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12.05 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF  
SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED  
TRIBES

[English]

**Reports of Study Tour of Study Groups I  
and II**

SHRI ARVIND NETAM (Kanker): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Study Tours of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:

- (i) Report of the Study Tour of Study Group I of the Committee on its visit to Calcutta, Agartala, Guwahati, Shillong and Calcutta during October, 1988.
- (ii) Report of the Study Tour of Study Group II of the Committee on its visit to Bombay, Goa, Bombay, Aurangabad and Udaipur during October, 1988.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF UR-  
GENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[English]

**Reported pollution of river Brahmaputra  
due to a peculiar disease afflicting fish  
and vegetable plants in Assam**

SHRI M. R. SAIKIA (Nowgong): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public im-

portance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Reported pollution of river Brahmaputra due to a peculiar disease afflicting fish and vegetable plants in Assam and the steps taken by the Government in that regard."

12.07 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): Sir, Outbreak of Ulcerative Diseases Syndrome in fishes, was first observed in certain parts of Assam and Tripura States in the month of April/May, 1989 and subsequently in Meghalaya. This disease is understood to have spread in these States from Bangladesh.

On receipt of reports on the outbreak of this fish disease in Cachar and Karimganj districts of Assam, and parts of Tripura and consequent on the investigations carried out by the specialists of the Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar and the Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute, Darrackpore, the State Governments were requested to take remedial measures for containing the spread of this disease, which are as follows:

- (i) Fishes in the waters near the ponds are to be closely observed by the farmers;
- (ii) The water inlet of the pond should be closed, if possible, when neighbouring waters show signs of disease;
- (iii) Water from agricultural areas coming into the ponds should be prevented, especially during rainy season;
- (iv) Lime at 60-100 kg. per 0.16 ha. be applied 3-4 times after every 3 weeks over the water surface;
- (v) Salt at 200-300 kg per 0.16 ha.

should be applied when water becomes very polluted;

- (vi) Water from other sources should be allowed into the ponds only when the disease situation is cleared; and
- (vii) The farmer should commence the above recommendations immediately when it is found that the fish in the pond show signs of infection.

These remedial measures have helped in containing the spread of diseases in Tripura and Meghalaya to a great extent, but, in Assam, unfortunately, it is reported to have spread to other districts. It is estimated that about 6,700 ha. culturable water area has been affected, resulting in the loss of fishery crop, besides affecting capture fisheries in the rivers. In all, this has adversely affected the fish farmers, fishermen and fish traders.

With a view to educating the fisheries personnel posted in the affected States, the Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), Bhubneswar, organised a short-term course also during September, 1988 at Dhauli, Bhubneswar. Recently, the Chief Coordinator, FAO's Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia (NACA), Bangkok, has indicated the possibility for arranging a training course in Bangkok or India for the Indian Fishery Officials under a special programme. Under this course they shall be educated on the symptoms, diagnosis, treatment and remedial measures to be adopted for containing the spread of this disease.

Government of Assam have asked for a Central assistance of Rs. 3 crore to control the disease and to help the people in the affected areas. The Centre is shortly deputing a Technical Team under the leadership of Joint Commissioner (Fy) for making an assessment of the situation in Assam and make recommendations. This Team shall comprise of other experts too.

The Government are fully aware of the hardships faced by the fishermen and the

fish farmers. Remedial measures for containing the spread of this disease have been taken and further action will be initiated only after the receipt of the report of the Central Technical Team.

No report of any disease afflicting vegetable plants due to the said water pollution has been reported by the Assam Agriculture University or ICAR Research Complex, Shilong and neither from the Agriculture Director of the State Government. However, Agriculture Director, Assam has instructed his field Staff for conducting a survey so as to know whether the vegetables have been affected by any such disease or not.

