

[Dr. K. L. Rao]
construction joints. Except in these small tunnels, no cracks were noticed elsewhere. Nor further effects were noticed as a result of the 11th December earthquake in the civil engineering structure of the Power House.

As a result of the earthquake, one of the circuit breakers in the outdoor switchyard (at Pophali) went out of alignment breaking its insulation and the generators consequently tripped. As stated earlier, the electrical equipment in the Power House do not appear to have been damaged and it is possible to restore the power supply in a week or two. Electrical engineers in charge of the Station feel that a thorough check of the machines, specially of the bearings is desirable before starting the machines by way of abundant precaution. The work has been taken in hand. I have asked the Chairman, Maharashtra State Electricity Board, Member (Hydro-Electric), Member (Designs and Research), Central Water & Power Commission, and other engineers to remain at the spot and make an early resumption of power generation.

Koynanagar, the colony built for the construction of the dam and other works at Koyna suffered very badly as a result of earthquake. Most of the buildings collapsed. The only ones standing unaffected are the ones built of steel columns and roofed with corrugated sheets. Almost all the residential buildings, offices, etc. at Koyna were built as temporary structures using stone or brick works and tiled roofings. These could not stand the violent motion of the earth. It is estimated that 33 persons died at Koynanagar and about 200 seriously injured. This number does not include the persons affected in the nearby villages. Koynanagar bore the burnt of the disaster due to its nearness to the epicentre and the nature of the buildings.

In the face of tragic occurrence, I found the Chief Engineer and other officers at Koyna full of confidence and discharging their duties with great devotion.

Koyna Dam and the related works are the first of the large river valley structures in our country to be subjected to a severe earthquake of the type experienced. To advise on the possibility of recurrence of severe earthquakes in future in this region and on

the protective measures, if any, needed to strengthen the structures against such severe attacks, I am taking steps to constitute a High level Committee of Expert Seismologists and Engineers including an expert from foreign countries where severe earthquakes occur.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri P. Ramamurti :

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंनेर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, कुछ बातों का खुलासा होना चाहिये। मैंने ध्यानाकर्षण का नोटिस भी दिया था। एक सवाल पूछना है।

MR. SPEAKER : No, If I allow one member, I will have to allow others and there will be a debate right now.

श्री मधु लिमये : श्रीर कोई रास्ता बताइये। इस पर खुलासा कैसे मांगा जा सकता है।

MR. SPEAKER : If he wants to have a debate on this, let him give notice. We can have a debate for one or two hours. If he has some material on which he thinks a useful debate can be held, we can have it, say for an hour. I have no objection to discussing it.

12:26 hrs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION BY MEMBER

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI (Madurai) : On 11-12-1967, the Minister for Home Affairs made a statement in response to a call Attention Motion on the "reported anti-national activities in West Bengal and Kashmir by the Communist Party of India (Marxist)."

That statement and the subsequent statements made by various members under the guise of putting questions, made the purpose quite clear. It was to use the Parliamentary forum for creating a political climate for an attack on our party.

As early as 1959, when the dispute between China and India came to the open, the then united Communist Party of India had taken the stand that the question can and must be resolved through a negotiated political settlement. After we separated, we continued to advocate negotiations for a political settlement. We will continue to do so, since we are convinced that this alone is in the interest of our country. Any amount

of slander and dubbing this as anti-national will not deter us from continuing to advocate this course. And the course of events during the last 5 years, where we find even the former Minister for External Affairs, Shri M. C. Chagla, had to agree that this alone is the wise course for us, fortify us in the confidence that, despite all the bally-hoo raised against our party, the country will sooner or later come round to this view.

The word "Naxalbari" is bandied about, to conjure up all sorts of anti-national activities. Our Party refused to be intimidated and from the very beginning took its firm stand that it was an agrarian social problem. And it was tackled, not by those who have been using it to slander our party, but by the United Front Government of West Bengal in which our Party was the biggest contingent. It was tackled precisely on the basis of treating it as an agrarian, social Problem.

It will be pertinent to point out that after the problem had been tackled by the U.F. Government, many correspondents of newspapers who cannot be accused of any sympathy with Communism had, in their despatches after an on the spot study, categorically stated that a mountain was made out of a mole and the hair-raising stories that were spread were simply not true. Needless to say that these stories emanated from the Home Ministry and its minions.

Our Party has adopted its Programme and political line on the basis of its own independent study of the conditions in India and it has refused to be guided in its assessment by those of other Communist Parties, however big and influential they may be. The whole world knows that our Party differed on fundamental issues of the Indian Revolution with such big Communist Parties as those of the Soviet Union and China. Only in August last our Central Committee proclaimed our differences with these parties in clear and unambiguous language. Nevertheless, that has not led us to, nor will we ever be led to join any anti-Soviet or anti-China chorus. We will pursue the path chalked out by us in the full confidence that we will win greater and greater support from our people, for that alone will give us life and sustenance.

When nothing concrete can be stated, these people produce the draft of a statement or a letter that Shri Ajoy Mukherjee was to have made or written on October 2, which was fixed as the D day for the first conspiracy to topple the U.F. Government in West Bengal and install a defacto Congress Govt. It is not strange that they who swear by Ajoy Mukherjee and quote this draft statement, which was not issued, shun like poison the later statement which was issued of the same Ajoy Mukherjee who had categorically stated that he was misled by reports supplied to him and retraced the steps when he found those reports to be false. Every one knows that those doctored reports were supplied by the Home Ministry. One can only sympathise with those people, who are like the Prosecution, which unable to produce a shread of independent evidence, relies solely and entirely not even on the retracted 'confession' of an approver! but on the draft 'confession' that the prosecution itself had prepared for him and which was not actually made.

May I ask them to agree to put their charges before the people of West Bengal and abide by their verdict? If we have been indulging in such anti National activities in West Bengal, the people would certainly reject us. Let them and us face the people in a General Election. But this is exactly what they shun like the Plague for they know what that verdict of the highest Tribunal in our country—the people—will be.

Our Party is not afraid of the people, for there is nothing to fear. Ours is not a Party of defectors. Ours is not a Party of those who would pledge one thing to the people and on the morrow of the elections will betray the pledges and the people. Ours is not a party which wants to tie our country to the apron strings of any foreign country. Ours is not a Party which will speak in many voices. Ours is a Party which has thrown out, and will throw out of the pale of the party any one who does not agree with our Party's Programme and Political line. Ours is a Part of Communists—men of a special mould—with firm and unshakable faith in our mission, and in the people as the masters of destiny. No slanders, no repression will deter us and we will march on.