

(b) if so, whether Government will enquire into the matter and take necessary steps in this regard ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH MAHIDA) : (a) to (c). The Engineering Establishment (INS SHIVAJI) celebrated its Silver Jubilee on 5.2.70. The programme included technical conferences etc. The garlanding of the statue of SHIVAJI was not included therein. However, attractive busts of SHIVAJI were cast and were available as a memento on the occasion, which would show that the memory of the National Hero was suitably commemorated. The statue of SHIVAJI occupies a pride of place in the establishment and it is regularly garlanded by the Commanding Officer on SHIVAJI Jayanti Day. The question of an enquiry does not arise as Government are aware that the National Hero is held in high esteem by the Armed Forces.

**Recommendations made by the Committee on Untouchability Regarding Recruitment in Armed Forces:**

3373. SHRI P. R. THAKUR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 10440 on the 20th May, 1970 regarding recruitment in Armed Forces and state :

(a) whether any decision has since been taken in the matter ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons for long delay on such a vital issue ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM) : (a) to (c). The recommendations of the Committee on Untouchability, Economic and Educational Development of the Scheduled Castes are still under consideration, and the final decisions are expected to be taken shortly.

12 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**AMARNATH PILGRIMAGE MISHAP**

SHRI D. N. PATODIA (Jalore) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :—

“The Amarnath Pilgrimage mishap resulting in the death of a large number of persons.”

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, AND MINISTER OF STATE, DEPARTMENTS ELECTRONICS AND SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (SHRI K. C. PANT) : Sir, according to information furnished by the Jammu and Kashmir Government about 6,000 pilgrims began the Amarnath yatra in good weather on 15th August from Chandanwari. They were accompanied by more than 3,000 porters, including attendants of pack-ponies. There was continuous rain on that day resulting in a sudden fall of temperature. By that time the party has reached a height of 11,000 ft. between Chandanwari and Sheshnag. Due to the rain the pack-ponies slowed down and were separated from the main party of pilgrims. Arrangements for looking after the pilgrims had been made by the State Governments *in route*, and also at Sheshnag. There was a medical team at Sheshnag and mobile team with the party. Fuel was issued free at Sheshnag to keep the pilgrims warm and all possible medical attention was given to those in distress. It is a matter of regret, however, that 18 persons including two porters died due to exposure to the cold. The majority of the dead persons were old women.

On 16th morning, the weather was still threatening. The Yatra Manager, an Assistant Commissioner of the State Government, who accompanied the party, decided to return with the party. Some

[Shri K. C. Pant]

sadhus and young men, however, continued the yatra. The rest of the party returned to Chandanwari.

10 out of 16 pilgrims who died have been identified. Photographs have been taken of all the dead bodies. The bodies were cremated under Government arrangements.

The State Government have appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Shri M. N. Kaul, Revenue Minister, to go into the adequacy of the arrangements during the yatra and recommend measures of a permanent nature for the improvement of the facilities.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Sir, this incident coming in the wake of the Alaknanda tragedy a few days back is only symptomatic of the typical neglect and indifference with which all places of pilgrimage have been treated in this country. Amarnath is not a new place. For hundreds of year, every year from all over the country thousands of pilgrims have been visiting this place. Apart from its importance as a place of pilgrimage, it is an important tourist centre. Many of us, possibly including you, had the occasion of visiting this place of enchanting beauty. If it had been properly developed, we could earn crores of rupees in foreign exchange by attracting foreign tourists. Yet, even the elementary facilities that are needed to be given to the pilgrims and tourists are not available at this place. There is no system of regular weather forecast in the area. Not to talk of scientific regular weather forecasts, in this particular case even the so-called police wireless stations did not function properly and failed to give any forecast with regard to the weather conditions.