SHRI M. R. SAIKIA (Nowgong): Sir, Assam has been suffering from devastating floods for the last three years continuously. This year also people of Assam have been suffering from devastating floods, three or four times successively. Immediately after recovering from the miseries and ravages caused by floods, the people of Assam had to face a grave situation. The report has already appeared that a peculiar disease has appeared in Assam. It was reported that it appeared first in Australia. Subsequently, it travelled to Bangkok, Thailand, Singapore, Japan and Bangladesh. From Bangladesh it came to Barak Valley. The last flood brought this disease to Assam Valley and this has now spread over the entire State right from Dubri to Sadya including Barak Valley. This dreaded disease inflicted the entire fish population and vegetable plants in Assam. As a result of this, what we find is that the whole fish population were dismayed and were floating round not quite dead but nearly dead because of this disease. Sir, as you know a majority of people in Assam eat fish and as a result of this disease, people have been affected and it is reported that some people have died. In my constituency in Nowgong district, it is reported that 12 people had died and several people are suffering from this disease and they have been hospitalised. Not only that. Even the eggs and chickens have been affected by this disease and hundreds and hundreds of wild birds, saucers, ducks, cranes etc. had died because of consump-

[Shri M. R. Saikia]

tion of affected fish. It is evident that these are floating in the 'Jheels' and fishery ponds. As a result of this, what happened in Assam is that it has created a clash in the State between the fishermen whose main occupation is fishing and the State Government. The fishermen are on the verge of starvation. They have been thrown out of employment because the Government of Assam has banned the sale of fish in the State. Nearly 10 lakhs of people have been thrown out of employment. This figure exists only in respect of Scheduled Castes community. Besides the Scheduled Castes community, there are Scheduled Tribes which constitute more than one lakh of people, who live on this particular profession, and they will also be thrown out of jobs. Besides this, there are some non-Scheduled Castes people who are also engaged in fishing, they will also be thrown out of employment. Not only this. The traders who take up this occupation as the only means of livelihood, have also lost their source of income. Therefore, what we find at present is that lakhs and lakhs of people have been suffering for want of means of livelihood. The Government of Assam in the meantime, have taken some measures to provide relief and rehabilitation of the affected people and also to control the disease. It is not only the waters of the mighty Brahmaputra river which it polluted, but it polluted the waters of the banks, ponds, and other things. Everywhere you will find that this disease is spreading and the Government of Assam, from the Revenue Department, spent more than Rs. 2 crores, but the resources available to the State Government are not sufficient to meet this situation. Therefore, the Government of Assam has submitted a report requesting the Indian Government for extending the helping hand to the tune of Rs. 14 crores to enable this Government to give relief to the affected people and to rehabilitate them and to control the disease.

The Minister in his statement stated that he received a request for Rs. 3 crores. It is not true. In fact, the State Government re-

quested the Indian Government not for Rs. 3 crores, but for Rs. 14 crores. Sir, in this respect I can quote some things because this problem has got another aspect. You know, fisheries is one of the major sources of revenue to the Government. Crores and crores of rupees from this source go to the revenue of the State, but the Government of Assam this year is going to lose this source of income to the tune of not less than Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 30 crores. Apart from that, the State Government have to face the flood affected people and also spend for repair works of the damaged properties such as houses, roads, buildings, culverts etc. Therefore, it is not possible on the part of the State Government to bear this burden. So, I on behalf of the people of Assam and on behalf of the State Government appeal to the Indian Government's request so that these wretched people can be rescued from this crisis.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI (Kaliabor): Sir, this disease is a strange disease in fish rising in an epidemic form in Assam and in the North-East region since April-May 1988. This is a viral type of disease and this peculiar type of disease has first taken place in Bangladesh and now slowly it is spreading over to the North-Eastern region and it was first detected in the month of April-May in Dhubri, in the Cachar District in Assam. In this matter, the State Government is taking all possible steps to protect and rehabilitate the affected fishermen numbering about 1.11 lakhs and the fish. But it appears from the entire statement of the hon. Minister that we have done nothing and he has shifted the burden to the State Government as if, they have got no responsibility in the Ministry. The State Government has prayed for Rs. 14.40 crores. In the Statement, you will find that as if the State Government has asked only Rs. 3 crores. This is misleading and I would like the Minister to place on record, the letters of the Government of Assam.

Secondly, it has been stated that the Centre is "shortly" deputing a technical team. This disease has started in the month of April and his Ministry is sleeping over the

matter. They do not know anything at all. They say, "Shortly, a team is visiting". It is not specific. It is just like the operation may be successful later on but the patient has already died. I am not satisfied with the statement given by the Minister concerned.

