

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

4291

4292

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Tuesday, 22nd July, 1952.

day of the second week of the next session of the House."

The motion was adopted.

The House met at a Quarter Past Eight of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

9-15 A.M.

PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE

TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF REPORT ON CERTAIN PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE BY DR. S. N. SINHA EXTENDED

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): I do not know what is the procedure. You will remember that I promised to make a statement on Assam. Shall I do it now, or after making the motion for extension of time for presentation of Report of Committee of Privileges.

Mr. Speaker: Just as he pleases; he may move the motion first.

Dr. Katju: I beg to move:

"That the time for the presentation of the report of the Committee of Privileges on the question of privilege regarding certain papers laid on the Table of the House by Dr. Satyanarain Sinha, M.P., be extended upto the first day of the second week of the next session of the House."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the time for the presentation of the report of the Committee of Privileges on the question of privilege regarding certain papers laid on the Table of the House by Dr. Satyanarain Sinha, M.P., be extended upto the first

STATEMENT RE ASSAM FLOODS

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): Sir, may I, with your permission, make a brief statement about floods in Assam. It is a matter of the deepest regret that the State of Assam which has barely recovered from the effects of earthquakes and floods which happened only a short while ago should again have been visited by this calamity. As soon as we heard of it I sent an immediate telegram to the Chief Minister expressing profound sympathy and also asking him to furnish a full and detailed report of the up-to-date position. At the same time, I asked him to let us know if we could help him in any way.

The Chief Minister who has personally visited the affected area has sent me a very full telegram in which he has stated that due to continuous heavy rains the Brahmaputra and most of its tributaries rose simultaneously flooding nearly 10,000 square miles, the districts worst affected are Lakhimpur, Kamrup, Nowgong and Golpara. There has not been much loss of human life—only 52 cases have been reported so far, but several boat disasters have occurred and cattle are stranded without fodder in all affected areas. The Assam Rail Link is reported to have been breached in several places and so also the Railway line from Amingaon to Assam border. Railway communications have been restored only in patches so far. The Assam Trunk Road on both sides of Brahmaputra is under water, dislocating traffic at several places in different Districts. Road communications—to Garo Hills and North Lakhimpur have also been disrupted while many internal roads are under water. Only very important mail is

[Dr. Katju]

being carried to and from Assam which is cut off from rest of India so far as ordinary mail is concerned. Postal communications in certain Districts have also been cut off due to breaches on the road, the Air strips at Sadiya and Morkang-Selek have also been cut off. Thus Rail, road and air communications have been considerably disrupted. Extensive damage has been caused to paddy not yet harvested, also the winter paddy seedlings and deep water paddy in the fields.

Many granaries in all affected areas and one Government paddy godown have been submerged but details of the extent of crop damaged have not yet been available.

Dibrugarh and Sadiya Districts have also been affected by erosion which continues unabated.

The Assam Government have sanctioned Rs. two lakhs for gratuitous relief and two and a quarter lakhs as agricultural loan. They are allotting more funds according to necessity. District officers are rendering all possible relief and have been instructed to arrange supply of paddy seeds and seedlings. The State Government's Health Department are taking necessary action for prevention of epidemics. Full details are not, however, yet available due to dislocation of communication.

The Chief Minister has asked for assistance from the Centre in the following directions:

- (1) 10,000 maunds of Sali seeds costing Rs. two lakhs for immediate distribution.
- (2) Help in cash and kind for distribution of gratuitous relief, food and medicines etc.
- (3) Use of Sukrating air field for shelter of cattle and rehabilitation of tribals rendered homeless.
- (4) Immediate supply of certain medicines such as Quinine, Plaudrine, Thalazon, Sulphadiazine and Penicillin etc.,

The Ministry of Health are arranging to send immediately medicines worth Rs. 55 thousands from the Red Cross stocks. Arrangements are also being made to supply drugs of the value of about Rs. 40,000 within the next few days from the same stock. 10,000 pounds of powdered milk which is expected from the Danish Red Cross very soon will also be despatched to Assam.

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture have informed the Government of Assam that it would be possible to supply them food grains in such quantities as may be required by them provided arrangements for their movement can be made.