From the Minister's statement, you will find that on the morning of 15th August, many pilgrims started leaving Chandanwari for Sheshnag from 6 AM till 12 o'clock. They left in many batches not all of them at once. In spite of that, the so-called police wireless stations failed to convey to Chandanwari the bad weather conditions and prevent further movement

of pilgrims. That was one principal reason why pilgrims continued their march only to die later on.

Not to speak of pre-independence days, even after 23 years of independence, is this so-called era of development, there are no proper road conditions to connect Pahalgam with this important place of Amarnath and the primitive system of transportation continues, possibly in a worse form. Every year there is a regular publicity by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir inviting tourists from all over the country to visit this place, but the facilities provided by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir are miserable. At an important place like Sheshnag, where thousands of pilgrims visit every day, you will be surprised that there is arrangement for only 100 persons to spend the night in tents. The rest have to spend their nights in open fields; they have no shelter. You will be surprised to know that when an emergency arose there was no medicine available, no water, no other facilities and people died in shivering conditions. I do not know who is going to be held responsible for this. With regards to communications, rather the lack of them, it is strange that even four days after the occurrence the dependents of those people have not been told about the whereabouts and safety of the people involved. I have spoken to people who have come back after tragic incident and they have not been extended even the courtesy of cooperation either by the State Government or their officers. When the people go to meet the State Government officers in Srinagar they find them busy at the club with dinner and drinks. This is the type of attitude adopted by the State Government officials, especially the tourists officials. They limit their activities, to collecting money by selling tickets. They think their job is over with that. This is the situation prevailing in that area. In view of this prevailing situation and the factors responsible for this tragic incident, as has been narrated by me, it would not be very much wrong to say that this tragic incident would not have occurred if sufficient precautionary measures had been taken. This incident cannot be dismissed by

expressing sympathy and condolence to the members of the bereaved family. Something very drastic has to be done to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future. I would like to know what the Government propose to do in providing basic facilities and provisions that are needed for such an important place like Amarnath so that in future there is no possibility of the recurrence of such incidents. I would also like to know how the Jammu and Kashmir Government have explained with regard to their various failures in the matter of communication, providing facilities of water, medicine and living arrangements in Sheshnag. Then, in spite of the weather conditions being foul and bad right from the 15th morning, the pilgrims at Chandanwari were informed about it till midnight when they were ordered to return when they were confronted with very bad weather resulting in their death. Lastly, in what respect do the Government propose to develop it as an important tourists centre so that we can attract thousands of tourists from the world over?

SHRI K. C. PANT : The first point is, I would like to repeat it, that the journey began in good weather. My hon. friend said that the journey began in bad weather. According to our information, they began the Amarnath yatra in good weather on the 15th of August from Chandanwari.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : The journey started from Chandanwari in bad weather right from the morning. He is contradicting his own statement.

SHRI K. C. PANT : I am reading from the same statement. The Amarnath yatra began in good weather on the 15th of August from Chandanwari. The second point is about expressing sympathy. I think regardless of arrangements etc, it is human tragedy for which we owe it to the persons who died to express sympathy. I think there should be no objection to that. On the question of the details of the arrangements that have been made, I have already explained in my statement what arrangements have been made. I want to refer to some of them again. Arrangements for looking after the

pilgrims have been made by the State Government in route and also at Sheshnag. There was a medical team at Sheshnag and another mobile team with the party. I have checked up about the mobile team. I have just now got information that 20 doctors accompanied the party along with oxygen. Fuel was issued free at Sheshnag to keep the pilgrims warm. All possible medical attention was given to those in distress. According to the information with me, the Yatra Manager was an assistant Commissioner of the State Government, who accompanied the party.

Then, my hon. friend raised the question about the wireless facilities. The State Government have informed us that they have facilities of wireless communication along the route.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : They do not work.

SHRI K. C. PANT : I am not very sure whether the warning was given or at what time the warning was received. I had to check up on that point. I have not been able to get precise information about how the wireless communication system functioned and I cannot give a categorical reply about that. But as one coming from the hills I can say that there are some disruptions in the hills as a result of the rains. However, I can check up on that point because I do not have any information about the functioning of the wireless system except that there were wireless stations on the way.