Sir, about one lakh hectares of natural fisheries and about 8,000 hectares of private tank fisheries have been affected. This disease is rapidly spreading over to plants and animals. In my district, Golaghat, 3 people have died after consuming fish. In Nowgong, 12 people have died; in Cachar 6 people have died. And the Indian Government is just enjoying the distress being faced by the people of Assam. We have all along been swallowed by these natural calamities like floods, drought and this peculiar type of disease. I want that effective steps should be taken immediately to protect the affected people, particularly curative and preventive steps should be taken. Steps for the rehabilitation of these affected fishermen should also be taken as those who are living on fishing and marketing are dying for want of food and shelter. But you are not concerned about their lives. School going children have stopped going to school for want of food. They are all suffering. They have nothing to eat practically. I am not able to understand what steps are being taken by the Government of India. It appears from the statement of the Minister that he is not at all interested and the statement itself is very much misleading.

So far as the prayer for grant of funds and for sending a technical team is concerned it should be done immediately. The incident had taken place right from the month of April/May but till today they have not sent any team to study the situation. I fervently request through you that the Government of India should come forward to save those who are depending on fish catching and marketing. They should immediately allot some funds and send a technical team to study the situation and protect them.

SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR (Mysore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to speak on a sub-

ject that has already been discussed by some of my hon. colleagues. I would like to state that it would not be out of place if I say that pollution of rivers has become a national phenomenon in this country. It is most unfortunate that one of the mightiest and the largest rivers in this country, apart from causing a great deal of distress and damage to the people who live in that region has now been polluted with a peculiar disease and the result is a great deal of fish have been dying and moreover, the vegetable and other crops growing in that region are also badly affected. It is essential that adequate measures necessary for monitoring by Pollution Control Board are immediately taken. The Prime Minister and the Government of India have shown a great deal of concern for controlling the growing menace of pollution but, unfortunately not only Brahmaputra but many other rivers have become highly polluted. The hon. Minister has not informed us in his statement as to what has been the reason that has caused this unfortunate disease in the river.

I would also like to know if State Pollution Control Board has been set up in Assam and, if so, when the Assam State Pollution Control Board came to know that the river Brahmaputra was being polluted.

The hon. Minister has said that it is only during the month of April or May that he has learnt about it. What action the State and the Central Government purpose to take against any agencies or organisations or industries or against the agriculturists who use pesticides which might be one of the causes for the pollution of the river?

I would like to know whether the Central Government has considered giving assistance as requested by the State Government of Assam.

No doubt, the hon. Minister has suggested certain steps that he proposes to take to try to identify the diseases in the areas affected but, I would like to know what measures are likely to be taken by the Ministry to eradicate this problem by the Cen-

[Shri Srikanta Datta Narasimharaja Wadiar]

tral Government with the help of the State Government. At this stage, proper remedial measures should be taken to eradicate this menace. Mere preventive measures of the disease will not help. This menace is likely to cause a great deal of harm to the people. I would also like to know from the Hon. Minister as to how many people have been affected in the sense not by the disease but by consuming fish and vegetables etc. What is the damage that this disease has caused on the flora and fauna of that particular region? I would also like to know whether the hon. Minister is likely to take steps to rehabilitate all those people who have been affected in this region.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this disease first occurred in Australia, as some reports go, and spread to South-West Asia and then to Bangladesh and after that it spread to Cachar and Barak valley, from which my friend Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev comes, then to Brahmaputra Valley and I am told, subject to correction, that it is now spreading even to West Bengal. (*Interruptions*). Sir, this disease is called Ulcerative Disease Syndrome. The word 'Syndrome' indicates that the virus has not been detected and only symptomatic prevention have been possible. Whatever measures can be taken is only preventive measures.

Sir, what has happened in Assam? This disease, is such that the flesh and skin of the fish melts away. What remains are only the bones. Ultimately, the fish dies. (*Interruptions*). The ponds are being covered by dead fish; the rivers are being covered by dead fish and the water has become polluted. The result has been that birds like cranes and ducks which consume this polluted water are dying. The other effect has been, even the agricultural crops, according to our information, are being affected and people are being apprehensive of taking even agricultural crops. This has caused tremendous difficulties. After all, in the Eastern Region of India, fish is one of the main items of consumption. Shri Saikia and also

Shri Tanti have told that a large percentage of scheduled caste population covering about millions have become totally out of jobs because the Government of Assam has totally prevented purchase and sale of fish.

