

and in respect of the balance the Government of India contributes 75 per cent. There is enough of provision and there are enough of powers with the State Governments. I am sure the State Governments are fully alive to the situation and they are in a position to take action.

Before I finish, I would like to point out one fact. The hon. Member gave notice of an adjournment motion on the 13th August last in which he said that the main, earlier paddy crop had dried up. In this adjournment motion, the hon. Member says that the reaping of the earlier paddy crop has become impossible. Oftentimes, the memory of politicians is short, but it should not be so short. When the earlier paddy crop was completely destroyed, according to the previous adjournment motion, where is the question of reaping that paddy crop now?

Shri Nambiar: Whatever remains could not be harvested.

Shri S. L. Saksena (Gorakhpur Distt.-North): May I ask—

Shri A. P. Jain: I have not finished. In any case, as this day happens to be the last day of this session, I am not in a position to collect the facts from the State Government and place them before the House. Of course, there is no case for admitting this adjournment motion.

Shri S. L. Saksena: Will the hon. Minister ask the State Government to supply the information about this matter?

Mr. Speaker: Shall we abolish the State Assembly then?

Shri S. L. Saksena: Will not the hon. Minister ask the State Government to supply—

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow such questions. The hon. Members have committed themselves or are trying to make or bring about a unitary State and a unitary Government at the Centre. They forget that

there are people's representatives, though representing smaller constituencies than here in the State Assemblies. It is unfortunate that famine and flood occur alternately. But then, can the Government or any other person or all the Opposition together or the Government together prevent famine on the one side and flood on the other? They are all accidental.

The point for consideration is, what are the steps that have been taken in this regard to alleviate suffering, which might have been caused owing to heavy downpour, etc. In the first instance, the hon. Minister has said that the State Government is responsible for this. So far as the Centre is concerned, the hon. Minister has said that the Centre has set apart an amount of Rs. 2 crores and that they are willing to share the expenditure, and that over and above this, they are prepared to contribute. The hon. Members who are interested in this matter must approach the State Government and persuade the Assembly members there to take it up, through the State Government. After doing that, if there is no statement on the subject available, and if, so far as the Centre is concerned, the Central Government has been derelict in its duty, has committed default, and that the State Government has become helpless, the hon. Members can raise the point in this House. I am not called upon to give my consent to this adjournment motion.

DATE OF GENERAL ELECTIONS

Shri A. K. Gopalan (Cannanore): May I seek your permission to raise a matter of profound importance? A few weeks ago or a few days ago, there was an announcement by the Election Commissioner that as far as he was concerned, he was ready to have the elections in February, 1957. He also had called a conference of all the parties and he discussed with them. There also, he said that as far as he was concerned, there would not be

[Shri A. K. Gopalan]

any delay and that the elections could be conducted in February. That was what he said. But we regret to say that there was no announcement by the Government fixing the date of elections. It was said even yesterday in answer to a question that the final programme of the election would be announced only in November. Even if the date is announced today, there would be only five months. As far as the ruling party is concerned, it may be that even two months or three months are enough, because they have got money and a network of organisation. As far as other parties are concerned,—

Mr. Speaker: We need not go into controversial matters.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: If they object to my saying this, then, it means that they also want more time. As far as other parties are concerned, and also as far as the independent candidates are concerned, apart from the mass of the voters, it is quite necessary that they must have some more time.

Not only that. We all know that, as a matter of fact, the real preparation for election work can be conducted only when the date of the election is announced. So, I would request that an announcement may be made today and a date may be set. If an announcement is made in November, then there would be a delay of two months which can otherwise be utilised for preparations. If elections are to be held with only a period of two months for the preparations, it would be a difficult matter.

Further, some newspapers have already published the news that the elections will not be held in February, 1957, and that they will be held only in 1958. There are also lobby talks, and it is also reported that there are some Ministers seeking—

Shri Gadgil (Poona Central): Can notice be taken by this House of what another member said in the lobbies?

