

Rural Water Supply Scheme

686. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether any detailed scheme has been prepared for providing minimum potable water supply facilities in the rural areas in Punjab;

(b) if so, the amount allotted and utilised for this purpose; and

(c) the parts of Punjab which have so far been benefited by the implementation of the Scheme?

The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar): (a) Survey work for preparation of estimates for providing water supply facilities in 1114 villages, out of 8500 scarcity villages has been carried out by the special Investigation Division so far, 556 detailed schemes at an estimated cost of Rs. 976 lakhs have been prepared and are ready for implementation under the National Water Supply & Sanitation Programme subject to the availability of funds.

(b) During the 3rd Five Year Plan, a sum of Rs. 33.30 lakhs has so far been allotted and utilised for Rural Water Supply Schemes.

(c) The districts of Gurgaon, Kangra, Kulu, Hissar, Rohtak, Hoshiarpur, Simla, Ferozepur, Bhatinda, Ambala, Sangrur and Gurdaspur have so far benefited by the implementation of this scheme.

12.09 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

SEIZURE BY POLICE OF EXPLOSIVES IN ASSAM

Shri Swell (Assam—Autonomous Districts): Sir, under Rule 197 I call the attention of the Home Minister to the following matter of urgent public

importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

“Seizure by the police of a large quantity high explosives and live cartridges from the bed of a passenger at Rangiya Railway station near Gauhati in Assam.”

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): Sir, the Home Minister is in Rajya Sabha, besides we have not received the Calling attention notice.

Mr. Speaker: I ought to have been informed when I called Mr. Swell... (Interruptions).

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Sir, the Government of India have received a report through their own agencies that eight packets of gellatine containing 128 units of explosives and five packets of detonators containing 1365 detonators were recovered in a cloth bag from one bedding roll and an airbag near the bus stand of the Rangiya railway station in the Kamrup district of Assam. The owner of the baggage ran away and has not yet been traced. Investigation is still proceeding. Government have also seen reports in newspapers regarding the recovery of this large quantity of explosives near the Rangiya railway station in the Kamrup district of Assam. Full factual information has been called for from the State Government and a statement of detailed facts can only be made when this report has been received.

Constant vigilance is being maintained against the possibility of anti-State activities by undesirable persons and agents. It is because of this vigilance that such incidents as the one reported from Assam are brought to light. It would not be justifiable to infer from a single incident of this type that there has been any increase in the anti-national activities or

[Shrimati Chandrasekhar]

espionage or sabotage. Nor can it be inferred that because of the particular incident having come to light that the question of these anti-State activities has assumed any sudden or extraordinary urgency. On receipt of full factual information from Assam, the Home Minister may be in a position to make a statement in the House. But the House may be assured that in these matters constant watch is regularly kept.

Shri Swell: It is obvious that the Deputy Minister is at pains to play down the gravity of the situation and she has hidden from the House the fact that over and above what she has stated, 1,365 live cartridges were recovered from this baggage and that all these explosives and cartridges bore foreign markings. May I know whether the Government have ascertained this much—that they have been able to establish the origin of the country, from where these explosives and cartridges have come.

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: I have stated in my answer that we have called for a detailed report from Assam and as soon as the detailed report comes, I think we will be able to give the full details to the House. (*Interruption*).

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): This question is of a very elementary nature.

Mr. Speaker: The question was about the origin, the country from which those things were brought. That is the question. And the answer has been given that that information would be got from the State.

Shri Swell: Sir, I seek your protection. This thing happened last Saturday. How long does it take for the Government in New Delhi to establish contact with the Assam Government?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): It is not a question

of time. My colleague has answered that as soon as full information is available, we will place it before the House. The information is not available at the moment. The details are not available in the report that we have received; as soon as the details are available, we will certainly place them before the House.

Mr. Speaker: There is one thing that I might point out. The rule regarding Calling Attention Notice says that—there is a provision there—if the Minister wants time to have further information he can ask for it. So, when this Calling Attention Notice was admitted and information given to the Home Minister, if the facts were not known, he could very well have asked for time.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am sorry, Sir, that we have not taken advantage of that latitude that the Chair is pleased to give. But I would certainly assure the House that as soon as we get the information we will place it before the House. (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The information would be gathered and would be given to the House.

Shri Daji (Indore): Then the matter could have been reserved till that time.

Shri Bade (Khargone): There have been seven days and yet there is no information given to the Central Government. What sort of Government is that? (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): Before I put the question, may I submit that the hon. Deputy Minister has said that anti-State activity is not there? May I give a catalogue of anti-State activities? (*Interruption*). I can give them one by one. At least five instances, I can give.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Is he going to put his question or not?

Shri Hem Barua: I am. But I am afraid she was trying to play down the gravity of the situation.

Mr. Speaker: He can raise it in some other form, but at this moment he can only put a question. (*Interruption*).

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that anti-State activity has grown in depth and dimension in the north-eastern region of this country and Pakistan and China have succeeded in strengthening the anti-Indian bellicose campaign not only abroad but inside this country also....

Mr. Speaker: I asked him to put his question, but he is making certain other statements.

Shri Hem Barua: It is one sentence, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: I am conscious of the resourcefulness of the Member; he can have one sentence during one hour also. It ought to be a simple and straight question.

Shri Hem Barua: It is one sentence Sir. In view of the fact that anti-State activity has increased in depth and dimension in the north-eastern region and Pakistan and China have succeeded in building up or strengthening the anti-Indian bellicose campaign not only abroad, but inside this country, may I know why the Indian Government have not taken action seriously to comb up the areas....

Mr. Speaker: Now the question has come.

Shri Hem Barua: The question is not complete, Sir. Why have the Government not taken action seriously to comb the areas in order to find out the people who have engaged

themselves in these anti-State activities like sabotage and espionage and hang them, if necessary. That was my question.

Mr. Speaker: The question is, in view of the circumstances existing whether any action has been taken to check all that.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Particular parts of Assam certainly need watching and as my colleague has pointed out, it is because of this watching that even this incident came to light. If the intention of the hon. Member is that this watching is not enough and this process should be intensified, that is a thing which nobody can object to. But I could not add anything more to what my colleague has said.

Shri Hem Barua: He has not replied to my question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Papers to be laid on the Table.

Shri Hem Barua: India will be soon in hell if we allow these anti-State elements to operate like this.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Bade: The Home Minister has come.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): A little too late.

12.17 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER BANKING COMPANIES ACT AND CUSTOMS ACT

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha): On behalf of Shri B. R. Bhagat, I beg to lay on the Table—

(i) a copy each of the following Notifications under sub-section (11)