

# HINDU SUCCESSION BILL

The Minister of Legal Affairs (Shri Pataskar): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to amend and codify the law relating to intestate succession among Hindus, pending in Rajya Sabha.

## CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPROTANCE

### STARVATION IN FLOOD-STRICKEN DISTRICTS OF U.P.

Shri S. L. Saksena (Gorakhpur Distt. North): Under Rule 216, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Food and Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"starvation in flood-stricken districts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh."

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): According to information available with the Government, there is no starvation in the flood stricken areas of Gorakhpur, Deoria, Basti and other districts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh. It is also not correct that the State Government have stopped distribution of gratuitous relief in flood affected areas in Uttar Pradesh.

The Government of Uttar Pradesh took precautionary measures as early as in May i.e. three months before floods, to meet the flood manace. A sum of Rs. 1,60,000 at the rate of Rs. 10,000 was placed at the disposal of 16 usually flood-affected districts including Basti, Deoria and Gorakhpur for making advance arrangements and for providing relief in case of necessity. Flood posts were established equipped with essential articles such as gram, gur, salt, match boxes, kerosene oil, medicines and fodder for the cattle.

A sum of Rs. 1,95,000 was also placed by the Chief Minister at the disposal of certain districts including Basti, Deoria and Gorakhpur for construction of buildings to provide shelter to persons affected by floods.

This year's floods were caused by very heavy rains for 4 days from 19th to 22nd July, 1955. This resulted in

tremendous water logging in such areas which were served by small rivulets and local rivers which could not drain off this huge quantity of surplus water in reasonable time. This could not be averted despite steps taken by the State Government in advance in May this year. The latest information, however, shows that the position is improving everywhere.

The amounts so far given to the districts by the State Government for help in the flood affected areas are given below:

	(Rs.)
Gratuitous Relief	22,00,000
Subsidy for reconstruction of houses	10,50,000
Subsidy for Bhusa	1,85,000
Taqavi under Act XII including reconstruction of houses (interest free).	1,09,03,860
Loans to Non-agriculturists for reconstruction of houses (interest free).	10,50,000
Allotments out of the CM's Distress Relief Fund for construction of houses in the flood affected areas.	1,95,000
Allotments from Prime Minister's Relief Fund.	77,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,55,47,860</b>

In addition Rs. 6 lakhs have been sanctioned for test works.

Arrangements had been made to rush stocks of foodgrains, salt, sugar etc., to these districts. Milk powder is also being distributed to children and infirm people. Stocks of wheat and jowar purchased on behalf of the Central Government were released for distribution in consultation with the Government of India at the concessional rate of 3½ Seers per rupee for wheat and 5½ seers per rupee for jowar. All the incidental charges for handling and transport etc. were being borne by the Government. About 85,000 maunds of wheat and jowar have so far been sent by the U.P. Government to flood-affected districts. The movement of foodgrains through trade channels has also been quite substantial with the increase in the availability of foodgrains in the market and the demand for foodgrains from Government shops has decreased to some extent.

People everywhere are courageously trying to save crops or to sow fresh crops. Efforts are being made by Government to provide those who are without any means of subsistence with some work so that they could earn their livelihood. Works are being expedited; some of them, such as roads, bridges, canals, public buildings etc., which are included in the Second Five Year Plan are being started ahead of schedule. Other possible avenues of employment are also being explored.

Allegations about some starvation deaths in district Deoria were brought to the notice of the State Government sometime ago but the inquiry made from the local authorities revealed that these were baseless.

**Shri S. L. Saksena:** Is the hon. Minister aware of...

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. No supplementaries are allowed.

#### MOTION RE. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONER FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES FOR 1953 AND 1954

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now resume further discussion on the Reports of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for 1953 and 1954.

Out of 10 hours allotted for the discussion of both the Reports, about 8 hours and 15 minutes have already been availed of—excluding 2 hours and 38 minutes, taken on Friday last from the time allotted for the Private Members' Business. This means about 1 hour and 45 minutes are now available for the discussion which will conclude by about 1-45 P.M. today. Thereafter the House will take up the discussion on the White Paper on General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade for which 6 hours have been allotted. As already decided, the House will sit upto 6 P.M. today.

I understand that the hon. Defence Minister wishes to say something on the Reports of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, so far as his Ministry is concerned. He will take about 15 minutes and

not more than that. For the reply at the end, the Deputy Home Minister will take about 45 minutes. That means, between the two, they will take one hour. Forty-five minutes are, therefore, now available for further discussion. I will first call upon Dr. Katju.

**The Minister of Defence (Dr. Katju):** The two Reports which the House is discussing relate to the two years during which I had something to do with the Home Ministry and the topics with which the Reports deal at length have been very dear to my heart. I do not wish to deal with the main questions raised in the Reports; they had been dealt with adequately by the hon. Home Minister and will no doubt be dealt with further by my colleague, the Deputy Home Minister. I should only like to express once again what I have said in this House many times viz., that the road to progress, in my opinion, lies through more and more education and that Governments, both Central and State, should do the utmost to encourage the spread of education by scholarships and in a variety of ways. That is the first thing.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

Secondly, so far as the removal of untouchability is concerned, I think it will be a mistake if we were to adopt a sort of an authoritative attitude of mind trying to remove untouchability. It is desirable that we should follow Gandhiji's method, that is the persuasive method. There is plenty of opportunity for work and plenty of room for work among the so-called higher classes, particularly in the rural areas.

I did not intervene in the debate for saying these elementary things. I have intervened to say something about the representation of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in our Armed Forces. Some hon. Members have discussed this matter and it is a matter of tremendous importance. I only wish to say as to what exactly the orbit of the problem is. The problem is not limited merely to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It is a vaster problem: vaster in this sense.