Shri A. K. Gopalan: There are talks like that. It is the duty of the Gov-

ernment to see to it and announce a date.

Mr. Speaker: How many months does the hon. Member want?

Shri A. K. Gopalan: I want the Government to announce a date and say that there will be no change at all and that the elections will be held in February so that we will have time for preparations for the elections. There is no question of a date being announced in November.

The Minister of Home Affairs and Heavy Industries (Pandit G. B. Pant): I do not know if the Government is free to announce the dates. It is presumably the function of the Election Commission. The dates are announced by the Election Commission. It is the authority to announce the dates. I cannot arrogate another authority which does not inhere in me.

But, so far as the anxiety of Shri A. K. Gopalan is concerned, I would like to help him. I do not know if he does not mean to make any start, so far as the preparations for the elections are concerned, till he comes to know of the definite date. If he says that they will not start till then, then, I shall try to ascertain the wishes of the Commission. But I hope the election preparations are already on. So, he is not going to be prejudiced by any delay in the announcement of the date. My own expectation is that the elections will come off in February or in March, but I cannot say anything definitely.

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): May I submit an important aspect of this matter?

The Election Commission announced definitely a few days ago that so far as the Commission was concerned, the date, in February, was the firm date; but yesterday, the Law Minister—not the Home Minister—said in answer to a question that the programme the schedule of election, would be finalised in November. What is this conflict between the Government and the Election Commission?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Members know that it is this House which has passed legislation on these matters. So far as the Representation of the People Act is concerned, the hon. Members know that a short time before the elections actually take place, the dates are announced.

An Hon. Member: The exact date.

Mr. Speaker: That is what the Commission has to do. No Minister of the Government can do so. So far as the general impression as to when the elections will take place is concerned, as at present advised the spokesman of the Government has said that the elections will be in February or March. What is the meaning of pinning the Government to a particular date which they are not competent to say in this House?

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

AMENDMENTS TO AIR CORPORATIONS RULES

The Minister in the Ministry of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 44 of the Air Corporations Act, 1953, a copy of each of the following Notifications making certain further amendments to the Air Corporations Rules, 1954:

- (1) Notification No. 7-CA(9)/55, dated the 20th August, 1956.
- (2) Notification No. 7-CA(10)/55, dated the 17th August, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. S-411/56].

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER EMPLOYEES PROVIDENT FUNDS ACT

The Minister of Labour (Shri Khandubhai Desai): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. S.R.O. 2026, dated the 8th September, 1956, under sub-section (2) of section 4 of the Employees Provident Funds Act, 1952.

I also beg to lay on the Table a Copy of the Notification No. S.R.O. 2027, dated the 8th September, 1956, under sub-section (2) of section 7 of the Employees Provident Funds Act, 1952.

[Placed in Library. See No. S-412/56].

REPORT ON TRAVANCORE-COCHIN STATE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report on the Travancore-Cochin State Transport Department by Shri K. P. Velu Pillay, in pursuance of an assurance given on the 3rd September, 1956, by the Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1255 regarding Travancore-Cochin State Transport Department, by Shri V. P. Nayyar. [Placed in Library. See No. S-413/].

Shri Kamath: What was his name?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: His name is Shri K. P. Velu Pillay. It is given in the order paper itself.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members must look at the Order Paper.

DELIMITATION COMMISSION, INDIA, FINAL ORDERS

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 9A of the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952, a copy of each of the Delimitation Commission, India, Final Orders Nos. 32 to 35, published in the Gazettes of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, dated the 30th July, 1956. [Placed in Library. See No. S-414/56].

AMENDMENTS TO CENTRAL EXCISE RULES

The Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure (Shri A. C. Guha): I beg to lay on the Table under section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944, a copy of the Central Excises Notification No. 10-CER/56, dated the 1st September, 1956, making certain further amendments to the Central Excise Rules, 1944. [Placed in Library. See No. S-415/56].

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

Shri Altekar (North Satara): I beg to lay on the Table the minutes of the sittings of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House (Seventeenth to