

should review the entire matter and earmark adequate money for this so that the construction activities continue uninterrupted beyond December 1982 and the project can be completed as scheduled.

A statement from the Minister for Shipping and Transport on the subject is called for.

(vi) NEED FOR TAKING STEPS TO PREVENT BREACH OF GREATER MAHANANDA BANDH IN BIHAR.

DR. GOLAM YAZDANI (Raiganj):
Sir, I received telephonic intimation yesterday (18-7-1982) from my constituency that the Greater Mahananda Bandh in Bihar area on the border of Malda District and extending from Ajimganj to Delhi-Dewanganj (about 12 kilometres) is in a dangerous state due to sudden rise of water in the adjacent river and at one point, namely, Dhubal, the bandh is on the point of breaking. If this break actually occurs, vast areas of the neighbouring Harishchandrapur and Chanchal police stations of Malda district will be severely flooded affecting more than four lakh people, not to speak about damage to crops. The Bihar area will not be much affected. The West Bengal Government have been very active and the District Magistrate of Malda and the Chief Irrigation Engineer have visited the spot and are of the opinion that immediate steps should be taken to prevent breach in the bandh at Dhubal by dropping boulders at the weak points. But the Bihar Government is indifferent and no officer from Bihar has yet visited the spot in spite of requests from West Bengal side.

I have immediately contacted the Hon'ble Union Minister of Irrigation and apprised him of the situation. Fortunately, the Minister has responded favourably saying that he has informed this position to the Irrigation Minister of Bihar for taking immediate steps. Since it is a matter of life and death of more than four lakh people in a part of my constituency,

I would like to draw attention of the Central Government, particularly the Minister of Irrigation once again to depute a Central team immediately for coordinating between the State Government of West Bengal and Bihar for taking remedial measures.

(vii) U.G.C.'s FAILURE IN RELEASING FUNDS TO UNIVERSITIES OF WEST BENGAL.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai):
Higher education in West Bengal has been put to serious strain because of the failure on the part of the University Grants Commission to release the promised grants in time. Connected with higher education, several projects were undertaken, and expansion schemes submitted to the U.G.C., in the expectation of receipt of necessary grants reported to be promised; but the U.G.C. authorities have not complied with the assurances given. The State Government put forward a demand for Rs. 15 crores for West Bengal Universities in the Sixth Plan period, but the same has been drastically curtailed. This situation is going to pave the way for abandoning some projects already undertaken. A plan of the expansion of the Houses of the Calcutta University estimated at a cost of Rs. 7 crores, was earlier consented to by the U.G.C., but now the U.G.C. agrees to grant only a sum of Rs. 1 crore.

Under the circumstances, I would urge upon the Government to be considerate and sympathetic towards the State Government's demand for the funds required for carrying on the research and expansionary works connected with higher education.

(viii) INVESTIGATION INTO THE INCIDENT OF AIR-DROPPING OF LEAFLETS IN CHINESE LANGUAGE AND OTHER ARTICLES IN JODHPUR DISTRICT OF RAJASTHAN.

श्री अशोक गहलोत (जोधपुर) :
जोधपुर से कोई 50 किलोमीटर दूर शनिवार को रात्रि में लगभग 10 बजे एक अज्ञात

[श्री अशोक महलोत]

विमान चीनी भाषा में लिखे पर्चे, बिस्कुट के पैकेट व वस्त्र आदि बिखेर कर चला गया।

वह सारी सामग्री जोधपुर जिले के गांव खारी खुर्द, खारी कलना और गोलियां गांव के कोई तीन किलोमीटर क्षेत्र में चीनी भाषा में लिखे पर्चे, पैट, बुशर्ट, ट। शर्ट, अंडर स्केल व बिस्कुटों के रूप में गिराई गई। एक डिब्बा ऐसा भी डाला जो सीलबन्द था। उस में कोई तरल पदार्थ था जो त्रिलकुल ठंडा था।

विमान तेज आवाज़ के साथ जिस में ट भं: थं। उपरोक्त गांवों में पहुंचा एवं ने के बाद उसकी आवाज़ धीमी हो गई। श्री डालने के बाद जिस दिशा से वह आया था उसी दिशा में पुनः चला गया।

ग्रामीणों ने—उपरोक्त मिली सामग्रियों को जोधपुर जिलाधीश को ला कर सौंप दिया है।

मेरा विदेश मंत्री व रक्षा मंत्री से निवेदन है कि वे अविधेय इस गम्भीर घटना की जांच करवाएं एवं इस प्रकार की हरकत के पीछे क्या मंशा हो सकती है इसका पता लगा कर आवश्यक कार्यवाही करें।

15.15 hrs.

CHIT FUNDS BILL—Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN Now we take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Janardhana Poojary on the 15th July, 1982, namely:

“That the Bill to provide for the regulation of chit funds and for matters connected therewith, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration.”

Mr. Bhiku Ram Jain may please continue his speech. He had already taken one minute.

SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN (Chandni Chowk): No, Sir, I had just started, and had taken only one second.

I had said that I stood up to welcome the Bill. This Chit Fund business was banned in 1978, because it was alleged then that there used to be a lot of cheating of the ordinary people; and those people who have been termed here as Foremen.... (Interruptions)

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL (Kota): The chit business which was banned in 1978 was the Prize Chit Fund.

SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: I am sorry; I thought this was part of the same thing. Nevertheless, this Bill which has come today ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Jadavpur): This also is connected with capital 'C'—cheat.

SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: It is only about chit.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The spelling is: *chit*. Not a different spelling.

SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: Some such transactions were taking place earlier which would not be beneficial to the ordinary subscribers and as such it was thought and it has now been translated to this Bill that such cheating may not take place when this chit business takes place. I understand that this indigenous system has been in vogue in this country for the last almost 150 years; and if I am not incorrect, it was started in the South by the agriculturists friends who would pool their grain stock and in times of need would take advantage of that; and then everybody would be benefited that way.