

[Shri R. Jeevarathinam]

years during our Freedom Struggle. You may wonder why I am referring to this. Today, the General Budget of Central Government led by Shri Rajiv Gandhi, is waging a war against poverty. I am happy to join today this QUIT POVERTY MOVEMENT being led by the grandson of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who got us political independence and whose grandson is getting us economic independence.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Jeevarathinam, you may continue tomorrow.

18.00 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Twenty-first Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) I beg to present the Twenty-first report of the Business Advisory Committee.

RE HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) I submit that if the House agrees, we may postpone the Half-an-Hour discussion to some other convenient date.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I hope the House agrees to postpone this.

MANY HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Discussion on this is postponed to some other date.

18.01 hrs.

**DISCUSSION RE : SITUATION ARISING
OUT OF DROUGHT AND OTHER
NATURAL CALAMITIES IN
VARIOUS PARTS OF THE
COUNTRY—CONTD**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will now take up further discussion on the

situation arising out of drought and other natural calamities in various parts of the country.

Shri Makwana.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, last Thursday, the discussion on drought and natural calamities Continued from about 6 P.M. upto 10.30 P.M. and the debate went on for nearly four and a half hours. It was postponed to be replied today only because there were no Members. Hardly, there were ten and they too from this side. We wanted that the Members should be present to hear the reply to all the points which they had raised. Unfortunately, it has become a tradition in this House as also the other House that after speaking the Members leave the House.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur) : I beg your pardon. It is not the tradition. You can say that some Members are in the habit of leaving after speaking, but you cannot generalise.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Where is the mover and the first speaker after him ? You are unnecessarily agitated.

The mover, Shri Janga Reddy, raised a number of points particularly about Andhra Pradesh, but he is not here now. I wanted to tell him what the Government has done for Andhra Pradesh and other States which are suffering from droughts etc.

However, let me begin by what the Finance Commission has said. The Finance Commission has mentioned in its report :

“The financing of relief expenditure is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments and has been accepted as almost axiomatic by earlier Commissions. Notwithstanding this, successive Finance Commissions have been recommending schemes of Central assistance for meeting relief expenditure.”

They obviously realised that on occasions the magnitude of expenditure required to be