

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.