

[Shri Bhishma Narain Singh]

bers have demanded from Ministers concerning the points raised by them; I will communicate them to the Ministers concerned. The second part concerns the Business Advisory Committee; I will bring those points to the notice of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.42 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. PROVISION OF RELIEF TO THE RELIEF CAMPS IN TRIPURA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in response to a telegraphic request from the Government of Tripura, the Indian Red Cross Society rushed to Agartala by air and road transport, four metric tonnes blankets, clothings, powdered milk and medicament in aid of the homeless in the various camps in Tripura.

At the request of the State Government, the Ministry of Health is airlifting additional medical supplies comprising fourteen items of medicines including anti-diarrhoeal, anthe-mentics (medicine for worms) anti-biotics etc.

A further supply consisting of 1 lac doses of cholera vaccine is also being airlifted to Tripura. In addition, 2 medical teams consisting of two Doctors and one Pharmacist each with two self-contained medical units have been airlifted by the Indian Red Cross Society on 16th June, 1980. Besides, a team consisting of one Surgeon, Physician, Paediatrician; Orthopaedic Surgeon, Anaesthetist, each and three Junior Doctors—all from Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, —have been kept in readiness for airlift to Agartala on receipt of communication, if any, from the State Government.

The needs for additional reinforcements are being reviewed at co-ordination meeting of the Directorate Ge-

neral of Health Services and the Red Cross which I have initiated already.

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ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

CENTRAL SILK BOARD

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): I beg to move:

“That in pursuance of sub-section (3) (c) of section 4 of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from among themselves to serve as members of the Central Silk Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act.”

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That in pursuance of sub-section (3) (c) of section 4 of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from among themselves to serve as members of the Central Silk Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act.”

The motion was adopted.

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12.46 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) REPORTED LAY-OFF OF WORKERS BY M/S. UNION NORTH JUTE MILL, WEST BENGAL

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bosu.

AN HON MEMBER: Sir, he is not in his seat.

MR. SPEAKER: You are caught on the wrong foot.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Not on the wrong foot, I am on barefoot, Sir. Item 10....

MR. SPEAKER: We have taken up matters under rule 377.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Sir, this relates to the affairs of M/s. Union North Jute Mill, West Bengal, an undertaking under the management of the Central Government.

The management has resorted to prolonged lay-off of workers without any reason whatsoever, causing production loss to the tune of Rs. 90 lakhs so far. The management has arbitrarily laid off all the workers and employees numbering about 2500, with effect from 13th May, 1980 without compensation.

On 12th May 1980 the factory management, all of a sudden put up a notice imposing unbearable workload upon the Bobbin Mazdoors of the spinning department without any prior information and discussions with the representatives of the trade Unions functioning in the mill.

In this connection, it is necessary to mention here that the Union North Jute Mill is the only single jute mill which is running viably and profitably thanks to the efforts of the workman.

The workmen demand immediate withdrawal of lay-off, order and restoration of production. They also demand immediate nationalisation of the mill in the public interest.

The Minister should issue a statement clarifying the whole position.

- (ii) NEED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDS FOR EARLY COMPLETION OF THE WESTERN KOSI CANAL IN BIHAR

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): Sir, I am raising a question

with regard to Western Kosi Canal. Sir, this project was inaugurated so many times—almost during every election it was inaugurated....

MR. SPEAKER: That is a malaise. I think.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: But, Sir, even now it has not yet been completed. So, Sir, I wish to bring to your notice and the notice of this House that the completion of the Western Kosi Canal in Madhubani district of Bihar has already been unduly delayed. This canal, after completion, is to irrigate more than 8 lakhs of acres of land. Approximately half of it falling to the east of river Kamala can be commissioned to begin irrigation within a year after completing the remaining work. The other half to the west of river Kamala, including the crossing of Kamala, can be completed in about three years. I do urge upon the Government to ensure adequate funds and direct the State Government to complete the project according to time-schedule.

I request that the Minister may be directed to submit a written reply, if not to-day, at least later as to what is being done. Otherwise, Sir, there is no point in wasting the time of the House by raising these matters.

- (iii) NEED TO RENOVATE THE FERTILIZER UNIT AT SINDRI AND TO STOP AUCTION THEREOF

SHRI A. K. ROY (Dhanbad): The Sindri Unit of F.C.I. Ltd., vide its N.I.T. No. AMM/Disposal/Tender/14/80 advertised in the leading dailies of the country for the disposal of Chemical Plants on "as is where is basis"; the due date for the opening of the tender was 20.3.80. The above advertisement appeared in the *Statesman* on 25-2-80, *Hindustan Times* on 24-2-80 and *Indian Nations* on 21-2-80