

published in Gazette of India dated the 11th November, 1967, under sub-section (2) of section 4 of the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952, adding "Tent making Industry" to Schedule I to the said Act. [Placed in Library, see No. LT-1954/67].

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

FOURTH REPORT

SHRI KHADILKAR (Khed) : I beg to present the Fourth Report of the Committee of Privileges.

12.43 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

TWELFTH REPORT

SHRI M. R. MASANI (Rajkot) : I beg to present the Twelfth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Excesses Over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriations disclosed in the Appropriation Accounts (Civil) 1965-66 and Action taken by Government on the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee contained in their Forty-fifth Report (Third Lok Sabha) relating to Excesses Over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriations disclosed in the Appropriation Accounts (Civil), 1963-64.

12.43½ hrs.

STATEMENT RE: TUTICORIN HARBOUR PROJECT

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao to make a statement.

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (DR V. K. R. V. RAO) : Should I read it out or shall I lay it on the Table of the House ?

MR. SPEAKER : He can lay it on the Table of the House.

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO : I beg to lay on the Table of the House a statement on the Tuticorin Harbour Project. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1955/67].

12.44 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: EARTHQUAKE IN WESTERN INDIA

श्री जार्ज फरनेम्बीज (बम्बई दक्षिण) :
अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने कोयना के भूकम्प के बारे में स्थगन-प्रस्ताव दिया है।

श्री बेवराव पाटिल (यवतमाल) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने इस बारे में काल-एटन्शन नोटिस दिया है।

MR. SPEAKER : Yesterday there was a very shocking earthquake in Maharashtra and a large number of people died. Naturally, not only the Members of this House but the whole country is anxious to know what the details are. May I request the Prime Minister or the Home Minister to make a statement sometime today ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : May I just say a few words ? I do not have much information just now, but I should like to say a few words if you will allow me.

I should like to express my deep distress at the great human tragedy which has been caused by the earthquake in western India. It is one of the severest we have had and certainly the biggest ever felt in that area. It has resulted, as the hon. members know, in a high death toll. We do not, as yet, have the full figures because it is only as they remove the debris and the information comes in from towns and villages that the full extent of the loss will be known. But we know that there had been extensive damage to property. The Home Minister happened to be in Maharashtra when this news reached him and he flew immediately to Koyanagar. Yesterday when the news came to Delhi, our Minister, Dr. K. L. Rao, rushed immediately to the Koyana Dam. According to present information, no damage has been done to the Dam.

I should like to read out a report which has come from the Director-General of the Meteorological Department. He says :

'A major earthquake shock took place at 04 hours 21 minutes Indian Standard Time on the 11th December, 1967. The epicentre of this shock has been located about 115 kilometres south of Poona near Koyana. According to the records of the Delhi Observatory, the magnitude of the shock was 7½ in the Richter Scale, which will class it as a major shock capable of causing severe damage near the epicentre. Available reports indicate

[Shrimati Indira Gandhi]

that the shock has been felt widely up to Surat in the north and Bangalore in the south. Poona city was severely shaken. Radio reports indicate that 1500 people were injured and about 105 were killed, as far as we know."

I have received a piece of news just now and that is that the tremors were again felt in Bombay around 11.58 A.M. and in several areas, people came out of their houses, on finding their doors and windows rattling.

May I express my sense of deep sorrow at this calamity and request you to convey our sincere sympathies to the families of the bereaved? (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: May I request the Prime Minister or the Home Minister that as and when they get any additional information on this today evening or tomorrow morning, whatever is received at a later stage, they may kindly apprise the House of this.

श्री जार्ज फरनेन्डीज : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं एक जानकारी चाहता हूँ। जब गृह-मंत्री अथवा प्रधान मंत्री यहां पर मालूमात रखेंगे, तो वे इस बारे में भी जानकारी दें। मैं शनिवार को उस इलाके में था। मुझे पता चला कि वहां पर एक महीने से माइनर अर्थ ट्रेमजें हो रहे थे। क्या सरकार ने इस बारे में जांच की थी ?

