

MR. SPEAKER : The motion before the House is the recommendation of the Rajya Sabha.

SHRI P. RAMAMURTHI : That is not the only motion. He has added the names also. Let him bring a fresh motion with the list of names.

MR. SPEAKER : If you are taking objection on technical grounds, it can come up tomorrow. I thought it was waste of the time of the House and we can as well approve it today. But if you want, it can be taken up tomorrow.

SHRI DATTRAYA KUNTE (Kolaba) : It is not a question of our wanting it. The Rules of Procedure of the House require it.

SHRI M. YUNUS SALEEM : If you consider the wording of the motion, the position will be clarified.

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi) : It is a bad precedent that some hon. member who has been already elected should be removed on some ground.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. minister may bring it tomorrow.

SHRI M. YUNUS SALEEM : If that is your ruling, I will do it. But it is not necessary at all, if you consider the wording of the motion.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. members are not happy that the name of an hon. member, who has been elected to the committee, should be changed. It might have been a mistake. May be you wanted to elect somebody else. But that name is existing and he has been elected. It is so urgent or important in national interest to remove his name and bring in another name? Absolutely not.

12.38 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE:
CONTINUING OF PRESIDENT'S
PROCLAMATION IN RESPECT OF
WEST BENGAL—*Contd.*

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now resume further discussion on the solution regarding West Bengal. 2

hours 50 minutes remain. Mr. Shukla may continue.

12.38½ hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : Sir, I had moved this resolution yesterday and given a general picture regarding the law and order situation and labour situation and other matters which concern West Bengal. There is only one additional point which I wish to make today. That is regarding the food situation and essential supplies in West Bengal. The House will remember that during the last 2 years, several times the question was raised in the House regarding food supplies in West Bengal. It was also urged that the Central Government was unsympathetic to the UF Government that they were not doing their best to give the necessary food supplies to West Bengal, that the West Bengal Government was not able to supply the necessary amount of rations to the people and the system of statutory rationing was not functioning well.

Sir, without making any comment on that I would like to give some figures to the House which will make this matter abundantly clear as to how this situation was there and how the situation could improve after the imposition of President's Rule in West Bengal. The main matter was regarding the internal procurement in the State of West Bengal itself. As against 626000 tonnes of rice which was procured in the earlier period there was only 103,000 tonnes of rice which was procured in the corresponding period between 22nd February to 4th July this year. This is the difference which explains why there was difficulty in the supply of food-grains to the people of West Bengal.

How was this difficulty solved? This difficulty was not solved by rushing additional supply or doing any such thing. It was all done by internal arrangements, intensifying the

internal procurement and efficiently organising the procurement drive. After that also, when the President's Rule was imposed, we tried to regulate the statutory rationing and extend it to various other areas to cover more and more people. Whereas earlier only 86 lakh people were covered under rationing and 122 lakh people were covered under the scheme of modified rationing, after the President's Rule was imposed we extended this scheme of modified rationing to 236 lakh people by end of June this year. Apart from extending it to so many more people in West Bengal we succeeded in increasing the scale of statutory rationing. Whereas 1.75 kilograms per adult per week was being supplied earlier which consisted of 500 grams of rice and 1250 grams of wheat, under the President's Rule we have increased it to 2 kilograms and we have also increased the scale of rice in this quota from 500 grams to 750 grams. I wanted to mention these things only to show that the effect of President's Rule in West Bengal has been beneficial and we have tried to bring the administration to its efficient level at which it should have functioned, and also to repudiate the charges which were earlier made that the Centre was not keen or was not helping the United Front Government which was functioning there. From the figures I have given it would be clear that the difference which was made in the internal procurement plus many other things which was done to facilitate proper movement of foodgrains and proper movement of foodgrains in inter-State areas have made it possible to achieve these results.

Apart from this the prices of foodgrains in West Bengal have also declined after the President's Rule was enforced there. Not only the prices of foodgrains but various other essential commodities have registered a decline in prices.

SHRI GANESH GHOSH (Calcutta South) : Name some of them.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : All varieties of pulses, coarse grains like barley, jowar, bajra, Maize etc., most varieties of spices, mustard oil and groundnut oil which are all very important articles of mass consumption. These articles also have shown a sharp fall in prices during the President's Rule. I would like hon. Members to remember that this was not achieved by any undue help from the....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, he is misleading the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : When you get your opportunity you can contradict him.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : The only point I was trying to make here was that these results have been achieved by only gearing up the machinery to the proper level of efficiency and impartial working for the benefit of the people. I would only say this to the hon. Members : when they deal with this matter, let them forget politics. I am not trying to make out that the United Front Government has not done anything. I am only saying that the President's Rule which we have been conducting there has benefited the people. If Shri Basu has any misapprehension in his mind that I am not impartial, my facts will justify the position. By saying all this about President's Rule it is not my intention to justify President's Rule. I am not even pleading for extension of President's Rule. It must come to an end as quickly as possible. That I have already said.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : You are trying to paint a very rosy picture.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I have almost finished. The facts that I have mentioned may be uncomfortable to some hon. Members; notwithstanding that, these are facts which must be reckoned with. I have given these facts so that hon. Members, when they debate the

[Shri Vidya Charan Shukla]

extension of President's Rule for the next six months, they may be able to see what we have been able to do in the last six months and then give their dispassionate thinking and opinion on this matter. Looking to the work that we have done and looking to the fact that the elections could not be held within these six months and we have been forced to extend this rule by six months more, looking to these facts, I hope the hon. House will give its consent to the motion which I have the honour to move.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) : You have not mentioned a single word of sympathy to more than one-third of the people of West Bengal who have suffered on account of the serious floods.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : You are the defaulter. I mentioned this in the earlier part of my speech when you were not present here.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yesterday some amendments were moved. Since it was taken up rather late, some hon. Members could not move their amendments. If they so desire, they can move their amendments now.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : I beg to move :

That in the Resolution—

for "six months" substitute "three months" (1)

SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOUDHURI (Krishnagar) : I beg to move :

That in the Resolution,—

after "for" insert "at least" (5)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Deven Sen is not here. But his amendment is also the same. Now, the Resolution and the amendments are before the House.

DR. RANEN SEN : (Barasat) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I stand to oppose the Resolution moved by Shri Shukla and support the amendment moved by my hon. friend, Shri S. M. Banerjee.

There is an adage in Bengali that a milkman always praises his own milk. What Shri Shukla has now said goes to prove that Bengali adage. With due respect to the President of the Indian Union I would say that President's Rule means rule by the bureaucracy on the advice of the Centre. We know what is meant by bureaucratic rule. I do not say that all the officers or officials are bad but the system is such that bureaucracy can never be a substitute for popular rule. It is a fact that there is no responsible government in West Bengal for the last few months.

Yesterday Shri Shukla was saying something about the achievements of President's Rule in West Bengal. I need not go into the details of that sordid story. How the popularly elected United Front Government was throttled at the behest of the vested interests all over India who raised a hue and cry against the United Front Government in West Bengal. I need not go into the details of how a minority ministry was intalled in office on the advice of the Central Government. I also do not want to go into the details of how the Congress got into the shoes of Ministers and started ruling West Bengal and how that United Front Government of the Congress and the defectors was thrown out by the people's movement. I need not go into all that.

My simple point is this. The extension of President's Rule for six months under article 356 of the Constitution smacks of really sinister design on the part of the Government of India. In the Constitution it is no doubt stated that prolongation of President's Rule may be up to six months; but that does not mean that prolongation cannot be for less than six months. By our amendments we are only saying that the people of West Bengal want responsible government. Let the Congress come to power by the mid-term elections; we do not mind. But let there be fair and proper elections. Why prolong it for six months? We appre-

hend that this design on the part of the Central Government is not very good.

The hon. Minister has waxed eloquent on the achievements of President's Rule. Because the time at my disposal is very limited, I will speak only on three points. The first point is about industrial relations. He wanted to show yesterday that all is well in the empire of West Bengal.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Colony.

DR. RANEN SEN : On the 25th of July 1968 Shri Indrajit Gupta and myself asked a question to know the actual position of the industrial relations in West Bengal. Our question was what Mr. Hathi has done after going to West Bengal. Shri Hathi in his reply stated :

"A committee has been formed by the Government of West Bengal which started functioning from 1-6-68. Effort is being made by the conciliation officers of the State Government for re-opening the closed factories."

How many closed factories have been re-opened? Only ten. The total number of workers employed in these ten factories will not be more than 1,000 I know this personally because most of these factories are situated in the area from which I was elected to the West Bengal Assembly for the last ten years. So, I have personal knowledge of this.

Secondly, what has happened to the dispute in the jute industry. Let me read the relevant portion :

"The recent session of the Industrial Committee on Jute held in Delhi on July 10th and 19th found the Labour Minister, Mr J. L. Hathi, in agreement with the workers' representative to the effect that the Indian Jute Mill Owners' Association was normally bound to honour the Minister's request made last October that the industry should have introduced quarterly

instead of half-yearly revision of D.A. at least with effect from 1-1-68."

The employers' association has flatly refused to listen to the Union Minister's advice. This is how things are proceeding in West Bengal.

I will cite a few more instances. Let me take the Jessop Works. There is a very big public undertaking where all the unions, including the INTUC, have written to the Works Director saying : you are violating all the agreements, you are refusing to come to terms with the unions when the unions are making a certain demand. Yet, neither the management nor the West Bengal Government is in a mood to listen to the demands of the unions.

Then, there are other instances also. In the colliery, we find that the same old colliery-owners' *goondaraj* continues. Here is a letter addressed to the Minister by the colliery unions where they allege that the colliery-owners are threatening that the top-leaders of the colliery mazdoor sabha will be murdered. This is an open threat that they are giving. May I know what the West Bengal Government is doing about it? What is the Central Government, the Union Home Ministry, doing about it? Actually, the people are being assaulted there.

There was a lock-out in the Standard Wagon Co., Burnapur, Asansol and there was an agreement that an arbitrator, commonly agreed person, will give the verdict and that the employers and the employees will accept the verdict. The verdict mainly went against the workers but they accepted it. The union accepted it. But a little part of the award was that a certain number of workers have to be taken back in the factory. What happened to that? Despite the award given by the arbitrator, a commonly agreed person, Mr. Chatterji, the Company still refuses to give employment to 400 and odd workers. This case has been represented to the West Bengal Government and to Mr. Hathi

[DR. Ranen Sen]

personally by me, and nobody utters a word because the big business is involved here.

Now, I give another example. In the Indian Oil Corporation, there was a little disturbance, according to the management. But it was a storm over a tea cup and 10 office-bearers of the union of that public undertaking organisation were dismissed. The whole thing is accumulating. The workers are not going to accept the situation lying down, whether it is the President's Rule or anybody else's rule.

Already, there are indications. The engineering workers, the jute workers and the textile workers, all over Bengal, went on protest strike. Mr. Vidya Charan Shukla thinks that all is well there. He was waxing eloquent of the law and order position there. I was wondering who has briefed him. Does he know that, according to West Bengal Government report, the number of crimes in West Bengal has increased as compared to last year when the much maligned United Front Government was ruling there? Does he know that? Is he aware that in broad daylight, in one of the busiest streets in Calcutta and near the police station, just 2 to 3 minutes walk from there, a mail van was looted inside the premises of the Park Street post-office and Rs. 4 lakhs were taken away? It is a standing shame to them. The police is not able to find out and bring the people to book. It is the police department which is being praised! Is it known to the Home Ministry here that the people who are supposed to protect the lives and the property of the public, the border security forces, guarding our borders, at Bagdah, Bongaon sub-division, in open daylight, molested a woman? My hon. friend, Mr. Indrajit Gupta, brought it before the House. I had been there very recently and I was astounded to hear that the border security forces men molested a woman and, when the people protested, a constable and his other associates came and started

shooting as a result of which 3 persons were killed. When I went there, the people were under apprehension. About 6 or 7 persons have been kept under arrest. The Government is not properly conducting the case. I want to know what is happening to that case. It would have been better if our Minister would have been a little moderate....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

DR. RANEN SEN : Just a minute.

There is another thing about the flood situation there and the consequent misery to the people. That cuts across all political affiliations. Only today we learn that the West Bengal Government want Rs. 14 crores for flood relief. They should have demanded more. Anyway, this is the amount that they have demanded. But, uptill now, only Rs. 1 crore has been given by the Central Government. It is scandalous that only Rs. 1 crore has been given. I have been to certain areas. We put a question in this Parliament about this. About 30,000 acres of land under the Police Stations of Gaighata, Bongaon and Bagda of 24-Parghanas have been inundated due to floods. According to the answer given by the Minister here in this House, there is no relief there. I went there; there is no relief there—no gruel kitchen, no cheap canteen....

AN HON. MEMBER : We are also hungry.

DR. RANEN SEN : It is not a matter of joke. 65 lakhs of people are suffering. You should have a sense of shame. On this account also, the Central Government, the Home Ministry, should be ashamed.

Finally, I would say that it is much better that the mid-term elections are held as soon as possible. People want it; the majority of the parties have agreed to it, and they are making this demand. Therefore, instead of extending the President's Rule for six months, let it be extended for three

months and the mid-term elections be held as soon as possible.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 P.M.

13. HRS.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: CONTINUANCE OF PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION IN RESPECT OF WEST BENGAL—*contd.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I would like to accommodate as many representatives from West Bengal as possible. So, hon. Members should take only ten minutes each.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHATTERJI (Howrah) : I rise to support the motion that has been moved by Shri Vidya Charan Shukla. The motion is not only a well-timed one but a realistic one. West Bengal needs some breathing time to recover from the terrible shocks of the misrule by the UF Government which shook the very foundation of West Bengal which was left tottering and gasping, having had to pass through the grim ordeal of a nightmare of complete lawlessness for a number of months.

Industrial undertakings in that unfortunate State including even some of the prominent ones were completely battered by gheraos and strikes ushered in and encouraged by the Labour Minister of the UF Government. Educational institutions were completely disorganised by students' unrest which was whipped up by the political parties running the Government there and the whole educational field was in turmoil. It was in this

state of affairs that the UF Government was functioning. Therefore, I was surprised when Dr. Ranen Sen tried to make us believe that there should be a shorter period for the extension of President's rule. The end of the President's Rule can only bring about an abnormal state of affairs there.

Dr. Ranen Sen was also pointing out the vast devastations that had taken place and was pleading that the Centre was not magnanimous in their tackling of the problems of West Bengal, so far as flood devastation is concerned. At the same time he was pleading for a quick election over there.

The hon. Minister had intelligently anticipated this point and said that the devastations and the wide damages that have been caused by floods in West Bengal might not leave the officials and also the people free there to think of the elections in the near future. It might not be possible for the elections to be run in November when about a crore of people are suffering from the effects of floods. Does not my hon. friend know that quite a large number of houses were demolished and people were living the lives of beggars and they have to be rehabilitated? So, West Bengal has to recover still from the devastations of floods. Therefore, President's Rule will have to be continued for some more time to restore normal conditions.

I shall now give a few instances to remind my hon. friend opposite that he was really not indulging in truths when he said that everything was normal under the UF Government. The Chief Minister of the UF Government was himself issuing statements against a major constituent party of the UF Government and was telling the public that it would be unsafe to leave West Bengal in the hands of such a party which had been siding with a foreign country and conspiring against our country and its security. I am stating from facts. It was the statement of the Chief Minister

[Shri Krishna Kumar Chatterji]

himself, but that Chief Minister was abused and assaulted in the secretariat by the employees instigated by the Deputy Chief Minister. This was the state of affairs prevailing there. The Land and Revenue Minister, Shri Hari Krishna Kumar went round the districts preaching lawlessness. The result was the growth of Naxalbari by a group of people who had not attached any sanctity for private property to be maintained. That brought about the lawlessness in those areas; about 19 miles of the area which was practically the connecting link between Assam and North Bengal was disrupted, and it was apprehended even at that time that quite a large number of arms were coming in from foreign countries. In that state of affairs, a veteran Congressman, the old Dr. P. C. Ghosh who was unfortunately taking part as an Independent in the UF Government came out boldly with a statement.

He said it was time for West Bengal to be saved from the dangers inherent in such a position. Standing here today, I say that as a patriot he tried to save West Bengal from the clutches of conspirators who were about to hand over the State to foreign powers. It was not possible for the West Bengal people to tolerate such a position for long. That was why a Government was ushered in. It was a majority government because the majority of the Assembly members supported it, and that Government worked for the best interests of West Bengal and its people. But after some time intrigues and conspiracies were hatched by these political parties and it was impossible for that old veteran to carry on his mission to save West Bengal at least for some time. I say it was a betrayal of the trust reposed in them by some of the defectors who defected from the party that brought about this situation. Even then, at that critical moment, the Governor acted wisely and recommended President's Rule. West Bengal today is leading a normal life,

Women and children can move about without consternation and panic which were the order of the day during the regime of the UF Government. I think President's rule should be allowed to function for some time because it was not possible for the Governor who had taken charge of the Government to tackle the problems of the State on a long-term basis unless assured of some time to do so. If an election is to take place soon, it is inevitable that certain problems which could only be tackled on a long-term basis could not be so tackled and that would create difficulties. If the Governor were to hand over the government after the elections announced for November, it would not be possible for him to lay down firm policies for the governance of the State.

