

Shri S. L. Saksena (Gorakhpur Distt.—North): May I know when this House can discuss the flood situation in the country? I would request that a date may be fixed for the purpose so that this House may give its opinion and its suggestions before the Flood Control Board meets.

Mr. Speaker: Which report is the Hon. Member referring to?

Shri S. L. Saksena: The Hon. Minister has just stated that the Central Flood Control Board will meet very soon. I hope the House will meet before that, and give its suggestions on the various aspects.

Shri Nanda: That Board is likely to meet in the middle of September.

Shri A. P. Sinha (Muzaffarpur East): In view of the importance of the document regarding the flood situation in these four States, a copy of it should be made available to each one of us.

Shri Nanda: That will be done.

Shri S. L. Saksena: When can we expect that debate to take place? It should be before the Flood Control Board meets.

Mr. Speaker: The Board is meeting in the middle of September, and the House is sitting during that month. Then we shall consider whether there should be a debate on the flood situation. First, let us have collection of all facts, as the Hon. Minister is saying.

STATEMENT ON GOA

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Before I make a brief statement about certain developments in the North East Frontier Agency, with your permission, I should like to give some later figures in regard to Goa, i.e., in further correction of the figures I gave yesterday. These relate to the occurrences that took place on 15th August.

Yesterday I mentioned that 15 persons were known to be dead and 20

were still missing; others had returned, many being injured. Later information states that of these missing 20, 10 more have returned. There are 10 still not fully accounted for. But it is our information that 7 out of these 10 were shot down and are dead—this was on the 15th. Thus, the figure of deaths may now be presumed to be 22. There are 3 persons missing now. Of these, one, we know, is detained by the Portuguese Government. About 2, we do not know whether they are detained or where they are. The total figure of injured is 225, of whom about 38 are said to have serious injuries.

STATEMENT RE. NORTH EAST FRONTIER AGENCY

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): May I now read the statement about the North East Frontier Agency?

A number of questions have been asked in the Lok Sabha recently about the situation in the Tuensang division of the North East Frontier Agency. During the last few months, there have been sporadic outbreaks of violence by certain elements on the borders of the Naga Hills district and the south of the Tuensang division. These consisted of ambushes in which some Assam Rifles men as well as a number of tribal interpreters and other villagers were killed, some school buildings, houses and some villages were burnt, and medical supplies were looted. Government thereupon sent two companies of the Shillong Brigade in May this year for garrison duty at Tuensang to relieve Assam Rifles for rounding up the violent elements. Troops were used only for garrison duties and not for operations.

Some days ago, we received further information about some of these Nagas who were indulging in violence and arson. They had adopted hit and run tactics. The Political Officer of the Tuensang Division, who is himself

a Naga, reported the presence of organised armed gangs, totalling a few hundred in this area. These gangs possessed fire-arms and some automatic weapons. The Political Officer had received numerous complaints from many villages to the effect that they had been terrorised by these gangs. He suggested to the NEFA administration that these sporadic outbreaks of violence must be promptly and effectively put down. He, therefore, asked for military aid to the civil power. This recommendation was considered by the Governor and his advisers, and they were unanimously of opinion that it should be accepted. Government have, therefore, agreed to send a battalion of the army to the Southern sector of the Tuensang Frontier Division. This will act in close consultation with the local civil authorities and will be withdrawn as soon as these violent elements have been rounded up. This step was considered necessary in view of the evidence of murder, extortion, arson and terrorisation of certain villages so that this trouble may not be allowed to grow and should be fully controlled at the outset. The army has been directed not to use undue force.

Government, are, at the same time, carrying out their programme of developing the tribal areas for the benefit of the tribal people. There is no change in our policy of non-interference with their social customs and tribal structure. It has been found by experience that the most effective way of dealing with these areas which have been recently brought under administrative control, has been to introduce community schemes, with suitable variations to suit the people there. These schemes have already become popular wherever they have been introduced and have diverted the minds of the people to constructive and beneficent activities. Most of the educated elements and the masses of the tribal people are co-operating with Government. Even some of their leaders who had encouraged previously these violent activities, have now denounced

violence and promised support to Government in curbing and controlling the violent elements who have been terrorising the population for some months past.

The casualties thus far suffered on our side have been:

Killed: Five Assam Rifles, two interpreters, two wood cutters, one porter and twelve villagers.

Injured: Three Assam Rifles, two porters and five villagers.

Among the hostile elements, the exact casualties are not known but, so far as is known, there have been fourteen killed and twelve injured.

The loss of property thus far due to arson and looting by these hostile elements has been sixty houses and twenty-five granaries, one office building and godown, and two schools burnt. Medical stores and one dispensary looted. Eight culverts damaged.

The hostile elements have collected ransom from the villagers, amounting, so far as is known, to Rs. 2,700/-.

The troops that are being sent to the Tuensang Division will be in position on the 19th August.

COMPANIES BILL—Contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now resume further discussion on the Companies Bill.

Out of the total time of 25 hours allotted, there now remain 4 hours and a few minutes, one or two. How long will the Hon. Finance Minister take for his reply?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): Eighty or ninety minutes.

Mr. Speaker: That means 1½ hours. That leaves...

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): On a point of clarification. May I know whether the Business Advisory Committee did not recommend that....