

attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

“The reported deaths of seven persons in Delhi due to house collapse and drowning in flooded nullahs following heavy rainfall on the 2nd August, 1961.”

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** On 2nd August, 1961, Delhi witnessed an unprecedented rainfall, the heaviest for any day in August during the last 70 years, of 7.65 inches spread over only 7 hours. Consequently the people of Delhi had to suffer inconveniences, difficulties, some loss of property and tragic loss of life. Our sympathies are all with them. The Prime Minister and the Home Minister had also occasion to visit some of the affected areas. Extensive details about this heaviest rain and the resultant loss of life and property have appeared in the press. In all seven valuable lives have been lost in Delhi. All of them were tragically entrapped in accumulated or gushing water by accident. This is most unfortunate and we are extremely sad over it. Our sincerest sympathies are for the families of the departed souls.

**Shrimati Masida Ahmed:** According to Press Report—the underground rain-water tunnel near the Safdarjung Hospital was about 3 feet in diameter, which caused the loss of six lives. The House would desire to know how such a big opening was kept uncovered and who is responsible for this tragic happening?

**Shri Datar:** Immediately action was taken to see that all water was drained off.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur):** It was brought to the notice of the Minister that there was an article in the Hindustan Times that the subsoil water is coming up in Delhi and this

is spreading disease. What steps have been taken to counteract this?

**Mr. Speaker:** This is about house collapse.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** There is house collapse because of this also.

**Mr. Speaker:** Do houses collapse on account of insects? I cannot understand. (Interruptions).

12.22 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE  
Tea (Third Amendment) Rules 1961

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo):** I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Tea (Third Amendment) Rules, 1961, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1027 dated the 12th August, 1961, under sub-section (3) of section 29 of the Tea Act, 1953. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-3168 61].

REPORT OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATION TO 45TH SESSION OF INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE

**The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali):** I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Indian Government Delegation to the 45th session of the International Labour Conference held at Geneva in June, 1961. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-3169 61].

12.22 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

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

“In accordance with the provisions of rule 125 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha