

समापति महोदय : आपने जो नोटिस दिया है, आपने लिफ्ट उसे पढ़ना है।

डा० बलदेव प्रकाश : पहले मैं उसे पढ़ देता हूँ।

With the rise of price in viscose filament yarn and its non-availability at the ceiling price the art silk industry in Punjab State is completely paralysed. There is imminent danger of wide spread unemployment in the art silk weaving industry as about fifty thousand workers will be unemployed. It is a small scale industry and the big monopolist spinners of the yarn do not pay any attention to the repeated directions of the Government to sell the yarn at ceiling price. Immediate steps to bring down the price and to save the industry are needed.

समापति महोदय, मैं एक बात कहना चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय से इस बारे में बहुत धक्का कहा गया है...

समापति महोदय : नियम 377 के मातहत किसी सदस्य ने जो नोटिस दिया है, वह केवल उसे पढ़ सकता है।

डा० बलदेव प्रकाश : मैं सिर्फ यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस देश में मानोपलिस्ट्स राज कर रहे हैं या सरकार कर रही है। इतना करने के बाद भी धरर कुछ नहीं होता है, तो क्या किया जाये।

(iii) REPORTED STRANDING OF PILGRIMS IN GARHWAL REGION.

SHRI DHIRENDRANATH BASU (Katwa): Sir, with your permission, I beg to raise the following matter of urgent public importance.

I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation to the fact that about

5,000 pilgrims have been stranded in the Garhwal Region and the matter is very serious. I am stating the matter in details later on. There is another serious situation arising out of the collapsing state of Farakka bund, due to rise in Ganga and Padma waters above the danger level. If immediate efforts are not made to prevent this kind of collapsing of the bund, the flow of the Ganga and the Padma waters will enter the villages on both sides of Farakka, lakhs and lakhs of houses and people of the State of West Bengal and Bihar will be washed away by the flood. There will be innumerable loss of life and property. Crops on both sides of the Ganges are already on the verge of destruction by the flood havoc. So, the matter should now be dealt with on a war footing to avoid impending dangers and unprecedented disasters.

About the deplorable conditions of 5000 pilgrims in Garhwal region, a delayed report from Tehri-Garhwal district said that five persons, including three children, lost their lives in a cloud burst on Monday night in Daldhung village. Two villages and 18 cattle had been washed away in the floods that followed. Four villages of the area were completely cut off because of serious road breaches.

Road and Tele-communications in the valley, which were badly hit by heavy rain and the two flash floods a fortnight ago, are still paralysed and the only link with the district headquarters is through wireless.

A pilgrim from Calcutta, who trekked about 100 K.M. of difficult terrain, with his family to reach Srinagar (Garhwal) told UNI at Lucknow that the Telegraph offices on his way reported their lines down and he could not inform his relatives about his welfare.

While the district administration was trying its best to transport the stranded pilgrims by all available means, the officials were finding it

difficult to move in the area even by the sturdiest of vehicles, as almost all the main roads have been badly breached or washed away in the floods.

Considering the damage to the bridges and roads in the area, it might take quite some time to restore road communications in the Bhagirathi valley. Thank you.

(iv) REPORTED ESPIONAGE AND SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGNERS.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Government have very much failed to stop espionage and subversive activities by foreigners. These incidents are again on the increase. Firstly, they have failed to clearly and finally identify the saboteurs belonging to CIA which had been causing unprecedented devastation by creating Bhagirathi river blockade very recently, according to reports published last week end.

Although the Government have arrested a foreign woman moving in that area without proper travel documents, prior to her apprehension she had reportedly thrown her passport in Bhagirathi river on the advice of a Swami and her identity had so far remained unestablished. Even the dust samples which were collected from the pits are not now available and the geologists who were sent to Bhatwarj on August 14 have come back to Lucknow on some flimsy pretext. This is a serious failure on the part of the Government.

Secondly, some foreigners including some Britishers, and others, secretly entered Zaskar area in Ladakh after trekking their way through protected area on their way from Manali. The leader of the group, one Mr. Hughes, was involved in an accident but left in a hurry the Srinagar Hospital

without even having been treated fully.

I request the Government to make a statement on these two incidents immediately.

15.29 hrs.

PRESS COUNCIL BILL—contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri L. K. Advani on the 24th August, 1978, namely:—

"That the Bill to establish a Press Council for the purpose of preserving the freedom of the Press and of maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Shri Govinda Munda will continue his speech.

***SHRI GOVINDA MUNDA** (Keonjhar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other day I had said about the historical background of the Press Council Bill. In that context I had narrated how the media had been misused during the emergency. I do not like to repeat the same thing today. Rather I would like to confine myself on the composition of the Press Council. I would also like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to some suggestions thereto.

Sir, the composition of the Press Council is quite good and justified. It is mentioned in Clause 5(e) of this Bill that there shall be three members from the Lok Sabha and two members from the Rajya Sabha. In this way five will be taken as members in this Council. Sir, the entire House is aware of the fact that the Adivasis and Harijans are always neglected. In this context I would like to request the hon. Minister to take at least one Adivasi or Harijan

*The original speech was delivered in Oriya.