The problems to be tackled are there staring the State. Take the question of unemployment. Even now 79 factories are not working. During its regime, the UF Government and its Labour Minister encouraged strikes and gheraos, as I have already said. The result was that several units had to close. Martin and Burn, a big company, was afflicted by a strike and the result is that about a thousand workers have lost their job. They could not be rehabilitated. There is a threat of a strike in Guest, Keen and Williams which will add to the unemployment and instability already prevailing.

It is only natural that there should be a feeling of doubt if it would be possible to undertake a mid-term election in November—as the hon. Minister seems to feel—because even today several lakhs of acres of land are under water and people are still wondering whether they will have to starve or will be able to lead a normal life freed from this devastating position by honest labour. It is not possible under such circumstances to anticipate that in November elections can be held. I am told the Election Commission is to undertake a long tour of the State in September to find out if elections could be possibly held in

November. I am quite sure he will find out that it will not be possible to hold elections in November in view of the circumstances I have stated.

Therefore, I would have liked if the hon. Minister had come forward with a motion to continue President's Rule for one year. Then there would have been some stability assured. What West Bengal needs today is stability and a normal life which was completely disrupted by a Government which did not believe in democracy or even in national progress.

Therefore, it is essential that this motion should be accepted not only by this section of the House but by the entire House so as to give West Bengal some respite, some stability, so that West Bengal can tackle the problems created by flood devastation which has caused damage to the State of Rs. 54 crores.

In this connection, I will mention one point and conclude. West Bengal demands that the Central Government should come forward with money to save the State. Only a crore of rupees which has been given is quite inadequate and I would like at least Rs. 15—20 crores to be given to the State immediately. Otherwise, there will be ruination and devastation affecting thousands of people. Thousands have lost their avocation, thousands have lost their homes; unless the Centre comes forward in a magnificent way to tackle this situation, Bengal will be ruined.

With these words, I would appeal to my friends opposite to allow West Bengal to remain in normalcy for some time so that some stable government is established and run by the President for some time more so that when the general elections come, they can be held in a peaceful atmosphere and the people can decide the question peacefully and democratically.

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR (Basirhat) : I rise to oppose both the amendments, one moved by Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri and the other by Dr.

Ranen Sen. I oppose the amendment moved by Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri who wants an extension of President's rule beyond six months by inserting the word 'at least' for the simple reason that President's rule should be as brief as possible.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Also under the Constitution there is no provision for extension for one year.

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR : She has moved an amendment to that effect. I oppose it on the ground that even though democracy has many faults and defects, in Churchill's words, though it is the worst form of government, it is still better than any other form of government mankind has found till now. I would go so far as to say that even if the elections returned to power the communist junta which goes under the name of United Front, of which I do not think there is the least possibility—I do not think that the communist junta can win more than 90 seats in a House of 280 and if they can reach three figures, they will be extremely fortunate indeed—I would go so far as to say that if as a result of the elections, they come to power, I would prefer even that to the continuance of President's Rule (*Interruption*). So far as Shri Jyotirmoy Basu is concerned, he will meet his fate when the elections come in 1972—I have no doubt about that.

I oppose the other two amendments moved by Dr. Ranen Sen and another of his friends on the ground that they are totally unrealistic. Any suggestion that the elections should be held in November is, to my mind, an act of criminal indifference to human misery. According to the government report itself, 14 out of the 18 districts of the State including Calcutta have been seriously affected by floods. A vast area is submerged and the entire effort of Government should be directed towards relief and rehabilitation of the people.

There is a general election coming. I do not know why even the Minister of State used the term 'mid-term

[Shri Humayun Kabir]

election' because that term is unknown in parliamentary parlance. When this general election has been concluded, the House will continue for five years, should the Government of the day so desire. Therefore, it is not a mid-term election. This election will need a large number of officers and will involve a great deal of expenditure, and in the existing circumstances in Bengal, it is simply impossible to think of holding this election in November. If 14 districts out of 18 are submerged, if literally lakhs of acres of land have been inundated and millions of people affected, the entire resources of Government should be directed towards relief and rehabilitation.

I have seen a report that in order to meet the charge that about 60—70 Assembly constituencies will be submerged and people will not be able to exercise their franchise, the Election Commission might think of setting up polling booths every half a mile. I was recently touring the district of Murshidabad and some villagers came and told me that it is very easy to talk of setting up a booth every half a mile, but they would challenge anyone including the Chief Election Commissioner to walk 100 yards in the mud and slime which have covered the countryside.

There is not enough water for movement by boat. The land is almost dry. On the other hand, the earth is not firm enough for any kind of vehicle, including a bullock cart to move. When you try to walk, as I have tried to walk in these areas, at every step your feet go down 6 to 9 inches in the slime. You have to take that into consideration. The villagers say that any officer of the Central or the State Government may come to the rural areas during this period. If they try to walk with their chappals or shoes, very soon their shoes will find a decent burial in the slime.

Apart from this general difficulty, the waterlogged land will interfere with the movement of women voters.

Any elections in the month of November will practically disenfranchise all the women voters of the rural areas. I am sure that it cannot be the intention of Parliament. Surely, it cannot be the intention of the Chief Election Commissioner to deprive the women voters of their right to vote. In a letter which Prof. Ranga and Shri Vajpayee and I had addressed to the Chief Election Commissioner we had pointed out that we appreciate his courtesy in consulting the different political parties about fixing a date for the elections. This is only a courtesy whereas it is his duty and his obligation under the Constitution to ensure that the electorate has an opportunity of exercising its vote freely and without any hindrance and in the most favourable circumstances. These are the facts: the fact of inundation and the necessity of diverting the entire attention of the Government to relief and rehabilitation and not towards conducting of elections. Then, there are the costs involved. Suppose the suggestion of the Chief Election Commissioner is carried out and there is a polling booth every half a mile. As far as I recollect, each election booth costs something like Rs. 5,000, when you think of the TA, DA and other expenses. The total cost, if my memory does not fail me, came to something like Rs. 2 crores at a time when there were booths every two miles. If you are going to have booths every half a mile or a quarter mile, these expenses will be quadrupled and we shall be required to pay Rs. 8 crores in place of Rs. 2 crores, simply to satisfy the whim of a few political parties who may look at this question from the point of view of their party interests. They are surely not thinking of the interest of West Bengal, if they demand that elections should be held in November.

As I said, I oppose the amendment of Mrs. Ila Palchoudhuri because President's rule should not be continued a day longer than necessary. I oppose the amendment of Dr. Ranen Sen because the circumstances demand that the elections should be

held in February, not in November if the electorate is to exercise its votes freely, without hindrance.

I come back to the question of relief because this is the most urgent problem in Bengal today. I do not deny that the present Government has made an effort to cope with the situation as best as it can. But very much more remains to be done. I have been told by very responsible persons in authority in the State that all the districts have not been treated on an equal basis. I was looking at the figures supplied by the Government of West Bengal. The area inundated in 24 Parganas is almost the same as the area inundated in Midnapore. Large areas were also inundated in Nadia and Murshidabad. So far as Hooghly is concerned, I repeat what I said yesterday, that the inundation there is largely due to the activities of the Government itself. The Damodar Valley Corporation did not build eight dams which had been recommended in the original plan but built only four dams. Further the programme of afforestation at the headwaters which is absolutely necessary to prevent erosion has not been carried out and a tremendous amount of silt is flowing down the river. There is the danger of the various dams and reservoirs being very soon filled up with the result that the water will flow over. I quite realise that the water has to be let out because unless the water is let out, there may be a burst of the dam and the rush of water will destroy and effect a far greater devastation than the devastation which has been caused by letting out the water gradually. Nevertheless the people of Khanakul have a right to complain and ask why they should be subjected to these grievances year by year only because the Government have not carried out their duties properly. Therefore, during this period, care should be taken to see that steps are taken to regulate the flow of water.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Member's time is up.

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR : Just two minutes. One final word before I conclude because I have not much more time. There is another reason, which again owes directly to Government failure, why these floods have become a perennial feature of large areas in West Bengal. When the zamindaris were abolished, —it was a step in the right direction and there is no doubt about it—the Government did not take the necessary measures to look after the river beds and the canals and the channels which it had been an obligation of the zamindars to preserve in the old regime. The result is that during the last 16 to 17 years, these canals have been allowed to be silted up. In many cases, the connecting links are not properly maintained. The sluice gates are completely in disorder. I will give only one example. It is the Bil Balli area in the Basirhat sub-division, in police station Swarupnagar. It is an area which could be a mine of gold, which could produce enough rice and paddy for the whole district of 24-Parganas, and yet 24-Parganas is perpetually a deficit district because this area is perpetually inundated. Another new complication has arisen, because Pakistan has built a dam on the other side, which prevents the free flow of water. The water cannot flow into certain rivers in Pakistan as was the case before the partition of the country, with the result that about 100,000 bighas of land which are capable of producing a very rich harvest of paddy have become permanently inundated, and the Government have not taken necessary steps in the matter.

Before I conclude, I would again like to say that since the entire effort of the Government in the coming three or four months should be concentrated on relief and rehabilitation, in removing the misery of the people, and the administration should not divert its attention to consider any other matter, it would be an act of criminal negligence of human misery, it would be an act of indifference and cruelty, if elections are held in November, as that would compel the Government to depute officers, to

[Shri Humayun Kabir]

divert its attention and in this way interfere with the proper administration of the State at the present time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Bimalkanti Ghosh.

श्री शारदा नन्द (सीतापुर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। इस समय बंगाल प्रान्त के भाग्य का निर्णय हो रहा है, लेकिन यहाँ पर कोई भी कैबिनेट मंत्री नहीं है। आप उन से कहिये कि कम से कम एक कैबिनेट मंत्री को यहाँ पर बैठा लें।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There are two Ministers sitting here.

AN HON. MEMBER : At least the Minister of State must be here.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I shall convey your request to them.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : I submit that Bengal at the present moment is facing a natural calamity of an unprecedented dimension, subjecting the people to a massive misery and misfortune. These people sitting over there, who are they and what do they know of this thing? How can they reply to this problem, how can they tackle this problem and how can they assess this problem? I submit to you that a Cabinet Minister must be present here to listen to this debate. We will not allow this Government to make of a farce the whole misery and misfortune of the people of Bengal. It is a great misery and misfortune, and these people will make a mockery of this debate. A great natural calamity has overtaken the people of the whole of West Bengal; that is their fate; and the Cabinet Minister is not here.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : As I said, whatever has been said on the floor of the House will be communicated to the proper quarters and the whole thing will be set right.

SHRI SHEO NARAIN (Basti) : One Cabinet Minister must be here.

SHRI BIMALKANTI GHOSH (Serampore) : Sir, I rise to support the Resolution. On this occasion, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the flood situation in West Bengal. This is the biggest natural calamity in that State during the recent years.

During the course of the last two months, West Bengal has been subjected to heavy flood twice. Heavy continuous rain during the later part of June and early July badly affected portions of Bankura, Burdwan, Birbhum, Hooghly, Midnapore, Howrah, 24-Parganas, Murshidabad, Nadia, Maldah, West Dinajpore, Jalpaiguri, Cooch-Bihar and low lying areas of Calcutta and suburbs, thus affecting nearly the whole of West Bengal. Before flood water had receded fully, heavy rains occurred once again in early August and brought about floods of big magnitude in Midnapore, Hooghly, Howrah, 24-Parganas, Maldah and low lying areas of Calcutta affecting once again mainly those areas which were affected in July flood; Midnapore and Hooghly being the worst affected areas.

14.31 hrs.

[SHRI R. D. BHANDARE in the Chair]

In Midnapore all the sub-divisions have been badly damaged affecting 27 police stations. Almost all its rivers, rivulets and canals are in spate. Cultivation of over eight lakh acres has been almost totally lost and more than 18 lakhs of people have been affected. Thousands of houses have been destroyed or damaged. With the recession of flood water, a large number of thatched houses are crumbling. As yet, it has not been possible to have a precise estimate of the damage done.

In Hooghly, 12 police stations including the whole of Arambagh sub-division have been badly affected. An area of 300 square miles with a

population of more than 3 lakhs have been damaged. About 1.5 lakh acres of crop land have been damaged. More than 2000 houses have been damaged or destroyed.

In 24-Parganas, all the sub-divisions have been partially damaged, affecting about 15 police stations. Nearly 2 lakh acres of Aman land covering 18 per cent of Aman area, 8000 acres of Aus, *i.e.*, about 12 per cent of Aus area, 8000 acres of Jute, *i.e.*, about 13 per cent of jute area have been damaged. About 6000 houses have been damaged.

In Howrah, 8 police stations in both of its sub-divisions have been affected. 20,000 acres of crop area have been affected.

This is only a very modest and rough picture of the heavy damages done.

With the recession of flood, the task of immediate temporary relief will be over and the stupendous task of rehabilitation will have to be taken up in right earnest particularly along the following lines :

Every attempt must be made to bring into cultivation—kharif and rabi—as much as possible by supplying seeds, saplings and pecuniary help on a generous scale. Red-tapism should be cut to the minimum.

People of rural areas are practically without any work. Work is to be found for them through test relief etc. mainly in repairing the damages caused by the flood.

Liberal assistance should be given to those whose houses have been destroyed or damaged, so that they may have shelters once again soon.

Remission or postponement of realisation of all Government dues including land revenue.

Special consideration should be shown to the students of the affected areas and sons and daughters of affected people reading in educational institutions elsewhere.

Draining out of water from water-logged areas. All important drainage schemes should be included in the fourth plan.

These floods have once again brought to the forefront the question of the Farakka. The Bhagirathi is the only drainage river of West Bengal, particularly southern part of West Bengal. Unless its carrying capacity is phenomenally increased, West Bengal will always run the risk of heavy floods nullifying all effects of big or small irrigation projects. There is no other radical solution. For that, it is necessary that Farakka plan should be implemented in full within the shortest possible time and should be treated as a very great emergency.

With these words, I support the Resolution.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) : Sir, I have already mentioned that a massive misfortune in the form of an unprecedented natural calamity has overtaken the fate of Bengal. The problem before the people of West Bengal today is almost onerous. It is this : how the wealth, strength, energy as also the attention of the people of Bengal can be concentrated to one task only, the task of serving the suffering millions which number more than one-third of the total population of West Bengal today.

But in this task before the people of West Bengal just at the moment there are two main hurdles. One hurdle is the dangling prospect of an election in next November. The other hurdle is the uncertainty as regards the financial commitment by the Central Government. Today it is necessary that all official and non-official energies should be concentrated for the relief and rehabilitation work in the flooded areas which cover 14 out of the 18 districts of West Bengal. Might be, as the Election Commission has suggested, mechanically it may be possible to organise the poll machinery. But that is not the main factor. The first factor is whether the present situation will allow us to

[Shri Samar Guha]

divert our attention to election activities. If now the political parties approach the distressed people with the niceties of their election manifesto they will only invite a derisive laughter from the homeless, hungry millions in the flooded areas. For that reason I would appeal to the Election Commissioner not to look at the aspect of whether it will be feasible to set up the election machinery in the waterlogged area but to look at the problem from the humanitarian aspect, from the nationalist aspect whether just at the moment it will be the task of the people of West Bengal to concentrate, as I said, all their efforts to meet the relief and rehabilitation requirements of the people in the flooded areas. With the words, Sir, I will humbly appeal to the Election Commissioner to go straightway, without leaving even a day, to West Bengal for a survey, even for two or three days, and quickly decide that elections should be deferred to February next.

