

[Shri Rishang Keishing]

I have also got the names of the villages where people died of starvation. I would also like to bring to the notice of the hon. Home Minister that some *lamboos* i.e., Government men, visited the area and they also reported that there is starvation deaths. I would also draw attention to the Press release by the Secretary of the Famine Relief Committee which was constituted last year sometime in October. There also the allegation has been made that seven persons died of starvation....

Mr. Speaker: We are now concerned with the adjournment motion and not with what happened in October last.

Pandit G. B. Pant: Does the hon. Member mean that the people in that area would be so apathetic and indifferent to their colleagues and neighbours as to allow them to die of starvation? Rice is being sold there at Rs. 9 per maund and the off-take from the shops has been very little; it is inconceivable to believe that men will die like that. Supplies have been made and rice is being sold at a subsidised rate of Rs. 9 per maund and it is also being airdropped.

Mr. Speaker: I ask the hon. Member why those friends who took the trouble of writing to the hon. Member who is a Member of Parliament did not approach the officers near at home and bring to their notice those deaths. He does not know why there is also a short notice question. This matter has been answered by the hon. Minister and he has said that all facilities have been afforded. Whatever additional information the hon. Member has got, he may pass it on to the Home Minister for making further enquiries in the matter. There is absolutely no such information and the hon. Member is not in a position to say that the authorities were apprised of the situation.

Shri Rishang Keishing: More than 12 persons from that area....

Mr. Speaker: He has not answered my simple question.

Shri Rishang Keishing: They have brought this matter to the notice of the State Government also, but the State Government refused to take action. As I have said, the *lamboos* who generally work in the hill areas have reported that there is starvation deaths. I would request the hon. Home Minister to appoint responsible person to go there and

enquire whether the report of the people is right or the Government's report is right.

Mr. Speaker: I have heard both sides on this adjournment motion. The Minister has made a statement that no such cases have arisen. The hon. Member says that he has received information and letters from his friends indicating deaths due to starvation. He has also tabled a short notice question. All the information available to the hon. Minister has been placed before the House I would suggest to the hon. Member to pass on any further information or particulars that he has in his possession to the hon. Minister. I am sure further enquiries will be made and all steps will be taken. In due course, further information will be placed before this House.

Shri Rishang Keishing: You have asked me to supply the necessary information to the hon. Minister. May I know if the hon. Home Minister will trust the people as much as he does the Government of Manipur and if he will do that here is the information.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member need not so much underrate himself.

Shri Nambiar (Mayuram): The adjournment motion has not been disposed of.

RELEASE OF MEMBERS

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House that I have received the following letter dated the 19th May, 1956, from the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta:

"I am to state that Shri Bhajahari Mahata, M.P. (Purulia General Constituency) and Shri Chaitan Majhi, M. P. (Purulia Adibasi Constituency) were discharged from the case on 18th May, 1956."

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

GOVERNMENT'S POLICY WITH REGARD TO ALGERIA

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma (Kanpur Distt.—South cum Etawah Distt.—East): Under Rule 216, I beg to call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"Government of India's policy with regard to Algeria."