

of Committee on Private  
Members' Bills and  
Resolutions

[Shri Altekar]

It is a small and non-controversial matter, Sir, and the only question is the allotment of time with respect to the resolutions that have been tabled for the day.

The resolution of Shri R. K. Chaudhuri regarding the financial aid to Assam for the purpose of repairing damages caused by floods, was allotted half an hour. Shri R. K. Chaudhuri was on his legs for about two minutes and 28 minutes remain to go. So, there remain two hours and two minutes for the rest of the resolutions, and the Committee, in consultation with the sponsors of the resolutions who were present, discussed these resolutions and according to their importance and the suggestions that were made by the sponsors themselves, has allotted time as follows:

Time for Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha's resolution regarding appointment of Hindi Law Commission—one hour.

Then, there is the resolution regarding security of services of Government employees, by Shri H. N. Mukherjee. 2½ hours have been allotted for it. For the last Resolution regarding increasing the capacity of the shipyards, by Shri Raghunath Singh, 2 hours have been allotted.

This is the time allotment that has been made, and I would beg of this House to adopt this Report.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Twelfth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 22nd September, 1954."

*The motion was adopted.*

RESOLUTION RE: FINANCIAL AID  
TO ASSAM FOR REPAIRING  
DAMAGES CAUSED BY FLOODS.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now take up further consideration of the following Resolution moved by Shri R. K. Chaudhuri on the 10th September, 1954, namely:

"This House is of opinion that a sum of Rupees two and a half crores should be immediately placed at the disposal of the Government of the State of Assam as aid for the purpose of repairing damages to public and private properties including roads, bridges and private and public buildings caused by the devastating floods of this year in the State of Assam and for rehabilitation of the flood affected people."

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri was in possession of the House, and he will continue his speech.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri (Gauhati): Would you extend the time a little beyond half an hour?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: For how long? Are there any others to participate in this discussion?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh (Shahabad—South): Yes.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: I have taken only two minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He can take his full time. How much time does the hon. Minister want for his reply?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah): About seven minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member Shri R. K. Chaudhuri may take fifteen minutes.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: Two minutes' time is taken by one even in lifting himself from his seat.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We shall ignore those two minutes.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: I do not wish to take a long time, like many of my

younger colleagues. Assam has felt overwhelmed by the great sympathy and by the kindness shown not only by the hon. Prime Minister and his colleagues, but by the Members of this House, some of whom had taken the trouble of visiting the State and seeing our woe and misfortune. I would like to express on behalf of Assam our appreciation of the same in this House. The people in my State have been deeply beholden to the Government for the clear statement which was made by the hon. Minister the other day in the Rajya Sabha to the effect that everything that is possible will be done to save the town of Dibrugarh, and that Government will willingly accept any co-operation which they may get from the people of that locality and the other localities as well.

Dibrugarh is a beautiful and prosperous town. It is the business centre where the State Government and the Centre get a large bulk of their revenues in the shape of excise duties on tea and petrol. This is now being swept away by the floods. Those like my hon. friend Shri H. N. Mukerjee and others, who have seen the catastrophe with their own eyes must have been awe-struck by it, by the great and mighty Brahmaputra sweeping everything before it. The place where the hon. Prime Minister stood was being crumbled away under his very eyes, and it seemed as if the river had tamed its stride for the time being, only to save the Prime Minister from being swept away by the dangerous current which it had at that time. Those who have not seen it may get an idea of it, if only they would go and see the cinema and have an idea of the erosion of Dibrugarh. The very place where the Prime Minister was standing and seeing the site from was swept away the next moment. It was as if the tide of the river was tamed only to give an opportunity to the Prime Minister for leaving the seat of danger. I hope I will not be supposed to imitate the courtiers of King Canute, when I say that the tide

of the great Brahmaputra itself seemed so kind to the party which had visited the place even at the risk of danger.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA  
in the Chair]

But I am very vitally and personally interested in the town of Palasbari. It is not a town in the limelight. It is an ancient rural town inhabited by hard working peasantry and some small businessman. That town was also on the clutches of danger. It is still being cut, and the whole place is being threatened with the danger of being swept away. My constituents have written to me to say, ever since you had gone to Delhi, we have not heard anything about Palasbari, we hear a lot about Dibrugarh and other places, but nothing about Palasbari. It is as if Palasbari has gone into oblivion. Some of them perhaps think that retributive justice has caught hold of me, and I might have been swept away, and that is why none of my voice about Palasbari has been heard so far.