Another aspect is, now the West Bengal Government has neither the capacity nor the resources to meet the requirements of relief and rehabilitation work of the flood affected areas. This Study Team set up by the Planning Commission are visiting and revisiting Bengal. Where are they visiting? They are seeing only the peripheral and fringes of the flood affected areas. They have not seen the depth and dimension of the misery and natural calamity of the flooded area. I want to ask the Minister one question. In the case of Gujarat, in the case of Kerala, in the case of Assam, in the case of Rajasthan or in the case of Haryana, when there were floods, did the Planning Commission visit and re-visit those areas, dilly-dally the thing and delay the decision on having a firm commitment as regards the Central aid? In the case of Koyna did they wait for the Study Team to visit Koyna and then sanction what amount of relief and rehabilitation commitment should be made by the Centre? If that has not been the case, I could

not understand why, when the West Bengal misery has been as intensive as that of Koyna—in fact, it was extensive in devastation—their sense of urgency and pity could not be aroused. Therefore, I would say to the Central Government this could not wait for a day and that they should act on the basis of the report submitted by the West Bengal Government, in which they have asked that on an immediate and emergency basis Rs. 14 crores should be sanctioned. Would you believe when I say that up till now they have made only a plan, after three months, for expenditure on relief and rehabilitation, gratuitous relief of only Rs. 1.50 per head and for a house building Rs. 3 per head, which is nothing but a mockery? Therefore, my first request is that the Central Government should, right here and now straightway firmly commit that any expenditure that will be necessary for meeting the requirements of relief and rehabilitation of West Bengal would be made available here and now. In this respect the Congress, the Communist and PSP members from West Bengal are united that the Central Government should not delay making this firm commitment even by a minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has already exhausted his six minutes.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : I will conclude soon. Yesterday, the IG of Police, West Bengal has made a sensational disclosure in which he has told the press that Pakistan paramilitia, East Pakistan Rifles and Pakistan regular troops have made a massive concentration of troops on the strategic areas near West Bengal in Dinajpur and Cooch-Bihar areas and some troops near the Tripura border. Then I would like to draw the attention of the government to the fact that 15 days back a circular was passed by the Communist Party of China, signed by Chou En-lai, and sent to the border troops in Tibet where it has been mentioned that the Chinese forces in the Tibetan area should be picked up for certain border incidents. It has appeared in the press. So, I want to know from the

government the exact position and what steps they propose to take to meet any eventuality.

Then I would like to take another subject and that is the judiciary. A very ugly situation has been created in the higher judiciary of Calcutta and for the last three or four weeks a complete deadlock has been created in the Calcutta bar. The Court of the Chief Justice is being boycotted and satyagraha is being offered at the court of the Chief Justice. It is a strange situation. What is the reason? In no State in India except West Bengal there is this distinction between English bar and Indian bar. But in West Bengal the barristers have their association and the advocates have another association. The advocates are not allowed to become members of the bar association of barristers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That point was discussed in the House three or four times.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I have been approached by the President of the advocates association to place their viewpoint in the matter. Their grievances are, firstly, that the invidious distinction between the barrister and the advocate should be abolished. Secondly, the bar council and the advocates' association should be amalgamated into one. Now in the matter of recruitment the barristers are given not only preference in number but also in seniority. It is an accepted convention that in the matter of recruitment to the High Court parity should be maintained between barristers, advocates and the services.

SHRI HIMATSINGKA (Godda): That is being done.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: That is not being done. You do not know. Now the barristers get 60, non-barristers 10 and services 12. You do not know anything. Then, why do you disturb? It is a peculiar system.

SHRIDWAIPAYANSEN (Katwa): All barristers are advocates, for your information.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Still, a distinction is being maintained. The advocates are not allowed to enter a barrister's chamber. I do not know why he jumps up without knowing the facts. I have no time. Otherwise, I could have narrated many instances.

Lastly, in the Calcutta High Court there is one original side and another appellate side. As a result of the solicitor-cum-barrister on the original side it involves a costly process of justice in the Calcutta High Court. That also should be abolished. That is the demand of the advocates.

One point about the DVC and I will finish. Last year there had been floods in the month of September and this year—I have accused and will again accuse—due to the mishandling of the reservoir in the DVC, there was a serious flood which would not have occurred in the area of Howrah District and also part of the Hooghly District. When only 45 per cent of the reservoir in the DVC was filled, 1 lakh cusecs of water was discharged and released which flooded three districts.

60 per cent of the constructional cost of the DVC has been borne by West Bengal and all the maintenance cost for flood control is borne by West Bengal still, there is not a single representative of the Government of West Bengal in the DVC organisation. Last year a representative was sent to the DVC organisation but he was turned out. If there had been one representative from West Bengal in the DVC organisation, perhaps the calamity that has overtaken the three districts would not have occurred. Therefore I ask that immediately a representative of West Bengal in the DVC organisation should be considered.

One last point. Calcutta is dying, the capital of the socio-cultural movement of India bearing the great heritage of the freedom movement. These

[Shri Samar Guha]

are not my words. This is written in various papers from the different countries of the world, that Calcutta is dying. I have no time to develop it, but Calcutta is dying. Our Prime Minister tried to go to Calcutta during the rainy season and she could not travel by a car from Dum Dum to Raj Bhavan; she was picked up in a bus, and she had to pass through deep water. Therefore I would say that it is our national duty, our national obligation, our national task and the Centre should see that this city having the great heritage does not die an unnatural death.

SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOUDHURI (Krishnagar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I certainly feel that West Bengal needs to have President's rule for some time to come to give it a breather from what it has gone through under the UF Government. When did President's rule come? It came in an atmosphere when democracy was drowned, peace was disturbed, law was banished, order blown up and labour was unemployed. It was in circumstances like these that President's rule came to West Bengal. Now when you seek to extend it, you have every support from me certainly. In fact, I would say—I have put in an amendment—that it should be there at least for six months and if necessary it could be extended if it was thought fit to do so.

We do want a popular government. There is no question that we want a popular government but the circumstances must be such that people can exercise their franchise with some kind of stability. When people are inundated in water they cannot go to cast their votes, nor can any party go to them for their votes. West Bengal is faced with inundation, the like of which it has not faced for the last 50 years. All efforts must surely be to rescue those people who are suffering.

Here I would like to bring to the notice of the Ministers the demand of the West Bengal Government for im-

mediate relief works and for rehabilitation to a certain extent. Their demand is Rs. 14 crores and I am very sorry to say that up till now the sanction has not been given. I am sure, the work needs to go on much faster and I hope it will be taken note of, and sanctions given as quickly as possible. The damage assessed is over 54 crores—the demand of the West Bengal Government is 14 crores—and only one crore has been actually sanctioned so far! This must be speeded up.

Then, I just want to say something about one or two remarks made by my hon. friends opposite. My hon. friends opposite said that only ten factories have been opened during the President's rule in West Bengal. May I remind him that over 2000 factories were closed during U.F. regime? (SHRI TRIDIB KUMAR CHAUDHURI : They were not big factories. They were small factories.) Many people were thrown out of employment. He does not mention that. But he says that only 10 were opened.

SHRI TRIDIB KUMAR CHAUDHURI (Berhampore) : 10 large ones.

SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOUDHURI : Whether large or small, he does not specify that.

SHRI TRIDIB KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Those 2000 factories were re-opened.

SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOUDHURI : Not all and not in full in the U.F. Regime! May I bring to the notice of the House another thing about the law and order situation? The President's rule in West Bengal has brought out what was left in the hands of the anti-social and anti-natural elements in West Bengal. Only the other day, they have been able to bring out in the first half of 1968, 1 sten gun, 10 revolvers, 6 pistols, 99 bombs, 35 guns, 4 pipeguns and 230 rounds of ammunition. All these were seized only in one raid. All these weapons were in the hands of the anti-social and anti-national elements under the regime of the U. F. Government who

never bothered to raid those places that held these dangerous weapons. That is why the law and order situation had become so very difficult.

Then, I would like to point out that we need to have a lot more to do with the loans that are going to be floated. The Governor of West Bengal has said that he is going to float a Government loan for Rs. 8 crores. I hope, this amount of Rs. 8 crores will be used not only to implement some of the projects, as the Governor himself has said, to repair roads, but also for starting some small industries in areas that are thickly populated, full of refugees, and have no industry whatsoever like my own area that I come from Sir, Nadia. There is not a single industry there. I hope, some of the money that will be subscribed to this loan will be used for putting small industries in different places that have no industries at all.

My hon. friend opposite also made a point that in Bongaon there was a very regrettable incident, if it is true. He said that the border security forces men had molested some woman we all agree that it is something very regrettable. But, on the other hand, we must also give them some laurels when they have done a very good job of work in Nadia where 30 Pakistani infiltrators were absolutely cornered and the border was defended by the border security forces so ably. I would also plead that the border security forces be strengthened. Pakistan has amassed her army near the border of our country and, particularly, where it is very contiguous, the danger is greater. I know that our border security forces will do a very good job of work so that our borders may be protected. They need every co-operation that we can give them, and their strength increased.

Lastly, I would like to make this submission. The Presidents' rule, certainly, has given us a breathing space. I hope that if more breathing space is needed, we will get it and that we will not be hurried into having

another government that will lead West Bengal not from strength to strength but from misery to misery. The Congress has never been frightened of any elections, Sir, and, I know, it can come in all its strength if we have the elections. But the way for the elections must be cleared, the condition of the people must be eased and they must be able to vote.

One word about the D.V.C. I would like to say that the Tennessee Valley expert, Mr. Voorduin had said that there should be 8 dams but the Government could not at that time undertake more than 4 dams. This has accounted for much of the floods that have occurred all over West Bengal. So, these 4 reservoirs and dams if they are necessary, should be taken in hand in a phased programme over the next Plan. The Farakka Barrage project should, also be stepped up so that Bhagirati, which is the only outlet now, can be utilised and we are not left absolutely to the mercy of the rains every year. Even with ordinary rains, there are towns in West Bengal which lie in waist-deep water for months. I have seen this myself in Krishnagar, which is a district town after all; there are parts there that lie under water for months together.

There are people who have been rehabilitated in Nadia—people who had lost their homes and come as refugees to West Bengal. Every year practically some parts of Nadia get so flooded that they lose their houses twice or three times over, and every time they have to get loans to rebuild again; they are expected to return these loans; thus it becomes a vicious circle and is very difficult for them. I hope, they will get every help from Government to rebuild quickly.

Elections are the opportune time when people can really exercise their franchise. After all, on free and fair elections depend the fate of any

[Shrimathi Ila Palchoudhuri]

State. How can we have fair and free elections when we have no atmosphere of any kind of security, when people are in misery? Sir, I support the motion warmly.

SHRI PASHABHAI PATEL (Baroda) : Once again an irony of fate makes me stand up in support of the wrong party because in the same calendar year for the second time it happens to be in the right.

My Party, the Swatantra Party, is opposed to having early elections in West Bengal. It supports the continuance of the President's rule because otherwise the same situation which arose when the Legislature was suspended would again arise. We should give the President's rule sufficient time to stabilise the Government in that part of the country before we think of having elections. Enough has already been said in support of postponing the elections there and, therefore, I would not dilate on that. But one thing is certain. If we have elections now, it will again repeat itself in the way in which the United Front had done.

As you know and as every one knows, the industries of West Bengal are already paying a terrific price... (*Interruptions*) My hon. friend said that Calcutta was dying down. From Bombay I know that many industries in Calcutta are actively thinking of moving out of Calcutta and are looking to Bombay, Gujarat and all over the country. Unless West Bengal obtains a good Government, a stable Government, it will finish the first city of India altogether....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : The industrial growth declined even in 1956 when there was a stable Congress Government.

SHRI PASHABHAI PATEL : Today it is dying; it is not declining. Let us face the facts. Some hon. friends talked about some murders. I would like to have some facts and figures as

to who are murdered and who are the murderers. Then, as an eye-opener, facts will come out. I have not heard of any industrialist murdering any workers, but the reverse has happened several times. I can cite instances.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : I can cite Ratibati, Asansol. In Asansol the man was running a feudal lordship there. Half a dozen M.Ps went and saw his private army....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI UMANATH (Pudukkottai) : The industrialists hire goondas.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : That has caused the law and order problem. They were importing ex-convicts of Chambal Valley....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PASHABHAI PATEL : I would like to know how far you are coming out to help the country, how many of you are coming out to help the country....

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please address the Chair. Please do not take any notice of those things.

SHRI PASHABHAI PATEL : I hope, they will give me a chance to address you, Sir.

The Central Government made a grievous mistake in joining hands in Bihar, Punjab and West Bengal. The results have been before us. I hope, the Party Opposite will take its lesson from what has happened in the past. In future, I hope that they will think twice before they join hands with the wrong kind of people in their greed for early power.

15 Hrs.

I would say that President's rule is the only answer to the present position in Bengal, and I would strongly support the extension of President's rule in Bengal.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Perpetual.

SHRI PASHABHAI PATEL : Not perpetual but at least for the time allowed in this resolution. At the end of that period, if still the situation warrants the continuation of President's rule, Government will again come forward before this House asking for further extension.

Since President's rule has started in Bengal, as you know, a certain amount of stability has returned to that unhappy part of the country. If it is given some further extension, it would make the position more stable so that democratic forces may be allowed again to work in that part of the country.

As regards our friends who make all these noises, I would like to ask what happened in Czechoslovakia yesterday. (*Interruptions*) If necessary, I would like this Government to ban these two communist parties...

SHRI UMANATH : There was an agreement between Czechoslovakia and Russia. That was what happened yesterday.

SHRI PASHABHAI PATEL : I know more than my hon. friends do. If our Government are honest at all about their intentions, I would ask them to ban these two Communist Parties because what has happened in Czechoslovakia might happen here tomorrow and that is not going to be good either for the workers or for the peasants or for anybody else. Czechoslovakia was itself a communist country, but their own partymen did not hesitate to attack them....

MR. CHAIRMAN : Czechoslovakia is not relevant here.

SHRI UMANATH : It is not President's rule in Czechoslovakia that we are discussing but it is President's rule in West Bengal.

SHRI PASHABHAI PATEL : Their allegiance is to Russia and that is why they are making all this noise. What has happened to a neighbouring country like Czechoslovakia at the hands of the Russians ?

SHRI GANESH GHOSH : Let him speak about West Bengal.

SHRI PASHABHAI PATEL : If my hon. friends do not owe allegiance to any other country, I would like them to stand up in defence of the country not of their party. But I am afraid that these gentlemen will put the party before the country.

I would humbly request our Government to ban these two communist parties, right and left both. If they do not do it today a day might come when they will regret it; if they do not have the courage to do it today, a day will come when they will rue it.

SHRI UMANATH : Our party is stronger than all that. We care the least for it; hang your banning.

SHRI PASHABHAI PATEL : Nobody is going to ban them. I know that also, because the Government do not have the strength now to do it.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Yankee spokesman.

श्री ओंकारलाल बोहरा (चित्तौड़गढ़) :
सभापति महोदय, शस्य श्यामला बंगाल की घरती पर भाज प्रति-वृष्टि के कारण जो संकट आया है, मैं समझता हूँ कि हम को सब से पहले उस पर विचार करना चाहिये। यह दुर्भाग्य है कि बंगाल में इतनी भ्रष्टी घरती होते हुए, इतनी भ्रष्टी उपज होते हुए वहाँ पर प्रायः हर साल बाढ़ें आती रहती हैं और प्रति-वृष्टि के कारण फसलें नष्ट हो जाया करती हैं। भाज जब वहाँ पर राष्ट्रपति शासन लागू है तब मैं आप के द्वारा केन्द्रीय सरकार से यह निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि हम लोगों को पश्चिमी बंगाल की इस समस्या का कोई स्थायी समाधान ढूँढना चाहिये।

[श्री ओकर लाल बोहरा]

पश्चिमी बंगाल उन प्रदेशों में है जिन्होंने हमारे देश का मस्तक ऊंचा किया है। पश्चिमी बंगाल ने आजादी की लड़ाई में दिल खोल कर हिस्सा लिया था, और आज भी पश्चिमी बंगाल के साहित्य और संस्कृति ने सारे देश का गौरव ऊंचा उठाया है। आज वहाँ के 18 जिलों में से कम से कम चौदह जिलों में करोड़ों लोग इस बाढ़ की वजह से पीड़ित हैं। बांकुरा, चौबीस परगना और मालदा, हावड़ा आदि के प्रायः पूरे जिले आज बाढ़ के कारण तबाह हो गये हैं, और आज लगभग 10 हजार गांवों के अन्दर बाढ़ के कारण परेशानी पैदा हो गई है। मैं चाहूंगा कि आज जब पश्चिमी बंगाल में राष्ट्रपति शासन है तथा केन्द्रीय सरकार ने वहाँ की जिम्मेदारी अपने ऊपर ले रखी है तब हम बाढ़ पीड़ित लोगों की अधिक से अधिक मदद करें। वहाँ के राज्यपाल महोदय, जो कि वहाँ का शासन चला रहे हैं, ने जो रिपोर्ट भेजी है, उस के सन्दर्भ में हम उन की अधिक से अधिक मदद करें ताकि इस संकट के समय वहाँ के करोड़ों लोगों को यह महसूस हो कि सारे देश की जनता उन के साथ है, और जब वहाँ पर राष्ट्रपति शासन है तब संसद् की और इस के द्वारा केन्द्रीय मंत्रिमंडल की पूरी सहानुभूति उन के साथ है। मैं चाहूंगा कि इस बाढ़ के समय जब कि करोड़ों लोग बेघरबार हो गये हैं, उन को अधिक से अधिक सहायता दी जाये ताकि उन को संकट से कुछ राहत मिल सके।

