

I would like to express on this occasion unstinted, unqualified and unconditional support of my Party, the Republican Party of India and the weaker sections and the down-trodden people of this country, whom our Party represents. I may mention that the classes which we represent are poor; perhaps they may not be in a position to donate gold or money, but I can assure you, this House and through you the Prime Minister and the Government of India that our poorer people will shed the last drop of their blood and sacrifice their lives for maintaining independence, integrity and unity of this country.

I do not want to recall the experiences of the 1962 and 1965 aggression when the people of down-trodden community had exhibited their bravery and valour and had sacrificed their lives in defending the integrity and independence of this country. Leave apart the experiences of the 1962 and 1965 aggression; if you go through the pages of the history of this country—whether it was during the days of Shivaji or whenever there arose an occasion to defend the independence of this country—our down-trodden people have always sacrificed their lives to maintain and achieve the independence of this country. Therefore, on this solemn occasion, I would like to express on behalf of myself, and my Party our solidarity with the Government and I would like to assure that we are prepared to make any sacrifice that will be called upon us to do to maintain the independence and integrity of this country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I wish to add a word in this hour of trial. The whole House and indeed the whole nation is solidly united. In this war which has been thrust upon us, there is no doubt that victory will be ours. Every individual, and every group, I am sure, will strive their utmost and will make their contribution to the achievement of this goal, the victory. Our cause is just. We are fighting

for certain ideals and certain principles. The military forces are the military forces of a great nation. They are assured that the whole nation is behind them and there cannot be any doubt that ultimately we shall succeed in preserving our ideals and principles.

PROCLAMATION UNDER ARTICLE 352 OF THE CONSTITUTION

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE/
रक्षा मंत्री (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-clause (b) of clause (2) of article 352 of the Constitution a copy of the Proclamation (G. S. R. No. 1789) of Emergency issued by the President on the 3rd December, 1971, under clause (1) of the said article.

RESOLUTION RE. PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY UNDER ARTICLE 352 OF THE CONSTITUTION

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE/
रक्षा मंत्री (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution:

“This House approves the Proclamation of Emergency issued by the President on the 3rd December, 1971, under clause (1) of Article 352 of the Constitution.”

The question was proposed.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): Sir, I will be very brief. The time has come to decide whether we should work as a great country or remain small. This is the crucial question before us, whether this country is going to be a country of giants or a country of dwarfs. There are moments in the history of nations when nations have got to achieve their greatness through