As to what will be done, I have already stated that the State Government have constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Shri M. N. Kaul, Revenue Minister, to go into the adequacy of the arrangements during the yatra and to recommend measures of a permanent nature for the improvement of facilities.

I cannot say whether relations have or have not been informed. I presume that about those who have been identified information must have been sent. I hope, my hon. friend and others who are affected by this tragedy will inform us and we shall

[Shri K. C. Pant]

be very glad to do anything that we can to help.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Sir, permit me to point out the contradiction in the Minister's statement. I shall read out from the fourth line. It says :—

“There was continuous rain on that day”—that is, on the 15th August—

“resulting in a sudden fall of temperature.” This is ample proof to suggest that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and its officers were aware right from the morning that there was continuous rain and the weather condition was not favourable. It is a fact that the weather was bad and the people were not informed. It is a fact that facilities like medical services and beds were not available and people had to lie down in tents. At Sheshnag there was space only for 100 people. The Minister has not taken care to reply to any of these points. I want to know what specific reply the Jammu and Kashmir Government has given with regard to these failures. Why does he not reply to that? What about this contradiction? He says that the weather was all right but he has admitted that the weather condition was bad.

SHRI K. C. PANT : I have put all the facts before him. He is reading from my statement. If he reads two lines above what he has read out from my statement.....  
(Interruption)

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : You contradict yourself in the statement. On the one hand, you say that the weather condition was bad and, on the other, you say that they were not bad.

SHRI K. C. PANT : My hon. friend is getting very angry. I hope, he listens. He will not be so angry if he listens.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : People are dying and they do not take care.

SHRI K. C. PANT : He does not want to listen; he wants to be angry. I say that, according to the information with me, the journey began in good weather. It also says

that it rained further on. He is reading from my own statement. I have not said anything apart from that.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : That is the point. You contradict yourself. You give a wrong statement.

SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai) : We are extremely sorry for the death of 18 persons, according to the Minister's statement, in this calamity.

The Minister has just now read out a statement but the statement is very different from the actual position. I have gone through the sentence previous to the one pointed out by Shri Patodia. There he says :—

“6,000 pilgrims began the Amarnath yatra in good weather on 15th August from Chandanwari. They were accompanied by more than 3,000 porters, including attendants of packponies. There was continuous rain on that day resulting in a sudden fall of temperature.”

From this we understand that there was continuous rain resulting in a sudden fall of temperature on the 15th August when the yatra took place. It has been alleged that no arrangement was made for these pilgrims. There were no policemen *en route* to Amarnath. There was no medical facility. Even there was no dry wood for these people and they were shivering to death on this particular occasion. The State Government has failed miserably.

May I know whether Government is going to inquire into the failure of the State Government and take measures or is Government going to be satisfied with the appointment of an inquiry committee by the State Government which has been announced in order to inquire into the inadequacy of facilities? Did facilities exist at all? That is my doubt. The very fact that a committee has been appointed to inquire into the inadequacy of facilities shows that the facilities were inadequate. Whether the facilities existed or not is a different matter altogether. That there was an inadequacy

of facilities has been admitted by the Government in the last sentence of the statement.

May I know from the Government whether they are going to make foolproof arrangements so far as pilgrims to Amarnath or pilgrims to any other place of pilgrimage in this country are concerned or not, or they want to leave them to their own destiny or to the mercies and whims of nature as they left these pilgrims to Amarnath to the mercies and whims of nature?

SHRI K. C. PANT : In regard to the police arrangements, this is my information, as sent by the State Government, that medical-cum-police camps on the route have been set up at the following places, namely, Chandanwari, Pissu Ghati, Zojipal, Sheshnag, Mahagunas, Panjarni and Holy Cave...