आज हमारी केन्द्रीय सरकार ने वहाँ पर राष्ट्रपति के शासन की अवधि को और छः महीने बढ़ाने के लिए जो प्रस्ताव रक्खा है मैं उस का हार्दिक अनुमोदन करता हूँ। मैं आप के सामने कहना चाहता हूँ कि जिन परिस्थितियों में

वहाँ पर राष्ट्रपति शासन लागू हुआ था उन को देखते हुए राष्ट्रपति का शासन होने पर लोगों ने एक राहत की संस ली थी, उन्होंने बड़ी शान्ति अनुभव की थी, और जब से वहाँ छः महीने पहले राष्ट्रपति का शासन लागू हुआ है बंगाल की कानून और व्यवस्था की स्थिति में सुधार हुआ है। बंगाल में उस समय अशोभनीय और अबांछनीय घटनाओं का तांता शुरू हो गया था, जैसे नक्सलवादी हुआ, घेराव हुए तथा कई ऐसी घटनाएँ हुईं जिन में लोगों ने कानून को अपने हाथ में ले लिया था। ऐसा लगता था कि पश्चिमी बंगाल में अराजकता का वातावरण पैदा हो गया हो। मैं उन पिछली घटनाओं में विशेष नहीं जाऊंगा, लेकिन इतना जिक्र करूंगा कि वह ऐसा समय था जब पार्लियामेंट को लगातार पश्चिमी बंगाल के बारे में चिंता करनी पड़ती थी, और हमारा बहुत सा समय अनायास पश्चिमी बंगाल की घटनाओं पर चला जाता था। जब वहाँ संयुक्त मोर्चे की सरकार थी तब कानून और व्यवस्था की स्थिति कुछ ऐसी बिगड़ी कि मजबूर हो कर हमें पश्चिमी बंगाल में राष्ट्रपति शासन की घोषणा करनी पड़ी।

पश्चिमी बंगाल में राष्ट्रपति का शासन हो यह अपने आप में कोई अच्छी बात नहीं है क्योंकि पश्चिमी बंगाल हमेशा लोकतन्त्र का हामी रहा है। जिस प्रदेश ने लोकतन्त्र के लिये सब से बड़ी जद्दोजहद की वहाँ राष्ट्रपति का शासन लागू हो, यह किसी को पसन्द नहीं था और कोई नहीं चाहता था कि वहाँ पर राष्ट्रपति का शासन हो, लेकिन दुर्भाग्य की बात यह है कि वहाँ कुछ ऐसे तत्त्व उभरे कि जनता के हित के लिये पश्चिमी बंगाल की जनता के हित में आवश्यक समझा गया कि वहाँ

पर राष्ट्रपति का शासन लागू किया जाये। आप देखेंगे कि पिछले पांच छः महीनों में, जब से वहां राष्ट्रपति शासन लागू हुआ है, वहां के राज्यपाल श्री धर्मवीर ने बड़ी मुस्तैदी के साथ वहां के शासन में सुधार पैदा किया है। वहां पर प्रगति हुई है, व्यवस्था आई है और जनजीवन अपेक्षाकृत शान्त और सरल हो गया है, जब कि उन दिनों में ऐसा वातावरण हो गया था जिस में कलकत्ता की सड़कों पर लोगों का निकलना मुश्किल हो गया था और शांति तथा व्यवस्था समाप्त हो गई थी। जो कारखाने संयुक्त मोर्चे की सरकार के समय में बन्द हो गये थे वह धीरे-धीरे चलने लगे और श्रमिकों की स्थिति में और जनजीवन में सुधार आया है। तब से पश्चिमी बंगाल अच्छे ढंग से प्रगति कर रहा है। आज जो भी पश्चिमी बंगाल जाता है या कलकत्ता जाता है, उस को अनायास ही यह सुनने को मिलता है कि काश, राष्ट्रपति शासन लम्बे समय तक चले। मैं यह भावना और किसी और की नहीं बतला रहा हूँ, यह बंगाल के उन लोगों की भावना है जो रोज रोजी और रोटी कमाते हैं तथा अपना पेट भरते हैं। वह कहते हैं कि काश, हमारे यहां राष्ट्रपति शासन लम्बे समय तक चले। आज पश्चिमी बंगाल के लोग हड़तालों से और अराजकतापूर्ण वातावरण से इतने घबरा गये हैं जिस का ठिकाना नहीं है। वह शांतिपूर्ण ढंग से रहना चाहते हैं।

मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि चुनावों के सम्बन्ध में इस बात को ध्यान में रखा जाये कि अगर नवम्बर में चुनाव कराये जायेंगे तो बाढ़ की वजह से हजारों गांवों के लोग समय पर मतदान नहीं कर सकेंगे। अगर आप उस समय चुनाव करायेंगे तो आप को सैकड़ों की संख्या में हाउस बोटों की आवश्यकता पड़ेगी पॉलिग बूथ्स के

लिये। चुनाव की दृष्टि से यह ध्यान रखा जाय कि पश्चिमी बंगाल के लोग किसी तरह से मतदान से वंचित न हो जायें। जैसा कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष ने भी कहा था जिन्होंने उस क्षेत्र का दौरा किया था और हमारे दो तीन एम पीज, श्री सेन, श्री दुग्गर और विमल कांति घोष, ने रिपोर्ट दी है, इस बाढ़ को दृष्टि में रखते हुए चुनाव कराये जायें। अगर चुनावों पर उस का असर पड़ता है तो मैं चाहूंगा कि मतदाताओं को मतदान से वंचित न किया जाये। यदि ऐसी स्थिति पैदा होती है तो चुनाव की तिथियों पर पुनर्विचार किया जाये ताकि अधिक से अधिक लोग चुनावों में मतदान कर सकें।

अब मैं दो शब्द कलकत्ता के बारे में भी कहना चाहता हूँ। श्री समर गुह ने ठीक ही कहा है कि कलकत्ता समाप्त हो रहा है। मैं दूसरी बात कहना चाहता हूँ। कलकत्ता आज 'कूड़े का ढेर' बनता जा रहा है। जिन्होंने कलकत्ता को देखा है वह ईमानदारी से कहेंगे कि जिस तरफ भी कलकत्ता की सड़कों पर चले जायें, उस को देख कर हमारा सिर लज्जा से नत हो जाता है। हमारे देश का सब से बड़ा शहर कलकत्ता और वहां के कारपोरेशन की हालत यह कि जिधर जायें कूड़ा ही कूड़ा दिखाई देता है, गाड़ियां वहां से पास नहीं हो सकती हैं। पिछले दिनों राज्यपाल महोदय ने इस की कुछ व्यवस्था जरूर की है, फिर भी मैं चाहूंगा कि कलकत्ता को उस के गौरव के अनुकूल एक सुन्दर नगर के रूप में विकसित किया जाये। राष्ट्रपति शासन की जिम्मेदारी है कि कलकत्ता एक सुन्दर नगर के रूप में हमारे सामने रहे।

कलकत्ता की दो प्राब्लैम्ज हैं। एक तो कलकत्ता की स्वच्छता की है और दूसरी आदमी द्वारा रिक्शा के खींचे

[श्री ओंकार लाल बोहरा]

जाने की है। बराबर मैं इन की चर्चा करता रहा हूँ। हाथ रिकशा चलाने की परम्परा को देख कर हमारा सिर शर्म से नीचा हो जाता है। जब हम एक आदमी को रिकशा में बैठते और दूसरे आदमी को रिकशा को दौड़ाते हुए देखते हैं तो यह न केवल कलकत्ता के लिए कलंक की बात है, बल्कि सारे देश के लिए कलंक की बात भी है। रिकशा पर एक आदमी तो बैठे और दूसरा उसको दौड़ाता हुआ ले जाए, यह एक ऐसी परम्परा है जिस का अन्त होना चाहिये। मैं चाहता हूँ कि राष्ट्रपति शासन के दौरान इस अमानुषिक कलंक को जिससे हमारा गौरव नीचा होता है, जल्दी से जल्दी समाप्त किया जाए और कलकत्ता में स्वच्छता के लिए जितने भी धन की आवश्यकता हो उसकी स्वीकृति दी जाए। कलकत्ता कारपोरेशन के पास अगर धन का अभाव है तो हमें उसको अधिक से अधिक अनुदान देना चाहिये ताकि कलकत्ता एक स्वच्छ और सुन्दर नगर के रूप में विकसित हो सके।

इन शब्दों के साथ राष्ट्रपति शासन को चालू रखने का जो प्रस्ताव केन्द्रीय मंत्रिमंडल की ओर से आया है, उसका मैं हादिक समर्थन करता हूँ। मैं समझता हूँ कि पश्चिमी बंगाल में राष्ट्रपति का शासन वहाँ की जनता की इच्छाओं का प्रतीक है और ऐसा करके हमने वहाँ की जनता में संतोष की लहर पैदा की है। इसलिए उसका अधिक से अधिक समर्थन न केवल संसद् सदस्यों को करना चाहिए बल्कि पश्चिमी बंगाल की जनता भी इसका समर्थन करती है। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं इस प्रस्ताव का हादिक समर्थन करता हूँ।

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : (Mand-saur) : The trials and tribulations of the people of West Bengal have indeed been great. The once prosperous people with a glorious past have been reduced to such a condition that even the basic necessities of life like food, housing and various civic amenities are not available in adequate measure to them now. The spectre of unemployment stalks the land and the consequence is that the economic fabric of society has been weakened. We have come to such a stage that Calcutta is dubbed now as a city of processions, a dying city—such are the names which are given to it today.

What I would like to emphasise is that the problems are basically economic in nature. Therefore, it is on this plane that they have to be tackled. But before I come to the long-term problems, I would like to refer to the devastation which floods have caused in West Bengal. Relief work is proceeding but as I had pointed out to the Governor, they were not satisfactory. The Governor himself recently admitted that he was not satisfied with what was being done. We are now told that Rs. 14 crores have been asked for by the administration from the Central Government. What has been sanctioned is a meagre sum of a crore. This is inadequate and is like a drop in the ocean. Therefore, the amount of assistance ought to be increased. Millions of people who have been rendered homeless, whose properties have been destroyed, must be given relief in an adequate measure. That is a matter of fundamental importance.

We in the Jan Sangh have from the very beginning emphasised that elections in West Bengal should be held in February and not in November. This was because it was felt that certain areas would be water-logged in the districts and the voters would not be able to exercise their franchise. If they are held as scheduled in November, I think it will probably now be impossible to hold them at least

in certain areas of the districts lying deep inside the State. Therefore, it is necessary that the Election Commission should take a decision to hold the elections in February.

I would also emphasise that it should be ensured that at the time of elections, law and order is completely and fully maintained because unless that is done, the ordinary citizen who abhors violence cannot exercise his franchise.

Another important point I want to make is that with the bumper harvest, it is necessary that at least wheat and other foodgrains, barring rice, should be de rationed in West Bengal. Wheat which is lying in ample quantities, almost rotting in godowns in Haryana or at centres in other States—this has been mentioned a number of times here—should be transported to Bengal in good condition and made available on a de rationed basis so that at least one problem is solved and those who can adjust themselves to wheat may be able to obtain foodgrains in plenty. As regards rice, I am told that the procurement drive is proceeding well. This is also heartening.

The problem of poverty and unemployment in West Bengal can only be tackled or alleviated if a large number of industries, medium, small-scale and large-scale, come up. For this, it is necessary that a proper investment climate should be created in the State. But I would say that if for whatever reason, the private sector is unable to come forward to add to the industrialisation of the State, the State Government should take it up and the Centre also could contribute its mite so that industries come up in the State. That is the only long-term solution to the economic problems facing the State today; I would say, this also applies to the political problems of the State.

It is indeed regrettable that the Ministry of Industrial Development at the Centre is not very hospitable to applications for industries coming from

West Bengal. This complaint has been voiced by a number of industrialists. I would particularly refer to the scooter project in Haldia which is not being entertained. Besides, there is the refinery project in Haldia. It is being postponed on some ground or the other. It is an admitted fact that the potentiality for industrialisation in West Bengal is considerable, but it is not being tapped properly. Government, the State Government particularly, should pay attention to this aspect.

While on the subject of unemployment, I would point out that the educational system must be reoriented. It should be production-oriented or rendered utilitarian. After high school the young students should be encouraged to take up vocational training and train themselves to become machanics, engineers, draftsmen, even furniture makers. It is not desirable that they should add to the ranks of the unemployed white-collar workers.

I come to a small point, but I would like to mention it. Somehow the Central Government has an allergy to Calcutta. That is some thing, shall we say, reprehensible.

SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam) : Everybody except the communists.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : I love Calcutta. Some of the head offices of institutions like LIC, IFC, Unit Trust and others should have been located at Calcutta. But they are either in Bombay or in Delhi. That is a tendency which must be checked.

We recently came across a report that efforts are being made to bypass Calcutta on the international air route and some international air companies have approached Government for permission to fly direct *via* Kathmandu and Dacca without touching Calcutta. I think this is a very serious matter and it would reduce the importance of Calcutta, and all the foreign exchange that is derived now would go to Nepal and Pakistan. It is, therefore, necessary that this permission

[Shri S. S. Kothari]

should not be granted. If there are any difficulties that the tourists are facing, proper conditions can be created in Calcutta so that its attractiveness as a tourist centre is enhanced.

As regards Darjeeling, I would submit it is an excellent tourist centre, with the Himalayas in the background. Let the restrictions be removed so that the tourists could proceed and have a good time there.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH: (Khalilabad) : Make the communists a tourist attraction !

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : May I also point out that Calcutta is an important commercial centre exporting tea and jute, the two principal traditional foreign-exchange earners of our country? You cannot ignore Calcutta or West Bengal.

The problems of Calcutta are so many that one could probably speak on them for any length of time. But I would not go into details. I would suggest that in the Fourth Plan a sum of Rs. 100 crores or Rs. 20 crores annually should be found for Calcutta and allocated to it so that the various problems of the City may be taken up and tackled. I would specifically refer first to the middle class housing problem. Rents are soaring. People are not able to have even dwelling houses. Besides, the slums are there. Provide better living conditions so that you can have better citizens. Besides, the flooding problem is there. After some rains, the streets are flooded. Another bridge on the Hooghly is absolutely necessary. A person may start to catch the morning train. If there is a traffic jam, he will perhaps be lucky if he could catch the afternoon train or even the next morning train. I am finishing. With regard to civic amenities, I do not know whether the Corporation would be able to deliver the goods. We have long waited for the city fathers to produce the results.... (Interruptions). They may be the Congress or the United Front. We want

a non-Congress, non-Communist Government in West Bengal. Then only will conditions improve.... (Interruptions). The traffic problem also is there. The trams are dilapidated and in a rotten condition. There is so much of overcrowding; one can understand the seriousness only when one goes and lives there.

The schools and colleges are full and it is difficult to get admission. Calcutta's educational problems have to be tackled. The percentage of literacy is the highest in the country. That is to the credit of Calcutta. The tradition for education is there. We have to provide the requisite facilities so that the people can be brought up as better citizens. For that we need more colleges and schools and greater allocation of funds.

श्री शिव नारायण (वस्ती) : चेयरमैन महोदय, "दैहिक दैविक भौतिक तापा, रामराज्य काहं नहीं व्यापा।" बंगाल पर दो बार बाढ़ की आफत आई—जून और जुलाई में और अब अगस्त में भी उस के रिपीट होने की आशंका है। हटिया नक्षत्र बाकी है, जब कि सारे हिन्दुस्तान का पानी बह कर बंगाल की खाड़ी में जाता है। बंगाल आज बाढ़ के चंगुल में है। मैं कम्युनिस्ट बन्धुओं से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इस स्थिति में नवम्बर में इलेक्शन कराना कैसे पासिबल है। उन को डेमोक्रेसी में विश्वास नहीं है। वे तो डिक्टेटोरियल गवर्नमेंट चाहते हैं। हम तो इस बात के टोटली एगेंस्ट हैं कि बंगाल में प्रैजीडेंट्स रूल रहे, लेकिन यह स्थिति इन लोगों की पैदा की हुई है। इन लोगों ने युनाइटेड फ्रंट के रूप में जो, चना, मटर और गेहूँ आदि की एक खिचड़ी बनाई। लेकिन थोड़े समय बाद ही उन लोगों में फूट पड़ गई—वे आपस में लड़ मरे। ये लोग हम को बहुत गालियाँ देते हैं कि बीस सालों में हमारी गवर्नमेंट

करप्ट हो गई, लेकिन ये लोग तो दस महीनों में ही करप्ट हो गये। इस से ज्यादा करप्शन क्या हो सकती है ?