The Assam Government's request for further help in cash and kind is under immediate consideration. This information is based primarily upon a very full telegram which was despatched from Shillong on the 18th instant. I have not had any further telegram from the Chief Minister and it is very difficult to get him on the telephone at Shillong. I need scarcely say that we will deal with this request with the utmost sympathy and expedition and do everything possible to help Assam to recover from the damage it is suffering. I am sure I may convey to the people of that State the full sympathy of this Parliament.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee (Calcutta South-East): May I make one suggestion? I am not asking any question. The Statement that the hon. Minister has read out has disclosed complete dislocation of communications. So, restoration of communication is the most urgent matter even to make relief possible. May we know what steps have been taken for securing this. Nothing has been stated about it in the statement. That must receive the topmost priority. What arrangements do they propose to make for this? He may perhaps have some information as to when he expects minimum restoration of communications possible. That, I believe, is the most important and urgent matter.

Dr. Katju: The first prerequisite is the receding of the flood waters. As soon as that happens, I am very sure that the State Government will take every possible step to restore communications through their own departments. If they ask for any help that will be at their disposal.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: On an occasion like this the help of the Military must be requisitioned.

Shri Barman (North Bengal—Reserve—Sch. Castes): On a point of information. I had tabled two short notice questions on the situation in North Bengal which was visited by a similar calamity as Assam.

Mr. Speaker: He may enquire from office. I do not know whether those questions were allowed or disallowed.

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): They are coming up day after tomorrow.

Shri R. K. Chaudhury (Gaurati): Sir, may I know something about the position.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member (I am afraid I should be very strict over this matter) cannot be permitted to put a question from a different seat.

I have requested hon. Members that, so far as possible, they should stick to the same seat or sit near about. Otherwise, it creates difficulty for the Chair to spot out a Member. I will again refer to that difficulty after a minute.

Whatever suggestions they may have, hon. Members may make them to the Home Minister and I shall permit him to make a further statement on the subject.

PREVENTIVE DETENTION (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

PETITIONS RECEIVED

Shri Vartak (Thana): I beg to present the report of the Committee on Petitions on the Bill further to amend the Preventive Detention Act, 1950.

PREVENTIVE DETENTION (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL—Contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the following motion moved by Dr. Kailas Nath Katju on the 17th July, 1952, namely:

“That the Bill further to amend the Preventive Detention Act, 1950, be taken into consideration”.

Along with that there are three amendments. I need not recapitulate them.

In this connection, I should like to invite the earnest attention of hon. Members who wish to speak that this debate has been carried on for a pretty long time; and, so far as I can see, all the main points giving the constitutional aspects, the legal aspects and the factual aspects and all that have been considered. Hon. Members will therefore kindly shorten their speeches now, referring only to such further factual things or other arguments which have not been covered till now. Because, my impression on going through the debate is that it is practically repetition of the same argument—though of course I may say that it is not repetition of the exact words, but it is more or less a

paraphrase of what has been said before. That is one point to which I would invite the attention of all Members.

I should now call upon Shrimati Subhadra Joshi to continue her speech. In this case too, the hon. the lady Member has changed her seat in such a manner that I could not find out whether she was in the House at all. That is the difficulty. It is not merely a technical point which I am making. When a name is there, I naturally look to the place where the hon. Member has been usually sitting, and I cannot be expected to enquire first through my Private Secretary or the official here to find out whether the hon. Member is present in the House or not. I was just going to pass on, saying that she is not here and I was going to call upon somebody else. But on enquiry I found that she was here. Now she will kindly stick to the place which she is occupying.

श्रीमती सुभद्रा जोशी (करनाल) :

अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं कल इस बात का जिक्र कर रही थी कि देश में हालात ऐसे हैं कि जब तक इस क्रिस्म का कोई कानून हमारी हुकूमत के पास नहीं होता है तब तक उन हालात पर क़ाबू पाना मुश्किल है। इस सिलसिले में मैं कल औरतों का जिक्र कर रही थी और अर्ज कर रही थी कि जब से यह जमातें आर्गनाइज (organise) हुई हैं, या थोड़ा ज्यादा जनता के सामने आई हैं, खास कर सन् १९४७ के दंगों के बाद, हुई लोग यह देख रहे हैं कि किसी न किसी बहाने से कभी पाकिस्तान में जो हमारी बहनें हैं उन का नाम ले कर, कभी यहां धर्म के नाम से, कभी किसी बदला लेने के बहाने से औरतों की इज्जत को खतरे में डाल दिया जाता है और जैसा मैं ने पहले कहा कि उन्होंने ऐसे ऐसे तरीके निकाले हैं जिन पर पेश पाना बहुत मुश्किल है। और जो उन के लीड (lead) करने वाले होते हैं वह कभी सामने नहीं आते हैं। इसी सिलसिले में मैं आप से कह रही थी, अध्यक्ष महोदय, कि यह तकरीबन रोजमर्रा की बातें