SHRI HEM BARUA : These have come after the tragedy took place.

SHRI K. C. PANT : This is the information with me. As regards the committee, the State Government has appointed a committee with the Minister as its Chairman and that is going into all these matters. I think, we should await the findings of the committee. The State Government themselves are anxious to do all they can to make permanent arrangements so that the arrangements are adequate.

SHRI HEM BARUA : It has been reported that the things were selling at exorbitant prices at the spot because the Government did not make any arrangements.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU (Chittoor) : The Government has no value for human life except the life of Ministers ..

AN HON. MEMBER : The Ministry.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU : These pilgrims were not only exposed to nature but they were exposed to the whims and fancies of this Government and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. When the pilgrimage started, it was raining continuously. The authorities there should not

have allowed these people to continue the journey on that day. Instead of asking them not to proceed, they allowed them to proceed and they did not make any arrangements on the way, nor at the next stop, that is, at Sheshnag. When the people reached there, their luggage had not come. Due to their luggage not being there, they were not having enough clothings to cover themselves and there were not enough sheds provided there. The private people who were running canteens and sheds were charging exorbitant rates. These pilgrims who were without money could not afford to pay for the sheds and get some shelter.

Sir, when the Government organises these pilgrimages, it is the duty of the Government to arrange sheds and fix the rates and, when anybody charges exorbitant rate, it is the duty of this Government or the Government of Jammu and Kashmir to punish them and see that they do not charge exorbitant rates. Instead of this, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir have allowed them to charge exorbitant rates. A number of people have died due to exposure. The figure given by the Government is not correct. The Minister has not given the correct figure. He has given the figure as given to him by the Jammu and Kashmir Government. This has happened on the border area. Does't he have his own source to get his information? He should have sent some officer from here to get the correct information. He has not cared to get his own information. Why should he only rely on the information given by the Jammu and Kashmir Government? This shows the way the Government is functioning. The figure given by the Government is not correct. As mentioned by a merchant from Amritsar, it has been said that he saw 80 dead bodies at Sheshnag, near a medical centre. Many people more have died on the way. The Minister has not given the correct information. I want the Minister to verify it and send some officer from here to get the correct figure.

Again, I want to know from the Government whether they are going to have permanent arrangement, construct permanent sheds and construct jeepable roads and then allow

pilgrims to go there. The Government can not play with the lives of the people.

**SHRI K. C. PANT :** The first point raised by my hon. friend is about allowing these pilgrims to proceed. The Asst. Commissioner of the State Government was the Yatra Manager. He presumably knows the conditions there. He presumably takes the pilgrims party to Amarnath and he can be ordinarily trusted to take decisions on the spot and it is very difficult for us to say here that whatever be the conditions there, they should have proceeded or not.

On the question of sheds, fixations of rates, etc., I am in complete sympathy with their suggestions and I shall pass them on to the State Government.

So far as the arrangements at Seshnag go, fuel was supplied by the State Government to the pilgrims at Seshnag. That is the information I have read out earlier.

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Balrampur) :** Next day, not on the same day.

**SHRI K. C. PANT :** My information is that they did supply. I have given the information that I have. (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU :** It was supplied the next day.

**SHRI K. C. PANT :** My hon. friend took me to task for not independently inquiring into this and for giving him information supplied by the State Government. Under our system I do not know whether it would be right for me to divulge information that I may get from my own sources and to disregard the information received from the State Government. You can understand what confusion it will create. (*Interruptions*)

I would suggest that nothing more should be read in my statement than what I have said. I have never said that my information contradicts the State Government's information.

**SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU :** He has not said anything about the dead bodies, Divulge the information about the dead bodies at least.

**SHRI K. C. PANT :** The detailed information that I have got this morning—I have checked it up also—is : 11 of them were women and 5 are men—These are Yatris—and two are local porters.