बंगाल वीर-भूमि है। बंगाल अंग्रेज से लड़ता था। बंगाल ने देश को मुभाष बॉस दिया। लेकिन बंगाल के इन नौनि-हालों ने क्या किया ? इन्होंने सब कुछ चौपट कर दिया। ये लोग विदेशियों को यहां आने का निमंत्रण दे रहे थे।

मैं ईमानदारी से यह महसूस करता हूँ कि जब बंगाल में बाढ़ का प्रभाव खत्म हो जाये और जमीन सूख जाये, तब वहां पर चुनाव होने चाहिए। इस लिए वहां पर फरवरी से पहले चुनाव होना नामुमकिन है। जिस व्यक्ति को गांवों की स्थिति का ज्ञान है, वह मेरी इस बात से सहमत होगा।

मेरे मित्र ने कलकत्ता के बारे में कहा है। मैं पब्लिक एकाउंट्स का मेम्बर था। मैंने फरक्खा बैराज को देखा है। कलकत्ता बन्दरगाह को बचाने के लिए उस को कार्यान्वित करना बहुत जरूरी है। सरकार को विशेष रूप से ध्यान दे कर और काफ़ी पैसा लगा कर उस काम को हाथ में लेना चाहिए। कलकत्ता हमारे देश की पुरानी राजधानी रहा है। उस की शोभा तभी है, जब वह सुन्दर और साफ-सुथरा रहे। वह हिन्दुस्तान का द्वार है। जिस तरफ़ से अंग्रेज इस देश में आये, उसी रास्ते से अब ये लोग चीनियों को बुलाना चाहते हैं। बंगाल ने हम लोगों को लीडरशिप दी है, इनक्लाब दिया है।

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : (Alipore): Is he referring to Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani ?

SHRI SHEO NARAIN : To you. Don't worry. Coming events cast their shadows before.

टेनीसन ने लिखा है, "Ring out the old, ring in the new":

मैं बंगाल के लोगों से अरील करना चाहता हूँ कि वे बंगाल का एक नया रूप दें और बंगाल के गौरव और प्रेस्टीज को मेन्टेन करें। यू० पी० और बिहार के गरीब मजदूर रोजी कमाने के लिए कलकत्ता जाते हैं और बंगाली बाबुओं को अपनी रिकशा पर उठाते हैं। अब उन लोगों को वहां से मार कर खदेड़ा जा रहा है। मैं कलकत्ता गया हूँ, बंगाल गया हूँ। वहां पर हज़ारों घर बाढ़ से तबाह हो गये हैं। "दुखिया की गति दुखिया जाने, और न जाने कोय।" मैं गरीब हरिजन हूँ। मैं बंगाल के भूखे-नंगे किसानों और हरिजनों की हालत को जानता हूँ। मैं सरकार से अपील करता हूँ कि वह बंगाल के गरीब झीपड़ी वालों की यथा-सम्भव सहायता करे, गांवों में रहने वाले गरीब लोगों की मदद करे।

बंगाल के युनाइटेड फ्रंट ने यह ब्बंडर किया कि वहां पर हड़ताल कराई, घेराव करावे, जिस से वहां पर फ्रैक्टरियां बन्द हो गईं। आज स्थिति यह है कि बड़ी बड़ी फ्रैक्टरियां बंगाल से शिफ्ट होना चाहती हैं। बंगाल के लिए यह खतरे की घंटी है। अगर ये इंडस्ट्रीज बंगाल से उठ गईं, तो उस की क्या स्थिति होगी ? पाकिस्तान ने भी यही गलती की थी। उस ने हिन्दुओं को वहां से खदेड़ दिया, जिस का नतीजा यह हुआ कि वहां का विजिनेस और इंडस्ट्री फ़ैल हो गये।

कम्युनिस्ट लोग मजदूर की बदौलत अपनी लीडरी चलाने हैं। वे मजदूर के प्रोटेक्टर नहीं हैं। उन को डेमोक्रेसी में विश्वास नहीं है। कहा जाता है कि बंगाल को अच्छा गवर्नर देना चाहिए।

[श्री शिव नारायण]

श्री धर्मवीर वहां पर हैं। कोई भी गवर्नर जायेगा, वह ठीक काम करेगा, लेकिन ये लोग उस को काम करने दें, तब न? आज हालत यह है कि वहां की जनता पुकार पुकार कर कह रही है कि युनाइटेड फ्रंट की निकम्मी सरकार फिर न बनने पाये। बंगाल का जो मज्र है, मैं भी उस का मरीज हूँ। हमारे यहां भी प्रैजिडेंट्स रूल है। हमारे यहां भी फ़रवरी में इलैक्शन होने वाला है। उस समय हर एक बुद्धिमान व्यक्ति को अपने प्रदेश और देश के हित को सामने रख कर वोट देना चाहिए। जो वास्तविक अर्थों में हिन्दुस्तानी है, जिस के मन में भारत-माता के दूध और पानी की इज्जत है, उस को देश में एक सही डेमोक्रेटिक गवर्नमेंट बनाने की कोशिश करनी चाहिए।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करता हूँ। बंगाल में प्रैजिडेंट्स रूल को फ़रवरी से आगे नहीं बढ़ाना चाहिए। इलैक्शन के बाद जो भी गवर्नमेंट बने, चाहे वह कम्युनिस्ट हो, जनसंघी या कांग्रेसी हो, वह स्टेबल होनी चाहिए, ताकि वह जनता के हित में काम कर सके।

खिचड़ी वाली गवर्नमेंट न बनने पावे और फूटे बर्तन एक जगह इकट्ठे न हों, यह हमारी अपील है, इस प्रोक्लेमेशन के सम्बन्ध में। मैं पुनः अपील करता हूँ बंगाल के लोगों से कि मिल कर रहो, एक साथ रहो और देश-रक्षक बनो, देश-भक्षक मत बनो।

SHRI GANESH GHOSH (Calcutta: South): Sir, there has been an unprecedented flood havoc in West Bengal affecting about 10 million people. Even the report of the State administration, which undoubtedly contains many understatements, admits that the devastation has been tremendous. In view of this, it ap-

pears absolutely ridiculous that the State Government have spent only about Rs. 4 crores on various relief works. We know that the State's resources are limited and it is not possible for any State Government, whether elected Government or under President's rule, to cope with the problems of such dimensions with its own resources, unless and until the Central Government helps them. Certainly all the professions of concern of the Central Government for the people of West Bengal seems to be nothing but a cruel joke, when we know that the Central Government have uptill now given only a crore and a few lakhs, while nothing less than five times Rs. 4 crores would be able to touch even the fringe of the problem, not to speak of saving the people of West Bengal.

Of course, we have been given hopes that a study team perhaps composed of experts from the Central Government is very soon going there to make an on the spot study of the situation. After verifying the statement of the West Bengal administration and its estimates, they will make their own assessment and recommend how much the Central Government can put into the beggar's bowl of West Bengal.

Measures must be immediately taken to postpone the realisation of all dues from the poor peasant in the affected areas. We are glad so know that the West Bengal administration is thinking of postponing thie realisation of land revenue from the jotedars. But what about the millions of peasants in flood-affected areas? I suggest that immediately after this session of Parliament is over, an ordinance must be issued prohibiting everybody, including jotedars, money-lenders, usurers, etc., to realise any sort of dues, whether it be land rent or debts, from the peasants in the flood-affected sub-divisions and police stations.

The State administration must immediately stop the up-till now followed practice of distributing Government

help and relief through the Congress. All Government help and relief must be distributed through local popularly elected committees.

I should like to say a few words about police high-handedness in West Bengal. The people of West Bengal certainly wanted the ministry of renegade Dr. P. C. Ghosh to go and imposition of President's rule for a short time, to be followed by general elections. After prolonged struggle and much suffering after more than 40,000 people had gone to jail, they realised their demands. The ministry of Dr. P. C. Ghosh was dismissed and President's rule was imposed. But certainly the people of West Bengal do not like the situation prevailing in West Bengal under the dispensation of Governor Dharma Vira. Who have been the real beneficiaries of the President's rule? Certainly not the people of West Bengal. It is the Congress, the police and the anti-social elements in West Bengal who are reaping the benefits of the President's rule. At present the Congress has not got much support in West Bengal. They are organising the anti-social elements, goondas, waggon-breakers and cut-throats and have set up reigns of terror in many places, to force the people to support the Congress. Governor Dharma Vira has turned West Bengal into a paradise for the police. He has given a free hand to the police to deal with the political opponents of the Congress. He has also mortgaged the personal liberty and honour of the common people in the hands of the police.

I will give you one or two examples of what is happening there. Shrimati Parul Roy is an aged school teacher very much respected in Jadhavpur area within Calcutta. One of her sons, Shri Ujjal Roy, a young man working in a factory and who does not belong to any political party but who is strongly opposed to the Congress, was for several months being persuaded by Congress leaders to change sides and join the Congress. He persistently refused. One

early morning while he was going to his place of work some goondas waylaid him, beat him and took him to the Jadhavpur police station. Inspector Mahanti and Sub-Inspector Pal of that police station both mercilessly beat him. When his mother came to know of it she rushed to the police station and saw to her consternation that her son was being subjected to merciless beating. She appealed to the police officers not to beat her son in front of her. What happened was, both Mahanti and Pal fell upon that old lady, slapped her, boxed her, beat her, abused her, kicked her and then threw her out of the police station by her neck. This was brought to the notice of all the top police officials in West Bengal. But no inquiry has been held into it. Sir, you will also feel surprised to know that this is what is happening in West Bengal.

Rabin Bose is a young man opposed to the Congress. The Congress leaders tried to persuade him to join Congress. But he refused. What happened was, perhaps on the 25th of May, in broad day light, at about 2.30 in the afternoon, in a very crowded street corner near Rathtala junction in Jadhavpur, he was stabbed by five persons and killed. A number of persons saw the assailants. Rabin Bose also in his dying declaration named the five persons. Most of those whose names came out in the dying declaration of Rabin Bose are walking about freely threatening others with the fate of Rabin Bose.

Dipak Chowdhury is another young man. He also refused to join Congress. Some goondas and a few constables went to his house one night and took him to the Jadhavpur police station. There he was subjected to merciless beating. When his old parents heard about it and went to the police station to see their son they were pained to see their son being beaten by the police. The old parents protested and asked the police officers not to beat their son any more. Both Mahanti and Pal fell upon the old man—I think

[Shri Ganesh Ghosh]

Shri Nriya Gopal Chowdhury was his name—beat him, kicked him and threw him out of the station. They also threatened the old lady unless and until she stopped protesting.

This is what is happening with regard to non-official persons. But even Government officers are not spared. A few friends and relatives of a police officer of the Behala police station in Calcutta had, with the help of the police, illegally occupied a number of flats of the Behala Government Housing Estate. A sub-Assistant Engineer under orders of the Executive Engineer went to the Housing Estate and wanted those men to vacate the flats. A few days after this when the same sub-Assistant Engineer went to the Estate to supervise some work a number of constables with lathis attacked him, beat him and dragged him away to the Behala police station. The unfortunate officer was released only when a large number of people went to the Thana and staged a demonstration. No action has been taken either against the constables or the police officer.

SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOU-DHURI: On a point of order. The hon. Member referred to some one who would not join Congress being beaten and taken to the police station. I would like to know about the boy who said... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI UMANATH: It is not a point of order; it is a point of disorder.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order.

SHRI GANESH GHOSH: I am nearly over. I will give only one more instance. Mrs. Santwana Sen Gupta, another teacher, had the misfortune of being the neighbour of a police officer attached to the La! Bazaar police station. The police officer had a pond in his compound which was filled up with rain water. The water flowed into his own house. So, one day when Mrs. Santwana Sen Gupta was out from her house,

the police officer cut a channel, diverting all the water to Mrs. Santwana's house.

MR. CHAIRMAN: His time is over. Let him resume his seat. He has taken 12 minutes. Now, Shri B. K. Das Chowdhuri.

SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKERJEE (Ratangiri): Sir, I will take only one minute, if I may.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will give her time later on, not now. Yes, Shri Das Chowdhuri.

SHRI B. K. DAS CHOWDURI: Sir, the other hon. Member has not yet resumed his seat.

SHRI GANESH GHOSH: I have not taken even ten minutes. I am finishing. In the afternoon when Mrs. Santwana returned she found that her house was full of water. She went and protested to the police officer and requested him to close the channel. Do you know what happened? The police officer entered her house with a few hirelings and beat her and her husband. When they went to the police station to make a complaint—if the Minister wants to know the name of the police station, I can supply it—the police man on duty refused to record it in the diary on the ground that the person complaint against is the police officer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now he should resume his seat.

SHRI GANESH GHOSH: An enquiry should be held into all these cases as soon as possible and a popular government should be re-established in West Bengal.

SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKERJEE: May I please intervene for a minute. The hon. Member who just now spoke was really misguiding the House. I may tell you that when their government was in power, my cousin, who was working in the Jadhavpur university, was gheraoed... (*Interruptions*) It is absolutely true.

SHRI UMANATH : This is not a point of order....(interruptions)

SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKERJEE : All this happened in the Jadhapur university. It is nothing but misguiding the House.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURI (Cooch-Bihar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the course of the discussion we have heard from hon. Members of the opposition as to what should be the policy for the next mid-term poll in West Bengal. We have heard that the election should not be held in November; though the motion is otherwise and not regarding the election particularly yet we have heard as said by some of the hon. Members that the election should not be held in November. They have given their grounds and their arguments too. Because, the people in West Bengal will not be in a position to vote in November. Most of the areas in West Bengal are under water, there are water-logged areas. Here we find Members, who seem to be the advocates of the toiling people, the distressed people, the millions of people in West Bengal, in actual practice they forget about miserable condition of the people of West Bengal. These can safely be said against them. Their speeches and arguments simply mean that elections should not be held in November.

No matter if the election is held in November or is not held or is held in January or February, we should see what type of government or administration is there under the President's rule. We have just now heard from my hon. friend, Shri Ganesh Ghosh, about a series of cases of torture under this particular type of administration. We have also heard the hon. Minister of State, Shri Shukla, saying that under President's rule the administration has proved to be a very efficient one. Within the brief span of time given to me I would like to add some more instances to those of Shri Ghosh who spoke just before me.

On the 23rd March in the Cooch-Bihar Town what had happened? In the heart of Cooch-Bihar there is a place known as Kadamtala. There was a dispute about the possession of a particular plot of land known as zero *khatian* or Government *khatian* No. 0914. That particular plot of land was under the occupation of some person,—I would not like to mention the name of that person,—for several years together, for 17 or 18 years.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Deal with the general proposition. These are individual cases. You have got only five minutes.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURI : Not five minutes ; give me ten minutes and I will finish with three or four instances only in my district.

On the 23rd March the local officers—the local Deputy Commissioner, the local Deputy Superintendent of Police, I mean, the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Cooch-Bihar, the sub-divisional land reform officer and the junior land reform officer, all conspired together and demolished the structure of that person who was enjoying it and under whose occupation that particular plot of land was for the last 17 or 18 years. They caused destruction to the extent of Rs. 17,000 or Rs. 18,000.

AN HON. MEMBER : Legally ?

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURI : Most illegally.

When the matter was challenged as to ascertain whether there was any order of any court of law for his eviction—I have got a photostat copy of the particular order which states that no eviction case was registered against the particular person concerned. There was nothing of the sort.

To conclude this particular point, I referred that matter to the Governor of West Bengal as to what had happened about this particular incident and why the local officers took a partisan attitude against some particular

[Shri B. K. Daschowdhury]

citizen of India. The reply is still awaited. I wrote that letter in the month of April, on 21st April, and in the month of August I sent another letter requesting the Governor of West Bengal to inform me as to what had happened and whether any inquiry was made to that effect. He said the report was still awaited.

This is the type of administration that we find in West Bengal. When a person's right is being infringed and jeopardised by the partisan outlook of some particular officers concerned, we do not find any sense of proper administration and any proper inquiry into the matter. This is one incident, Sir, which shows how autocratic administration is going on there.

Here in the Lok Sabha I tabled one question in the month of May and it came up on the 10th May; I tabled it about three weeks or so before that—about one fraud case in Cooch-Bihar Primary School. The fraud was connected with certain officers concerned. I would like to refer to unstarred question No. 10425 of the 10th May. The reply that came to me was, "The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House."

Again, in this session I put that question and it came up on the 9th August. This is Unstarred Question No. 3412 dated 9th August. It is the same very question. The reply is that the information is still awaited from the Government of West Bengal and that it has already been reminded. This is the type of administration we have in West Bengal today. Under the President's rule, the officers there feel themselves so supreme. There is no constituted Government, there is nobody else above their heads to put them to task. They are supreme and final there and it is shameful that hon. Minister is saying in their favour.