12.31 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the Chair*]

I am told that in Bangladesh, the Institutes at Mainansing and Faridapur made certain investigations regarding this disease. In Australia, when the disease first occurred, they must have made certain investigations as also in this South-West Asian region. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Union Ministry has made any communication with the Australian Government, the Government of Bangladesh and also Thailand Govt. to know from these Governments as to how this disease has been tackled there; whether this disease is caused by any virus and if so whether the virus is detected and if not how this disease has been contained. The hon. Minister has stated that the Union Govt. has asked the States to take measures which are: (i) The water inlet of the pond should be closed; (ii) water from agricultural areas coming into the ponds should be prevented and (iii) lime at 60-100 kg per 0.16 ha. be applied 3-4 times after every three weeks over the water surface. I would like to state that these preventive measures can be applied only in case this disease affects a particular pond or one or two small places. But in a situation where the State has been totally submerged by flood, how can you prevent water coming from one area to another area? You cannot prevent birds from taking either the fish or the polluted water. There has been tremendous rains in Assam during the last few days. When rain water comes and when this disease is affecting virtually the entire State, the preventive measure suggested by the hon. Minister becomes meaningless. In that context, I would like to know - in fact, I do not know whether it has come to the knowledge of the Hon. Minister - I wrote myself and pointed out number of cases that because of the industrial pollution and dumping of wastage from

some of the industrial undertakings which are public sector undertakings like the Paper Mills at Naogaon, the agricultural crops and fishes were affected. Therefore, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister firstly, whether he has made any communication with the Australian Government, the Thailand Government and also the Bangladesh Government to find out what is their experience about this disease; and whether there are any preventive measures, curative measures and if not, why the Government has delayed so long. I would like to know also that he has said that there is a training course. It is no use having a training course after a few months. If the disease has started, the training course ought to have been covered by now. Even now, you are talking in terms of training course. This means that there is a casual and callous attitude to the whole thing. Now, the Hon. Minister says that the Central Team would be going. It is rather surprising. What I would have expected from the Hon. Minister is that the Central Team has gone. And I would plead with the Hon. Minister because I do not want to make it a party issue because after all people are suffering - kindly send the Central Team tomorrow with the experts. Let them conduct it. You have to inform the Government.

Then he has said that the remedial measures for containing the spread of the disease has been taken. What are the remedial measures that the Central Government has taken? He has not spelt out that. So far my information goes, no remedial measures have been taken by the Central Government up till now. Therefore, I would like to know what remedial measures have been taken and what remedial measures they want to take.

I will plead with the Government that Assam Government has asked for Rs. 14 crores. He has said that Assam Government has asked for three crores of rupees to control the disease. It may be for the purpose of controlling the disease, for taking steps which the Minister has suggested, three crores of rupees have been asked for. But the Scheduled Castes population num-

bering about a million and the Scheduled Tribes population have been affected. And the Parliament has the responsibility for this down-trodden people. It is not possible for the States to tackle the situation after the ravages of the floods, which the House already knows, the State Exchequer has no fund. Therefore, for rehabilitation of these people, for some relief measures - as like this period, total ban over the purchase and sale of fish is not lifted - some adequate assistance must come to these down-trodden population, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes population for whose benefit the Union Government speaks everyday. It is not that the homilies should be issued. Some concrete measures should be taken. Therefore, I would ask what is the response of this Government to the request of the Assam Government for Rs. 14 crores. I would plead with the Government to immediately sanction Rs. 14 crores in consultation with the Finance Ministry. Rs. 14 crores is a very very small amount. The difficulty with the Assam Government is that the Government of Assam is not accustomed to demand large sums. It is not accustomed to the culture of demanding larger amounts which some of the State Governments are in the habit of demanding. Rs. 14 crores is a very very small amount for the Central Government which can be sanctioned within five minutes. Therefore, I would plead with the Hon. Minister Mr. Bhajan Lal to announce the sanction of Rs. 14 crores.

Therefore, my few specific questions will be, whether you have communicated with the other Governments and what is the result. Well, in spite of the delay, kindly be in communication with these Governments immediately and try to learn from their experience. The training course should be started immediately. The Central Team should be deputed to Assam tomorrow and immediate steps should be taken. I would like to know about the remedial measures. Fifthly, at least, this partly sum of Rs. 14 crores which has been asked by the State Government should be sanctioned immediately and that statement should come forth from the Hon. Minister.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Members have drawn the attention of the house and through it the attention of the Government to the peculiar disease afflicting fishes through a Calling Attention Motion.