**श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र (फूलपुर) :** अग्रधक्ष महोदय, दुर्घटनाएं होती हैं और आदमी उनमें मर जाते हैं। सरकार की तरफ से तीन बहाने दिये जाते हैं। एक तो यह कि मौत को कम करने की कोशिश की जा रही है। आज के स्टेट्समैन में छपा है कि सरकार की तरफ से यह वक्तव्य आया है कि अमरनाथ यात्रा में हुई दुर्घटना के परिणामस्वरूप केवल 15 लोग मरे जबकि तीर्थयात्री जोकि वहाँ से लौटे हैं उन के अनुसार उससे कई गुना अधिक आदमी मर गये हैं। सरकार कोई भी स्पष्टीकरण देने में देर कर रही है।

दूसरी बात यह लोग हमेशा यह बतलाते हैं कि दुर्घटना इसलिए हुई कि प्रकृति बेकाबू हो गई, सड़क पिघल गई या बरफ गिर गई। अमरनाथ यात्रा जब चली थी तो उस समय सूर्य तेजी से चमक रहा था ऐसा सरकार की ओर से बतलाया गया है। मेरा कहना है कि यह प्रकृति का अध्ययन करने के लिए सरकार के पास कोई काबिल लोग हैं या नहीं और अगर हैं और उन्होंने ठीक अध्ययन नहीं किया तो उनके खिलाफ कभी भी किसी दुर्घटना के समय कार्यवाही नहीं की गई है।

तीसरी बात यह कि मौजूदा सभ्यता इस्मानियत की कुदरत पर विजय पाने वाली है और यह सरकार कुदरत के सामने घुटने टेक कर इस तरह की दुर्घटनाओं से अपने को बचा लेना चाहती है।

चौथी बात यह कि स्टेटमेंट के पहले पंराप्राफ में आखिरी वाक्य में इन्होंने लिखा है कि जो लोग मरे हैं उनमें ज्यादातर बुढ़िया औरतें हैं यानी मतलब यह है कि मजबूत लोग होते तो शायद वह इस आफत का मुकाबला कर लेते। शरीर कमजोर होने के कारण लोग मर गये।

मैं मंत्री जी से बहुत प्रदब के साथ भ्रज करूंगा कि उन्होंने जो आखिरी पंरे में यह बात कही है कि उन्होंने एक कमेटी बंठा दी है तो वह कमेटी किसकी बनाई है? वह कमेटी रेवेन्यु मिनिस्टर की चेअरमैनशिप में नियुक्त की गई है।

मेरा कहना है कि वह सरकार अगर सड़क ठीक रखती और अगर वह मौसम का अध्ययन करती तो यह दुर्घटना होती ही नहीं। लेकिन मेरा ऐतराज यह है कि अपराधी को ही जज का अधिकार दे दिया गया है। मैं मंत्री जी से कहूंगा कि अगर वाकई इस दुर्घटना के बारे में उनको जांच करनी है तो किसी हार्डकोर्ट स्तर के जज से जांच करायें। क्या वह किसी हार्डकोर्ट के जज द्वारा इसकी न्यायिक जांच कराने को तैयार हैं?

क्या जितने लोग मरे हैं उन तमाम लोगों के आश्रित परिवार वालों को धूँकि वह आपकी सड़क पर मरे हैं, माकूल मुआबिजा दिया जायेगा? जब उन सड़कों पर यात्री जाते हैं तो मैं जानता हूँ कि यहाँ डा० कर्ण सिंह आकर बोलते हैं कि हमने इतनी बुढ़िया सड़कें बना दी हैं। बिदेशों के भी यात्री आते हैं और हमारे देश को देखते हैं। हमने उनका भी बयान सुना है। जब सड़क बुढ़िया रहे तब तो सरकार अपने लिए बाहवाही लेती रहे कि देखिए हमने कितनी बुढ़िया सड़क बनवा दी है लेकिन जब सड़क पर बरफ पिघल जाय, सड़क टूट जाय तो कुधरत को उठा कर दोष दे दिया जाय तो यह