Another instance that I would like to place before the House is that on

the 2nd June, 1968 I submitted a memorandum, submitted by certain people of my district Dinhat sub-division to the hon. Home Minister, Mr. Y. B. Chavan, through a letter dated 2nd June, 1968. I like to read out two paragraphs from that memorandum. The local sub-divisional officers in Dinhat are conspiring,—this is what has been stated to the Home Minister,—with certain anti-national elements and Pakistani nationals in the Pak enclaves attached there. I quote these two paragraphs...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are the paragraphs very lengthy ?

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : No; just 4 or 5 lines. The matter has already been referred to the Home Minister for information and necessary action. I quote :

"That for this a section of smugglers (Indian by birth) and anti-nationals joined hands with those Pak nationals being twisted by personal interest and, with utter surprise, we have noticed that a high official of Dinhat sub-division has nicely been trapped into their plot.

That present S.D.O., Dinhat entered into this Pak enclave recently at least on 3 occasions and collected funds from them for purposes better known to him...."

15.52 HRS.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

This matter has already been referred to the Home Minister. I would like to know what action has been taken against the particular officer. This is the type of administration that we are having in West Bengal. These officers are conspiring with smugglers and anti-national elements and they are collecting funds. I do not know for what purpose, whether it is to be contributed to any political party or not. That should be enquired into. I do not want to make allegations further.

Then, there is a very disheartening report about the food position in Cooch-Bihar district....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Conclude now.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : This is very important. Some persons have died of starvation. There is a press report published in the *Basumati*, a Bengali daily, of 26th June, 1968 that 3 persons have died of starvation in Mekliganj Sub-Division and there was no help from the local officers. What is more is that from other reports also we find that as many as 6 persons have died of starvation in the Cooch-Bihar district itself. If we go through the whole report, we find what is the condition of the people in Cooch-Bihar today. Nearly 80 per cent of the villagers have no money to purchase their food-stuffs. They are completely out of pocket. The hon. Minister has stated that during the President's rule and under the present efficient administration, the prices of essential commodities have come down. It is not only that. The purchasing power of the people of the Cooch-Bihar district particularly and the people of West Bengal in general has also gone down. What has been happening there? The people are not getting their food-stuffs. Here the hon. Minister has said that the supplies are made through ration shops. I have a report with me. ...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your time is up; only a minute.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : In the last meeting of the West Bengal Consultative Committee held on 17th and 18th June in Calcutta, we were supplied with some papers, and in those papers it has been stated that in Cooch-Bihar district modified ration is being supplied to 6,02,144 units and that modified ration is supplied only to 'A' and 'B' categories of cardholders, i.e., persons who have land upto 3 bigas—'A' and 'B' categories and not 'C', 'D', 'E' and so on. I have another statement here received from the district officials, from the Deputy

Commissioner, and here it has been stated that the units of 'A' and 'B' categories of cardholders, both in the urban and in the rural areas, are 7,90,213. The Government is supplying ration only to 6,02,144, leaving a balance of 1,88,069. These people are not being supplied any ration.

श्री देवेन सेन (भासनसोल) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं डा० सेन की तरफ़ीम को सपोर्ट करता हूँ। इसके खिलाफ़ यहाँ पर जो कुछ कहा गया है, उसको मैं दो हिस्सों में बांटना हूँ। एक हिस्सा तो यह है कि फरवरी में चुनाव हो और दूसरा हिस्सा यह है कि चुनाव बिल्कुल न हो। इसमें आजाता है स्वतन्त्र पार्टी और अनुत्य घोष ब्लाक। जो लोग एकदम एलेक्शन बिल्कुल नहीं चाहते हैं, उनके बारे में मैं कुछ नहीं कहता। लेकिन जो लोग कहते हैं कि फरवरी में चुनाव हो उन्होंने यह तर्क दिया कि वोटर्स लोग आ नहीं सकेंगे। तो क्या उन्हीं के वोटर्स आयेंगे, हमारी तरफ़ के वोटर्स नहीं आयेंगे? गए चुनाव में हम लोगों ने मेजारिटी पाई थी और हमारे वोटर्स आने के लिए तैयार हैं। इसलिए इस तर्क में कोई जान नहीं है। इसके अलावा जो पानी है वह दो महीने के अन्दर सूख जायेगा, सितम्बर अक्टूबर तक, उसके बाद नवम्बर में चुनाव हो सकता है। तो जो लोग चुनाव नहीं चाहते हैं वे डर के मारे ही नहीं चाहते हैं। वहाँ पर यूनाइटेड फ्रंट वाले ही जीत कर आयेंगे। बंगाल से अब कांग्रेस का जमाना उठ गया है। चुनाव कभी भी हो, उसमें कांग्रेस जीतकर आने वाली नहीं है। चुनाव चाहे नवम्बर में हो या फरवरी में, कांग्रेस के जीतने का तो कोई सवाल ही नहीं है।

कहा जाता है कि राष्ट्रपति शासन में बंगाल में बहुत तरक्की हुई है।

[श्री देवेन सेन]

लेकिन क्या तरक्की हुई है, यह किसी ने नहीं बतलाया। पहले तो मैं ला एन्ड आर्डर की पोजीशन ही बतलाता हूँ कि एक इलाका जो आसनसोल का है वहाँ पर दो महीने के अन्दर कितनी डकैतियाँ हुई हैं। परसकोल में 30 हजार की डकैती पड़ी, ईस्ट मीतलपुर में 35 हजार की डकैती पड़ी और डेमोगोरिया में 20 हजार की डकैती पड़ी। इसके अलावा जी० टी० रोड० पर पब्लिक बस को अटक किया गया और पसेन्जर्स का सामान और सारी चीजें छीन ली गईं। एक दूसरी बस कजराट और बिहाला के बीच में लूटी गई। बनपुर में मंडर हुआ। अभी हाल ही में मेरे पास कलकत्ता से एक तार आया है जिसमें कहा गया है कि एस० एम्० पी० के पांच आदमी गिरफ्तार हुए 25 अगस्त को, उनको सेन्ट्रल लाकअप में लाकर बुरी तरह से पीटा गया। तो वहाँ पर ला एन्ड आर्डर की यह हालत है।

अब मैं यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि राष्ट्रपति शासन में फूड की क्या हालत है। चावल के दाम ढ़ाई रुपए किलो से कम नहीं हैं। गांवों में पर्चैजिंग पावर विल्कुल घट गई है। उनके पास सामान खरीदने की शक्ति नहीं है। बंगाल में एवरेज एनुअल अर्निंग सन 65 में 1,878 रुपए थी जोकि सन 66 में 1,727 रुपए रह गई। तो राष्ट्रपति शासन से हमको कोई भी फायदा नजर नहीं आता है।

लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर वेस्ट बंगाल में जो तबाही और बबादी हो रही है उस को अगर बचाना हो, उस में कुछ सुधार करना हो तो जरूरी है कि प्रशासन के अधिकारी वाइप्रस्त और पीड़ित क्षेत्रों का स्वयं दौरा करें और स्थिति का अध्ययन करके उस के

अनुसार राहत के लिए सक्रिय पंग उठाएँ। लेकिन मुझे दुःख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि वेस्ट बंगाल के सेक्रेटरी लोग कहते हैं कि हम लोग फ्लड ऐरियाज में नहीं जायेंगे वहाँ पर गवर्नर को जाने दो। चूँकि वह हम लोगों को दिल्ली नहीं भेजना है और खुद हर हफ्ते दिल्ली पहुँच जाता है इसलिए वाइप्रस्त क्षेत्र में भी स्वयं गवर्नर ही जायें। हालत यह है कि बंगाल सरकार का कोई भी अफसर गवर्नर के आर्डर के मुताबिक फ्लड ऐरियाज के लिए काम नहीं करता है। मैं तो कहता हूँ कि केन्द्रीय सरकार अगर रुपया भी दे वहाँ पर फ्लड के बारे में तो भी वह रुपया ठीक से इस्तेमाल नहीं होगा।

16 Hrs.

अगर हम बंगाल के इतिहास पर नजर डालेंगे तो पायेंगे कि न सिर्फ आज की केन्द्रीय सरकार बंगाल के खिलाफ़ रही है बल्कि ब्रिटिश गवर्नमेंट भी बंगाल के खिलाफ़ रही है। इसी कारण लार्ड कर्जन ने बंगाल का विभाजन कर दिया था। उसी बंगाल विरोधी नीति पर चलते हुए अंग्रेजों के हम स्वतन्त्रता प्रदान की तो लार्ड कर्जन के एवार्ड अनुसार हम लोगों के जितने बड़े बड़े राइस प्रोड्यूसिंग जिले थे जैसे खुलना, बारिसाल, जैसोर और दिनाजपुर वगैरह यह सब इस्टर्न पाकिस्तान में चले गये।

यह भी हम देख रहे हैं कि अभी कलकत्ते में जो केन्द्रीय सरकार के बड़े बड़े दफ्तर क्रायम हैं उन के वहाँ से उठाने की बात चल रही है। उदाहरणार्थ मैं बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि एल० आई० सी, इंडियन स्टैटिस्टिकल इंस्टीट्यूट, डी० बी० सी और डी० जी० ओ० एफ० आदि आफिसीज कलकत्ते से हटा कर दूसरी जगह पर ले जाने की बात हो रही है जोकि करना उचित नहीं है।

इस में शक नहीं है कि कलकत्ते में ज्यादातर लेबर का हल्ला आदि होता है लेकिन इस बारे में मैंने आंकड़े इकट्ठे किये हैं और हकीकत यह है कि कलकत्ते से ज्यादा हड़तालें बम्बई में हुई हैं और मैनडेज लीस भी बम्बई में ज्यादा हुआ है।

जब मैं सरकार की इंडस्ट्रियल लाइसेंस की वितरण नीति को देखता हूँ तो पाता हूँ कि इस साल के पहले 4 महीने में महाराष्ट्र को बमुकाबले बंगाल के 4 गुना ज्यादा लाइसेंस प्रदान किये गये।

हम देखने हैं कि कलकत्ते को और बंगाल को खत्म करने के लिए जो साजिश ब्रिटिश गवर्नमेंट के जमाने में चलती थी वह आज भी जारी है। मैं तो यहां तक कहूंगा कि मुगलों के शासनकाल में भी बंगाल के प्रति वही नीति कायम रही। मुगलों के समय में भी जो केन्द्रीय सरकार होती थी वह बंगाल के खिलाफ रही। उस जमाने में बंगाल में बड़े बड़े बागी और विप्लवी व्यक्ति जैसे कि प्रताप आदित्य, चांद राय, केदार राय और ईसाकखां आदि पैदा हुए। हालत यह रही है कि जो भी केन्द्रीय सरकार यहां पर कायम रही है वह तमाम बंगाल के खिलाफ रही है। कारण उस का यह है कि बंगाल के अन्दर हमेशा से क्रान्तिकारी और विप्लवी पुरुष हुए हैं जिनसे कि हर एक केन्द्रीय सरकार डरती है। उन से कांग्रेस भी डरती है, मुगलकालीन केन्द्रीय सरकार डरती थी उन से ब्रिटिश गवर्नमेंट भी डरती थी। आज भी वह डर फैला हुआ है क्योंकि सदा की तरह से बंगाल में आज भी क्रान्तिकारी पैदा हो रहे हैं।

जहां तक बंगाल में मध्यावधि चुनाव कराने का सवाल है मैं चाहता हूँ कि वहां पर आगामी नवम्बर में चुनाव

करवाये जाय। अलबत्ता श्री समर गुहा 6 महीने बाद अर्थात् फरवरी में चुनाव करवाना चाहते हैं। अकेले उन की ही एक ऐसी पार्टी है जोकि बंगाल के युनाइटेड फ्रंट में शामिल नहीं हुई बाकी सब पार्टियां, यह जितनी 13—14 पार्टियां हैं वह सब युनाइटेड फ्रंट में शामिल है। उधर श्री अतुल्य घोष का जो ब्लाक है, जैसे श्रीमती इलापाल चौधरी आदि वह तो चाहते हैं कि वहां बंगाल में चुनाव ही न हो क्योंकि यदि चुनाव हुआ तो उस में कांग्रेस के पावर में आने की कोई उम्मीद नहीं है। प्रोफेसर हुमायुन् कविर ने कहा है कि चुनावों में यह युनाइटेड फ्रंट नहीं जीतेगा लेकिन मुझे इस का पूरा पूरा विश्वास है कि चुनाव में यह युनाइटेड फ्रंट पूरा पूरा जीतेगा। देश में अगर कोई एक राज्य है जहां से कि कांग्रेस का जमाना पूरी तरह से चला गया है तो वह बंगाल राज्य है। निश्चित रूप से बंगाल में से कांग्रेस का जमाना एकदम उठ गया है। इसलिए मैं और अधिक न कहते हुए श्री बनर्जी के और अपने अमैंडमेंट को सपोर्ट करता हूँ और जोरदार मांग करता हूँ कि बंगाल में नवम्बर के अन्त में अवश्य चुनाव होने चाहिए।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Yamuna Prasad Mandal.

DR. RANEN SEN: There is some misunderstanding here. I did not move any amendment to Mr. Shukla's resolution. Mr. S. M. Banerjee had moved an amendment. I had supported it. But afterwards I find that everybody is referring to "my" amendment.

श्री रनेन सेन : मेरा भी एक अमैंडमेंट था बहरहाल मेरा अमैंडमेंट हो, श्री बनर्जी का अमैंडमेंट हो, मैं उस को सपोर्ट करता हूँ।

श्री यमुना प्रसाद मंडल (समस्तीपुर) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, बंग भूमि पर प्राकृतिक

[श्री यमुना प्रसाद मंडल]

प्रकोप इस ढंग का है जिसको कि एक शब्द में कल राज्य गृह मंत्री महोदय ने कहा था कि वह हार्ट रैंडिंग है, हार्ट ब्रेकिंग है, वह हृदयद्रावक है और वह आंसुओं से भरा हुआ है।

अभी मुल्क में बाढ़ की स्थिति पर सेकैंड सप्लीमेंटरी स्टेटमेंट देते हुए बैस्ट बंगाल के बारे में इरिगेशन ऐंड पावर मिनिस्ट्री ने यह कहा है :

“ According to the latest reports, river levels in the State are falling. The latest statement made by the State Government shows that an area of 16.6 lakh hectares including cropped area of 13.6 lakh hectares was affected. The damage to crop is Rs. 48.6 crores.”

बिला शक उस प्रदेश को भारी क्षति पहुंची है। उस पवित्र बंग भूमि में, कवीन्द्र रवीन्द्र की भूमि में जो इतनी भारी क्षति पहुंची है वह चीज किसे नहीं दुखद मालूम होती है? फसलों को भारी क्षति पहुंचने के अलावा “पब्लिक युटिलिटी” की जो चीजें थीं, मैं आप को बतलाऊं कि करीब 1 लाख 69 हजार 408 घर घराशायी हो गये। इस से आप अनुमान कर सकते हैं कि बंग भूमि को वह पवित्र धरती जोकि सदा से पवित्र कृतियों और संस्कृति का पालना रही है वहां के लोगों को आज कैसी दुर्दशा हो रही है?

“ The Government of West Bengal who had requested for a ways and means advance of Rs. 2 crores have been advanced a sum of Rs. 1 crore to keep the State Government in funds.”

