stated that we reaffirm our stand about Sri Lanka's integrity and unity. If India wanted to annex Sri Lanka, it could have just done it in a matter of minutes. But the concern of India for peace in the Indian ocean as well as the world is so much that we do not attempt to do such a foolishing thing. But I am not sure whether we can continue like this for long if this is the state of affairs there.

The United States. I am very sorry to say, is playing a very unhealthy and mischievous role in the whole

affairs. Trinconalade harbour is one of the most natural and finest harbours in the world and as many as 46 war-ship can at one time be located in one part or the other of the harbour without the enemy knowing it and they want it as a base for their refuelling operations, because Diego Garcia is not enough for them to control the Seventh Fleet. It is with this ulterior motive that they are aiding and abetting Sri Lanka and the Government of India, which has always wanted peace in the Indian Ocean and has had talks with all the littoral States, of the Indian Ocean, cannot afford to be a silent spectator to what is going on there.

A new dimension has been given recently. Sri Lanka has gone in not only for commandoes who have retired and settled down in England who are mercenaries but has also taken the help of Israeli Mossad group. The Government of India cannot tolerate such a situation where the whole security of India is indeed at risk. As the Prime Minister said yesterday, among the refugees who are coming in, Mr. Jayawardene is sending thousands of others to India to see what is happening here and I am glad that the Government has said that it will curb anything which may be considered as anti-national here.

Sir, I will not say more but only this that the situation is developing so fast and it is becoming so emotive that we have seen yesterday that all the schools and colleges in Tamil Nadu have been declared closed for one week. This is to preempt the agitation from getting into wrong hands. But in this mood other elements may take advantage of the situation. Therefore, Sir, I would request the Government of India and through you, sir, the Prime Minister to see to it. So far, she has been acting with a lot of moderation and restraint, but the time has now come when mere feelings and emotions would not do. You should

[Shri R. Ramakrishnan]

change your stand; you should take a tougher stand, a firmer stand; and strong action is called for.

My specific questions to the hon. Minister are as follows. Though he has said that the Government of India is taking a diplomatic offensive, it is already too late. During the last two years, you should have really launched a diplomatic offensive at the highest levels to convince the world leaders about the wrong action of the Sri Lanka Government. Will you now do it on a war footing by sending a special emissary to all the world leaders to tell them what is happening? Secondly, will you take it up with the United Nations and the Human Rights Commission and also, as demanded by us, ask for a UN peace force immediately to go and settle in the northern part of Sri Lanka? Thirdly, to render succour to the victims there, will the Government of India consider sending some sort of aid or at least appeal to the Indian Red Cross Society or the International Red Cross Society to go there and help them, particularly in the light of biological warfare being launched with the help of South African chemicals which is going to take a new dimension for the world. And, fourthly, I would like to know whether the Government of India has already sent a diplomatic note—whatever you call it in your External Affairs phraseology—condemning them. You have said in your statement that you have conveyed to them. But I want to know whether you have sent a diplomatic note, by whatever name you call it, to the Sri Lanka Government, to see that these sorts of things are immediately put a stop to. I would on this occasion also lay before you the appeal of our AI-ADMK Legislature Party which has appealed to the Prime Minister to intercede in the situation immediately and also the appeal of our own Chief Minister, MGR. at the Independence Day where he has said: "We will not only preserve the in-

dependence we have achieved but will also help in getting independence for others". This is only an oblique reference. What he actually wants is that a qualitative change should be there on the part of the Government of India.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, with a broken heart, I would like to seek some clarifications from the hon. Minister. Sir, the situation is very grave there. The Tamil blood is flowing in the streets of Jaffna, Velvet-tithurai, Chunnagam and Mannar. In Mannar, 90 per cent of the shops were totally destroyed, were set on fire. They have lost their properties; they have lost their lives. In a police station, 21 youths were put inside the police station, their hands were tied behind, and the policemen come out and the whole station was blasted. The Government of Sri Lanka itself has admitted that the army has gone berserk in Mannar. Sir, for the past 35 years they have been facing this persecution at the hands of the Sinhalese thug army and police. Right from 1981, when the great Jaffna library was burnt, 96,000 books were burnt, now people are burnt. They are roasted like pigs and animals. The same thing was done by Adolf Hitler. In the year 1933, the books which were against the Nazi regime were burnt in thousands. In 1942 and 1943 people were burnt in the prison camps, Auschwitz, Belson and Dacho. Now the whole area of Sri Lanka has become a prison camp of Hitler. Sir, I would accuse this Government for having received Jayawardene. I would accuse this Government for having received Athulathmudali even after he had made the statement that the entire Tamil race will be wiped out. You received here persons who had blood on their hands, the persons who had Tamil blood on their hands. Then they were encouraged by your statement, by your attitude. I warned you on the floor of this House last year when the dis-

cussion on the Sri Lanka situation took place. "Don't become a Chamberlain of India. Chamberlain was hoodwinked by Hitler. The same thing is going to happen." Now it has happened. You assured the whole world, the people of India, the people of Tamil Nadu, that something was going to take place in the round-table conference. He wanted to buy time. Now he is wiping out that community there, the Tamils there.

