

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

quest her, if she likes to take us into confidence and tell us what she has told them. As far as I know, nothing has come out despite three rounds of talks.

13 38 hrs

[MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampore) **

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER Order please. This will not go on record. (Interruptions) Order, please. Let me first understand what you are saying. Now, Shri Indrajit Gupta has raised the point. I do not know if the Prime Minister has anything to say.

THE PRIME MINISTER MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRI MATI INDIRA GANDHI) Sir, I entirely agree with what Shri Indrajit Gupta has said that it is better to take decisions across the table rather than allow the situation to get 'hotted up' and that is what we are trying to do. As the House knows, no question is ever simple. Every question evokes various reactions and therefore we have to see what the repercussions are likely to arise. I have talked to the people who came to see me and as the hon Member knows that delegation consisted of members of all parties of the Darjeeling area. We took them into confidence and told them what our difficulties were and how we are trying to meet them. During our first meeting the language demand was of course very prominent but they also touched upon a number of other matters. They felt that they were not getting equal opportunities in various areas. The Government of West Bengal has taken every step assuring them that there

will be no kind of discrimination in the services and various other activities. Nepali has been accepted as a language of that area. Many other facilities are being given. This time the stand of the delegation was a little different. They said the demand was an emotional one. We have assured them that we are looking into it.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA
No question of emotion.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI This was the word they used. It is not my word. (Interruptions)

So I assure the hon House and the hon Member that we are looking into this matter in depth. A number of other States are also concerned. We have had a talk with the Chief Minister and we are looking into it.

13 40 hrs

RE LAND EROSION BY GANGES IN MURSHIDABAD DISTRICT

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNDGI (Calcutta South) This is a very important question before you and the hon Minister of Irrigation and Power. Shri Rao is present and he will give his opinion.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are aware and the House is aware that quite a lot of time the erosion by Ganges of Ganjipur sub-division of Murshidabad District has reached almost an extreme stage and as a result of it about 6,400 acres of home land was lost. An estimate was made that 14,400 houses—kutcha and 1,600 pucca houses were lost. The other day the Minister of Irrigation and Power was telling the House that he has not received any estimate from the State Government. I would like to submit before you that the Government of

West Bengal had submitted an estimate of Rs. 63 crores for the protection of areas. I think he will consider to protect the people there.

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): We received a week back an estimate from West Bengal for the protection of the area below Ganga and Farraka Barrage upto Bangla Desh and the estimate was Rs. 63 crores. This is now under examination. I have taken steps to see to it and examine as quickly as possible. In the meanwhile I contacted Chief Minister of West Bengal and requested him to select some priority areas where the damage has been very heavy and I advised him to give some money in this season, before the next season, to protect this area. In the meanwhile, the estimate will be scrutinised and steps will be taken

13.42 hrs.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) rose—

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I think it was with a view to give the Members more time to express themselves on the subjects on which they are exercised, that resort to Rule 377 has been provided. But there should be a limit. Everyday, practically some subject or other is brought and Ministers are informed and they come to give some information.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I have already written a note

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Ever so, if you want to raise a point you may do so. But I do not think Government would be ready to answer you.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: It concerns entirely the Central Government, the Railway Ministry especially. Sir, about the office-bearers of the South Eastern Railway's Union. General Secretary Shri Raichoudhury has been

arrested and others have been arrested and repression has been let loose in the area of Ranchi, and when the firing took place there, there was strike in that area. Shri Indrajit Gupta, being in the union, prevailed upon the workers. I want to say that the Railway Minister should make a statement on that, and the second point is about the running staff.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are raising two issues instead of one which the rule does not permit.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: The running staff are on hunger strike. They may go on strike. I would request through you the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to ask the Railway Minister to make two statements about the arrest of Railwaymen and their leader and about the running staff.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampore) Sir, 200 small factories have been closed due to bulk licences having been given by the Central Government to the manufacturers, and this has created unemployment. This has created serious problems in West Bengal, and nearabout 20,000 workers have been rendered unemployed. So, I would request the Government at least to make it clear in this House whether these licences given to the manufacturers in bulk have been withdrawn.

श्री रामाबतार शास्त्री (पटना) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं श्री रेलवे के सिलसिले में सवाल उठाना चाहता हूँ .

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER
the same subject

श्री रामाबतार शास्त्री : उपाध्यक्ष जी, यह तो ठीक नहीं है। हम दूसरी बात उठा रहे हैं, आप सुनते ही नहीं हैं। यह