

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow any discussion on this. The House may consider. The hon. Member wants this House to note this. The simple point is whether after a decision has been taken by the House, it is open to an hon. Member to persuade the House here, and then to go out and even carry on peaceful propaganda outside, and whether he can take any steps to contest the decision, openly and violently or otherwise by disobeying the orders. That is the simple point. The House will consider it leisurely.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

WORKING JOURNALISTS WAGES BOARD RULES

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 20 of the Working Journalists (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955, a copy of the Working Journalists Wage Board Rules, 1956, published in the Notification No. SRO 1769, dated the 4th August, 1956. [Placed in Library. See No. S-323/56].

TOURIST LITERATURE

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following tourist literature:

- (1) Guide to Orissa,
- (2) Folder on Puri-Bhuvaneshwar,
- (3) Guide to South India (Madras and Andhra),
- (4) Hill Stations of South India,
- (5) Inserts on Ootacamund, Kodaikanal and Kotagiri,
- (6) Hill Stations of Western India,
- (7) Hill Stations of Northern India,
- (8) Guide to Kashmir,
- (9) Guide to Simla,
- (10) Guide to Dalhousie,
- (11) Folder and Insert on Kashmir,

- (12) Folder on Himachal Pradesh,
- (13) Folder on Himalayan Holiday,
- (14) Guide Map of Srinagar,
- (15) Guide to West Bengal and Assam,
- (16) Folder and Insert on Assam,
- (17) Guide to Delhi,
- (18) Folder on Delhi, and
- (19) Guide Map of Delhi.

[Placed in Library. See Nos. S-324 to 340, 340A and 341/56]

RULES COMMITTEE

FIFTH REPORT

Sardar Hukam Singh (Kapurthala—Bhatinda): I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-rule (1) of rule 306 of the Rules of Procedure, a copy of the Fifth Report of the Rules Committee.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

EIGHTEENTH REPORT

Shri V. B. Gandhi (Bombay City—North): I beg to present the Eighteenth Report of the Public Accounts Committee (1955-56) on the Audit Reports on the Accounts of the Damodar Valley Corporation for the years 1952-53 and 1953-54.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

EFFECT OF DROUGHT ON CROPS IN BIHAR AND EASTERN U.P.

Shri Bibhut Mishra (Saran cum Champaran): 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:—

“Effect of drought on crops in Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh, and the situation resulting therefrom.”

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): The following is a brief statement on the drought conditions prevailing in the Eastern Districts of U.P. and Bihar.

Eastern Districts of U.P.: As soon as the State Government received information from weekly rainfall and weather and crop conditions reports, that there was likelihood of drought conditions developing in the eastern and Avadh districts, they issued instructions to all districts officers to keep a close watch on the situation. They suggested that any scantiness of rainfall may be met by full utilisation of the State irrigation works and by digging up of *kutchha* wells. Similarly, in order to meet scarcity of fodder, it was suggested that forests may be utilised in consultation with the Conservator of the circle concerned. Arrangements were also made by Government for the storage of hay and *bhooosa*.

The above instructions were precautionary in nature. The actual reports received, however, from the State Governments about the Eastern Districts show that the rainfall up to 31st July was deficient in the districts of Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Jaunpur, Basti, Deoria, Gonda, Bahraich and Balia. As a result, the early paddy crop in most of those districts was damaged. After the 31st July, in many districts, in particular, in Gorakhpur, Jaunpur, Bahraich and Varanasi, there have been rains and some of the early paddy crop has revived. The late paddy transplantation has also started. In Balia, where the deficiency of rainfall was comparatively great, the condition of the crop is quite satisfactory in Doab area situated between the Gagra and the Ganga, but the western area of Balia is suffering from scarcity conditions. The early paddy has been damaged and the late paddy is also suffering from want of rains.

Deoria was the worst affected district. Early paddy has suffered appreciable damage. The seedlings of the late paddy were also drying up. Sugar-

cane crop has also suffered but there have been good showers on the 12th, 13th and 14th of August and the prospects of crop in Deoria have improved. The transplantation of the late paddy has begun and the crop in many parts of the affected area of the district is expected to revive. The sugarcane crop is also expected to improve as a result of these rains. There is some scarcity of fodder in Deoria but not in other places and the State Government have made adequate arrangements for the import of fodder from other districts.