उधर के माननीय सदस्य 14 करोड़ रुपये की मांग कर रहे थे कि वहां के लिए 14 करोड़ रुपया मिलना चाहिए। मेरा उन को कहना है कि पहले आप जो यह 2 करोड़ रुपया मिला है उस को खर्च कर लीजिये बाद में आवश्यक

होने पर और भी मांग की जा सकती है। पश्चिमी बंगाल की सरकार ने दो करोड़ रुपये के वेज ऐंड मींस ऐडवांस की प्रार्थना की थी, उन्हें फिलहाल 1 करोड़ रुपया ऐडवांस कर दिया गया है। लेकिन मैं चाहता हूँ कि पश्चिमी बंगाल को उस की ऐसी दुखद स्थिति में, प्राकृतिक प्रकोप से ग्रसित होने की स्थिति में और अधिक सहायता प्रदान की जानी चाहिए। यह हो सकता है कि स्वतंत्रता देवी की बलिबेदी पर आहुति के फलस्वरूप उस का क्षेत्रफल कम कर दिया गया हो लेकिन ऐसी संकटपूर्ण स्थिति में सारे देश को उस की सहायता करनी चाहिए। जिस प्रकार गुजरात में और अन्य जगहों पर लोगों ने पीड़ितों को काफ़ी मदद पहुंचाया है वैसे ही यहां भी पहुंचायें भारत सरकार का यह धर्म हो जाता है कि केवल एक करोड़ या दो करोड़ तक ही सीमित न रह जाएं बल्कि जितनी भी आवश्यकता हो उसे मदद दें। जहां तक मानवता की रक्षा का सवाल है, बंग भूमि की बाढ़ग्रस्त क्षेत्र के रक्षा का सवाल है, पाल और नेता जी की भूमि का सवाल है और जिस भूमि का त्याग भारत के स्वतंत्रता संग्राम में सर्वोपरि है उस को और अधिक करोड़ रुपयों की सहायता दें।

अभी जो मेरे ए० एस० पी० के मित्र बोल रहे थे उन्होंने बार बार यही कहा कि चुनाव चाहे नवम्बर में हों या फरवरी में हों कांग्रेस इस चुनाव में नहीं जीत सकेगी। इस सिलसिले में उन्होंने एक बड़ी पार्टी का नाम दुहराया। मालूम यह देता था कि वह वास्तविकता से बहुत दूर हैं इसीलिए उन्होंने ऐसा मत प्रकट किया है।

यह सेकैंड सप्लीमेंटरी स्टेटमेंट जिसमें कि फ्लड सिचुएशन का जिक्र है और

रेनफौल कैरेक्टरेरिस्टिक्स को बतलाया गया है उस को पढ़ने से मालूम हो जायगा कि बंग राज्य में एकसैस रेनफौल वर्षा हुआ। इस के पहले भी इस बारे में हाउस में एक स्टेटमेंट रक्खा गया था जिसमें कि देश की बाढ़ स्थिति का 11 अगस्त तक वर्णन था जबकि यह सप्ली-मेंटरी स्टेटमेंट 12 अगस्त से लेकर 26 अगस्त तक के बारे में था। इस स्टेटमेंट से आप वहां की स्थिति की भयंकरता को समझ सकते हैं। अभी रुद्र साहब जो वहां वेस्ट बंगाल राज्य कांग्रेस के सेक्रेटरी हैं उन्होंने भी बिहार कांग्रेस के लोगों को कहा है कि जितनी भी मदद हो सके वह उन की करें। अब बिहार की जो स्थिति है वह आप सब जानते हैं लेकिन फिर भी जहां तक हो सकेगा वह मदद करेंगे।

टोटल एरिया 6425 वर्ग मील है। श्री शिव नारायण ने अभी इस के बारे में कहा फिर भी वहां की भौगोलिक स्थिति को सब लोग जानते होंगे। जिनने नेता लोग यहां बैठे हैं सब भी उस टैरेन को जानते होंगे क्योंकि सभी उस तरफ जाते हैं। जो लोग गंगा सागर की तरफ जाते हैं वह देखते होंगे कि वहां किस तरह से ड्रेजर की जरूरत है और वहां किस तरह से बड़े बड़े काम हो रहे हैं।

यह सही है कि कलकत्ता शहर केवल बंगाल का नहीं है। वह सारे देश का है, बिहार का है, यू० पी० का है, पूर्वी पंजाब का है, गुजरात का है। वह एक नेशनल सिटी है और उस पर हम लोगों को गर्व है। वह हमारे यहां का फर्स्ट सिटी है। आज उस की रक्षा के लिये फरक्का बैराज की रचना की जा रही है। उस पर 100 करोड़ रु० या इस से ज्यादा खर्च का अन्दाजा है। आज एन० पी० सी० सी० एक ओर काम कर रहा है, दूसरी ओर हम लोगों ने देखा है कि

हिन्दुस्तान कंस्ट्रक्शन कम्पनी काम कर रही है, लेकिन इस काम में और भी प्रगति होनी चाहिये जिस से यह काम और भी तेजी से चले। आज वहां मानवता तकलीफ से कराह रही है और वहां रिलीफ की जरूरत है। उन को घर बनाने के लिये मदद चाहिये। आज हमारे विरोधी लोग वहां जा कर "रिलीफ" का काम नहीं करना चाहते, वह सिर्फ यहां बैठ कर समय बिताना चाहते हैं। वह इतना बड़ा नगर है। अगर वह लोग चाहें तो एक एक डिस्ट्रिक्ट में जा कर बड़े बड़े लोगों से मिल कर रिलीफ का सामान तैयार कर सकते हैं। मगर उन को इस की कोई फिक्र नहीं होती। आज तो वह तीन हिस्सों में बंट गये हैं। एक तो मार्क्सिस्ट हैं दूसरे राइटिस्ट्स हैं और तीसरे नक्सलाइट्स हैं। आज हम सब लोगों को मिल कर जो यह नेशनल फ़ाइसिस् आई है, जो कैलैमिटी आई है, उस में इस तरह की बातें न कर के दूसरी बातें करनी चाहियें, कुछ रचनात्मक काम करना चाहिये। आज उन लोगों ने एक बार भी नहीं कहा कि जूट मिलों में काम करने वाले हजारों मजदूरों के पास घर नहीं हैं, एक बार भी उन्होंने नहीं कहा कि सरकार को इस के लिये खास मदद मिलनी चाहिये। हजारों मजदूरों के लिये रहने का इन्तजाम नहीं हो रहा है, वह होना चाहिये। आज तो वह केवल यही बात करते हैं कि चुनाव नवम्बर में हो या कब हो यह स्थिति बहुत खराब है।

मैं आप को बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि तीसरी योजना के बाद की तीन वार्षिक योजनाओं में कितनी कम सहायता केन्द्र से बंगाल को दी गई है। वहां पर 1966-67 में प्रति व्यक्ति व्यय हुआ 16 रु० लेकिन केन्द्र की ओर से मिले 8 रुपये, 1967-68 में इस सीमा राज्य और

[श्री यमुना प्रसाद मंडल]

बंग भूमि की स्थिति यह है कि प्रति व्यक्ति व्यय हुआ 15 रु० और केन्द्र से मिला 8 रु० इसी तरह से 1968-69 में प्रति व्यक्ति व्यय हुआ 13 रु० और केन्द्र ने जो सहायता दी है वह है 11 रु०। यही हालत उत्तर प्रदेश की है, यही हालत बिहार की है, बल्कि बिहार की तो और भी खराब है। वहाँ इस साल 12 रु० प्रति व्यक्ति खर्च हुआ है और 8 रु० मिले हैं। मैं चाहूंगा कि इस स्थिति की ओर केन्द्रीय सरकार सोचे जिस से वहाँ की आर्थिक स्थिति अच्छी हो। मैं चाहूंगा कि इस विपत्ति के समय में हम सब लोग मिल कर काम करें और हम जो भी काम करें उस में पार्टी के विचार से न सोचें।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mahato.

*SHRI BHAJAHARI MAHATO (Purulia) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I wish to thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak today.

I would like to say something on the proposal to extend the Governor's role in West Bengal for a period of another 6 months. I shall be as brief as possible.

Sir, I am reminded of two revealing lines of a poem written by the great patriot-poet of Bengal—Charan-Kabi Mukundadas :—

बाणोर जलेने गेछे देश भेसे
ऐ जे काँदित्ते भग्नी-भाई ।”

which means Brothers and Sisters are crying as the country has been flooded.

Sir, the whole State of West Bengal has been under a spell of great misery caused by drought and floods. Under these circumstances it would be pathetic indeed to add to the woes of the people by extending the Governor's rule which the people dread like a nightmare. Under the Governor's rule

the people have been ruthlessly treated by the bureaucratic officers who, by their indifferent attitude, have only aggravated the problems. The utter official negligence has been too pathetic—it has only added to the people's miseries.

Sir, that the present bureaucracy has been indifferent to the needs and problems of the people is clearly born-out by the facts published in the widely read popular weekly of Purulia—'Mukti.' Mukti reports that owing to heavy rains in the Panchet dam and barrage, water level has been much above the danger-mark. As a result of this, villages on the banks of the rivers Damodar and Utiya have been completely inundated causing immense damage. The official reports are conspicuously silent about the damage caused by heavy rains and floods in the Purulia district, mainly in the Raghunathpur, P.S. and the Nituria P.S.

Sir, this is a very sad commentary on the grave failure of the official machinery ; it shows the pathetic lack of care for the unfortunate people of Purulia. Government officers did not care to inform the Centre about the awful condition of this district. The official reports speak of floods in 14 districts of Bengal. Well, but what about the rest ? Does the Government intend to say that no other area has been affected ? Has there been no rains or floods in other districts of West Bengal ? Why is the official report silent about the floods in Purulia ? This district was always been victimised during the uninterrupted Congress rule for 20 to 22 years, it faces the same lack of sympathy now under the Governor's rule. What a telling story of official apathy and inefficiency !

Sir, I can't help say that all this because I have seen with my own eyes the awfully sorry plight of the flood-affected people, especially in my district (Purulia). No relief arrangement has yet been made to save these people, in Purulia from hunger and diseases. The district of Purulia I repeat, Sir, continues to be the most neglected and

*The original speech was delivered in Bengali.

humiliated of all. The officers under the Governor's rule are merely following the legacy of the 20/22 years' Congress rule. The poor farmers and labourers are being exploited by all who get an opportunity—the profiteer, capitalists, the mahajans, the business-magnates, and they are doing all this under the patronage of bureaucrats. The opportunists are naturally taking full advantage of the Governor's rule and official patronage.

Sir, some people have been demanding a postponement of the mid-term election and are in favour of the extension of Governor's rule in West Bengal and, I am sorry to say they are indirectly helping those opportunists, the capitalists and the bureaucrats who have made the lives of the people unbearable. There are natural calamities like drought and flood. But there are even greater calamities like the one prevailing in West Bengal : exploitation of the masses by capitalists with the help of the bureaucrats and the police. The Government machinery under the Governor's rule has played havoc with the lives and aspirations of the people in the State. If the Government wants to show its sincerity, elections must be held in November, as scheduled, and a popular Government be allowed to function. The people must immediately be given respite from the nightmare of the Governor's rule. I urge that the Governor's rule be ended immediately.

Sir, the United Front Government which infused great hopes in the people, has been charged with inaction, inefficiency etc. But what can a government do in only 9 months? Who then, is to take the responsibility of the 20/22 years of Congress mis-rule? Is it implied that floods and miseries are the creation of the UF Government? Let us not forget, Sir, that the Congress was the undisputed ruler of the State for 20 years. What did it do in its uninterrupted rule? We can never forget, must not forget that the recommendations of the Man Singh Committee are yet to be implemented.

Sir, I acknowledge gratefully and with great pride the compliments of men who truly admit that Bengal was not only the birth-place of Indian renaissance but was also the leader of India's freedom movement. But what is the State of affairs in that province of India that gave birth to Raja Ram-mohan, Bankim Chandra, Rabin-dranath, Swami Vivekananda, Sri Aurobindo, Bipin Pal, Netaji Subhas Chandra and Nazrul Islam? It is heart-breaking to say that the 20/22 years of uninterrupted 'Congress-raj' has shattered the future, the hopes, the ideals, the aspirations of this great people, who gave their everything for the freedom of the country and subsequently suffered at the hands of the Congress rule as well. It is also shocking and disgraceful. Sir, that whatever I say today in Bengali will never go on the record only because I am speaking in Bengali, my mother tongue, the 'pride' of the nation. I urge you to see to it, Sir, that all languages be given equal status. All members must have the right to speak in their mother tongues, and to be heard and recorded as well. Otherwise what is the meaning of democracy, equality etc.? I request you Sir, to make all languages 'heard' and 'recorded' in the House.

Sir, I should like to finish now, I repeat that I strongly oppose the proposal to extend Governor's rule in West Bengal and that it should be immediately ended in order to lessen the intensity of the miseries of the people and their frustration. Elections must be held in November, and the people be given the right to elect a popular Government of their choice. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, as I have said on several occasions, they are playing politics everywhere. They are playing politics in food. They did it when the United Front Government was there and they are doing it otherwise also. They are responsible for the high prices prevailing in Bengal. A kilogram of rice costs Rs. 3. If you cross the border and go to Orissa

[Shri Jyotirmoy Basu]

or Bihar it is just half the price. What sort of national integration are you expecting in these circumstances? Are you not trying to hoodwink the people?

There have been two starvation deaths in the district of Purulia from where my hon. friend Shri Bhajahari Mahato comes. These deaths happened very recently. The Government will not admit it. You have kept under detention a number of political workers with the idea of keeping them out of the political field in the coming elections. They must be released at once.

Coming to the crime situation in West Bengal, the number of crimes has recorded an unprecedented height. It was reported by Congress papers in Calcutta that the "crime record has touched an unprecedented height". Why is it so? There is collaboration between the Congress, the police and the anti-social elements. If I ask Shri Chavan why he is not preventing the crime, that is just a mockery because Shri Chavan cannot do it as he has to obey the command from the Congress High Command that crime must be perpetuated in West Bengal to terrorise the people to support the Congress.

Now, an hon. Member from the Swatantra Party, His Majesty's loyal opposition as I call them, has said that capital is shy. In Asansol in Ratibali colliery the coal mine owners have imported ex-convicts and criminals from Agra, Chambal valley and other places to terrorise the labour. That has created a law and order problem, because the State Government cannot tackle them. It is now boomeranging on them.

Then I come to police atrocities on people who are opposing Congress-rule, who have opposed Congress-rule and who are working to oppose Congress-rule. The poor helpless minorities in the districts of Murshidabad and Nadia are in such a pitiable position that it cannot be described. In reply to my letter the other day Shri Chavan wrote to me that the police has committed acts of atrocities. It is an

admission on record. This is being done in a systematic manner to fulfil a certain objective, namely, to create terror in the minds of the people who do not want the Congress to come back to power.

Now the unemployment figure has touched a new height. How has it happened? The industrial growth slowed down from 1956 when the Congress was very much in power. When they apprehended that forces opposed to Congress were coming to power, the Central Government conspired with the big money bags and bureaucrats in West Bengal and withheld Central orders for wagon building and many other items for railways and ports. That is how they blackmailed and throttled West Bengal and created problems of unemployment.

It is all during the Congress regime that they diverted LIC investments from eastern zone to certain favourite areas of the Finance Minister, namely, Bombay region. They collected more business from the eastern region, Bengal and Assam, but the money must go to the Ahmedabad textile mill owners and big business; otherwise, he cannot come to the throne and displace the present Prime Minister.

Only the other day Shri T. T. Krishnamachari divulged that Britain offered a loan of £67 million to expand the Durgapur plant. If that had been done, it would have created enough employment opportunities. But that money was diverted and it found its place somewhere else. So, West Bengal was deprived of the money and the employment potential.

What are they doing in the labour field? They are introducing automation with all its accompanying evils and consequent unemployment. There has been an agitation going on against automation and yet LIC persists in introducing it. We have always taken the stand that automation must not be extended. We have protested against it. But we do not want bloodshed in the month of puja, the biggest festival of the Bengalis.

Coming to Calcutta proper, again Shri T. T. Krishnamachari divulged the other day—I have written to the Prime Minister but she has nothing to say against it—that Rs. 200 crores was set apart for developing Calcutta. That project has been shelved or the money has been diverted. I have got no answer from the government, because it is true.

Now, coming to the elections, why do they want more time if they are sure they will win any time the election is held? They want to settle the differences within the party. So, they go from place to place, getting support for them—Shri B. M. Birla, Shri Bijay Singh Nahar, Shri Asu Ghosh and Shri Purvi Mukerjee and many others, it is a wonderful circus that is going on between them. Shri Atulya Ghosh wants more time so that he can patch up with the flag-bearer of the Congress party, the jotedars, the hoarders of rice. They must be given time, the benefit of another harvest. Otherwise, who will wreck the United Front Government? That will definitely come to power. So, the election must be held in the month of November. In order to see that their end is achieved, this unholy emissary, Shri Dharma Vira, against whom serious strictures were made by the Public Accounts Committee ten years ago, which I am going to publish, this unfit man of the civil service, he has been sent to Bengal as the head of the State. There was a serious charge of importing Japanese textiles in 1952 and causing a loss of Rs. 55 lakhs against this person, and yet he has been appointed this post because they want a man who can be blackmailed and made to do nefarious things.

Now about corruption in West Bengal, we had a man as vigilance commissioner who was our Foreign Secretary, Shri Subimal Dutt, an honest and reliable man with high integrity, who has replaced Shri Thacker. He has given reports against high civil servants of West Bengal of corruption, misrule and misuse of power. I want a categorical answer from the Home Minister, if he has got the courage to

face this allegation as to what has been done to that; what steps have been taken against that officer. We want Shri Shukla, through you, to place a list of names of those.

Then, there is trouble between the BCS officers. There is a coterie rule of the Chief Secretary and his favourites. They have been practising nepotism as far as possible, rejecting the claims of senior good deputy magistrates. He had been selecting people of his own choice to form a coterie. Now they have gone to the High Court in a writ. There are two cases pending. All these things are happening.

