

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : He is not replying.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Why ? Does he not know ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: The forward trading issue was not brought in the course of the debate. If he refers to it later on I am not supposed to reply to that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : The question is :

"That the Bill be returned."

The motion was adopted.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We can adjourn now.

REFERENCE TO RELEASE OF SHRI RAJNARAIN, M.P.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN): First I will give you some good news. Our friend, Mr. Rajnarain, has been released. I will read out the letter :

"I have the honour to inform you that Shri Raj Narain, member of the Rajya Sabha, was tried at the New Delhi Courts before me on a charge under section 188 I. P. C. He pleaded guilty to the charge and as such was convicted.

On 23-12-69 after a trial lasting for one day I found him guilty of an offence under section 188 I. P. C. and sentenced him to imprisonment till the rising of the Court. He has been released after the expiry of the sentence."

S. DHUME,

Judicial Magistrate, New Delhi.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Sir, tomorrow I am told that a half-an-hour debate has been admitted. I do not think there would be any difficulty in dealing with the half-an-hour debate. I am very much concerned about it and that is why I wanted the next Bill also to be taken up today. If that is assured by the Government I have no objection.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN): We will finish this now.

THE MANIPURA APPROPRIATION BILL, 1969

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the Union territory of Manipur for the services of the financial year 1969-70, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration".

This Bill arises out of the Supplementary Demands voted by the Lok Sabha on the 19th December, 1969 amounting to Rs. 90.97 lakhs. The Supplementary Demands statement was circulated to hon. Members on the 8th December, 1969 and full explanations for the additional provisions asked for have been given therein. The main items of additional expenditure are grant of *ad hoc* allowance to Government employees posted in hill areas, payments on account of replacement of arms equipment etc. of the units of Assam Rifles posted in Manipur, additional expenditure on the welfare of scheduled tribes, construction of office accommodation for the newly set up administrative centres in hill areas and purchase of accommodation for the Union Territory's Liaison Office, Calcutta.

I do not propose to say anything more at this stage but would try to meet the points that may be raised by hon. Members during the discussion.

Sir, I move.

The question was proposed.

SHRI S. K. SINGH (Manipur): Sir, I rise to raise an objection to one item of expenditure in this Supplementary Budget of Manipur. I wonder why the expenditure for replacement of arms and equipment of units of Assam Rifles in Manipur should be made a charge on the Budget of Manipur. As the very name indicates, Assam Rifles are not Manipur Rifles. As such the aforesaid expenditure should be included in the Budget of Assam and not in that of Manipur, so that the financial dependence of Manipur on the Centre may not be unduly heightened. As the Assam Rifles people will carry away the arms and equipment, when they are transferred from Manipur, the argument that, as they are for the time being

[Shri S. K. Singh]

stationed in Manipur, Manipur should pay cannot stand. So, I hope the hon. Minister will kindly reconsider the matter.

There is also one long-standing complaint of the people of Manipur as regards the location of the units of Assam Rifles in Manipur. They have been occupying the old palace area of Manipur, as if they were an occupation army. This hurts the sentiments of the people of Manipur. The general public of Manipur have made a persistent demand for shifting the units of Assam Rifles from the old palace area to some other place. I do not know why the Government of India have not yet given any active consideration to this matter. If the Assam Rifles are shifted, the greatest beneficiary will be the Government because they will get a vast area out of which they can make much money by creating new bazars and residential sites preserving the central portion only for historical interest. So, the Government should take early steps in this matter.

Sir, in this connection, I would also like, with a heavy heart, to invite the attention of the Government to some distressing news. The Government of Manipur have recently resorted to repressive measures in Manipur by making indiscriminate arrests of the youths of Manipur and by meting out inhuman treatment to the arrested persons. I am afraid these indiscriminate arrests and tortures will defeat its own object because they will only serve to enrage all sections of the people of Manipur. I cannot and do not think that it may be the intention of the Government to imprison all the youths of Manipur. As such instead of 'resorting to repressive measures, the best thing for the Government and the people of Manipur would be that the Government take early steps to grant Statehood to Manipur. The plea of the Home Ministry that Manipur is not yet financially viable has no political relevance, nor is it a tenable argument. When the Government have given Statehood to Nagaland, which is much more dependent financially on the Centre, why should the Government use this argument in the case of Manipur and Tripura only to betray their discriminatory attitude? So, considering all the circumstances I beg to submit that the Government should realise the urgency of Manipur's case for Statehood. Otherwise, the more the Govern-

ment's delay in granting Statehood, the more restive the youths of Manipur will become, all the repressive measures notwithstanding.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal). I protest against the imposition of President's Rule in Manipur unilaterally without giving the Assembly a chance or opportunity to form a government.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY (Mysore): We all agree that it is a retrograde step.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: Regarding burdening the State with the expenditure incurred on the Assam Rifles, I would like to point out to the House that hardly 12 to 13 per cent of the total Budget revenue is from Manipur. The rest of it is given by the Centre. So, even if it is only for accounting purposes, it is not a burden on them, and it is not correct.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (**SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN**): The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the Union territory of Manipur for the services of the financial year 1969-70, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (**SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN**): We shall now take up the clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 and 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be returned."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (**SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN**): The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at seven of the clock till eleven of the clock on Wednesday, the 24th December, 1969.