

ment during the current session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 25th June, 1971 :—

- (1) The appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 1971.
- (2) The Bengal Finance (Sales Tax) (Delhi validation of Appointments and Proceedings) Bill, 1971.
- (3) The Salaries and allowance of Officers of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 1971.
- (4) The Mysore State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Bill, 1971.
- (5) The Delhi Sikh Gurdwaras (Management) Bill, 1971.
- (6) The Punjab Appropriation Bill, 1971.

12.55 hrs.

STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO
S. Q. No 736 RE. CULTIVATION OF
OPIUM

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R.
GANESH): I beg to lay on the Table a
statement correcting the reply given on the
25th June, 1971 to Starred Question No. 736
regarding cultivation of opium.

Statement

While replying to the question by Hon'ble Member Shri Laxmi Narayan Pandey seeking information whether Government was thinking of increasing the area under opium poppy cultivation, and if so how much, it was stated that there was no proposal to increase the area under poppy cultivation.

2. As a result of re-check of the position, it is found that to meet our increasing demand of export opium a proposal to increase the area under poppy cultivation for 1971-72 crop season was under the consideration of the Government. It has been tentatively proposed to increase the area from 40,825 Hectares in 1970-71 to 50,000 Hectares in 1971-72 season. It is not certain whether it would be possible to bring this area actually under poppy cultivation, as it would depend upon the cultivators who will be engaging their lands for poppy cultivation.

3. The correct reply should, therefore, be as follows :

"Yes, sir. The Government is considering a proposal to increase the area under poppy cultivation from 40,825 Hectares in 1970-71 to about 50,000 Hectares in 1971-72 season".

12.57 hrs

RE. BANGLA DESH REFUGEES

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURI (Cooch-
Behar) : I have to quote a telegram that I have received :

"Incessant rain and tremendous shelling by Pak military from Hatibanda and Barakhata from 22nd June to 29th June, shell splinters injured many people within Indian territory Sital Kuchi P. S. Thirty thousand refugees Hindus and Muslims Majority Muslims with women, children are in open field, no arrangement for shelter, no food, mass death apprehended. Local authority pleading helplessness. Immediate bold action to save refugees urgent necessary.

ARUN BHATACHARYA
Cooch behar."

In this connection, I would request that the Government should make a statement thereon.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : We are having a discussion on Bangla Desh during the non-official business this afternoon. We are also going to have the debate on the External Affairs Ministry's Demands later on the 13th or on the 14th, may be on the 19th.

There are several statements made by Yahya Khan and a false propaganda is being launched that these people are crossing over to India and we have captured them and detained them in Jail. This is really amazing. Some statement should be made by the Minister to expose this false propaganda.

MR. SPEAKER : That I have already told him.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : He is not obeying you at all.

MR. SPEAKER : I conveyed your request to the Minister.