Palasbari can yet be saved in its entirety, if Government will devote a little time and energy, and take the co-operation of the hard working peasants who are nearabout and are prepared to do everything that is possible to save the town. If that could be done, this town can still be saved. It is not merely the value of the *mandirs* or temples, the godowns and the beautiful buildings with which we are concerned, but even private properties have been swept away. Palasbari is a trade centre. It is practically the only depot of Assam's silk; *andi* and *mogha* and other varieties which are manufactured in Assam, are disposed of in this market-place of Palasbari, which sits twice in a week. It is the nerve-centre of the entire business of the Dibrugarh District. Besides Palasbari is the beautiful and small town of Sualkochi, where silk is manufactured by handlooms on a very large scale. In the interests of those who live by marketing in Palasbari,

[Shri R. K. Chaudhuri]

and in the interests of those who take food and other things to Palasbari and make them available to the people of Palasbari, and in the interests of the entire South Kamrup, I feel that this town should be saved.

What is more dangerous from the point of view of the Central Government is that the national highway passing through this place is now nearly on the brink of the river Brahmaputra. If this highway is swept away, then the entire South Kamrup will be swept away, and the aerodrome of Gauhati which my hon. friends have seen will also vanish in no time. Therefore, I would appeal that all attention must be given to Palasbari immediately, because that can yet be saved.

So far as long-range measures are concerned, this resolution has nothing much to do with them. What I want is that the three hundred families or so—it is not a large number—who have been rendered absolutely homeless, should be rehabilitated. I regret to say that in spite of the sympathy shown by the State Government as well as the Centre, very little has been done for Palasbari as yet. A great deal more has to be done, and done immediately. I am not demanding any large sum for the re-setting up of the Palasbari town, for the protection or preservation of the market-place, and for the rehabilitation of the flood affected people. I am asking for a sum of only Rs. 20 lakhs to be earmarked for the town of Palasbari. If this amount could be given, the whole town of Palasbari could be saved, and the people will be grateful.

This is a very small amount compared with the crores of rupees you shall have to spend to rehabilitate and also to protect these flood-affected places in future. This is a very small amount I am asking, and I am asking for this amount with the hope that it will be immediately made available and spent for Palasbari and

that Government will see that it is actually spent—not merely granted on paper, but actually spent.

Sir, I do not wish to dwell at very great length on this. The sympathy of this House and the sympathy of the people throughout India is unmistakable. We know it. We appraise it in its proper value and we are grateful to the country and to the nation for that. But I want prompt and speedy action. I had suggested the other day that one of the hon. Ministers of the Cabinet should be near the flood-affected places of Assam and he should be in a position to give directions on his own responsibility, to see that the work is executed. The danger with which we are beset is indeed very great.

हम लोगों पर जो विपत्ति आई है वह बहुत भयानक है लेकिन जो उद्धारकर्ता है वह भी बहुत महान् हैं। आज हमारे ऊपर महान् संकट आया हुआ है और हम निराश्रित और निस्सहाय हैं और हम ऊपर नारायण से प्रार्थना करते हैं और नीचे जो नरोत्तम हैं उन की तरफ आशा भरी निगाह से देखते हैं कि हमारी सहायता करें और हमें उबारें। हम नारायण की कृपा से अभी तक जिन्दा हैं और हमें भगवान् की शक्ति में पूरा भरोसा है। नरोत्तम यह हमारे मिनिस्टर लोग हैं और हमें पूरा भरोसा है कि नरोत्तम और नारायण दोनों मिल कर हमारी रक्षा कर सकेंगे और इसीलिए तो हम कहते हैं :

नारायणं नमस्कृत्य नरश्चैव नरोत्तमम् ।

हम तो जैसे गीता में कहा गया है इस में विश्वास करते हैं :

यत्र योगेश्वरः कृष्णो, यत्र पार्थो धनुर्धरः ।  
योगेश्वर कृष्ण हमारे साथ हैं, सत्य हमारी ओर है, हम पापी नहीं हैं, आत्मा बिल्कुल निष्पाप है और आपको जैसे और जगह ब्लॉक-मार्केट मिलेगा, वैसे आसाम में कुछ भी नहीं है और वह लोग बिल्कुल निष्पाप हैं। हमारे पूज्य पीडित मदन मोहन मालवीय जब वहां आसाम

