

[Shri Krishna Chandra Halder]

cutta port and whether the minimum quantity of 40,000 cusecs of water will be allowed to come from Ganga to save the Calcutta port. Today being the last day of the session, I would request you to direct the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs or the Minister concerned to make a statement today during the course of the day.

(11) OPENING OF SRINAGAR-RAWALPINDI AND SUCHETGARH-SIALKOT ROAD\*

**SHRI BALDEV SINGHI ASROTHA** (Jammu) The plea to open roads from Srinagar to Rawalpindi and from Suchetgarh to Sialkot in Jammu and Kashmir appeared in Hindustan Times newspaper of 14th July on account of the statement made by Shri Mohammed Afzal Beg, the Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. This pertains to a very important matter of public interest, political importance and, as such, I would request the Hon'ble Minister concerned to make a statement today on the floor of the House regarding the action of the Government on the subject.

13 44 hrs.

[MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

(11) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO KARNATAKA FOR DROUGHT RELIEF WORKS

**SHRI S NANJESHA GOWDA** (Hassan) Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government, particularly, the Finance Minister that, in his reply to a question on 6th August regarding the funds allotted to various States for drought relief works particularly to Karnataka, he was pleased to say that Rs 45 crores were released for drought relief works. In this context, I would like to say that during 1972-73 and 1973-74 there was failure of rains in the State, in so many districts, and there was no water to drink, no food to eat and no fodder for cattle. That was the situation. During those years also the Government of India was pleased to send a Central team and released crores of rupees to the Karnataka Government to spend on drought relief works. While allotting money on drought relief work, the Government of India took pains in giving money to Karnataka State also. I thank the Government of India for that. But in that regard I would like to say that the Government of India did not have any check over the expenditure made by the States, particularly in Karnataka.

During 1972-73 and 1973-74, so many agencies were empowered to spend this money. PWD was empowered to spend money on various works such as to provide labour in villages. The State Mar-

keting Co-operative Federation was also empowered to supply food, seeds and manure to such families as were affected by it. I am sorry to say that the Co-operative Federation which was entrusted to supply manure and foodgrains to those affected areas did a lot of scandal in my State. The concerned authority gave an order to them to supply free seed to the poor farmers who had no seeds for the next coming season for sowing purposes, because the rain was likely to come. But you know, what happened was that the free seed, which were to be supplied to the poor farmers were given to somebody else against bogus names.

**MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER** Your time is up.

**SHRI S NANJESHA GOWDA** I want some more time.

**MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER** No, because matters are being raised under rule 377.

**SHRI S NANJESHA GOWDA** In that regard, I am sorry to say that the money was misused by so many political leaders who were occupying high offices. They became Ministers and Cabinet Ministers in that Government. I am sorry to say that the Government of India is not taking any interest in having a check over the money given to those States even though swindling has taken place. I have a record before me. This is the Report of the Public Accounts Committee which was concurred with by the Congress Members also.

**SHRI K LAKKAPPA** (Tumkur) I am on a point of order.

**SHRI S NANJESHA GOWDA** I do not know why that Report is not considered.

**SHRI K LAKKAPPA** He is bringing all the things—Congress (Interruptions).

**MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER** He is only quoting for the Public Accounts Committee's Report.

**SHRI S NANJESHA GOWDA** So far, no action has been taken on that. I request the Government of India and the Finance Minister particularly to probe into this matter and take an appropriate action.

(1V) REPORTED STRIKE FOR TWO HOURS BY LIC EMPLOYEES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY ON 4-8-1977

**SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA** (Serampore) With your permission, Sir, I want to raise a matter of public importance. On the 4th of this month, more

than 47,000 employees of the Life Insurance Corporation of India throughout the country demanded 15 per cent bonus under the old agreement which was modified by the previous Congress Government wrongly and illegally. They stopped work for two hours.

This Janata Party, in their manifesto also a sured before elections that anything wrong that was done to the weaker sections or the employees or the peasantry will be rectified. Here is a case which was discussed here in the House in the last Lok Sabha from both sides and unanimously it was taken for granted that the Government of India had done something which was unprecedented in the history of our country. Moreover, the agitation that they started on 4th will continue and the situation will further deteriorate if Government do not come forward immediately with certain action in respect of payment of bonus as per the agreement that the LIC employees had with the management.

I also want to raise—as today is the last day—the question of payment of minimum bonus which was taken away by the previous Government by an amendment of the Bonus Act. There have been representations from all quarters. The State Governments of West Bengal and Kerala have made representations to the Central Government to come forward immediately with a statement with regard to their decision on payment of minimum bonus. The Durga Puja in West Bengal is coming, the Onam festival in Kerala is coming, Diwali is also coming, before these festivals, if the question of bonus is not settled if the announcement is not made the workers will not keep quiet and they will be compelled to start an agitation on this. I would request the Labour Minister who is here to be kind enough at least to express to pull out as to what is the desire of the Government what the Government is going to do with regard to payment of minimum bonus and also about payment of bonus as per agreement, to the LIC employees—which was modified by the previous Government. A large number of MPs have made a representation to the Finance Minister to do something in this matter. Today is the last day. We also demanded that there should be a discussion on this issue. But nothing has been done. I do not know what the Government is going to do in this matter. The Labour Minister must reply, Sir. He is here.

(v) MAHARASHTRA KARNATAKA BOUNDARY DISPUTE

श्री केशव राव बोंडव (नांदेड) - डिप्टी स्पीकर साहब, मैं आपके माध्यम से थानरविल प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब और होम मिनिस्टर साहब का ज्वाल इस ग्रहणियत के मसले की तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूँ। महाराष्ट्र और कर्नाटक की बाउण्ड्री का सवाल बहुत सालों से चला आ रहा है, इसके कई हिस्से हैं—बैलगाव, कारबार, नेपाली, भाडकी, सतपुर औरोद हुमनाबाद और बीदर—यहां पर 12 लाख लोग मराठी में बात करते हैं। 1955 से यह मसला अभी तक हल नहीं हुआ है। अगर एक व्यक्ति के खिलाफ कोई बेइन्साफी होती है या कैमिली प्लानिंग का जुल्म होता है, तो उसको इन्साफ दिलाने के लिए हम धागे बढ़ते हैं, लेकिन पिछले 20 सालों से इन 12 लाख लोगों को हुकूमत इन्साफ दिलाने के लिए तैयार नहीं है। इन्साफ की बात हम दुनिया के सामने करते हैं, लेकिन घर में इन 12 लाख लोगों के लिए हमने क्या किया है? कई कमीशन म्कररेर किये गये, वहाँ के लोगों ने मोर्चे निकाले, साराबन्दी सत्याग्रह किया, चुनकर आये महाराष्ट्र प्रसेम्बली के अन्दर रेजोल्यूशन पास किये, पिछले महीने ही महाराष्ट्र कौन्सिल में एक यूनि-निमस रेजोल्यूशन पास किया, यह मसला हल करने की हुकूमत को माग की गई प्रसेम्बली के अन्दर लोगों ने अपने गुस्से का इजहार किया—लेकिन कुछ नहीं हुआ। महाराष्ट्र में 6 चीफ मिनिस्टर बन चुके, केन्द्र में 7 होम मिनिस्टर बन चुके, 4 प्राइम मिनिस्टर बन चुके—लेकिन कोई नतीजा नहीं निकला। मैं सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेन्ट से गुजारिश करना चाहता हूँ—आप इस मसले के लिए इन्साफ देना चाहते हैं या नहीं? आप खामोश क्यों हैं? पहले कांग्रेस की हुकूमत थी, अब जनता पार्टी की हुकूमत आई है, आपकी