बहुत गंदा काम है। हम देखते हैं कि बाढ़ प्राती है तो प्रधान मंत्री कहती हैं कि गंगा मैया का दोष है और जब बुढ़िया फसल होती है तो के० सी० पंत साहब कहते हैं बाह इण्डिया तेरा सीना हरा भरा है। लेकिन बाढ़ आ जाय और फसल बह जाय तो गंगा मैया का दोष है। फसल रह जाय तो इन्दिरा मैया को बाहवाही दी जाय। मेरा कहना है कि यह बात खत्म होनी चाहिए। मैं चाहता हूँ कि सरकार को पछतावा करना चाहिए। जो लोग मरे हैं उनके परिवार वालों को मुआबिजा देना चाहिए और वहाँ के संबद्ध कर्मचारी जिन्होंने इस सड़क से होकर तीर्थयात्रियों को अमरनाथ पहुँचाने की जिम्मेदारी ली थी उनको सजा देनी चाहिए।

इसके अलावा क्या आपकी यह कमेटी इस बात का फंसला करेगी कि जो लोग मरे हैं वे स्वर्ग में गए या नर्क में गये...

एक माननीय सदस्य : वह स्वर्ग को गये।

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : तब तो मैं चारूंगा कि आप अपने में से कुछ लोगों को भेजिये। मेरा कहना है कि बहुत सी कमेटियाँ पहले भी बंठी हैं और हमने उनका हथ्र देखा है इसलिए मैं जानना चाहता था कि उस वास्ते क्या कमेटी बनेगी? (व्यवधान)

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पन्त : माननीय सदस्य ने कई दार्शनिक प्रश्न उठाये हैं। यह तीर्थयात्रियों का प्रश्न है। हमारे यहाँ भगवान की कई शकलें हैं। विष्णु और शिव जी की एक ही भूति में शकल होती है। प्रकृति की भी दो शकलें होती हैं। वह गंगा जोकि खेतों में पानी देती है और खेतों को लहलहा देती है वही गंगा जब बाढ़ प्राती है तो बहुत नुकसान भी कर देती है और सर्वत्र त्राहि त्राहि हो उठती है। यह दोनों ही अच्छे और बुरे काम प्रकृति में होते हैं.....

(व्यवधान)

श्री राम सेवक धावब (बाराबंकी) : गंगा के पानी से मनुष्य भूमि को अपनी बुद्धि से सींचता है (ध्यवधान)

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पन्त : विज्ञान और तकनीक में प्रगति आवश्यक है लेकिन उसने कितनी ही प्रगति की हो यह कहना कि अभी हमने कुदरत पर काबू पा लिया है ऐसा कहने की स्थिति में हम नहीं हैं।

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : मैंने जुडिशिएल इनक्वायरी कराने को कहा था और मैंने जिम्मेदार अधिकारियों के खिलाफ कार्यवाही करने के बारे में कहा था उनका मंत्री महोदय कोई जवाब ही नहीं दे रहे हैं केवल वह गंगा मैया वाली बात कह कर बैठ गये। गंगा मैया के लिए तो मैं इतना ही कहूँगा कि गंगा में इतना पानी हो जाय कि उनकी सरकार भी उसमें बह जाय... (ध्यवधान)

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पन्त : जब वह गंगा मैया वाली बात करें तो फिर मेरे गंगा के बारे में कहने पर उन्हें ऐतराज नहीं होना चाहिए।

जहाँ तक जुडिशिएल इनक्वायरी कराने का उनका सुझाव है मुझे इस मामले में जुडिशिएल इनक्वायरी कराने की कोई आवश्यकता प्रतीत नहीं होती। इस मामले में स्टेट गवर्नमेंट ने एक कमेटी बँठाई हुई है जोकि सारे तथ्यों की जाँच करेगी।

SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA (Kaliabor) : Somehow it has been taken for granted not only by the security side, but by the Kashmir Government. It has been a tradition for the Government there to organise the whole thing. This is an annual procession which takes place only once in the year. It can go there only in this time, — only for a month or so. A lot of charges have been made regarding various things and nobody has denied them, about the high prices, about the delay and all those things, and also about the failure of the medical

staff and we are entitled to know whether the Government money was well-spent.