Actually the day before yesterday I read a write-up by Mr. G. K. Reddy in the "THE HINDU". Actually he is doing a yeoman service to the Tamil's cause. He is not committed to any party. "The Prime Minister will make a very strong statement from the ramparts of the Red Fort," he wrote. I was terribly disappointed. You are expressing your concern. You are expressing your mourning. What is the use? You can mourn for the whole Tamil race once it is finished.

In the statement the hon. Minister himself has admitted, and I quote:

"It is reported that Tamils of Indian origin have also been seriously affected in these security operations."

Whether they are Tamils of Indian origin or the original inhabitants of Sri Lanka, to whichever category they may belong, when human rights are violated and human beings are killed like animals, you should rise to the occasion. Here, even though the citizens of Indian origin have been affected, have been killed, you are not taking any action. When one citizen of the United Kingdom, a police woman was killed by unintentional shooting from the Libyan Embassy, within 24 hours Mrs. Margaret Thatcher announced that the diplomatic relations would be cut off. Now, thousands have been killed, and the entire race would be wiped out. Yet, you are not taking any action.

What prevented this Government from moving a resolution from the Government side, as you moved a resolution on Bangladesh? When people were killed in East Pakistan,

the hon. Prime Minister moved a resolution condemning the genocide on the floor of the Lok Sabha, and the resolution was unanimously passed by both the Houses. What is preventing you from moving such a resolution? You are hoodwinked by Mr. Jayewardene, and you are hoodwinking the people of Tamil Nadu. You have not moved any resolution. Why not? I want a categorical reply from the Government.

If you say you are very much concerned, what steps have you taken to mobilise the international opinion, international public opinion because the human rights are violated, because the genocide is going on? You should come out in clear-cut terms, whether it is a genocide or not. I do not find any word in the statement, that it is a clear case of genocide, that it is a clear case of cultural genocide. I do not find any words, any such expression, in the statement.

You have failed to mobilise the international opinion. During those days our emissaries were flying from capital to capital throughout the length and breadth of the globe. What action have you taken? What steps have you taken to mobilise the public opinion, to mobilise the international opinion? Sir, I am terribly sorry to say that when the matter was raked up in the Human Rights Division in the United Nations, even the delegates from Norway expressed his concern. But our delegates were keeping mum. This is the attitude of this Government. The other day when the Hon'ble Minister made his statement I pleaded with him and with the Prime Minister to give a warning to Sri-Lankan Government to stop killing innocent people; otherwise face the consequences, I do not find any such expression from the Governments. So they are continuing to kill our brothers and sisters there because Mr Jayewardene knew that the Government of India will not do anything. The Government have also sent Mr. Parthasarathy to Sri Lanka as our emissary but nothing has materialised. We have

(Shri Y. Gopalsamy)

also received Mr Jayawardene and Mr Athulath Mudali. Then you gave the impression that a political settlement was in sight. I warned you that Mr. Jayawardene had abrogated the Pact of 1957 and again Pact of 1965. I accuse the Government of India because they ignored our warnings that Mr. Jayawardene would not honour any of his words.

Sir, I would like to ask the Government are they prepared to break the diplomatic relations with Sri Lanka or not? Sir, when our own people are being killed and the Government have also admitted "nevertheless to our profound regret and unease, we find the Sri Lankan Government has thought it fit to induct outside security agencies into a domestic political situation" what retaliatory measures they are proposing to take against the Sri Lankan Government. Sir, on the 7th Dec., 1983, on the floor of this House when we discussed the international situation, I brought it to the notice of this Government that MOSSAD-Israel security agents have been brought in to Sri Lanka to give training to their commandos. In every plane to London at least 25 seats were allocated for the commandos to obtain training under British Mercenaries. The United States imperialists have allowed the Israeli Government to open a special section in their embassy. Now, a battle ship belonging to the United States has entered the territorial waters of Sri Lanka to threaten our brothers and sisters there. Mr. Deputy Chairman, you are aware that the Sri Lankan Government have no diplomatic relations with the Israeli Government. In spite of that they have allowed them to open a special section in U. S. Embassy under the influence of the imperialists. The Sri Lankan Government also do not have diplomatic relations with South African regime. But still a plane-load of weapons from that country have landed in Sri Lanka. Now, the United States, Israel and South Africa have joined

hands with the Sri Lankan Government to wipe out our Tamil community there. But the Government of India have not taken any action. They have not given any warning to Sri Lankan Government. But simply the Government is expressing their concern. I am asking a specific question, who wants the Government concern when thousands and thousands of Tamil people are being killed there.