में गये थे तो जून्होंने कहा था कि इस जगह पर अभी तक सतयुग कायम है और महात्मा गांधी जी ने भी हमारे सफेद बस्त्र देख कर कहा था कि आसाम में अभी तक सत्य का प्रभाव है और हम आशा करते हैं कि ये मिनिस्टर लोग जो महात्मा गांधी के चले हैं वह कोशिश करेंगे और आसाम को सुरक्षित रखेंगे और यह काम ऐसा है जिसके लिये रुपयों का खयाल नहीं करना चाहिये कि कितना खर्च होता है। आसाम में पलाशबाड़ी के लिये हमने बीस लाख रुपया मांगा है और वह रुपया जल्द से जल्द देकर हमें आपको अपनाना चाहिये।

**Mr. Chairman:** Resolution moved:

"This House is of opinion that a sum of Rupees two and half crores should be immediately placed at the disposal of the Government of the State of Assam as aid for the purpose of repairing damages to public and private properties including roads, bridges and private and public buildings caused by the devastating floods of this year in the State of Assam and for rehabilitation of the flood affected people."

Now, as regards amendments Nos. 1, 2, 5 and 6 are not moved as the hon. Members in whose names they stand are absent. As regards amendment No. 7, it is out of order. So none of the amendments is moved.

**Shri D. C. Sharma (Hoshiarpur):** I endorse every word of what my learned friend, Shri R. K. Chaudhuri, has said. Assam is not for me only a geographical expression. Palasbari is not for me a dot on the map of India. Dibrugarh is not for me merely one of the districts in the sub-continent of India. I was one of those persons who visited these places in the company of our Prime Minister. I still remember Palasbari, and I saw Palasbari being eaten into by the Brahmaputra. My friend, Shri R. K. Chaudhuri, was also there, and I am glad that he is here in our midst to

plead the cause of Palasbari. I witnessed the tragedy—if I can use that expression—of Dibrugarh. One evening I went there and I saw a beautiful villa-like house. The next morning I went there and I found that the house had disappeared. I saw that the Brahmaputra was eating into Dibrugarh continuously, insidiously and persistently. Of course, I would have been very happy if my friend had not pleaded only the cause of Assam, but also pleaded the cause of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. I think all these States—Bihar.....

**Mr. Chairman:** The amendment relating to Bihar and other States has been held to be irrelevant. So I will request the hon. Member to speak on the Resolution.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** All right. You have said that if I make any observations on Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, they would be irrelevant. I, therefore, do not want to go into the tragic happenings in those States. But I must say that Assam has been the worst hit of all these States. Therefore, if we can understand the misery of Assam, we can enter into the misery of all these other States also.

I will not go into the details of the case. Our Home Minister made a statement on that subject. Our Minister of Planning, Irrigation and Power made a statement on that subject. There was a full-length debate on flood control in this House. I do not want to repeat all those things. But I must say that a great deal of damage has been done in Assam to public and private property. I had a talk with several persons at Dibrugarh. I also had talks with several persons at Palasbari. All of them put me one question—they were persons who did not belong to the wealthy class—'What will happen to our houses? Our houses are gone. How shall we be able to put up our houses?' I said, 'The State will look after you. The Government of India will look after you and you need not be afraid'.

[Shri D. C. Sharma]

This damage to property is there. There were so many bridges which had been built; so many bridges have been washed away now; so many roads have practically disappeared. All these things are there. Now, I think that this is something which is very ruinous for these persons. Not only that. There has been terrible damage to what you may call public property. My friend, Shri R. K. Chaudhuri, will bear me out when I say that there was a circuit house at Dibrugarh. That circuit house was a beautiful building. I must say I liked the building, as I also like the people of Assam. That circuit house was washed away. Thank God that the new circuit house in which we were put up was able to stand the test. I do not know what has happened to it by this time. I think it still stands.

Therefore, I think that the Government should deal with this problem. It is a three-fold problem. In the first place, there is the problem of the public property as well as the private property. I think the Government should be very generous in building up not only public property, but in giving grants to those citizens of India whose property has been washed away or whose property has been lost on account of the floods. The second thing is that the means of communications, which were already very inadequate in Assam, should be restored.

I do not only think of the old communications which should be restored. I say that new means of communication should be there in Assam so that people do not suffer. At the same time, I say that something should be done so far as flood control is concerned.

I have listened to the statement made by the Minister of Planning. But I would say that the gap between one stage and the other should be shortened; the gap between the first stage and the second stage and the gap between the second stage and the

third stage should be shortened as much as possible.