A stock of more than one lakh maunds of wheat is available in the Central Depot at Varanasi for supply to the Eastern Districts. The State Government is watching the situation carefully. The Central Food and Agriculture Minister who recently visited Deoria has advised the State Government to open fair price shops, wherever situation needed them. The Central Government is building up more reserve stocks of wheat at Varanasi in order to meet any emergency that may arise.

Bihar: In Bihar, the latest position is that drought but not scarcity conditions exist at the moment in the districts of Bhagalpur, Saharsa, Monghyr, Santal Pargana, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Gaya and Hazaribagh. There is partial drought in the districts of Purnea, Saran, Champaran, Shahabad, and Palamau. Even in parts of these areas, namely in Palamau, the situation has improved considerably as a result of rainfall recently.

Agricultural loans amounting to Rs. 75 lakhs had already been distributed by the State Government at the beginning of the current year in order to meet any scarcity condition, which fortunately has not arisen. Irrigation water facilities have been considerably augmented by providing *Kutchha* embankments where necessary. There is no dearth of drinking water.

There has been some rise in prices locally, but the State Government have sufficient stocks of foodgrains at their disposal to meet any contingency that

[Dr. P. S. Deshmukh]

may arise. From the facts I have given above, it will be clear that there is no cause for alarm.

Shri Shree Narayan Das (Darbhanga Central): We had given notice of Short Notice Questions.

Mr. Speaker: No one will be allowed to ask questions now.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary (Saran South): On a point of propriety. Some ten days ago, I had tabled a Short Notice Question on the same subject. The question was neither disallowed nor was I informed whether it was allowed or not. Now the Minister comes here and makes a statement to avoid the Short Notice Question and to avoid also supplementaries being put thereon. Is it fair or not?

Mr. Speaker: I cannot force any hon. Minister to accept Short Notice Questions. All that I can do is to allow a question. If it is otherwise admissible, I allow it to be brought before the House in due course. If in the meanwhile, the hon. Minister receiving a number of such questions wants to make a statement, he can do so. Hon. Members who are not satisfied with the statement will table questions in the usual course. I shall see if they can be admitted. That is all that can be done. (*Interruption*).

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Ten days is the usual course. My question was tabled on the 6th of this month. Ten days have elapsed and it should be replied in the usual course.

Mr. Speaker: I have specially provided a Superintendent and a Stenographer in the Notice Office. Hon. Members who have got any difficulties regarding admission of questions, resolutions etc. may go there, in the first instance. They will get all assistance. If a question was tabled ten days ago, the Office or the Speaker has to exercise judgment and look into it. Then it has to be sent to the Minister to see whether he accepts or not. So what is the meaning of calculating the ten

days from the date on which he gave notice of the question? Is the Minister bound to accept every Short Notice Question? I am really surprised at the question raised by the hon. Member.

Shri Sinhasan Singh (Gorakhpur Distt.—South): The Minister has made a statement, arising out of which we want some clarification. Some steps have been taken and irrigation work has been facilitated. I want to ask whether there is any reduction in the rate of the electric charges, so that the people could avail of it.

Mr. Speaker: It is not usual to allow any question to be asked at this stage. If they are not satisfied with the statement, tomorrow they may table a question as early as possible. I will try to admit it.

Shri Dhusiya (Basti Distt.—Central East cum Gorakhpur Distt.—West—Reserved—Sch. Castes): On a point of clarification.....

Mr. Speaker: I am capable of no more clarification.

BIHAR AND WEST BENGAL (TRANSFER OF TERRITORIES) BILL

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): I beg to move:

That the Bill to provide for the transfer of certain territories from Bihar to West Bengal and for matters connected therewith, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

This question of the transfer of certain territories from Bihar to West Bengal has come up for discussion in this House more than once. It attracted sufficient attention when the States Reorganisation Commission's Report was discussed here for a number of days. On account of a proposal made thereafter for the merger of the States of West Bengal and Bihar, this part of the States Reorganisation Commission's recommendation was not included in the Bill for the reorganisation