We all now what happened in Viet Cong. The great United States, the mighty nuclear powered USA surrendered before the will of the Vietnam people. So, it is your duty to protect the Tamils there. What for we are paying tax for the Indian army? I am also a tax-payer. When my mother and sisters are raped in the streets and innocent people are being killed in the streets, the army for which I am paying tax is not prepared to go and rescue them, why should I pay tax for this army. This is the feeling we have got. This is the feeling our youths have in our places. The Minister was telling the other day that not only 50 million Tamilians are concerned but the whole of India was concerned. Sir, I want to ask a question, when the Government said that the whole of India are concerned, I beg the Government to take action against the Sri Lankan Government as you took action in Bangladesh. You are not prepared to move even a resolution. You are not prepared even to mention the word "genocide" in your statement. So I am terribly disappointed with this statement. It is nothing but betrayal of Tamils.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY (Nominated): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the situation in Sri Lanka remains the same in spite of our Prime Minister's sincere efforts to make the Sri Lankan Government come to its senses. The inhuman and unchecked killing of Tamils by the Sri Lankan Government and the army is continuing, in addition to the violence and arson committed by the army. At this rate, the Sri Lankan Government must be made to realise that it is

not fighting against terrorists, but is fighting against their own people...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Don't call them terrorists. They are not terrorists.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Thank you. It is you who advised the Government to go to the U.N. and it is you who say now that going to the U.N. will not be of any use.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: We are very clear in our minds. We are very clear in our stand.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: You first realise what you are talking. It is the Sri Lankan Government that is fighting against the Tamil population there and the entire Tamil Population in the world is against the Sri Lankan Government's atrocities.

Sir, the country is thankful for the deep concern, anguish and distress that the Prime Minister has expressed, and for the statement that has been placed before the House. The words used in the statement are: "This can only aggravate matters not only in Sri Lanka but also in the region." This will make any Government come to its senses and feel the real gravity of the situation. This is not merely a statement. In between the lines, it is a warning to the Sri Lankan Government by the Government of India as to what would happen if the situation deteriorates. This could not be said in more clear words in an august House of this stature.

The people of Tamil Nadu do understand the difficulties involved, but at the same time, the killings are continuing. It must be put an end to. Only this Government can do it and only Madam Prime Minister can do it. Some of the political parties in Tamil Nadu, without realising the gravity of the situation, are trying to rouse the emotions of the people to make it a fight between the centre and Tamil Nadu. That way the problem cannot be solved. If at all the problem has to be solved, it has to be solved by this Government and this Government alone. Making it a fight between Tamilians and the Cen-

tral Government would only weaken the hands of the Central Government in facing this challenge. In these circumstances, we are really glad that the Government is taking a concrete step, but that is not enough. The Government must come forward with concrete measures to put an end to the killings there and also to invite the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and the political leaders in Tamil Nadu and to discuss with them in detail. Of course, I know there are certain political parties which never attempt to take up the matter with the Prime Minister or to discuss matters in detail. They only want, when the situation worsens, to capitalise on the issue for their political ends. But that apart, the Government has its own duty to the Tamils. The entire Tamil population in the whole world believes and rests on this belief that it is only the Government of India and Madam Prime Minister who can save the Tamils in Sri Lanka. We expect very strong measures, apart from the sentiments expressed in this statement. We expect much more action from the Government of India.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, in the last few days since I made my statement in this House, the situation in Sri Lanka has really deteriorated. I have tried to convey in my statement the various steps that our Government is taking and the reactions of our Government to what is happening there. It is natural that our friends in Tamil Nadu as well as the whole country should feel concerned at these developments and the Government feels equally strongly the Prime Minister personally has lost no opportunity in taking up this matter with President Jayawardene or other authorities in Sri Lanka or important powers in the world to impress upon them that the correct path would be not to escalate military action but to activate the processes of political discussion so that a solution satisfactory to the people of Sri Lanka and, of course, to the Tamil-speaking people there, is arrived at.

[Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha]

Well, Sir, to suggest that we should not have talked to President Jayawardene or that we should snap our diplomatic ties, we feel, is not the proper thing to do. We want to keep our channels of communication open with the Government of Sri Lanka, with President Jayawardene personally, with various countries of the world, so that we can express our viewpoints firmly and clearly to the authorities so that they are in no doubt as to our feelings and what we think about these matters.

