

**Mr. Speaker:** I am always available in my room; I do not go home before 6 o'clock and I will receive all representations. Some of the short notice questions were put off because the Prime Minister was not here and he made a statement later. Some questions relating to the Naga problem were put over, because the hon. Home Minister promised to make a statement; and, he did. I withheld some of the questions on this subject, because it is still in a fluid stage and I wanted to know what the reaction of the Prime Minister was. We ought not to embarrass ourselves and others; first of all we will see what the statement is and thereafter if there are further questions to be answered, I will admit a further discussion if necessary and I will give time. So far as other matters are concerned, I am always available to hon. Members.

## MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

### FLOODS IN TRIPURA

**Mr. Speaker:** I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Shri Dasaratha Deb on the following subject:

"The situation arising out of unprecedented floods in Tripura State, particularly in Kailasahar and Kamalpur sub-divisions of the State, dislocating all means of communication and submerging many square miles of the State, and the urgent necessity for rushing relief to the area, as an alarming food scarcity is threatened on the wake of the floods."

Does he want to say anything?

**Shri Dasaratha Deb** (Tripura East): It appears from P.T.I. reports that an area of about 40 sq. miles of Kailasahar sub-division in Tripura was submerged due to heavy flood. I got a telegram from a responsible person of the affected area. The telegram says that vast areas of Kamalpur and Khowai sub-divisions also have been inundated by the floods. The airports of both Kailasahar and

Kamalpur were completely inundated and planes could not land there for the last one week. It is also reported that due to landslides on the Agartala-Assam road, vehicular traffic between Agartala and Kamalpur has been interrupted for the last one week.

May I also mention, Sir, that on the 3rd August, the hon. Minister told the House in reply to my question that the price of rice at Kamalpur sub-division was from Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 per maund in the last week, that is before the flood. Rice was hardly available even at that high price there. The only remedy was to send rice from Agartala Government godown, but now, as there has been a complete dislocation of communication both by road and by air, an acute food crisis has arisen.

When such a serious situation has been created by flood havoc, I feel that it is absolutely necessary to send immediate relief to the people in distress. This is really a serious matter which affects thousands of people, and I hope you will kindly allow this adjournment motion to be discussed by the House.

**The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda):** So far as the flood situation is concerned, very recently a very full and detailed statement was made in the House and also laid on the Table of the House.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty** (Basirhat): This is again a new one.

**The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant):** After that there was a discussion between the Members of the House and the Ministers regarding the situation there. I find from the text of the motion that it refers to the urgent necessity for rushing relief to the area as an alarming food scarcity is threatened. That is a matter regarding which my information is that the necessary action has been taken and is being taken. The details can be given of that also.

**Shri Dasaratha Deb:** May I submit that the flood havoc has taken place after our discussion? We discussed on the 1st August, but all these places are under water now, since yesterday.

**Shri Nambiar (Mysuram):** Let the Home Minister reply so that we may know what actually has happened.

**Pandit G. B. Pant:** I do not know if there had been any floods recently in Tripura. The information that we have indicates that the floods occurred between 31st May and 3rd June and not thereafter.

**Shri Biren Dutt (Tripura West):** This is a recent flood.

**Shri S. S. More (Sholapur):** You are behind with the floods!

**Pandit G. B. Pant:** If there had been any floods recently.....

**Shri S. S. More:** That is their contention.

**The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha):** Yesterday.

**Pandit G. B. Pant:** Yesterday? We have no information about that. If there had been floods yesterday we will be getting information, but I should like to know what was the exact extent of rainfall yesterday or the day before in Tripura. Has anybody any information?

**Shri Biren Dutt:** There is the report of the P.T.I. stating that Kailashar and Kamalpur have been completely dislocated.

**Pandit G. B. Pant:** What we have before us is this. We are not aware of any floods after the 3rd June. The peak of the floods occurred from 31st May to 3rd June. The floods have long ago subsided, that is our information. Immediate relief measures were rushed by the State administration. More than Rs. 3 lakhs have been spent on relief measures. Rice, jowar etc., were distributed to the people in distress and all other relief measures promptly taken. Shortage

of food was reported from the State some months back and all possible steps have been taken to rush rice to the State. Three hundred tons of rice were flown into the State and later several thousand tons of rice have been sent by rail, and thus more than 4,000 tons have already been delivered to the State administration. Ration cards have been issued to more than 4½ lakhs out of 8 lakhs of people in the State. The ration card enables a person to get three seers of rice every week. The rice which has been sent by the Government of India is being sold to the ration card holders at the subsidised rate of Rs. 15 per maund, whereas the free market price is about Rs. 25 per maund. In the adjoining area of East Bengal the free market price of rice is over Rs. 25 per maund. There is no distress at present in any part of the State. Steps are being taken to give advances for agricultural operations including purchase of new seeds, and where necessary cattle. Two thousand maunds of seed paddy have been brought from Assam and West Bengal and distributed to the cultivators at concessional rates.

If there is any hardship anywhere, even now we should certainly like to do all we can to mitigate it and to meet the requirements of the situation.

