

per provisional land utilisation statistics now available for the year 1978-79, the reply to the above Unstarred Question would be as under:—

“As per the provisional land utilisation statistics available (1978-79), the gross sown area and irrigated area from all sources are 173.80 and 48.48 million hectares respectively. The gross area irrigated from surface water sources only, was 29.30 million hectares. The gross area that depends on rain waters is thus 124.32 million hectares.”

12.00 hrs.

#### ARREST AND RELEASE OF MEMBERS

MR. SPEAKER: I have to make an announcement.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record without my permission.

(Interruptions) \*

MR. SPEAKER : I have to inform the House that I have received the following communication dated 14th July, 1980, from the Deputy Commissioner of Police, New Delhi District, New Delhi:—

“I have the honour to inform you that Sarvashri Jaipal Singh Kashyap and Chandrapal Shailani, Members of Parliament, regarding whose arrest your honour was informed were produced in the Court of Shri Prem Kumar, Metropolitan Magistrate, New Delhi, on 14-7-80. The Court admonished the said Members of Parliament and let them off at about 6.15 P.M. on 14-7-80 itself.”

12.01 hrs.

#### RE. TREATMENT METED OUT TO SHRI RASHEED MASOOD, M.P. WHILE UNDER ARREST

MR. SPEAKER: On 11 July, 1980, I had informed the House that a letter received by me from Shri George Fernandes enclosing a letter dated 9 July, 1980 from Shri Rashid Masood regarding the treatment meted out to him while under arrest, had been referred to the Ministry of Home Affairs for furnishing a factual note on the matter.

A reference was thereupon made in the House to the case of Shri N. K. Ramalingam who had brought to the notice of the House in May 1979 that he had been beaten by the Delhi Police and not given proper medical aid and asked the Speaker “to protect the rights and privileges of the Members and, at the same time, direct the Government to hold a judicial inquiry in this regard.”

This was followed up on the same day by a notice of question of privilege given by Shri Vasant Sathe, MP, under Rule 222. My distinguished predecessor Mr. Speaker Hegde had made the following observations on the matter:—

“There are two versions about the incident that took place on the 1st of May—one given by the Home Minister and another given by Shri Ramalingam. It is not the version of Shri Ramalingam that any harm was done to him when he was discharging any duty or function qua member of Parliament. In cases like these recourse should be had to Courts of Law. No question of privilege arises. This position is well settled. No consent.”

In the light of the above observations, there is no question of privilege arising in this matter or consent being given under Rule 222. Since, how-