

[Shri Mukunda Mandal]

and then organised a procession, the police fired on them. About this incident, what the country will be ashamed of is that the police went to the hospital and asked the doctors not to admit and treat the injured. When the doctors replied that they were duty bound, then the doctors were threatened and beaten.

MR. SPEAKER: Why can't you give something new? This has already been said twice.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL: My question is: Will the Government give an assurance that all those who have been killed and injured will be adequately compensated? Will the concerned guilty officials be punished and a judicial inquiry presided over by a sitting High Court Judge be conducted?

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: Sir, in such cases, as I have already stated, an inquiry is going on and then we shall see...

MR. SPEAKER: About compensation.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Durgapur): About compensation and judicial inquiry.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: About compensation also, the Government will look into the matter and take a decision.

13.05 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. DEMONSTRATION  
IN WEST BENGAL OVER THE  
SITUATION IN ASSAM

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): I was present in the House yesterday when the hon. Members were expressing their concern regarding the demonstration in Bengal. I would have spoken then

and there but for the fact that other Members raised other issues and started shouting in most unparliamentary language.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): It was from the Congress-I.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: No, it was from hon. Members sitting opposite me.

We sympathise with the genuine grievances of the Assamese people. At the same time, we are also aware of the hardships which the agitation in Assam is causing to certain sections of the people in Assam itself, in West Bengal and to other parts of the country. We cannot ignore the genuine apprehensions and fears which have risen in the minds of people in West Bengal and the fact that emotions are running high there also. The Youth Congress merely wishes to give expression to this widespread feeling.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: With your approval.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Indeed the Chief Minister himself has called it a just cause, and I seem to remember—I cannot locate at the moment where the news appeared—the Chief Minister mentioning some time ago something about the mounting concern of Bengal at the continuing agitation in Assam. On Wednesday I had already conveyed to the House my own and the Government's desire that nothing should be done which could lead to an aggravation of the situation either in Assam or in Bengal. (Interruptions)

The Youth Congress has itself issued a press release appealing to all its members and others not to indulge in any action that might worsen the situation and has urged that the moves that we here in Delhi have initiated for finding a solution to the difficult Assamese problem should be

supported. This news has also come over the Radio this morning, and I am sure that this counsel will prevail.

Our report says that yesterday's strike in schools and colleges was peaceful. I think all parties recognise the need for restraint and I certainly hope that not only will the situation in Bengal be peaceful, but also that the students and youth of Assam will appreciate the concern felt in other States and the difficulty which all the people of India are experiencing, and respond by showing responsibility and moderation.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There cannot be any discussion on the statement. Nothing should be recorded without my permission.

SHRI MANI RAM BAGRI  
(Hissar): \*\*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

13.10 hrs.

PETITION RE. ESTABLISHMENT  
OF RATNAGIRI ALUMINIUM PRO-  
JECT IN MAHARASHTRA

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR  
(Ratnagiri): I beg to present a petition signed by Shrimati Kusum Ramchandra Abhyankar and others regarding establishment of Ratnagiri Aluminium Project in Maharashtra.

13.10½ hrs.

STATEMENT RE. REPORT OF NA-  
TIONAL FLOOD COMMISSION

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY,  
IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI  
A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAU-  
DHURI): The National Flood Com-  
mission (Rashtriya Barh Ayog) has  
today forwarded to the Central Gov-

ernment a report along with its re-  
commendations on the various matters  
referred to it.

2. It may be recalled that from time to time references have been made in Parliament regarding the need for an effective flood control programme in the country. Keeping these in view, the Government of India had constituted the National Flood Commission (Rashtriya Barh Ayog) in 1976, under the Chairmanship of Shri Jaisukh Lal Hathi, for reviewing in depth various aspects of the flood problem, and to evolve a comprehensive multi-disciplinary approach for tackling floods in the country. A summary of some of the important recommendations made by the National Flood Commission is placed on the Table of the House. A few copies of the full report are being placed in the library of Parliament.

*Summary of some important recom-  
mendations in the report of the Na-  
tional Flood Commission (Rashtriya  
Barh Ayog) submitted to the Gov-  
ernment of India on 21st March,  
1980.*

1. The approach to the problem of floods must form part of the overall comprehensive planning for water resources development and land utilisation for optimum production on a long term basis.

2. Master plans for water resources development and flood control should be drawn up for each river basin, and for this purpose. River Basin authorities should be set up.

3. A Central Authority may be constituted in due course of time with the Prime Minister as its Chairman, and should be assisted by a strong technical body.

4. The Central Government should exercise the powers conferred on it by the Constitution under entry 56 of the