

supported. This news has also come over the Radio this morning, and I am sure that this counsel will prevail.

Our report says that yesterday's strike in schools and colleges was peaceful. I think all parties recognise the need for restraint and I certainly hope that not only will the situation in Bengal be peaceful, but also that the students and youth of Assam will appreciate the concern felt in other States and the difficulty which all the people of India are experiencing, and respond by showing responsibility and moderation.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There cannot be any discussion on the statement. Nothing should be recorded without my permission.

SHRI MANI RAM BAGRI
(Hissar): **

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

13.10 hrs.

PETITION RE. ESTABLISHMENT
OF RATNAGIRI ALUMINIUM PRO-
JECT IN MAHARASHTRA

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR
(Ratnagiri): I beg to present a peti-
tion signed by Shrimati Kusum Ram-
chandra Abhyankar and others re-
garding establishment of Ratnagiri
Aluminium Project in Maharashtra.

13.10½ hrs.

STATEMENT RE. REPORT OF NA-
TIONAL FLOOD COMMISSION

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY,
IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI
A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAU-
DHURI): The National Flood Com-
mission (Rashtriya Barh Ayog) has
today forwarded to the Central Gov-

ernment a report along with its re-
commendations on the various matters
referred to it.

2. It may be recalled that from time to time references have been made in Parliament regarding the need for an effective flood control programme in the country. Keeping these in view, the Government of India had constituted the National Flood Commission (Rashtriya Barh Ayog) in 1976, under the Chairmanship of Shri Jaisukh Lal Hathi, for reviewing in depth various aspects of the flood problem, and to evolve a comprehensive multi-disciplinary approach for tackling floods in the country. A summary of some of the important recommendations made by the National Flood Commission is placed on the Table of the House. A few copies of the full report are being placed in the library of Parliament.

*Summary of some important recom-
mendations in the report of the Na-
tional Flood Commission (Rashtriya
Barh Ayog) submitted to the Gov-
ernment of India on 21st March,
1980.*

1. The approach to the problem of floods must form part of the overall comprehensive planning for water resources development and land utilisation for optimum production on a long term basis.

2. Master plans for water resources development and flood control should be drawn up for each river basin, and for this purpose. River Basin authorities should be set up.

3. A Central Authority may be constituted in due course of time with the Prime Minister as its Chairman, and should be assisted by a strong technical body.

4. The Central Government should exercise the powers conferred on it by the Constitution under entry 56 of the

[Shri A. B. A. Ghani Khan Chandhuri]

Union List and enact suitable legislations for the regulation and development of inter-State rivers.

5. Storage reservoirs must be considered as an important component in any package of measures for flood control and management.

6. Afforestation and soil conservation measures are recommended as a useful complement to other flood control measures, and should be taken up in the watersheds of rivers with heavy silt charge.

7. An integrated action plan on soil conservation and watershed management should be prepared, implemented and maintained in the flood prone basins. The implementation agencies should be adequately strengthened with trained personnel. People's participation should be mobilised.

8. While considering the use of flood protection embankments, the associated problems and side effects created by them should be kept in view, and minimised to the extent possible.

9. The State should make a review of the utility of the Zamindari embankments and wherever these embankments are not considered useful, they may be demolished or allowed to disintegrate.

10. Anti-erosion works should normally be taken up only for protection of towns, industrial areas, groups of thickly populated village abadis, railway lines and roads, where relocation is not possible on techno-economic grounds. These works should not be taken up for agricultural areas where the assets protected may not justify the cost.

11. There is need for closer coordination amongst the concerned agencies like the Railways, National Highways, State Irrigation/Flood Control Departments so as to ensure that structures like bridges, roads, railways etc., do not aggravate flood problems.

12. Flood plain management measures should be undertaken in those States where necessary legislation has

been passed, and suitable legislation should be enacted in other States.

13. Shelter buildings specially designed for cyclone conditions should be constructed in the coastal areas and casuarina and other plantation wherever feasible should be established as wind breakers for a width of about 2 Kms. along with sea coast.

14. The methodology for assessing flood damage should be modified to enable realistic estimates being made of the value of crops and property damaged, as also of the cattle lost. Remote sensing techniques may be used in selected areas to provide sample checks on the cropped area affected. Flood damage should be assessed and reported separately for protected areas, unprotected areas, and areas lying between the flood protection embankments and the river.

15. A National Council for mitigating disaster should be formed. Planning and organisation of disaster preparedness should be kept under constant review.

16. Funds for important schemes and inter-State projects in the flood control sector should be earmarked.

17. Consideration should be given to the mobilisation of resources from the beneficiaries of flood control schemes and to the possibility of introducing a flood cess on the basis of the capital cost of the flood protection or damage scheme.

18. Adequate funds for maintenance should be assured. Unless proper maintenance is assured, it is unwise to undertake new construction. The norms for maintenance funds should be reviewed periodically.

19. Flood control projects which show a benefit cost ratio exceeding unity should be deemed as qualifying for acceptance. Indirect benefits should be quantified if possible and included in the assessment of the benefit cost ratio. The benefit cost criterion may be dispensed with only in special cases.

20. The Central Government should exercise technical direction to ensure

uniformity and continuity in the collection of hydrological and other data.

21. Contour surveys and maps of flood prone basins should be prepared immediately.

22. Modern techniques should also be used for collecting hydrological and meteorological data, for floods plain mapping and for flood forecasting.

13.14 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce the Government business for the next week commencing 25th March, 1960 which consists of:

(i) Discussion on the resolutions seeking approval of the Proclamation issued in respect of the States of Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh;

(ii) Discussion on the motion regarding rise in prices of essential commodities;

(iii) Discussion on the motion regarding the incidence of rape on women;

(iv) Discussion on the motion regarding the Report of Justice C. A. Vaidialingam of his inquiry into the allegations against the family members of the former Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai and the family members of the former Home Minister, Shri Charan Singh; and

(v) Further discussion on the 20th Report of the Union Public Service Commission.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): With your permission, Sir, I am suggesting the inclusion of

the following items for discussion and statement by the Government. You may recall that during the last Budget Session in the West Bengal Assembly, the Finance Minister had made a proposal for setting up a bank of their own in West Bengal. It is learnt that the Central Government is opposed to this proposal of West Bengal setting up its own bank on the ground that the financial transactions are likely to be partisan. This is highly derogatory to the autonomy of the financial powers of the State and I hope and trust that the Government will come forward with a categorical statement dispelling the doubts in the minds of people of West Bengal regarding this particular encroachment of their financial powers. There is a reported directive from the Union Law Ministry to the Election Commission that the notification for the election to the Rajya Sabha from the Delhi Metropolitan Council should be stopped. It is indicative of the fact that they are likely to dissolve the Delhi Metropolitan Council and that they are afraid that in the Council, because the Janata Party is in absolute majority, probably, the ruling party will not get adequate representation in the Rajya Sabha, which is very much needed by them and therefore, these two aspects must be clarified in the House.

Thirdly, just now the Prime Minister has made a statement regarding the economic blockade. She has expressed her opposition to any such activities that will actually increase the tension in that region. In spite of this, all these newspapers have indicated that already a blockade has started. There was a 3-hour demonstration and an attempted blockade. If these things continue, in that case, it will mean that the ruling party itself is engineering a civil war in the country with the connivance of top officials. Therefore, I hope, there will be some time allocated for a discussion on the Prime Minister's statement which was, unfortunately, made with-