

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA : So far as this is concerned, my hon. friend will agree with me that this is because of the instructions given that this particular type of case has been apprehended. It is I think about a month now since I have been in this Ministry. Two instances were brought to my notice ; one in Jammu and Kashmir, and the other in Delhi. We had issued definite instructions as to how to seal this leakage and how to give a more efficient and honest service to our customers. So, a number of steps have been taken and more are intended to be taken. As it is, these linesmen, when they go on duty, they have a pass with them. We propose to give them now a new style work pass for that day, for such and such area and for such and such duty, so that he can be apprehended, and you can find out if he was really on duty or was really committing pilferage.

Similarly, so far as the bills are concerned, which are not normally correct bills, because, somebody, if I may say so, pilfered the calls from a particular number, we always go into the details and if we are satisfied that the past bills relate to arrears, it will be indicative which cannot be otherwise explained, and we do give some rebate. That might have been the case of giving a rebate and action taken.

So far as the question of the person making the entry is concerned, now it is an automatic entry. The meter notes automatically, and notes down the reading. Nobody need read it manually. Therefore, I cannot honestly punish the meter. Somebody may make the meter run, may be surreptitiously, and it is this particular thing which is not always known to us. Now that we have come to grips with it, and now that we have arrested these two people, I am more than sure that the cooperation of this House will give us fuller strength to meet with the situation.

श्री अमर नाथ चावला : (दिल्ली सदर)
अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं ऐंटी करप्शन विभाग की सराहना करना चाहता हूँ कि जो बहुत घसों से यह रैकेट चल रहा था उसको उन्होंने पकड़ा कई सालों से प्राइवेट सर्विसकाइबर्स की यह

कम्प्लेंट आ रही थी कि कई महीनों के अन्दर उन के बिल एकदम जम्प कर जाते थे और इस के लिए उन्होंने ने दरखास्तें भी दीं, उस के ऊपर विभाग ने कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की। अगर विभाग कार्यवाही करता तो शायद पहले ही वह पकड़ में आ जाते। इस के ऊपर मंत्री महोदय क्या कोई जांच बैठाने का वायदा करेंगे ?

मैं एक चीज और कहना चाहता हूँ कि सट्टा व्यापारियों को जो टेलीफोन कनेक्शन दिये जाते हैं इस इल्लीगल ट्रेड के लिये, क्या ऐज सच उन को आप डिबार करेंगे कि वह टेलीफोन कनेक्शन न ले सकें, जैसा कि फतेहपुरी में बहुत से व्यापारी ऐसा काम करते हैं ?

श्री हेमचती नंदन बहुगुणा : अध्यक्ष जी, पहले क्या होता था, यह मैं नहीं कह सकता हूँ। लेकिन अब ऐसा न होने दें यह हमारा अथक प्रयास रहेगा।

जहाँ तक फतेहपुरी के सट्टे बाजार का सवाल है, मेरे मित्र जो होम मिनिस्ट्री में हैं उन से हम सहयोग लेने की चेष्टा करेंगे कि किस तरह से सट्टा व्यापारियों पर हम नज़र रख सकते हैं।

12.16 hrs.

RE : RELIEF MATERIAL FOR
BANGLA DESH REFUGEES

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore) :
Sir, with your permission, I would like to draw the attention of the house and the Government to a very serious bit of news which has appeared in yesterday's Calcutta papers to the effect that a very large quantity—several hundred tonnes—of relief material which had been received from various foreign countries and agencies for the relief of Bangla Desh refugees, is lying uncleared at the Dum Dum airport. A photograph also has been published, and the report says that from Denmark, Canada, the United Nations, and

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

relief organizations such as the International Red Cross and so on, a large amount of material—medicines; drugs, foodstuff, tents and such like things—has arrived, and it says—I may with your permission, read one short paragraph :

“Despite repeated requests to the Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry, the Relief Department of the Government of West Bengal and Red Cross Society, to take delivery of the goods, none has come forward.....”

This is a strange thing; that there is no room there, and if more material keeps on arriving, there would be no place to stock them. Some of the stock which had come from Canada, which they call high protein cod fish, is lying in a place where it is exposed to rain and some of it got damaged also. But there is nobody to clear it. We have here been told every day that all these measures are being taken on an absolutely emergency and top priority footing. This is a very alarming piece of news. If this is the way relief is going to be administered, I would ask you, and through you I would request the Government, to assure the house immediately that steps will be taken to see that timely and prompt clearance of this relief material is done, and we would also like to know what is the exact position at present.

DR. RANEN SEN (Barasat) : In this connection, I may add—

MR. SPEAKER : No, no.

DR. RANEN SEN : Yesterday, I returned from Calcutta, and that is why I want to make a submission in this connection.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Indrajit Gupta has already stated it. You must give some previous notice to me.

DR. RANEN SEN : This is the time of act. It is not merely a question of the Minister making a statement. Unless these materials are lifted from the airport, they

may become useless. The whole airport is full of these materials. That is the first point.

Secondly, the people outside the airport are without any shelter; without any food and without any medicine. While food and medicine are being stocked there, they are not used by anybody. It is a very sad situation. That is why the Government's attention is being drawn now, and the Government has to act now. There is no question of making a statement and trying to satisfy the Members of this house. The cholera epidemic is breaking out and more than 10,000 people are dying, and not merely that one lakh people are suffering and are affected by cholera and the whole of West Bengal is seriously affected by it, not to speak of Bangla Desh. This is criminal negligence on the part of the authorities, whether it is the State Government or it is the Central Government. Now there is real necessity that the Government should immediately send an SOS and try to clear the whole thing.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : Government entirely share the distress of the hon. Members if any delay has taken place. According to the information that we have received this morning, after we learnt of this issue, all the consignments were cleared immediately, as soon as they were received.

A consignment of 32 tonnes from UNICEF which arrived last evening by Kaledonian Airways was cleared. The only consignment that remains so far uncleared is the one addressed to Cooch Behar relief society by name. We have asked the Additional Secretary who is there to get in touch with the society concerned and we are hopeful that this would be cleared in the course of the day. I can assure hon. Members that we have issued clear instructions, and we are prepared to issue them again, that the relief consignments should be cleared immediately. We are distressed that the whole of the Dum Dum airport should be cluttered with these consignments and we want them to be removed as soon as possible. All the agencies will do whatever is necessary to remove them.