

Sir, can I lay it on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : That is right,

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : I lay the statement on the Table of the House.

Statement

According to the information available some barracks in the refugee camp at Moilam were gutted by fire which broke-out at about 1.30 A.M. on the 29th October, 1971, and about 15,000 persons were affected. Three persons died and four were injured. On the same night and on 13-11-1971 and 20-11-1971, three other fires broke-out in the same camp. There had been no loss of life or any significant damage to property in the second fire on 29-10-1971 and that on 13-11-1971. On 20-11-1971, however, 2112 persons were affected and 4 persons died. The cause of the fire is under investigation. The possibility of this being a case of sabotage cannot be ruled out. Security arrangements have been tightened to guard against sabotage activities by Pakistan agents in the border areas.

Those refugees who were affected by the fire were given necessary relief assistance in the shape of ration/free cooked food, wearing apparels and blankets. Alternative accommodation was also offered to them in some barracks available but the refugees declined to move because they were afraid of Pakistani shelling. Orders have now been issued by the Government of Meghalaya to construct barracks with refugee labour and Government material for those who have been affected.

Clothes and blankets have already been supplied to the refugees, who were needy and deserving, out of donations received from the voluntary organisations.

The Government of Meghalaya, along with other State Governments was authorised to arrange for the purchase and supply of clothes to all the refugees in camps as early as on 2nd September, 1971. The Government of Meghalaya have invited tenders for supply of clothes and tenders are in the process of finalisation. It is expected that distribution of clothes will commence in about a week or 10 days time.

As regards supply of blankets, it is understood that the entire requirement of camp refugees in Meghalaya to the extent of 3.55 lakh blankets has been supplied and distribution of blankets is in progress.

12.06 hrs.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS (VIENNA CONVENTION) BILL *

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to give effect to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961) and to provide for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to give effect to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961) and to provide for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : Sir, I introduce† the Bill

12.07 hrs

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE :
RAILWAY PASSENGER FARES
ORDINANCE AND RAILWAY
PASSENGER FARES
BILL -- Contd.**

MR. SPEAKER The House will now take up further discussion of the following resolution moved by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpavee on the 24th November, 1971, namely :—

"This House disapproves of the Railway Passenger Fares Ordinance, 1971. (Ordinance No. 17 of 1971) promulgated by the President on the 22nd October, 1971."

The House will also take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shrimati Sushila Rohatgi on the 24th November, 1971, namely :—

"That the Bill to provide for the

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†Introduced with the recommendation of the President,