I received a letter the other day from the citizens of Dibrugarh. They say in that letter that Dibrugarh should not be removed from the present site and that something should be done to keep Dibrugarh there. I endorse the suggestion of those citizens. I endorse the suggestions of the citizens of Palasbari. I say that speedy, generous and economic relief should be given to the people of U.P., Bihar and West Bengal. I wholeheartedly support the resolution which has been moved so feelingly, so emotionally and so eloquently by my learned friend Shri R. K. Chaudhuri.

श्री पी० एन० राजभोज (शालापुर-रीघत-... अनुसूचित जातियाँ): सभापति जी, मैंने इस प्रस्ताव के सम्बन्ध में दो संशोधन दिये थे लेकिन पिपिटेशन कमेटी में चले जानों के कारण मुझे खेद है कि मैं समय पर उनको मूव नहीं कर सका। मेरी प्रार्थना है कि आसाम राज्य के साथ साथ बंगाल, बिहार और ५० पी० यह राज्य भी शामिल कर लिये जायें। वहाँ कई तरह की तकलीफें हैं और हमारे हीरिजन भाइयों के ऊपर काफी जुल्म किया गया है और जैसा कि श्रीमती सुचेता कृपालानी ने वक्तव्य दिया कि एक हीरिजन भाई मर गया। उस को खाने को नहीं मिला और हमारे भाइयों को रहने के वास्ते मकान नहीं और जो कमेटी बनती है मदद के वास्ते उस में देखा जाता है कि अफसरान हमारे गरीब अछूत भाइयों की तरफ ध्यान नहीं देते और उनके वास्ते कोई इंतजाम ठीक से नहीं होता है। इस सम्बन्ध में हमारा एक डंपुटेशन भी श्री नन्दा से मिला और उनके सामने अपनी शिकायतें रखीं, मैं भी नन्दा साहब से २२ तारीख को मिला और उन्होंने हमें विश्वास दिलाया कि आप लोगों की जो तकलीफें हैं और ग्रीवेंसज हैं उनकी ओर जरूर ध्यान दिया जायेगा। मेरे पास डिब्रुगढ़ से और दूसरी जगहों से तार आये हैं कि वहाँ पर हमारे लोगों को किन किन

मुसीबतों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है, लेकिन यह खाली आसाम राज्य का ही सवाल नहीं है, बल्कि इस में बिहार, वेस्ट बंगाल और यू० पी० को भी शामिल करने की आवश्यकता है और उसके लिये पांच करोड़ रुपया भी खर्च हो जाये तो परवाह नहीं और मैंने इसी आशय से प्रस्ताव भी दिया था कि बजाय ढाई करोड़ के पांच करोड़ कर दिये जायें.....

**Mr. Chairman:** This amendment has been held to be out of order. The hon. Member must not expatiate on that.

श्री पी० एन० राजभाज : मैं जनरल बात कह सकता हूँ। मैं जानता हूँ कि मैं अपने संशोधनों को मूव नहीं कर सका, क्योंकि मैं पिटीशन कमिटी में गया हुआ था। मैं और अधिक न कह कर यह जो प्रस्ताव पेश है इसको सपोर्ट करता हूँ और आशा करता हूँ कि सरकार हम शैड्यूल कास्ट वालों का भी खयाल रखेगी और हमारी तकलीफों को हटाने के लिये कोशिश करेगी। बस मेरी इतनी ही प्रार्थना थी।

**Shri M. C. Shah:** Mr. Chairman, I must confess that I find some difficulty in dealing with this resolution because there is no difference of opinion between the Government of India and the mover of this resolution in providing adequate assistance to those States which are affected by the floods. As a matter of fact, if I may be permitted to say so, this exhortation contained in the resolution is unnecessary and belated.

Hon. Members of this House know very well from the answers given to questions with regard to these matters, how a uniform pattern of assistance has been adopted by the Central Government. As a matter of fact, it is our misfortune that Assam is not the only State that is affected but there are Bihar, U.P. and West Bengal also. Hon. Members will agree that there ought to be a common pattern of assistance and that common pattern is this. We have already made it clear that finance will

not stand in the way of the relief and rehabilitation in any of the States. We have agreed to meet half the cost of expenditure on gratuitous relief, which will include infructuous expenditure on the provision of works, in doles and other reliefs so long as it does not exceed Rs. 2 crores. We have agreed to remit three-fourths of the expenditure in excess of this figure. We have also agreed to assist the States by giving as loans half the expenditure on test and other relief works. We have promised to facilitate the liquidation of any investments held by the States for meeting the essential expenditure by agreeing to purchase the securities. We have also given the assurance that the resources of the State Governments compelled to be diverted to meet this unexpected catastrophe should not be allowed to affect their plans of development by agreeing to lend to them for meeting the expenditure on development schemes a sum equal to that which they have been compelled to divert from their current revenues and investments for flood relief. Taking the picture, as a whole, no State will find its essential relief and development plans at this stage held up for want of funds.