This is a brilliant record, Shri Shukla! I might tell him that they have ruined West Bengal in 20 years and in these last few months they are striking the last nail in the coffin.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri. Just five minutes.

SHRI TRIDIB KUMAR CHAUDHURI (Berhampore): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you do not expect me to deal with the stupendous problem with which my State is confronted today in five minutes' time. I would, therefore, not touch upon them. It is a god-forsaken province and not only the Olympian gods of New Delhi have forsaken that State, it seems that even the gods who sit in high heaven are sore with Bengal and have poured all the flood waters that they could gather into that State. We are not yet out of the woods. The end of September is a terrible time and one is not very sure what will happen then.

I would only deal with one point. We are extending President's rule. We have also a provision that during the pendency of President's rule there is to be a kind of a consultative committee, which has hardly any powers but still sometime they meet and discuss problems of the State—administrative problems, smaller problems—which cannot come up here.

I do not want to waste the very little time that I have at my disposal

[Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri]

in washing or trying to clean up old dirty linen. The Congress has certainly gathered enough dirty linen in 20 years of their monopoly rule in that State and certainly I do not deny that the record of the United Front also is not flawless in all respects because the United Front Government, if it had any failing, had tried to unite everybody under the Sun—Shri Humayun Kabir, Dr. P. C. Ghosh and all and sundry. So the United Front had to pay the price.

SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOU-DHURI : Dr. Ghosh is with the Congress now.

SHRI TRIDIB KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Yes. They sent many Trojan horses in the United Front when the United Front was in power. Anyway, I am not going into that.

What is the remedy ? Suppose, this President's rule is extended for the next six months. The consultative committee met only twice—once in New Delhi and then again for two days in Calcutta—and they discussed only the next elections. They did not discuss any administrative problem. I put it to Shri Shukla, let us not take up all those instances which were mentioned by Shri Ganesh Ghosh on this side—very serious charges against police officers and others. I would put to him two simple, very ordinary, law and order problems. You say that the law and order has improved. Our friends on the Swatantra benches were very eloquent in heaping plaudits on Governor Dharma Vira's rule. Only a few weeks back, in the heart of Calcutta, in the Park Street area, a dacoity, a robbery, took place in broad daylight and the post-office cash was looted. What has happened to that ? You are supposed to have one of the most efficient police forces in Calcutta and you have now a very able, supposed to be very able, administrative Governor at the head of the administration and all your Chief Secretary, Home Secretary and other Secretaries. I have nothing against them personally. But what have you done ? This is not the only solitary instance of one

robbery in the heart of Calcutta. A few months back, in March, one of the Express trains which connects Calcutta with my district Murshidabad, the Lalgola fast Passenger train, was stopped in broad daylight and the train was looted, the passengers were looted, from upper-class passengers to third-class passengers, and all their belongings, cash, ornaments, everything was looted. What has Mr. Shukla's administration through the Governor done to find out how such a thing happened, who has been caught and what has been done ? Nobody knows uptill now. At least, there has been no report in the press as to how many people were arrested and how many people were rounded up. These are the two simple law and order problems which I have put before the House, not only law and order but everything.

Then, the food problem was touched by Mr. Jyotirmoy Basu. Unemployment and other problems are there galore. Only if you devise some method during the pendency of the President's rule by which these problems can be touched, can be discussed in some forum—they cannot be discussed in Parliament every other day—or if the Consultative Committee meets more frequently not only to discuss the laws that are to be passed but also to discuss these problems, then, perhaps, we can do something.

The elections are necessary because these problems cannot be tackled by just a bureaucratic Government. Therefore, elections must be held as early as possible. But I do not know when that will be. In the mean time, something should be done about these problems.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Minister.

श्री बेनी शंकर शर्मा (बांका) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं एक प्रश्न पूछना चाहता हूँ। अभी बहुत से माननीय सदस्यों ने बाढ़ग्रस्त क्षेत्रों की चर्चा की है। मेटी मिदनापूर के एक अधिकारी ने बात हुई

थी। वहाँ के सभी प्राइमरी स्कूल बाढ़ में ध्वस्त हो गए हैं। बंगाल की सरकार में इतनी ताकत नहीं है कि वह सब स्कूलों के पुनर्निर्माण के खर्च को वहन कर सके। इस लिए मंत्री महोदय को केन्द्र की ओर से उन के पुनर्निर्माण की व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए और उस के लिए सारे खर्च का प्रबन्ध करना चाहिए मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि वे इस बारे में क्या कदम उठाने जा रहे हैं।

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, while moving this resolution for the consideration of the House, I had mentioned in details what we have been able to achieve in West Bengal during the President's rule. I had also mentioned that the President's rule or Governor's rule is no substitute for a democratic rule. We do wish that the democratic rule comes to West Bengal as quickly as possible.

I had said many things. But I would like to repeat one basic point which I had made then that whatever action we have taken and whatever work has been done by the administration there has been done with complete impartiality. There has been no question of any political party interest, as far as the work of the Government in West Bengal is concerned.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: Are you prepared to send a Parliamentary Delegation there ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPAKER: Order, order.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: It is utterly bogus, what you say. Are you prepared to take the challenge of sending a Parliamentary Delegation there ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Mr. Basu is fond of making wild allegation and he has got a wilder language to use. I am not accustomed to that language. But whatever he is saying does not befit. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Basu's words do not befit him,

they do not befit the dignity of the hon. Member of Parliament, and he should not be acting in this irresponsible manner in this hon. House....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: He must withdraw that, Sir....

MR. DEPUTY-SPAKER: Will you please resume your seat ?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: No, Sir. He must withdraw that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPAKER: I cautioned you not to interrupt. Still you threw that challenge.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: I have a right to interrupt. But how can he say that ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPAKER: How can we carry on proceedings like this? Please resume your seat.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: Unless he withdraws that he said, the House will not move....

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH (Rohtak): We are going to pay him in the same coin if he behaves like this.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: He must withdraw it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPAKER: When you once interrupted, I cautioned you. But, for the second time you interrupted.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: You are within your rights to caution me, but not the Minister of State.

MR. DEPUTY-SPAKER: He used the expression that your language is irresponsible, if I have heard him correctly. This expression is not unparliamentary. He could have used a milder expression. Beyond that, there is nothing that I can say.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: You have said it in a very different way. I am not prepared to swallow that. Unless he says that he is sorry, the House cannot move.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : As I said, he could have used a milder expression. But the interruptions were so provocative. Naturally when there is a provocation from that side, there is a reaction here. What can the Chair do in such a position ?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : May I very humbly point out that the Chair is within its right to pull me up, but not the person from the other side of the House. You must tell this State Minister to say 'sorry' and ask him to withdraw that expression ; otherwise, this House is not going to move.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : As you said, you have got to submit to the Chair. Please resume your seat. You give me a threat that the House will not move. This is not the way to deal with the problem. As I have already stated, it was a reply to your challenge. In what language it should be couched, that is for him to decide ; I cannot decide. If it is unparliamentary, that is a different thing. But if an hon. member from this side or from that side were to say that a member makes an irresponsible statement, I cannot check. Beyond that, he did not say anything.

SHRI GANESH GHOSH : He said, he is behaving in an irresponsible manner.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I will repeat what I have said and you kindly decide whether it is objectionable. I said, the statement that Mr. Basu made and the way he made it does not befit his dignity or the dignity of the hon. House.

SHRI GANESH GHOSH : He said, he is behaving in an irresponsible manner.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : He is not saying what he said.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please bear with me for a minute. If a member says, "your expression or behaviour or interruption does not befit the dignity of the House", it is his view. He has retorted. That is all. Beyond that, what was there ?

SHRI GANESH GHOSH : Is it not

unparliamentary ? (interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is not unparliamentary. As I said, the Minister could have used a milder expression. But you provoked him.

SHRI GANESH GHOSH : He said, he is behaving in an irresponsible manner.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Let him say that he did not say that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has explained already what he has said. He has repeated it. There is nothing objectionable in that.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I request the hon. Member not to be so sensitive. His sensitiveness only shows that there is some truth in what I am saying. He should not let the cat out of the bag like this. I was saying that the administration under the President's rule has been completely impartial. I want to repeat that it is our intention also. There might have been some instances here and there where some officer might have defaulted. But our effort and our intention has been in the direction which I have indicated. We have been able to improve the tone of the administration in that State.

Before taking up individual points I should briefly refer to the unfortunate flood situation. The Home Minister held a series of consultations. Two meetings were held with Parliament Members from West Bengal yesterday morning and today morning. Every Member gave his suggestions and expressed his opinion about the adequacy or otherwise of the measures taken. The hon. Minister of Irrigation and Power has, I understand, made a statement on this matter. We shall consider all the suggestions and see what improvements we can make. We are all one in saying that no efforts should be spared to see that all the relief that is possible and within our means and the time available should be provided and we should do our best to this end.

DR. RANEN SEN : Give Rs. 14 crores as demanded by the West Bengal Government.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: I have said 'within our means'. Whatever is possible we shall do. It is not possible for me here and now to indicate what amount will be given.

Many hon. Members have expressed their opinion on the desirability or otherwise of holding the mid-term elections in November. The position of the Government of India is clear. The time for mid-term elections is to be fixed by the Chief Election Commissioner or the Election Commission and we requested him to fix a date as early as he could. He went to Calcutta and met the representatives of leading political parties and fixed a certain date in November. If the date has to be changed the Chief Election Commissioner will have to consider again all the factors available to him. He may or may not change the dates. I hope he would consult the representatives of political parties again and then take a final decision and I am quite sure he will take into account the views expressed in this hon. House. We are not at all concerned whether the elections are held in November or later. We like it to be held as early as possible but we leave the judgment entirely to the Chief Election Commissioner.

Some amendments seek to extend the President's rule by three months. I understand the anxiety of the hon. Members who have moved those amendments and they probably think that if it is extended by six months, the elections might be postponed. What I have said already should remove the misgivings in their minds. We are not at all interested in continuing the President's rule till the expiry of the full period of six months. The normal practice is that we ask for six months. It is common knowledge that if the elections are held as we expect they would be in November and a representative Government is formed in West Bengal, the Presidential Proclamation will be revoked immediately. There is no question of our continuing the President's rule even after that. This is an enabling provision and the Proclamation will be revoked immediately a representative Government is formed.

And in view of this explanation, I hope the hon. Members will withdraw the amendment that they have tabled.

Some hon. Members have mentioned the problems facing the city of Calcutta. We know that there are stupendous problems, in the city of Calcutta, which is the largest city of our country and it has got very many problems connected with very many situations which were not entirely under the control either of the local administration or of the State Government. But, as I have explained earlier in my speeches regarding other States, the same policy will be followed by us here. Where we want to undertake measures of public good and we want to implement them very speedily, we do not want to take up such matters as will cast a serious financial burden on the forthcoming Government. We do not want to make a decision or start a work which will be a financial burden on the coming Government, and they may not like that kind of thing, and I do not think in the interim period, when we are governing the State of West Bengal, we should take any such step. But wherever there are cases where money has been sanctioned, there is no dispute about it, and where the work has not been carried out in an expeditious manner or is behind schedule, we would definitely like to do our best to carry it forward. But we should not like to commit the future Government to any kind of financial expenditure or burden when the President is ruling the State. This is our position as far as the major matters are concerned.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: Is not the sum of Rs. 200 crores given by T. T. Krishnamachari during his period for the development of greater Calcutta being diverted? We want an answer.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: In my speech, I had mentioned something about the labour situation. But certain hon. Members have made some references to that. Mr. Jyotirmoy Basu was pleased to say something about the unemployment situation there. I want to give some figures to the House as to

[Sbri Vidya Charan Shukla]

what we have been able to achieve as far as the workers' condition and workers' employment in West Bengal are concerned. When President's rule came in West Bengal, there were 44,372 workers involved in closures, strikes and lock-outs. At present, there are only 20,473. This shows to what extent we have been able to improve and for even what remains to be done, it is not necessarily...

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Very helpful statisticians they have !

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : It is not as if we are satisfied with it. We would not like anybody to remain unemployed, but the situation that prevailed immediately before President's rule has got its own back-leash ; we will take time ; may be it will take many months or many years completely to wash out the bad effects of the economic depression or the political instability or whatever it is—I do not want to use any strong words for it—but this quite unwholesome and unhealthy situation was created. It is slowly being brought back to normal and these efforts of ours have brought down the number of workers who are affected by closures, strikes and lock-outs to this number, and we hope it will go down further.

We have already appointed a survey team to survey the closed industrial units and see what we can do again make them start. I hope as a result of this survey and our efforts we shall be able to activate more and more industrial units there, so that the workers who have no work at present will get back their job.

Certain references were made to police atrocities. Here, I am not holding any brief for anybody. But I would again repeat whereas the police force has been trying to do its work in very difficult and very complicated situations, it is likely that there may have been stray cases here and there. But the atrocities or wrong behaviour are always tackled and we want to put down such cases ; whenever we find that the offenders are doing like this,

we would like to take action against that and see that such cases do not occur. But by and large I would say that the efficiency of the police has become better. The reason why it has become better is, there is no political interference with the work of the police.

As far as the law and order situation is concerned, some hon. members have said that it has worsened and the crimes have gone up. I would submit that except under two heads of crime, the figures have gone down in every other head. Even in those two heads, the increase is marginal. So, it is not proper to say that it has worsened after President's rule.

Regarding starvation deaths, in my opening speech, I had said that when President's rule was imposed, a certain number of people were being served by the modified rationing scheme. After imposition of President's rule, we brought a very much larger portion of the population under this scheme. We also increased the quantum of rice in the ration. It was 2.75 kgs earlier. We have increased it further.

All this effort has been made by the local administration with local resources. By marshalling the resources properly and by intensive internal procurement, by procuring more food-grains and distributing them better, they have been able to achieve these results. I checked up and I am told that no starvation deaths have taken place. There have been reports in newspapers and some reports were received by the West Bengal Government. They made on the spot enquiries. Those enquiries did not substantiate any of these allegations. They have denied that any starvation death has taken place in West Bengal.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : Is the minister prepared to have a judicial enquiry about the starvation deaths ? I will prove six cases in my district of Cooch-Bihar alone. I am stating this with full responsibility.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : If the hon. member gives specific

cases, we shall have enquiries made and if they are found true, we will have no difficulty in admitting it. It is not for me to say that they have taken place or not. If enquiries reveal that they have not taken place, I cannot agree with the hon. member. But if he gives specific cases, we shall definitely have enquiries made.

About the vigilance cases, wherever the Vigilance Commissioner has framed charges and recommended departmental proceedings, proceedings have been started. But wherever he has not been able to formulate charges, proceedings have not taken place. But as soon as the charges are formulated, proceedings will be initiated. I can assure the House that nobody who is suspected to be corrupt will be spared under the President's rule.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : I made a specific request for the names of those officers against whom the Vigilance Commissioner has made charges of indulging in corrupt practices. Will he give these names?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : This information has already been given during the Question Hour in the Rajya Sabha. If the hon. member takes the trouble of tabling a question, full information will be given. We do not want to hide anything. We need not give names of those persons whose cases are being investigated. But wherever investigations have been completed and proceedings have been started, those names can be given.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chowdhury referred to the meeting of the consultative committee. We want to hold a meeting as soon as possible. I think within one or two weeks of the end of the session of Parliament, we shall be able to hold a meeting. In these meetings, we consult many things, apart from legislative business. All hon. members who are members of the committee are most welcome to bring forward any matter they like before the committee.

Having said this, Sir, I would commend this Resolution to the acceptance of the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I shall put all the amendments together.

Amendments Nos. 1 and 5 were put and negatived

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation dated the 20th February, 1968, in respect of West Bengal issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 22nd September, 1968."

The motion was adopted.

16.56 HRS.

BIHAR STATE LEGISLATURE (DELEGATION OF POWERS) BILL

गृह-कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि बिहार राज्य के विधान मंडल की विधियाँ बनाने की शक्ति राष्ट्रपति को प्रदान करने वाले विधेयक पर, राज्य सभा द्वारा पाम किये गये रूप में, विचार किया जाय।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, बिहार के सम्बन्ध में पहले ही काफ़ी चर्चा हो चुकी है. हम लिये इस के ऊपर ज्यादा कुछ न कहते हुए केवल दो-तीन खास बातें जो सलाहकार समिति बनती है, उस के बारे में कहूँगा। जैसा कि माननीय सदस्यों को मालूम है, सलाहकार समिति तो बन जाती है केवल राष्ट्रपति जी को इस तरह की सलाह देने के लिए कि किस तरह के कानून समय समय पर बिहार राज्य के लिये बनाये जायें, उस समय के लिये जब तक कि बिहार में राष्ट्रपति जी का शासन जागू है, पर हम लोगों ने एक