

notice. Sir, propriety of parliamentary institutions of the country requires that the relief given by the Central Government, even if it happens to be from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, should be channelised through the State Governments. But here, instead of that, we have learnt that one hon. Minister has been deputed to distribute the fund through District Magistrates in the districts. As you are aware Sir, if anything has happened in West Bengal, it is that the Panchayat Institutions are firmly in saddle and the elected people from the lowest village level upto State level are firmly guiding the administration. Under these circumstances, I want to draw the attention of Prime Minister through you and request him, that whatever he condescends to donate for the afflicted people in North Bengal, that should be channelised through the State Government and nobody else. I do not accuse him of any partisan political considerations. I consider him a gentleman and it might be a slip. He should be requested that he should resist such 'slippages'. That is all I submit. (*Interruptions*).

**DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL** (Calcutta North-West): There was nothing wrong or unconventional if the contribution from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund was sent for distribution through a Central Minister by the district magistrates. The hon. Member who raised this issue should not be so sensitive and he should not try to find anything wrong in the action of the hon. Prime Minister. Here I may mention that it has been our experience that if relief funds are distributed through the agencies of the State Government, sometimes political and other partisan considerations take an upper hand and the relief fund is distributed not always to those who require the assistance most, but to the persons who might belong to a particular group or a political party. Hence, the Prime Minister has done the right thing in distributing the fund through a Central Minister.

**SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN** (Cooch Bihar) : Sir, nearly one crore people of West Bengal are affected by floods. They require immediate relief to save their lives. Through you,

I request the hon. Minister to send a Central Team immediately to Bengal. At least Rs. 25 crores should be provided to the Government of West Bengal for relief work, as an ad hoc grant.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI RABI RAY** (Kendrapara) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am still in a dilemma whether I should raise this question or not. As such, I want your guidance. I along with my friend and a C.P.I. member, Shri Lokanath Choudhury reached the airport on our way to Bhubaneswar.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had also to go to Bhubaneswar but you could not reach there. B.P.S.T. had arranged an orientation programme there. Before reaching that place, I requested Shri Farooq to be in the House. The aircraft 477 left for Bhubaneswar on time. The said aircraft goes to Bhubaneswar via Raipur and it proceeded towards Bhubaneswar after touching Raipur. When I and Shri Lokanath Choudhury were getting down, we found ourselves once again in Raipur. Perhaps we were sleeping (*Interruptions*) Shri Chatterjee is smiling but he will realise the discomfiture. Our aeroplane met with two mishaps. We called the captain and asked him as to how we were back in Raipur. He told us that because of the inclement weather in Bhubaneswar, the plane landed in Raipur. I asked him where we would go next. He replied that we would be sent to Bhubaneswar by a relief plane.

Now takes place the second mishap. Just before landing at the Delhi airport, there was an announcement for impending crash landing or emergency landing. All arrangements were made for emergency landing. Lokanathji and I were class mates. In a light vein, I told Lokanathji that both of us had crossed the age of 64. Now we would have to prepare ourselves mentally for belly landing. We had no experience of belly landing. Choudhuryji had experienced it once fourteen years ago. During the course of that

belly landing, four people lost their lives. I want to point out that in the Manipur air crash in which Shri Thompak Singh was killed, there were no survivors. He certainly belonged to Congress party but he was my friend and a friend of Shri George Fernandes. I told Choudhuri ji that we might also meet the fate of Shri Thompak Singh. In that aircraft, fifty percent of the people on board were foreign tourists. Thank that the plane prepared itself for belly landing. Everyone was praying to the almighty. At last, we all landed safely.

I am raising this matter before you because when I reached Bhuvaneshwar, the Vice Chancellor pointed out that during the last one year, many such mishaps had taken place in Calcutta. This is a common occurrence. Today, I read in the newspaper that no one was killed in the belly landing at Bangalore but another accident took place. I am raising this point because Santosh Mohan ji is here. The arrangements of Indian Airlines are erroneous resulting in more accidents in North Eastern States. We are aware of the accident when Shri Moraji Desai was travelling. Do all these accidents occur on account of mechanical fault? No, the reason behind it is faulty arrangements, maintenance lapses and non-compliance of old norms.

Some may think that it is a personal matter but it is not so. It is a matter of public importance. As such I have sought your guidance as to whether I should raise this or not. Farook Saheb is present here. We encountered two mishaps in the course of a single journey. I will like to point out that it is a matter not confined to Members of Parliament but pertains to the entire country and foreign tourists. As such, I request the Government to pay more attention towards rectifying the lapses in the arrangements made by the Indian Airlines so that such mishaps do not re-occur in future.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think the entire House

would join me in wishing a long life to the Members and those who were on board.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I am now giving chance to 2-3 Members and senior Members will also be included in it. If they do not express their views, the matter will remain incomplete. Members sitting at the back should keep sitting. I will give them chance later. Ram Vilas Paswanji, you are leaving for Andhra Pradesh and as such, I am giving you a chance. You please finish in two minutes.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have caused inconvenience to you. You have pointed out that today is the day for junior members but I am requesting you to allow me to speak now because I am leaving for Andhra Pradesh to participate in the rally called by the Dalits organisations to protest against the killings in Andhra Pradesh. Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you are aware that the current Parliament Session is ending on the 17th and therefore, we will meet in November. 26th September is the day allotted in Supreme Court for Mandal Commission. Three months have passed but Government failed to clarify its stand in this period. I had pointed out earlier also that while I was a Minister of this Department, we had prepared a common list of Joint Secretaries in fourteen States as per the instructions of Cabinet Secretary but the policy is yet to be formulated. The Prime Minister has repeatedly said that he would convene a meeting of leaders of opposition parties and evolve a consensus on this issue. 26th September is the date in Supreme Court and adjournment has taken place thrice but has not been a single deliberation with the leaders of opposition parties on this issue. The Government is deliberately trying to avoid this serious matter. The intention of Government is not clear. Government wants the issue of Mandal commission to end in the Supreme Court. The issue which involves the interest of the backward classes and 52 percent of the population of