Whenever there is an out break of disease, not only the hon. Members are concerned about it but the Government is also similarly concerned. Shri Saikia while initiating the Calling Attention referred to the floods in Assam. This disease afflicting the fish population is a consequence of floods. But the floods and this disease are two different matters. The nature of assistance are separate. The floods as you are aware is a natural calamity. Floods, fire accidents, earthquakes occur suddenly and therefore, we have to make separate provision for it. However, so far as the floods are concerned, Shri Goswami has also stated that the Centre has provided full assistance to the Government of Assam in this regard. Shri Shyam Lal Yadav, my colleague, was first to visit the flood ravaged areas and then myself and the Hon. Prime Minister's visited the area and sanctioned Rs. 85 crores for flood relief. We have made efforts to assist Assam Government in every possible way.

As regards this disease, it has not originate in our country but has come from outside and particularly from Bangladesh. You may be aware that river Brahmaputra enters India through Bangladesh and this disease spread as a result of devastating floods in that area. In order to check it...  
(Interruptions)\*\*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your name is not there, you are not allowed. It does not go on record.

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Remarks of the Members, whose names are not there, will not go in the proceedings.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: If floods occur, water will naturally overflow. (Interruptions). Will you kindly listen? It is on account of the floods that Bangladesh was affected by this disease and consequently it spread to Assam, Tripura and Meghalaya as well. However, the spread of this disease has been contained in Tripura and Meghalaya, but in Assam it has not been completely controlled so far. As regards your allegation that Assam Government has requested for Rs. 14 crores assistance from the centre, I would like you to kindly inform us about the number of that letter if you are in a position to do so, otherwise I will inform you about the date of the letter and the amount demanded. The letter is dated 14-11-88, which means that the letter reached us only 16 or 17 days back and the number is V.F.F. - 197/88/13. The Government of Assam has demanded Rs. 3 crores through this letter and I have stated the number of that letter.

[English]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I will give the Hon. Minister a copy of the letter. We have verified this with the State Government.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. Member is in a position to give information, let him pass it on to the Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: The file is lying with me and I am stating the facts. You have mentioned that Rs. 14 crores have been demanded and that is why I had to enlighten you. The Central Government has issued directions to the State Governments to take remedial measures in this regard

consequent upon the receipt, the reports of investigations carried out by the specialists of the Central Institute of Fresh Water Aquaculture and Fisheries and the assessment of a technical team which had been deputed there. One of these directions is that water inlet of the pond should be closed, when neighbouring river water show signs of disease. Another step is application of lime and salt for checking the spread of this disease. Other remedial measures can be taken up and the Central Government is fully concerned about it although you are aware that this matter is under the jurisdiction of the State Government and it is the responsibility of the State to take immediate action for controlling the spread of such diseases. It is not justified on the part of the State Government to take no action and pass the entire responsibility to the Central Government. The Central Government cannot be blamed at all because it has made all out efforts in this regard.

Besides, it is a fact that this disease affected Australia, Netherlands and Bangkok, as has also been pointed out by Shri Goswami. Netherlands and Bangkok were the last to be affected and we have negotiated with Bangkok in this matter and a training course is also going to be arranged. We have informed the State Government in this regard and the officers concerned have been directed to make an on the spot study of the situation and find out remedial measures for the complete control of this disease. Mr. Chairman, so far as the question of the fishermen being thrown out of employment and their rehabilitation are concerned, this is also the task of the State Government. Marginal money is available with the States for meeting such exigencies and they can utilise this amount and claim it thereafter from the centre and the latter will definitely give as per norms, because there are certain subjects for which the State Governments alone are responsible. Similarly, the losses suffered by the traders has been mentioned. There can be no two opinions on the point that out break of any disease creates difficulties for the Government.

It has been mentioned that some people died after consuming diseased fish. Mr. Chairman, Sir, Assam Government has not informed us about a single such case so far. If you talk without any substance, it will not do. I want to know whether the State Government has ever written to us in this regard and if so, what is the nature of that information? We have not received any information from the Government of Assam so far, and therefore, these allegations are baseless. So far as the rehabilitation of the fishermen is concerned, as I have already stated the State Government should provide assistance in this matter. We have some schemes for providing employment and housing facilities to them. Houses should be built for them under this scheme. The Central Government will make every possible effort for the poor.