On enquiry, I would like to know whether after all this is a proper enquiry ; it may be all right for the Kashmir Government to be satisfied with this enquiry ; the Chairman himself is Minister of the Cabinet and other Members are there ; the Tourism Minister is there and also the Director of Tourism is there,—the person against whom the enquiry is instituted. So, what I would suggest is that the Central Government itself should go into the whole matter. It has to be considered whether everybody can stand the strain of 13,500 feet or 14,000 feet in this month, especially. Particularly there it is extremely cold, and I do not know whether any permanent arrangement could be made there. As far as I could gather, Sheshnag area has snow for nearly eleven months in the year, and no permanent structure will remain there, and no permanent structure can be maintained there at any cost. So, would Government examine whether all these matters could be permitted in this way or whether some better and new arrangements could be made to obviate the difficulties ? May I know whether Government will examine these things ? I would also like to know the ages of those who died. The inquiry should not be merely an inquiry but it should also involve an examination of the whole issue whether this *yatra* which is proliferating and becoming bigger every year because thousands of people are joining it, could be modified or changed so that something better could be done about it.

SHRI K. C. PANT : As I mentioned earlier; this was a human tragedy, for which all of us in this House feel extremely sorry. The arrangements that have been made apparently need some correction. Now, the State Government themselves have appointed this committee. It is not with a view to finding fault so much. There was an assistant commissioner with this party ; there was a medical team with the party. I have already said all these things. In spite of these things, this tragedy has occurred. The State Government themselves are most anxious that this should not happen again and that the arrangements should, be ade-



quate. There is no doubt about the State Government's anxiety in this matter, and it is those very people who will have to make these arrangements and improve these arrangements. If it is their desire to go into the matter and improve the arrangements, I think the House should let them do it, and it would not be right for the Centre to interfere at this stage. If they would like to have any assistance from the Centre, of any type, that is different matter that can be gone into.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Papers to be Laid on the Table.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : I have to say something on the Order Paper. Are you allowing me now or later ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप की बात मेरे पास आई हुई है ।

श्री स० मो० बनर्जी : हम लोग बड़े दुखी हैं, मैं सिर्फ यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि...

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : प्राधे मिनट में हमें निवेदन करना है ।

MR. SPEAKER : Half a minute could be given on some day but not every day, after the Question Hour.

श्री स० मो० बनर्जी : मैं निवेदन करूँगा कि आप हमारे लिए दिन नियत कर दें । मैं अपने काम रोकने प्रस्ताव के बारे में निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ । बहुत मुश्किल से आपने इन्टेरिम रिलीफ के बारे में डिस्कशन दिया था । होम मिनिस्टर साहब जवाब देने के लिए तैयार थे, लेकिन श्री भी मेम्बर बोलना चाहते थे । मैं चाहता हूँ कि इन्टेरिम रिलीफ पर डिस्कशन इसी हफ्ते में ऐडजस्ट किया जाये । दूसरी बात मुझको यह कहनी है कि प्रिविलेज मोशन के लिए इजाजत दी जाये । मिनिस्टर के पास इम्फार्मेशन है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं उसको देख लूँगा ।

श्री शिव चन्द्र भा ने जो कुछ मुझको लिखा वह ठीक था । मुझे इसके लिए अफसोस है । पहले वह उसको पढ़ सकते थे, उसके बाद मैं भेज सकता था ।

श्री शिवचन्द्र भा (मधुबनी) : मेरा यह कहना था कि जो आप ने कहा ..