**Shri V. G. Deshpande (Guna):** What is the date of the report read out just now because it refers to 3rd June only?

**Pandit G. B. Pant:** This report has just been prepared out of the papers that we have in our office. We have received no information recently about any floods. I do not know if any person has seen any floods in Tripura recently. If none has, then we wait for further information from the other side or from the official quarters.

**Shri Biren Dutt:** We will supply the information. What I want to bring to the notice of the House is that this area is now, as the report goes, completely dislocated and there

[Shri Biren Dutt]

is food scarcity. So, the Government must keep it open and send a communication to the Government of Tripura to arrange to air-drop food. As the report goes, people there are almost starving because the price of rice at Kamalpur is Rs. 60 per maund, and due to landslides road communication has been cut off.

**Shri A. K. Gopalan (Cannanore):** I want to make a statement on the flood; because there is something very serious. In answer to a short notice question about floods, the hon. Minister laid something on the Table of the House, and then the question was raised by one hon. Member that the names of places where some flood relief had been given were not there in that report. The Prime Minister gave some donation for flood relief in Travancore-Cochin, Malabar and South Kanara from the relief fund, but there is no mention in that statement that there had been floods in those areas. Probably the States are not reporting. It may be that flood relief is given through one machinery, while reports about floods come through another, but there is no mention in the report that there had been floods in those parts of the country.

As far as Tripura is concerned, it is said that three four days back there had been some heavy floods, and that the damage was greater than it had been in June. So, the States should be asked to report to the Centre and the Central Government should also find out the names of the places where there had been floods.

**Dr. Rama Rao (Kakinada):** May I make a submission? He can allow the matter to lie over for two or three days.

**Pandit G. B. Pant:** There is nothing to be postponed because, as I said, we have no information, and nobody seems to be definite. Someone said there were floods yesterday, some said there had been floods some time ago

but some areas were waterlogged. Whatever it be, I do not know. But ordinarily we receive immediate information from the local governments whenever there is any distress, any flood, any earthquake or other calamity. We shall also enquire telegraphically if there has been any flood and if there is any difficulty or any hardship of any type whatsoever it is our desire that the States should go to the help of the afflicted people and provide them adequate relief.

**Mr. Speaker:** The adjournment motion is about the serious situation arising out of the unprecedented floods in Tripura State. It says that the means of communication have been cut off and necessary relief has not been given. No particular date is mentioned. These floods started a long time ago and, as indicated to the House by the hon. Home Minister by the statement read by him, necessary flood and other relief measures are being undertaken. Of course, the quantum of it is a matter which can be gone into from time to time. Now, this is more or less a continuing situation in a particular place. Under those circumstances, there is no meaning in spending the time of the House on this matter. Whenever any hon. Member receives any information, immediately he may pass it on to the hon. Home Minister or Irrigation Minister for making the necessary enquiries. They do not have that information. I would also urge upon the Government to get this information,—the situation in the country, week by week.....

**An Hon. Member:** Day by day.

**Mr. Speaker:** ...particular in those areas where there is the danger of floods and whenever a serious situation arises keep this House informed of the steps that are taken. More than that, all hon. Members can communicate whatever information they have got to the Ministers. In the cir-

## the Table

cumstances, no further action is called for. Consent is not given.

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

## ANNUAL REPORT OF DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION AND AUDIT REPORT ON ACCOUNTS FOR 1954-55

**The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda):** I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report of the Damodar Valley Corporation along with the Audit Report on the Accounts of the Corporation for the year 1954-55, under sub-section (5) of section 45 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948. [Placed in Library. See No. S-292/56.]

## AMENDMENTS TO EMPLOYEES PROVIDENT FUNDS SCHEME

**The Minister of Labour (Shri Khandubhai Dessai):** I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (2) of section 7 of the Employees Provident Funds Act, 1952, a copy of the Notification No. S.R.O. 1660, dated the 21st July, 1956, making certain further amendments to the Employees Provident Funds Scheme, 1952. [Placed in Library. See No. S-293/56.]

## STATEMENT SHOWING ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON ASSURANCES ETC.

**The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha):** I beg to lay on the Table the following statements showing the action taken by the Government on various assurances, promises and undertakings given by Ministers during the various Sessions shown against each:

- (1) Supplementary Statement No. V—Twelfth Session, 1956 of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix IV, Annexure No. 47].
- (2) Supplementary Statement No. VIII—Eleventh Session, 1955 of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 48].

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- (3) Supplementary Statement No. XII—Tenth Session, 1955 of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 49].
- (4) Supplementary Statement No. XVIII—Ninth Session, 1955 of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 50].
- (5) Supplementary Statement No. XX—Eighth Session, 1954 of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 51].
- (6) Supplementary Statement No. XXIII—Seventh Session, 1954 of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 52].
- (7) Supplementary Statement No. XXXVI—Fifth Session, 1953 of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 53].

## AMENDMENT TO COFFEE RULES

**The Minister of Consumer Industries (Shri Kanungo):** I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 48 of the Coffee Act, 1942, a copy of the Notification No. S.R.O. 1674, dated the 28th July, 1956 making certain amendment to the Coffee Rules, 1955. [Placed in Library. See No. S-301/56].

## MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

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

In accordance with the provisions of rule 101 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 2nd August, 1956, agreed to the following amendments made by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 17th July,