Sir, some questions have been raised for clarification. It has been asked as to what we have done to mobilise world opinion. So far as this issue is concerned, I said in my own statement that we have taken diplomatic action in various ways, our Prime Minister has written personal letters to important world leaders, she has mentioned it to various other persons who have met her, our diplomatic representatives have always been stressing our viewpoint in this matter at whatever forum that is available to us. And it is correct to say that the Human Rights Commission which is part of the UN system did not do anything. This matter was discussed last year and some consensus was evolved. This year also we are briefing the members of the Human Rights Commission in Geneva and they are fully conversant with our point of view in the matter. So, we are leaving no stone unturned to move these forums so that what we feel in the matter should be put across to them. It was asked whether the Red Cross assistance or any assistance of that nature has been made available to Sri Lanka to help the suffering people there. Last year we really did that. The League of Red Cross Societies made a request to various countries and we responded to it, and we sent whatever supplies and medicines and other things that could provide relief to the people through the Red Cross Societies and we are still

prepared to so, and we have not neglected that side of our work.

As regards foreign agents, I have myself stated in my statement that the Prime Minister has categorically mentioned it on various occasions that we are greatly concerned about the induction of these foreign agencies, intelligence agencies and other agencies in our region. It is a very serious development which we cannot ignore. There have been occasions when we have tried to say that these agencies should not be there. It is a situation which cannot be solved, which cannot be settled by military action but by political discussion. Instead of seeking to do so in a very accelerated and serious manner, the Sri Lankan Government thought it fit to induct foreign intelligence agencies—British experts are there to train their commandoes or their security people or their intelligence people; Israeli presence is there. And we are making no secret of our view that this is a very undesirable development, a development about which we feel greatly concerned and which we certainly cannot approve. I am at one with the Hon'ble Members when they say that it is a very undesirable thing. I agree with them and in fact I agree with most of the statements. But some of the extreme steps suggested would not really help the situation. Instead, if you close our diplomatic channels with Sri Lanka or any other country, it will only prevent us from putting our viewpoint across to them. It will not help us at all. Therefore, we do not want channels of communication with Sri Lanka or any other country to be snapped. We want to discuss with them and, therefore, we want these communication channels to remain open.

The Prime Minister's address to the nation yesterday—a mention was made about this—from the Red Fort was really a very forthright statement on the view of the Government of India. It must have registered with the authorities concerned and they will take note of it. That is all I can say.

The Government of India will not leave anything unturned to take whatever initiative the situation warrants in this respect. I need not repeat that we are fully in agreement with the sentiments expressed by the Hon'ble Members. We and the country as a whole feel greatly disturbed about this happening. The way we are acting is the most effective way. After all what we want is a peaceful solution of the whole problem. It cannot be solved except through political discussion. The All Parties conference is meeting tomorrow. We do hope that President Jayawardene will take the process of discussion further and he and his Government will come out with a proposition which will meet the legitimate aspiration of the Tamil people there and find a solution which is satisfactory to all.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: The Hon'ble Minister has not answered my specific question whether the Government will move a resolution as they moved a resolution on Bangladesh operation, condemning the genocide. You have not even used this word in your statement.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: In drawing a parallel with Bangladesh, we should not take it beyond a certain point. I said all the steps we are taking are on the diplomatic front...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: But you did not consider any diplomatic channels at the time of Bangladesh.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: United Nations system includes human rights commission which is seized of the matter. Right now they are discussing. They discussed it last time...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: They are speaking through guns.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: We will do whatever is necessary which the situation warrants.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir, this statement is a betrayal of Tamils. I am deeply hurt by this. Our hearts have been torn and, therefore, I tear this statement and condemn the attitude of the Government of India. As a protest I walk out.

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL (Gujarat): You are spoiling your case.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: What did you say? You do not know that our blood is boiling and our heart is bleeding. You never understand our feelings... (*Interruptions*). I am prepared to join youths to take up guns to protect our people. For this cause we are prepared to die.

[At this stage the Hon'ble Member left the Chamber.]

THE INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION BANK OF INDIA BILL, 1984

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): Mr. Deputy Chairman, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of the Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India, and for the transfer to, and vesting in, the said Reconstruction Bank, of the undertaking of the Corporation known as the Industrial Reconstruction Corporation of India Limited, with a view to enabling the said Reconstruction Bank to function as the principal credit and reconstruction agency for industrial revival and to co-ordinate similar work of the other institutions engaged therein and to assist and promote industrial development, and to rehabilitate industrial concerns, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, as the honourable Members are aware, the Industrial Reconstruction Corporation of India Limited