Another matter raised is that of pollution. In this connection, I can only state that the State Pollution Boards should look into this matter. If there is an outbreak of any disease due to pollution the State Government are responsible for it. It is also the State Government's duty to check pollution in the State as a result of industrial growth or any other reason.

[English]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: It is a Central Government undertaking.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: The State Governments have full authority in this matter. The Centre intervenes only when the States fail to tackle a problem. But when the Centre does so, it is alleged that the Centre is interfering in matters of the States.

[English]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: The State Government has taken it up with the Central Government and it is the Central Government Undertaking which is doing it.



[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Shri Goswami, you may be aware that there are State Pollution Boards in every State to look into the pollution problems within the State. It has the full authority to identify these industries which are causing pollution and file cases against those who violate the relevant laws regarding pollution.

[English]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: It is a Central Government Undertaking.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: After all, the State Government has to do it.

[English]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: The pollution is being done by a Central Government Undertaking.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: How does the question of an undertaking arise here? The State Pollution Boards are under the State Governments and the National Board is under the Central Government... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Central Government Undertaking is doing the pollution. If this is your case, then we will stop the undertaking from functioning from tomorrow.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: The State Government has full authority to issue a notice for its closure and file a case against it in the court.

[English]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: This is not

the lone case. Central Government Undertakings in a number of States are doing pollution. We take the cue from you and will stop it from functioning.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: In the Union Territories, it is the responsibility of the Central Government and in the States, it is the responsibility of the State Governments. It is only when the State Governments fail to take any action that the Centre can intervene to offer directions, otherwise this matter falls under the jurisdiction of the State Governments... (Interruptions)\*\*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No interruptions are allowed.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: As regards import of foreign technology, the Union Government has negotiated with Thailand and has also requested Bangladesh Government through its High Commission to look into this problem. We have also written to F.A.O.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not reply to Members whose names do not figure in the list.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Talks are going on with Thailand and all out efforts are being made for controlling this disease. The Government of India will make every effort to prevent this disease in future. The Government will provide all possible help in this regard. We are sending a team there very soon.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Send it tomorrow.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: We will try to send the team within ten days. the Government of India will give maximum assistance. According to rules, the team is sent only when a memorandum is received from the State Government but they have not sent any memorandum so far. They do nothing at their own end and only find fault with Government of India. They should have sent a memorandum with details of loss incurred and requested the Centre to send a team. Then of course, if the team had not gone there, they could have criticised the Centre. But they have not sent any memorandum so far. Even then, we are sending a team, which will examine and report about the loss suffered and we will try to give maximum help to the Government of Assam as far as possible according to our norms.

[English]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Sir, I only want to point out that I will present before him the letters by which the Government of Assam has asked for Rs. 14 crores. (Interruptions)

12.51 hrs.

#### BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#### Sixty Third Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Sixty-third Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 30th November, 1988."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Soz, please move your amendment.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): I beg to move:

That for the original motion, following be substituted -

"The report be referred back to the Committee to provide time for discussion on judicial reforms in the country."

Sir, I do agree that the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister has brought before us very important issues. For the past three sessions, we have been insisting that we must discuss the burning issue that we should have judicial reforms in the country. These are important issues. But much more important is judicial reforms. Therefore, I have suggested to the hon. Minister that he can go back to the Committee so that before this session closes, we discuss judicial reforms.

Why do I want a discussion on judicial reforms? Only three days ago, the Law Commission's report has been placed in the Rajya Sabha. We must have copies of that. Now we have no report before us. But whatever reports have appeared in the Press, I feel one with the recommendations of the Law Commission. It wants the Supreme Court to be split into the appellate court and the constitutional court and the appellate court will have branches all over India. (Interruptions)

Over 1,30,000 cases are pending before the Supreme Court. People of India want justice. Recently, in a particular important magazine, there was an article by Sheila Barse of Bombay: One lakh children are behind the bars in various parts of the country. (Interruptions) Therefore, I feel that judicial reforms should have precedence over the items that have been presented to us. I approach the hon. Minister through you that it should go back to the Committee so that we get as first item: judicial reforms in the country. (Interruptions)

SHRI E. AYAPU REDDY (Kurnool): Actually, we have given call attention motion for taking into consideration the 125th report of the Law Commission regarding the reorganisation of the Supreme Court. It has come very prominently in the Press yesterday. Therefore, we appeal to the Minister