

DEATH OF SHRI RANG BIHARI LAL

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri Rang Bihari Lal who passed away in Delhi on the 23rd August, 1957 at the age of 70. He was a Member of the old Central Legislative Assembly.

The House will join with me in conveying our condolences to the members of his family. The House may kindly stand in silence for a minute to express its sorrow.

The Members then stood in silence for a minute.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

REPORT OF PUBLIC SERVICES (QUALIFICATION FOR RECRUITMENT) COMMITTEE

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Public Services (Qualifications for Recruitment) Committee. [Placed in Library. See No. S-229/57.]

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HINDUSTAN MACHINE TOOLS (PRIVATE) LTD.

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (1) of section 639 of the Companies Act, 1956, a copy of the Annual Report of the Hindustan Machine Tools (Private) Limited for the year 1956-57. [Placed in Library. See No. S-230/57.]

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

PRESENTATION OF SIXTH REPORT

Sardar Hukam Singh (Bhatinda): I beg to present the Sixth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

RE: CIRCULATION OF PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Pali): Just now the hon. Minister for Industry laid a copy of the Annual Report of the Hindustan Machine Tools (Private) Limited on the Table of the House. But this report has already been circulated to the Members of Parliament much earlier. So, reports are circulated to Members even before they are laid on the Table. I have got the report with me.

Mr. Speaker: I understand from office that sometimes these copies are circulated to members in advance, even before they are laid on the Table. I agree with the view of the hon. Member. Hereafter, I shall see to it that the members will not have the advantage of reading these papers earlier, i.e., before they are laid on the Table. It is only proper that they must be laid on the Table first and then circulated to hon. Members, however convenient the other course may be.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: I do think that the right of the House is bigger than my right.

Mr. Speaker: The right of the House is superior to the individual rights.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

FLOOD SITUATION IN BIHAR AND U.P.

Shri Bibhuti Mishra (Bagaha): Under rule 197, I beg to call the 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 flood situation in Bihar and U.P."

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): *Uttar Pradesh:* As a result of continual rains in the second half of July, 1957, there were floods in the rivers Ghagra, Rapti, Bari Gandak, Chhoti

Gandak, Bansi, Juano, Sarju and Rohin. Ganga and Ram Ganga also received more than the usual quantity of supplies. In no case, however, did the floods reach the highest point. In fact, the position this year, so far, has been of far less magnitude than in the last two years. The districts affected are Bahraich, Barabanki, Gonda, Hardoi, Sitapur, Deoria, Basti, Azamgarh, Gorakhpur, Kheri, Tehri-Garhwal and Almora. It is yet too soon to assess the acreage of different crops destroyed or damaged. Loss of human lives is, however, considerable and is in the region of 50, including 42 in Almora District alone. These deaths are attributed to landslides resulting from heavy rains. In addition, 45 heads of cattle are reported to have been lost and 2,500 houses destroyed or damaged.

The floods have since receded everywhere and the State Government are taking vigorous steps towards affording speedy relief and rehabilitation to the affected people. A total sum of Rs. 1.45 lakhs has been sanctioned for the purpose. This does not include two separate sums of Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 25,000 respectively specially earmarked for disbursement as Taccavi loans in Tehri-Garhwal and Bahraich districts. Large quantities of foodgrains, particularly wheat, are also being distributed in the affected areas. Measures against epidemics have been taken in hand. In Almora district, arrangements have been made for distribution of cloth donated by the Indian Red Cross Society.

Bihar. Towards the end of July last, as a result of heavy rains, the river Kosi in the district of Darbhanga and the rivers Mahananda, Kankai and others in the district of Purnea were in spate. Between the 2nd and 5th August, the rivers Bagmati and Sikraha overflowed their banks in the Dhaka, Sugauli, Patahi, Pipra, Madhuban and Sadar Thanas of the Champaran district, while the river Gandak flooded the Dhanaha police station in the same district. On the

9th August, the river Bagmati breached a portion of the embankment in the Khageria sub-division of the district of Monghyr, while the river Kosi flooded some other Thanas in the same district, as also considerable portions of the districts of Saharsa and Darbhanga.

On the whole, an area of about 1,200 sq. miles has been affected and three lakhs acres of crops have been either destroyed or damaged. There has been, however, no loss of human life. The number of houses damaged is nearly 3,000.

The State Government are fully alive to the situation and are taking vigorous steps to give relief to the flood-stricken population. Gratuitous relief is reported to have been given already to about 2,67,000 persons. In addition, 9,500 maunds and 280 maunds of foodgrains are being distributed free in the districts of Darbhanga and Purnea respectively, through fair price shops, wherever necessary. During the floods, 2,800 boats were pressed into service for the evacuation of stranded people. Precautions against epidemics have been taken. Employment opportunities are also being provided through test works which have been started, wherever necessary.

No request for Central assistance has been received so far either from the U.P. Government or the Bihar Government. The State Governments are, however, eligible to a grant from the Centre of half the expenditure incurred by them on gratuitous relief up to Rs. 2 crores and three-fourth of the expenditure in excess thereof. A sum of Rs. 50,000 has been sent to Bihar from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.

Shri B. S. Murthy (Kakinada—Reserved—Sch. Castes): Nothing is said about the loss of cattle.

Shri Datar: All the information that we have got has been given here.