

Correction of Answer to Unstarred Question No. 1930 dated 6-3-1969 regarding Employment Exchange in Laccadive Islands

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : I would like to draw attention to the reply given by me on the 6th March, 1969, to Part (c) of the Unstarred Question No. 1930 by Shri P. M. Sayeed and Shri Virbhadra Singh regarding Employment Exchange in Laccadive Islands. I had stated that "there are about 50 unemployed matriculates and one unemployed graduate in the Islands". This was based on a wireless message received from the Laccadive Administration. The subsequent formal written communication received from the Laccadive Administration, however, revealed that there are no unemployed graduates in the Islands.

My reply may therefore be corrected to read :

"There are about 50 unemployed matriculates in the Islands".

12:12 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE REPORTED SINKING OF KASHMIR PLATEAU

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals and Mines and Metals to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :

"Reported sinking of Kashmir Plateau."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI JAGANATH RAO) : It is reported by the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir that following the unprecedented heavy snowfall on April 29, 1969 and the rapid melting of snow and continuous wet weather conditions thereafter, land slides have occurred at a number of

places in the Srinagar and Baramulla districts of Jammu and Kashmir. Small bits of land are affected in areas of about 53 villages in the two districts. In most areas the slides are in agricultural or forest lands. However, in five villages of Srinagar district and four villages of Baramulla district 170 and 85 houses respectively have been threatened by the landslides.

It is reported that these landslides have been caused by the recent heavy and out of season snowfall. The sudden melting of the snows had also accentuated undercutting by erosion at some points, resulting in localised slumping of the ground. Regular winter snows generally over-lie firmly frozen ground which is sealed to the waters from the melting snow above. In these cases since the snowfall took place after the spring had commenced, water could directly get into the strata. Further the snowfall itself was heavy and the melting was also rapid, so that the inflow of water into the underlying strata was unusually rapid, resulting in the upsetting of the delicate balance ensuring stability in such formations on hill slopes where the structure and the topography render the area liable to sliding. These occurrences are reported to be localized phenomena and do not constitute the sinking of Kashmir Plateau.

The State Government have reported that they have taken special precautionary measures so as to prevent loss of life in case some of the slides assume dangerous proportions. The affected areas and those likely to be affected have been evacuated and the residents housed in tents and other available accommodation. Observation teams of officers of concerned Departments are reported to have been posted at Lalipora and at a central point in the Baramulla district. These teams are in constant touch with the district authorities. Once the emergency caused by the slides is over, the State Government propose to undertake surveys so as to determine long term measures that should be taken particularly in areas where population may be threatened.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Sir, this statement should be circulated. It is a long statement. It is a sinking business.