

[Shri Krishna Chandra Halder]

cutta port and whether the minimum quantity of 40,000 cusecs of water will be allowed to come from Ganga to save the Calcutta port. Today being the last day of the session, I would request you to direct the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs or the Minister concerned to make a statement today during the course of the day.

(11) OPENING OF SRINAGAR-RAWALPINDI AND SUCHETGARH-SIALKOT ROAD*

SHRI BALDEV SINGHJ ASROTHA (Jammu) The plea to open roads from Srinagar to Rawalpindi and from Suchetgarh to Sialkot in Jammu and Kashmir appeared in Hindustan Times newspaper of 1st July on account of the statement made by Shri Mohammed Afzal Beg, the Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. This pertains to a very important matter of public interest, political importance and, as such, I would request the Hon'ble Minister concerned to make a statement today on the floor of the House regarding the action of the Government on the subject.

13 44 hrs.

[MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

(11) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO KARNATAKA FOR DROUGHT RELIEF WORKS

SHRI S NANJESHA GOWDA (Hassan) Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government, particularly, the Finance Minister that, in his reply to a question on 6th August regarding the funds allotted to various States for drought relief works particularly to Karnataka, he was pleased to say that Rs 45 crores were released for drought relief works. In this context, I would like to say that during 1972-73 and 1973-74 there was failure of rains in the State, in so many districts, and there was no water to drink, no food to eat and no fodder for cattle. That was the situation. During those years also the Government of India was pleased to send a Central team and released crores of rupees to the Karnataka Government to spend on drought relief works. While allotting money on drought relief work, the Government of India took pains in giving money to Karnataka State also. I thank the Government of India for that. But in that regard I would like to say that the Government of India did not have any check over the expenditure made by the States, particularly in Karnataka.

During 1972-73 and 1973-74, 40 many agencies were empowered to spend this money. PWD was empowered to spend money on various works such as to provide labour in villages. The State Mar-

keting Co-operative Federation was also empowered to supply food, seeds and manure to such families as were affected by it. I am sorry to say that the Co-operative Federation which was entrusted to supply manure and foodgrains to those affected areas did a lot of scandal in my State. The concerned authority gave an order to them to supply free seed to the poor farmers who had no seeds for the next coming season for sowing purposes, because the rain was likely to come. But you know, what happened was that the free seed, which were to be supplied to the poor farmers were given to somebody else against bogus names.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER Your time is up.

SHRI S NANJESHA GOWDA I want some more time.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER No, because matters are being raised under rule 377.

SHRI S NANJESHA GOWDA In that regard, I am sorry to say that the money was misused by so many political leaders who were occupying high offices. They became Ministers and Cabinet Ministers in that Government. I am sorry to say that the Government of India is not taking any interest in having a check over the money given to those States even though swindling has taken place. I have a record before me. This is the Report of the Public Accounts Committee which was concurred with by the Congress Members also.

SHRI K LAKKAPPA (Tumkur) I am on a point of order.

SHRI S NANJESHA GOWDA I do not know why that Report is not considered.

SHRI K LAKKAPPA He is bringing all the things—Congress (Interruptions).

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER He is only quoting for the Public Accounts Committee's Report.

SHRI S NANJESHA GOWDA So far, no action has been taken on that. I request the Government of India and the Finance Minister particularly to probe into this matter and take an appropriate action.

(14) REPORTED STRIKE FOR TWO HOURS BY LIC EMPLOYEES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY ON 4-8-1977

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA (Serampore) With your permission, Sir, I want to raise a matter of public importance. On the 4th of this month, more