I will refer to the specific case of Assam. The latest estimate of the requirements for Assam this year, arising out of the floods, have been taken by the State Government at Rs. 400 lakhs, Rs. 20 lakhs of gratuitous relief, Rs. 220 lakhs for roads and buildings, Rs. 100 lakhs for rehabilitation, Rs. 10 lakhs on test and relief works and Rs. 50 lakhs on agricultural loans. Under the general formula mentioned just now by me, the Centre has agreed to give half the expenditure on gratuitous relief as a grant—that is, if expenditure thereon will be less than Rs. 2 crores, half the expenditure will be borne by the Centre and the rest will have to be met by Assam and this Rs. 50 lakhs for agricultural loans will have to be met from its own resources.

Assam has now an Investment Reserve of Rs. 3.5 crores on which

*Aid to Assam for Repairing  
Damages caused by Floods*

[Shri M. C. Shah]

she can fall back. Assam will also get, in due course, a loan equal to what she has had to divert from her resources for meeting this expenditure.

Therefore, it will be seen that the Government of India have already promised all those States which are affected by flood that finance will not stand in helping any of these relief and rehabilitation schemes and also the development schemes under the Five Year Plan.

In Bengal also, the same position is there. I would not narrate anything about this. Looking to this common pattern of assistance to be given to the States, which I have already indicated, I hope my hon. friend will not press this resolution and will withdraw it.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** I wanted an assurance that, as was done in the case of Dibrugarh, Government would also take necessary measures to protect the town of Palasbari. Actually, so much amount has been spent and at this stage the Government of Assam may not agree to take a loan; they want a grant. I would also like to know what is the decision of the Flood Control Board which sat recently, so far as Palasbari and Dibrugarh are concerned.

**Shri M. C. Shah:** As I have already stated, these estimates are submitted by the State Government. The Centre has a common pattern of assistance to the States of West Bengal, U.P. and Bihar, and, according to that common pattern, we are prepared to give any assistance that is required.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** In view of what I have heard and with much greater hopes, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the Resolution.

*The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.*

(4 P.M.)

**RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT  
OF A HINDI LAW COMMISSION**

**श्रीमती तारकेश्वरी सिन्हा (पटना पूर्व) :** सभापति महोदय, मैं इस प्रस्ताव को आपके सामने रखने की अनुमति आप से चाहती हूँ और सदन की अनुमति भी चाहती हूँ। मुझे आशा है कि मंत्री यह प्रस्ताव स्वीकृत किया जायेगा और मुझे अनुमति दी जायेगी कि मैं इस प्रस्ताव को सभा के सामने रखूँ।

Sir, I beg leave of the House to introduce the Resolution.

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Member wants to speak subsequently?

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** I just ask for leave to introduce my Resolution.

**Mr. Chairman:** There is no question of leave; the hon. Member can move her Resolution.

**श्रीमती तारकेश्वरी सिन्हा :** मंत्री प्रस्ताव इस प्रकार है :

"This House is of opinion that the Central Government should immediately appoint a Hindi Law Commission consisting of Hindi and Sanskrit scholars including members of the bar and the bench to prepare authoritative Hindi texts of all the Central laws."

सभापति महोदय, मैंने अपना यह प्रस्ताव इसलिए प्रस्तुत करना चाहा है कि यह समस्या बहुत अहम है, बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है, और मुझे यह उम्मीद है कि सभा की राय भी मुझे से मिलती जुलती होगी। यह तो हम मानते ही नहीं हैं कि हमारा राजनीतिक, आर्थिक और सामाजिक दामन हमेशा अंग्रेजी से ही बंधा रहेगा। हम गुलाम थे और सैकड़ों वर्षों तक हम अपनी सभ्यता और अपनी भाषा को भुला बैठे थे। लेकिन इसका मतलब यह तो नहीं होता कि हिन्दुस्तान के आजाद नागरिक होने की हींसयत से हम अपनी सभ्यता की ओर न देखें, हम अपनी संस्कृति न बनायें और अपनी भाषा न बनायें। हम इस बात का एहसास कर रहे