

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Some days ago, two or three days ago, I stated that I would always welcome this House to consider the basic issues or the general policies of Government. I think I said that, because Shri Kamath brought forward some kind of a motion, that if the Opposition or any considerable number of Members of the House wish to discuss that basic policy, obviously the Government would welcome that discussion, because at any time that would be so. More especially in a matter which has international implications it should be clear what the basic policy of the Government and the country is. There should be no doubts about it. So, I would welcome that discussion. Personally I would have thought that such a discussion would be better a little later. I do not mean to say very much later, but I do feel that even such a discussion taking place, as you said, at a moment of rather, excitement would somewhat take away from the weight of that discussion. But I am entirely in the hands of the House and you, Sir, in this matter.

May I say, if I may, with your permission, that there is no one who can possibly doubt even without the evidence that we have had about the deep feeling in the country on this issue. That is admitted all round. Even without the evidence it was admitted, and we have adequate evidence of it. The two are really separate issues. There is a big feeling in which all of us share. The question is exactly what steps should be taken in a matter which is naturally complicated not only nationally, but internationally, and that requires careful considerations.

Mr. Speaker: Secretary to read the message from the Rajya Sabha.

Dr. Rama Rao (Kakinada): Why not we have the discussion on Saturday?

Mr. Speaker: It was just stated and I share that feeling entirely, and I stated yesterday that such discussions to be useful, to be purposeful, have to be in an atmosphere when there is less of excitement, and that means some time more.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi (Nellore): May I ask you whether it is possible for the Prime Minister to tell the House about any further incidents that have taken place since yesterday morning and whether the rumour that seven dead bodies have been burnt there is correct or not, to the extent he has been able to gather information.

Mr. Speaker: I have already stated and he has also said that he will be making statements from time to time, but not from day to day. This House cannot be used for having information as one can have from a news agency office. It has its dignity, it has its responsibility, facts have to be verified and we must act with some responsibility about it and must not lose our heads merely by excitement.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

Secretary: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha:

"I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on Wednesday, the 17th August, 1955, passed the enclosed motion concurring in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. The names of the Members nominated by the Rajya Sabha to serve on the said Joint Committee are set out in the motion.

MOTION

That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do

[Secretary]

join in the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, and resolves that the following Members of the Rajya Sabha be nominated to serve on the said Joint Committee, namely, Shri K. P. Madhavan Nair, Shri Ram Chandra Gupta, Shri Braja Kishore Prasad Sinha, Shri Bhalchandra Maheshwar Gupta, Shri Jagannath Kaushal, Shri P. S. Rajagopal Naidu, Shri Ratanlal Kishorilal Malviya, Shri Lavji Lakhamshi, Shri S. Channa Reddy, Shri Akhtar Husain, Shri Rajpat Singh Doogar, Shri Satyapriya Banerjee, Janab M. Muhammad Ismail Saheb, Shri Radhakrishna Biswasroy, and Shri Narsingrao Balbhimrao Deshmukh."

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENT re: FLOOD SITUATION

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): I beg to lay on the Table of the House a statement regarding the flood situation in Assam, Bihar and West Bengal. Developments in Uttar Pradesh subsequent to my earlier statement on the 2nd August have also been incorporated in this statement. This statement covers various aspects of the situation, such as causes of the floods, progress of flood control measures, floods in 1955, the effect of works already undertaken, and the future programme. [Placed in Library. See No. S-259/55.]

With your permission, in addition to the statement I have laid on the Table of the House, I would like to bring out just a few salient features.

As the House is already aware, the disastrous floods of 1954 brought home to us the imperative need of tackling the menace of floods in the country, in a co-ordinated and planned manner. Till then, no systematic attempt had been made to undertake flood-control

measures, or even to collect the basic technical data without which no sound flood-control programme could be prepared. The Central Government took the initiative in the matter last year, and as envisaged in the comprehensive statement on floods, which I laid on the Table of the House on 3rd September 1954, special organisations were set up both at the Centre and in the States affected or threatened by floods, for formulating flood-protection schemes in an integrated manner, and for implementing them speedily.

There was only one working season available (from October 1954 to June 1955) to carry out the emergent works after checking the designs on the basis of the data collected, carrying out experiments where necessary, and preparing the estimates. Within the short period, work on emergent schemes was completed as programmed, and satisfactory progress was achieved on others. Work on the collection of hydrological and rainfall data in the Himalayan catchments of the rivers flowing into India has been simultaneously proceeding apace. Negotiations have been concluded for the purpose with the neighbouring Himalayan countries.

The Nepal Government have agreed to the installation of ten rain-gauge stations in the Terai area. The Sikkim Government have permitted the installation of an observatory at Gangtok. The Bhutan Government have permitted the immediate setting-up of ten river-gauge stations, and eight wireless stations. The Chinese authorities, at our request, have arranged to send out wireless messages from Lhasa, giving river-gauge and rainfall readings in the upper reaches of the Brahmaputra in Tibet. These messages give an advance notice of about fifty hours of impending floods in the river. Aerial photography and spot-levelling have been done to the extent of about 26,000 square miles, and 7,700 square miles respectively.