

12:07 hrs.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Shri Khushwaqt Rai (Kheri):** I have a submission to make and that is with regard to the adjournment motion that you have disallowed. I do not want to say anything about that. But, since the flood situation in the U.P. is serious and alarming, I would request you to ask the hon. Minister to make a statement either on Monday or Tuesday.

**Mr. Speaker:** There will be a discussion on the general flood situation. I am sending this adjournment motion to him. He will make a statement relating to the U.P. also.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur):** That is next week. It is stated in today's papers that 113 people have died and 10,000 villages marooned and 10 lakh acres of land flooded. There should be immediate help from the Centre.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Khushwaqt Rai tabled an adjournment motion. Next week or early next week—we will have it on Monday if possible.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** The Centre should immediately give help. The hon. Minister comes from U.P.

**Mr. Speaker:** A number of people are anxious about the U.P.

**The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim):** So far as the previous floods in the U.P. are concerned, I have placed a statement on the Table of the House. As far as the recent floods are concerned, I am prepared to make a statement today or tomorrow or the day after as you like.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** You better admit the adjournment motion, Sir. He has taken it very lightly.

**Mr. Speaker:** I will treat this adjournment motion as a Call Attention Notice. The hon. Minister may make a statement regarding the situation in the U.P. tomorrow. This will be treated as a Call Attention notice and will be called tomorrow.

12:09½ hrs.

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

## RULES UNDER THE DRUGS ACT

**The Minister of Health (Shri Kar-markar):** I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Rules under sub-section (3) of section 33 of the Drugs Act, 1940:—

- (i) The Drugs (Second Amendment) Rules, 1961, published in Notification No. S.O. 1124 dated the 20th May, 1961.
- (ii) The Drugs (Third Amendment) Rules, 1961, published in Notification No. S. O. 1449 dated the 24th June, 1961.
- (iii) The Drugs (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 1961, published in Notification No. S.O. 1588 dated the 8th July, 1961.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-3143/61].

## ORDERS UNDER ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):** I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following orders under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

- (i) The Rice (Madhya Pradesh) Price Control Order, 1961, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1042 dated the 14th August, 1961.
- (ii) The Rice (Madhya Pradesh) Price Control (Amendment) Order, 1961 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1045 dated the 17th August, 1961.
- (iii) The Rice (Punjab) Second Price Control (Ninth Amendment) Order, 1961 published

in Notification No. G.S.R.  
1046 dated the 17th August,  
1961.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-  
3155/61].

12-11 hrs.

STATEMENT re: ALLEGED FAI-  
LURE OF IAC TO PROVIDE  
ACCOMMODATION TO PRESI-  
DENT'S DOCTOR

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan); Hon'ble Members have heard what I stated on the 11th of August, 1961 on the alleged failure of the Indian Airlines Corporation to provide accommodation on their service from Patna to Delhi on July 20, 1961 to Dr. T. N. Banerji and Dr. Raghunath Saran. As promised during the discussion on the 11th, I have had further enquiries made to ascertain the exact circumstances in which two seats could not be provided to enable the two doctors to travel together to Delhi on 20th July.

Before I proceed to furnish the details, I think it will help matters considerably in understanding this complaint if I were to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Members to the exact sequence of events connected with this incident. As we all know, the President took ill on the evening of 19th July at about 8-30 p.m. and the very first bulletin regarding his health was issued only at 1-30 p.m. on the 20th. Dr. Saran was contacted by Rashtrapati Bhavan on the telephone on the morning of 20th and requested to proceed immediately to Delhi with Dr. Banerji. Therefore, at the time Dr. Saran contacted the Indian Airlines Corporation booking office at Patna to secure the two seats required by him, i.e. at about 10 a.m. on the 20th, no one at Patna, with perhaps the possible exception of Dr. Saran, could have been aware of the nature or seriousness of the illness of the President. The public became aware of the seriousness of the illness only very late in the day on the 20th

and, therefore, at about 10 a.m. on the 20th when Dr. Saran contacted the Patna office of the Indian Airlines Corporation for two tickets and mentioned that he was proceeding to Delhi in connection with the President's illness, the Traffic Assistant could not have been aware of the urgency of the visit without a specific indication of it by Dr. Saran. I am giving this background so as to enable Hon'ble Members to assess for themselves objectively the alleged failure of the Indian Airlines Corporation to show greater initiative in the matter.

At the time Dr. Saran approached the Indian Airlines Corporation booking office, only one seat was available ex-Patna to Delhi. The only manner in which another seat could have been made available was by contacting the Banaras station or by persuading some other passenger to stand down or, if need be, by off-loading some freight. Such enquiries for exploring the possibility of securing an additional seat would naturally take some time to be completed. Information available at that time regarding the booking position at other stations did not admit of any definite commitment being made for the other seat. In the absence of any knowledge at that time on the part of the Traffic Assistant as to the urgency of the journey, he did not take the initiative to approach his officer or himself contact any other station to get a seat released, or ask any other passenger to stand down, which course of action, Hon'ble Members will appreciate, can be adopted only in exceptional circumstances. But as Dr. Saran (unable to get an immediate and definite assurance of a seat) did not wait but preferred to go by train, the failure of the Traffic Assistant to make further enquiries, as stated earlier, is perhaps understandable. It is in this context that I stated on the 11th that no passenger was asked to vacate the seat. This position has been confirmed again by the further enquiries made.