

all the political parties together and discuss the situation with them. That is the appeal I am making. I am sure if the hon. Prime Minister will intervene and see if something can be done to see that such things do not happen hereafter, the situation will improve and peaceful conditions will be restored.

**Shri G. B. Pant:** I agree with what Shri A K Gopalan says. So far as his suggestion is concerned, I will communicate it to the Governor and see that the political parties in this matter agree to use their influence in order to help the forces of peace and to maintain peace. I agree with him there. That is what the political parties also should do.

**Mr. Speaker:** After the elections have been concluded so nicely and a large number of people have gone to the polls when there were no incidents, if any incidents have occurred recently, it is unfortunate. But I am sure that as soon as the new Government comes into being—I hope it will come into being as early as possible—the entire thing will die down. If in the meanwhile owing to over-exuberance either on account of success or on account of failure, there may be incidents either on the one side or the other, the matter will be looked into. Therefore, as the hon. Home Minister has said, he will kindly send all these to the Governor, and let him send for the leaders of the various Parties and see to it that there are no incidents at all hereafter—not only now but even hereafter.

Parliamentary democracy requires discussion in the Assembly. When once a decision is taken, the entire community must abide by that decision. It is open to them to get that decision vacated by proper means. I am sure that since the elections have been conducted, Kerala will certainly give a very good account of itself and there will not be any incidents in future, either from the one side or the other.

I do not think it is necessary or useful to pursue this matter any further here. The Governor and all the officials there will take proper notice of it. Whenever any incidents come to the notice of any hon. Member here, I am sure the hon. Minister will certainly take note of them and take all steps necessary.

I do not think I should give my consent to this adjournment motion.

#### ALLEGED STARVATION DEATHS IN MIZO HILLS DISTRICT

**Mr. Speaker:** I have received notice of another adjournment motion. It is an ordinary matter relating to the food situation in a State, but inasmuch as it is said that there have been some deaths due to famine, namely:

“Urgent need to discuss the death of five people due to starvation in the famine-affected Mizo Hills District (news appearing in the *Times of India* dated 15-2-60). Central Government’s intervention to save the lives of the people is absolutely necessary”.

what is the situation?

**Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur):** The news has appeared in the *Times of India*, quoting one Shri Lalsawia. It says:

“Another member of the delegation, Mr. Lalmawia, who is the Parliamentary Secretary for Tribal Affairs, said that 11 people had died in Mizo district. He said that the Government did not accept this figure, although he had himself verified it.

“Mr. Lalsawia said that the quantity of rice sent to Mizo Hills district was hardly sufficient to meet a fraction of its population”.

It is also stated further:

“He said that the people had become so desperate that they had started looting trucks transporting rice from Silchar to Aijal, the headquarters of Mizo district.”

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

Sir, my submission is that five people have died. I want to have confirmation from the Government. Have they any information about this? If this is correct, then, surely, it is an alarming situation and something should be done from the Centre. If the newspaper information is correct, then, this should be discussed properly here. Let the Central Government clarify the whole thing. Let them say what steps have been taken to save the people from starvation deaths and let them not experiment with human life.

Shri Hem Barua rose—

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad):  
Sir,....

Mr. Speaker: Let us not have any general discussion on this subject. A knowledge of what exactly has happened in this particular case is all that is necessary to come to a conclusion whether a discussion is necessary. The hon. Minister,

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):** Sir, it is a fact that there has been large-scale destruction of crops in this Mizo district due to the rat menace because there has been bamboo flowering and there has been multiplication of rats. It has been a matter of concern both for the State Government as well as for the Central Government. The State Government has asked from us 10,000 tons of rice to meet the situation and we have promised that we would give them the entire quantity. We have also made available from the district headquarters at Silchar as much as 1,000 tons now to be moved to the Mizo district and it is moving by road. We have also employed two planes for air-dropping the supplies to this district. We have also made arrangements for despatches from our Central depots at Hojai, Gauhati and Calcutta of supplies for the making up of this 10,000 tons.

There may not be any difficulty in the matter of supplies. But the only thing is that since transport is difficult we will have to resort to air-dropping of supplies. We have employed two Indian Airlines planes; we have also asked the Air Force to supply another two planes and they have promised to do that. So, everything possible is being done in the matter.

We are also exploring possibilities of making some supplies from Burma side either by road or by air-dropping to the southern portion of this district because it is adjacent to the Burma border. We are taking all possible steps.

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** Sir, both the Assam Government and the Government of India are duly conscious of this condition in the Mizo district due to the occurrence of the rat menace which comes apparently once in every 25 or 30 years when the bamboos flower. There is no question of any lack of foodgrains or of making them available by us. The question really is of transport—of their reaching the place.

The Chief Minister of Assam has repeatedly conferred with us on this subject because, naturally, it is his primary responsibility. He is doing everything in his power; and we have, as has been said by the Deputy Minister, been doing our part. Our Defence Ministry has made available not only aircraft but jeeps. Jeeps are important because the roads are such that they can only be negotiated by jeeps. This area adjoins the Burma border; and, apart from what we are sending by air and jeeps, an attempt has been made to get rice across the Burmese border. We can return that to Burma in some other way. And, I believe, Pakistan is also nearer. I know nothing because this is only a report in the *Times of India* and I have been asked what steps are being

taken. I cannot say whether anybody has died or not. I should rather imagine that such reports, unless they are verified, should not be taken for granted. All I wish to point out is that everything that we could think of is being done.

**Shri Braj Raj Singh:** Sir, I had submitted....

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Mem Barua.

**Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati):** The food situation in the Mizo Hills district due to rat menace has deteriorated during the last one month or so. The Assam Government asked for a help of at least 10,000 tons of rice from the Centre. My information is that so far only 3,000 tons have been allotted to the State Government for that particular district.

Another thing is this; this is a hill district and is infested by rats. The rats create a menace almost annually. That is why my submission is that the core of the problem should be tackled with and destroyed. There have been starvation deaths not only this time but on past occasions as well. Therefore, I want to know from the hon. Prime Minister what positive steps he wants to take to rid this district of this recurring food problem.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** I have already stated that whatever the Assam Government has asked for for the purpose of meeting the demand in the Mizo district would be given to them—the 10,000 tons. We have promised to give the entire quantity.

As for the starvation deaths, we have absolutely no reports of starvation deaths. We have also seen the Press report; apart from that we have no information at all.

**Shri Hem Barua:** My information is that only 3,000 tons have been allotted.

**Shri Braj Raj Singh:** Sir, the report says that there has been looting

of truck-loads of rice by people who have become desperate due to starvation. May I know whether it is a fact? If so, what steps are Government taking to safely transport these truck-loads of rice?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** It has been said that it will be by road and air. There is no third way of doing it.

**Mr. Speaker:** There are reports in the papers that some of these trucks laden with foodgrains have been waylaid and taken away by some persons. That is what the hon. Member says.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Have people gone away with truck-loads? I have not heard of it.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is rather unfortunate. But this is not a thing which has occurred very recently. The menace has been there for some time past and, as Shri Hem Barua says, it seems to be annual feature.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** No, Sir; it comes once in 25 or 30 years.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Possibly, the State Government did not approach the Central Government for help last time. That is why the Central Government does not know. It is a regular feature.

**Mr. Speaker:** The immediate problem is that rats have eaten away the crops and have caused damage, and whether sufficient foodgrains have been rushed and distributed to avert any catastrophe of the kind mentioned. So far as that is concerned, the Deputy Minister has said that all the quantity that had been asked for by the State Government has been sent and that they will also verify. Shri Hem Barua says that only 3,000 tons have been sent out of 10,000 tons. Surely, the Minister will verify and see that the supplies are sent as quickly as possible.

[Mr. Speaker]

So far as deaths are concerned, the hon. Minister may make an enquiry and then report to this House what exactly the situation is.

In view of the assurance given by both the Deputy Minister and the hon. Prime Minister that every step is being taken to avoid immediate catastrophe and also for having a long-range view, I do not think it necessary or useful to pursue this matter on the floor of the House today. I refuse my consent.

**Shri Braj Raj Singh:** Sir, in the report it is said that the Parliamentary Secretary has verified the 11 deaths.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Minister will verify and make a report to the House as quickly as possible.

12.37 hrs.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

##### SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** Sir, I beg to lay on the Table of the House copies of the latest communications sent to the Government of China on India-China relations. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1887/60.]

##### STATEMENT ON THE WORKING OF THE ANDAMANS FOREST DEPARTMENT

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement on the working of the Andamans Forest Department. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1888/60.]

##### AMENDMENT TO DELHI MOTOR VEHICLE RULES

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of Section 133 of the Motor Vehicles Act,

1939, a copy of Notification No. F.I (81)/58- Transport dated the 17th December, 1959, published in Delhi Gazette making certain amendment to the Delhi Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1889/60.]

##### ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):** Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of Section 15 and sub-section (9) of Section 42 of the Agricultural Produce Act, 1956, a copy of the Annual Report of the Central Warehousing Corporation along with the Audited Accounts for the year 1958-59. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1890/60.]

12.39 hrs.

#### MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

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

"I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 12th February, 1960 has passed the following motion extending the time for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Bill, 1959:—

##### MOTION

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals and for that purpose to amend the law relating to the prevention of cruelty to animals be extended up to the last day of the second week of the current Session."