

Assembly for a test of strength on the 7th of this month. On the 3rd of this month, the Congressmen met and requested the Governor not to swear in any new ministers, because of the test of strength on the 7th. However at 4.30 p.m. on the 3rd, the Governor had sworn in two more MLAs as ministers. This is going on against the democratic principles of the Constitution and done by the Head of the State, who is supposed to be the custodian of the Constitution. I hope that the Government of the Congress party here, will not be afraid to take action against such persons. Last time also it was the same person who was sent by the Janata Dal Government as Governor to Shillong to remove Mr. R. R. Rahim, two days before Id festival. He sworn in one Congress MLA, out of 20 Congress MLAs, who joined the Chief Minister, Mr. B. B. Lyngdoh group. This MLA Mr. H. B. Dan. Unfortunately, on Friday a wrong information was brought into this House, saying that Shri Progen D Sangma, the Deputy Speaker who is with the Chief Minister all the time was kidnapped by the Congress. I want the Government to take immediate action in this matter.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA (Balasore): I want to submit the following, through you, Sir, in the House. In Balasore district of Orissa, due to heavy rains on the 22nd July, river Kansabansa was in spate, submerging paddy lands on both banks. Every day water in Salandi river entered the low-lying areas of Bhadrak Municipality and paddy fields in Bonth Block. Besides this, there was also flood in river Baitarai, Kochila & Genguti, following heavy rains on 23rd and 24th of July. 299 villages of six blocks in Bhadrak Sub-division were affected. In the district, about 1.5 lakh people were affected and 18.6 thousand hectares of cropped area was affected. One case of human casualty by drowning was reported.

Breaches in embankments and one minor irrigation project and damage to

wooden bridges have been reported. Emergent relief has not been distributed properly in the marooned areas of the Bhadrak sub-division.

So, I want to submit through you in this House that the Union Government should take necessary steps in this regard.

SHRI P. C. THOMAS (Mavattupuzha): Sir, there are reports in the Press today that there was swindling of crores of rupees by several companies under the guise of getting subsidy for fertilisers. Actually, they were not entitled for such subsidy and they were not given also. But they have managed to get huge amount by way of subsidy at a time when we find that the Government is finding difficult to give even the subsidy which has been given to the farmers. It is a great shame that such swindling is taking place in this country.

I would submit that the Government may please look into this and take very serious action in the matter.

[Translation]

SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazaribagh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, dozens of coal mines have been closed in Hazaribagh after nationalisation. Smugglers and mafia groups are extracting one and a half lakh ton coal daily from these closed mines and thus causing loss of crores of rupees to the Central Government. I request the Government to restart mining work in these closed coal mines, so that Central Government could earn profit and Adivasis, Harijans and poor people could get employment.

[English]

SHRI BRIJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Honourable Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, regarding the alarming situation prevailing in Orissa due to acute shortage of