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपकी बात ठीक थी, लेकिन जब मैंने कह दिया तब मैं समझा कि उससे आपकी तसल्ली हो जायेगी, लेकिन अगर आप पढ़ना चाहते हैं तो पढ़ दीजियेगा । Ultimately that will come and after that I shall give my decision.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Let the Home Minister make a statement.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : प्रिविलेज मोशन के बारे में मैं अभी नहीं कह सकता । जब वह प्रायेगा तब उसको देख लूँगा । श्री शिवचन्द्र भा ने जो अखबार के बारे में कहा था मैंने उसके लिए कहा ।

श्री स० मो० बनर्जी : मैं आपसे यह नहीं पूछ रहा हूँ । मेरा निवेदन आपसे केवल यह है कि आपने कहा था कि होम मिनिस्टर के पास प्रिविलेज मोशन भेजा है, उन्होंने उसका कोई जवाब नहीं दिया ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जब वह प्रायेगा तब उसको देखूँगा । अभी I cannot say anything about that.

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : मैंने आपके यहाँ एक काम रोकने प्रस्ताव दिया है और एक कालिग प्रॉटेशन दिया है । बनारस यूनिवर्सिटी इतने दिनों के लिए बन्द कर दी गई है...

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry ; I have not allowed that. It is a State matter.

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : इलाहाबाद यूनिवर्सिटी में पुलिस बस गई। यह जो हलचल है पढ़ाई लिखाई के सम्बन्ध

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. Nothing that he says will go on record.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA : \*\*

श्री रामसेवक यादव : बनारस हिन्दू यूनिवर्सिटी केन्द्र की है और उसके इम्तहान बन्द हो गये हैं, विद्यार्थियों के इम्तहान नहीं हो रहे हैं। इस पर शिक्षा मंत्री को बयान देना चाहिए यह वहाँ के मुख्य मंत्री के पागलपन की वजह से हो रहा है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं स्टेटमेंट के बारे में कह दूंगा। उसके अलावा कुछ नहीं।

SHRI S. KUNDU (Balasore) : Are you asking the Minister to make a statement ?

MR. SPEAKER : I will convey that to the Minister.

श्री रामसेवक यादव : बनारस हिन्दू यूनिवर्सिटी के बारे में मैं कह रहा हूँ। दूसरी वस्तुओं के बारे में मुझे कोई ऐतराज नहीं है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वहाँ पर स्टेट पुलिस फोर्स है।

श्री रामसेवक यादव : मैं बनारस हिन्दू यूनिवर्सिटी के बारे में कह रहा हूँ। वहाँ इम्तहान स्थगित हो गये हैं। किन्तु परिस्थितियों में परीक्षाएँ स्थगित हुई हैं इसके बारे में शिक्षा मंत्री बयान दें।

MR. SPEAKER : May I request members not to get up and mention matters about which there is no intimation to me ? I am not going to allow this.

12.38 hrs.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

#### NOTIFICATIONS UNDER CENTRAL EXCISE RULES AND CUSTOMS ACT

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : On behalf of Shri Vidya Charan Shukla, I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under the Central Excise Rules ; 1944:—

- (i) G. S. R. 1096 published in Gazette of India dated the 25th July, 1970 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ii) G. S. R. 1097 published in Gazette of India dated the 25th July, 1970 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (iii) G. S. R. 1111 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 1970 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (iv) G. S. R. 1121 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 1970 together with an explanatory memorandum. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—4001/70]

(2) A copy each of following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of Customs Act 1962 :—

- (i) G. S. R. 1112 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 1970 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ii) G. S. R. 1118 published in Gazette of India dated the 30th July, 1970 together with an explanatory memorandum. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—4002/70]

MR. SPEAKER : The practice is to send intimation to me in advance. He is a new Minister. In future, he must do so.