

the Super Bazar, the Cooperative Store Limited, New Delhi, for the period from 1st July, 1987 to 31st March 1989.

- (4) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above. [Placed in the Library. See No. LT-1000/90]

**Statement indicating the result of
Market loans floated on 19th March,
1990**

[English]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): I beg to lay on the Table a statement (Hindi and English versions) indicating the results of market loans floated on the 19th March, 1990. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1001/90]

13.38 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

[English]

**Closure of India's Diplomatic Mission in
FJI**

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): Yesterday our Charge d' Affairs in Suva was called to the Fiji Foreign Ministry and informed that our Mission should be closed down within 24 hours. He was also told that all Indian nationals employed in the Mission should leave Fiji within 14 days.

An Aide Memoire handed over by the Fiji authorities stated that the decision was being taken because of what it described as the "unfriendly and unwarranted acts" of the Government of India in:

(a) Deciding to launch an international campaign against Fiji;

(b) Banning trade with Fiji;

(c) Opposing Fiji's re-entry into the Commonwealth; and

(d) Alleged interference of the Indian Embassy in Fiji's internal affairs.

13.39 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

As Hon'ble Members are aware, the three initiatives mentioned in the list were taken in response to setting up of an illegal regime in Fiji that had seized power after a military coup had removed the democratically elected government led by the late Dr. Bavadra. The fourth factor—the long-standing allegation of the Fiji authorities that our Embassy has been intervening in Fiji's internal affairs—is totally false and malicious. It seems that the illegal regime of Fiji is now disturbed by the strength of the democratic movement in Fiji and our support to it.

The racist policies of the illegal regime are unacceptable in this day and age. Racial discrimination is on the retreat even in South Africa; it cannot survive in Fiji for long. The illegal regime hopes to stay in power through the classic device of undemocratic regimes—divide and rule. But the democratic movement brings together in its fold people of all races—including indigenous Fijians as well as Fijians of Indian origin. It is our support for this multi-racial democratic movement which explains the motivation of the illegal regime to insist on the closure of our Mission.

I would like to take this opportunity to place on record Government's appreciation for the commendable manner in which members of our Embassy in Suva have discharged their duties. They have projects our policies faithfully and have scrupulously refrained from any interference in purely domestic matter in Fiji.

I would also like to reiterate that Government of India is firmly resolved to continue its support for the democratic movement in Fiji. This movement is opposed to the policy of racial discrimination of the illegal regime. Racial discrimination is inhuman and it is important that the World Comity should raise its voice against these abhorrent practices. Indian will continue to mobilise world opinion and sustain its support for the democratic movement of the valiant people of Fiji in their struggle for restoration of democracy and racial harmony.

We shall continue to avail ourselves of every opportunity to voice our opposition to racial discrimination whatever its form and wherever it is practised.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mormugao): Sir, I have to ask one clarification. Will you please permit me?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, generally we do not allow.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Only one clarification, Sir. The Rules Committee, in its last Report laid on the Table to the House on the 4th, had said that the convention will now start of asking clarifications on statements of Ministers. That is the Report laid on the Table of the House on the 4th. If you do not want me to go into this out of utmost respect for the House, I will not go. But just one clarification I would like to seek from the Minister. Who will look after Indian interests in Fiji? Which is the country that will look after? Please tell us.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Sir, we are in touch with some friendly governments and I would not like to reveal their names just now.

[*Translation*]

PROF. V. K. MALHOTRA (Delhi Sadar): Earlier the hon. Minister has said that....

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not a

practice we are following in the House.

[*Translation*]

PROF. V. K. MALHOTRA: I was only saying that on the other day, the hon. Minister had said that a special cell would be set up in his Ministry which will mobilise international opinion on this question. I would like to know whether this has been done or not?

[*English*]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: The information will be sent to you later on. But this is not the practice we are following in this House. Up to this time we have not followed this practice.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU (Balasore): Sir, I just want to bring.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, Mr. Kundu. I just did not want to abruptly stop the Members. If you have anything to enquire from the External Affairs Minister.....

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please understand.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: Sir, I just want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that I have been receiving telephone calls from the Fijians who are here, saying that the situation is very bad in Fiji. It is good that the hon. Minister has made a very forthright statement condemning the racist policies of that Government.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Kundu, will you please try to understand?

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: But I would like to know that steps he is going to take to protect the interests of the Fijians of Indian origin who are in great trouble there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well, I would

like to announce that the House stands adjourned for lunch to meet again at 2.45 p.m.

13.44 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till forty-five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at fifty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN *in the Chair*]

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Shortage of Drinking Water in Delhi and other Parts of the country

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): I call the attention of the hon. Minister of Urban Development to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The acute shortage of drinking water in Delhi and other parts of the country and the steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Some State Governments and certain areas of Delhi have reported shortage of drinking water facilities in urban areas. Ministry of Urban Development does not have any Central assistance programme for drinking water supply schemes in urban areas. Ministry of Rural Development, however, does provide Central assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Mini Missions etc. A provision of Rs. 1,898.09 crores had been provided in

the 7th Plan under these programmes which far exceeds the original outlay of only Rs. 1,282.32 crores. The Central Government has been giving emphasis on over seeing the problem of safe drinking water in the rural areas of the States.

In cases of acute drought and scarcity of drinking water conditions a new system has now been evolved with effect from 1.4.90 as per the recommendations of the 9th Finance Commission. A Calamity Relief Fund has been constituted with allocations to each State. Central Government would contribute 75% of the amount in the form of non plan grant and 25% is to be provided by the concerned State out of its own resources. The contribution to this fund would be made by the Centre and the State Governments in equal quarterly instalments. The Ministry of Agriculture is the nodal Ministry for scarcity relief.

So far only Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have submitted memoranda seeking Central assistance for drought relief including drinking water during the year 1990-91. Government of Madhya Pradesh have sought assistance amounting to Rs. 194.48 crores including Rs. 53.68 crores under drinking water supply. Ministry of Finance have released Rs. 6.94 crores to the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh on 14.5.90 as "on account payment of grants-in-aid" towards Central contribution for the Calamity Relief Fund, the total amount allocated for Madhya Pradesh being Rs. 37 crores for the year 1990-91.

Government of Tamil Nadu have also submitted a memorandum on 9.4.90 on acute drinking water scarcity in Madras city due to the drought conditions. The request of the State Government is under consideration.

As far as Delhi is concerned, shortage is felt in colonies situated at the tail end of the distribution system and pockets located at higher elevations. At present 437 MGD of water from all the water treatment plants, including the ranney and tube wells are supplied to Delhi. This has been further