

[Shri Raghunath Singh]

tion of the Minister of Defence to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

“The help rendered by the Army in the recent floods in Ambala.”

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): Heavy flood in Dangri Nadi in the Ambala District was experienced on the 26th August, 1959. These floods have caused considerable damage. The details of the damage caused as known to us are as follows:

- (i) Approximately 100 houses in village Babyal (two miles east of Ambala Cantonment) have collapsed. As a result of this, inhabitants of that village have been rendered homeless.
- (ii) Approximately 200 houses have also collapsed in villages Polandri, Bamani-Majra and Chera (in Naraingarh Tehsil).
- (iii) A number of breaches have occurred in the bund of Dangri Nadi over a length of 4 miles.

Fortunately no loss of human life and cattle has been reported so far.

As regards military assistance, on the 26th August, 1959, at 7-45 A.M., the Deputy Commissioner, Ambala, made a request for assistance in,

- (a) evacuation of civilians from village Babyal which was cut off by flood water.
- (b) Carrying out repairs to overflowing banks of Dangri Nadi.
- (c) Establishing a tented camp with some medical cover for sixty homeless families.

The Army authorities undertook immediate reconnaissance of the flood-affected area. Thereafter, they provided the following assistance:—

- (a) On the 26th August, 1959, approximately 40 Army per-

sonnel erected a camp consisting of 61 tents. Approximately 400 civilians have been accommodated in this camp.

- (b) Approximately 55 Army personnel with 7 boats were kept ready at short notice for the evacuation of civilians. These boats were, however, not used.

At the further request of the Deputy Commissioner, Ambala, the Army made available to the civil authorities the services of 57 Army personnel with one bull-dozer on the 30th August, 1959, for raising the bund and blocking the breaches of the bund along Dangri Nadi to avoid further flooding of village Babyal and the surrounding areas of the Ambala Cantonment.

POINT OF INFORMATION

ABSENCE OF DEFENCE MINISTER ON U.N.O. WORK

Acharya Kripalani (Sitamarhi): Sir, you will recollect that I had said that the Defence Minister has accepted an additional assignment of representing India at the United Nations General Assembly, and I had enquired how far it is proper in the prevailing circumstances. Neither the Prime Minister nor the Defence Minister has offered any explanation. I shall be grateful if you would give me an opportunity to raise this question, because I feel that both the public and the House are interested in this question. Under ordinary circumstances, it would have been all right, but under the extraordinary circumstances in which we are living, when the defence of the country is a very important matter, would it be advisable that the Defence Minister should be absent for three months?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I am sorry that this parti-

cular matter to which the hon. Member had referred—I forget whether it was yesterday or the day before—escaped my mind, and I could say nothing about it. It is certainly a matter which deserves consideration, and we do give consideration to it, and we are giving consideration to it. I came to the conclusion that no situation had arisen here at the present moment which necessitated any change in the programme which we had made; but, of course, if at any time necessity arises, a change will be made, and even if the Defence Minister is there, he will have to come back immediately. But I might add that so far as the arrangements are concerned, on our border etc., they are in good hands, and the defence forces are making adequate arrangements, and I do not think there need be any particular anxiety on that score.

I do not wish the House to imagine that I am making light of this situation; I am certainly not; it is a serious matter, but we are dealing with it, I hope, adequately and whenever necessity arises, we shall make further arrangements and keep what the hon. Member has said in mind.

12.23 hrs

APPROPRIATION (No. 7) BILL

The Deputy Minister of Finance
(Shri B. E. Bhagat): I beg to move*:

"That the Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent in respect of the former Part C States of Delhi and Himachal Pradesh on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1957, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year by the legislature of each of those States, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent in respect of the former Part C States of Delhi and Himachal Pradesh on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1957, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year by the legislature of each of those States, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr Speaker: The question is:

"That clauses 1, 2, and 3, the Schedule, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 1, 2 and 3, the Schedule, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

Shri B. E. Bhagat: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed".

Mr Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed".

The motion was adopted.

MOTION RE: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT ON OFFICIAL LANGUAGE—contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri G. B. Pant on the 2nd September, 1959, namely:—

"That this House takes note of the Report of the Committee of Parliament on Official Language laid on the Table of the House on the 22nd April, 1959."

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.