श्री रणधीर सिंह (रोहतक) : सोनीपत में तीन साल से लगातार ट्रेमजें आ रहे हैं।

श्री जार्ज फरनेन्डीज : क्या सरकार ने वहां के लोगों से कहा था कि वे अपने घरों में न रहें और उनको खाली कर दें ?

मैं इस सम्बन्ध में एक सुझाव के रूप में कुछ कहना चाहता हूँ। यह घटना महाराष्ट्र में सांगली के आस-पास के इलाके में घटी है, जिसमें सैकड़ों की तादाद में लोग मरे हैं और वहां पर बहुत बुरी अवस्था है। क्या मैं यह बिनती कर सकता हूँ कि कांग्रेस पार्टी वहां पर जो अपना अधिवेशन करने जा रही है, वह उसको वहां न करके और किसी इलाके में करने का प्रयास करे ?

श्री रणधीर सिंह : हरियाणा में सोनीपत में लगातार तीन साल से ट्रेमजें आ रहे हैं। वहां भी हज़ारों आदमी मरेंगे।

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Randhir Singh, may I request you not to repeat this? I appeal to you again not to get up like this every minute.

श्री रणधीर सिंह : वहां पर हज़ारों आदमी मर जायेंगे। मुश्किल यह है कि जब आदमी मरते हैं, तभी सुनते हैं, पहले नहीं।

MR. SPEAKER: May be so. Even then you should not get up every time. I think appeals are not heard by you.

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH: Sir, I will submit to whatever you say, but you must hear me.

श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी : माननीय सदस्य ने जो प्रश्न पूछा है, उसके बारे में मैं यह कहना चाहती हूँ, कि हमको खबर आई थी कि कुछ छोटे-मोटे भूकम्प वहां पहले हुए थे। महाराष्ट्र की सरकार ने एक एक्सपर्ट कमेटी नियुक्त की, जिसमें इंजीनियरिंग, जियोलॉजिस्ट्स और सीस्मालॉजिस्ट्स थे, इस बारे में जांच करने के लिए। यह जांच अभी भी जारी है।

श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त (दिल्ली सदर) : वहां पर क्या रिलीफ मेजजें किये गये हैं ?

श्री स्वतंत्र सिंह कोठा 1 (मंदसौर) : वहां के लोगों के रिलीफ के लिए क्या किया गया है ?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nath Pai.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur) : Sir, the Prime Minister has stated that so far as Mysore is concerned . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lakkappa, I have not called you. I have called Mr. Nath Pai. You cannot shout like that.

SHRI NATH PAI (Rajapur) : Sir, the tragedy is too big to make any kind of partisan allegations. But there is a very important matter. Hon. members laughed when Mr. Fernandes asked whether there was any intimation. I do not know. Earthquakes do not issue warnings before they take place. Sir, there is some-

thing which is very serious. This Government was warned by a Member of this House coming from Maharashtra after going and seeing, that for three months in the past there had been tremors coming, that a fissure has been noticed in one of the mountains which go straight . . .

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH : What about the place where the tremors are there for the past three years ?

SHRI NATH PAI : I am not going to be bullied like this.

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH : Who are you ?

AN HON. MEMBER : Throw him out.

SHRI NATH PAI : Every time he gets up and speaks in this House. Sir, why don't you stop him ?

श्री रणधीर सिंह : यह क्या समझते हैं अपने आप को ?

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंगर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप इस सदन में ऐसी ब्यस्था रखिये कि आप जिस सदस्य को बुलायें, वह अपनी बात तो कह सके ।

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH : Who is he ? What do I care for him ?

SHRI NATH PAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, do I have your permission to proceed or not ?

Mr. Speaker, I am constrained to do so because the occasion is too serious. I do not accuse them of anything. Here is a letter written by Mr. Anand Rao Chavan to the Minister, Mr. Rao, in which he says :

"On the 13th September, 1967 earth tremors occurred in the area at about 12 noon. These tremors were of a very severe intensity . . ."

This is dated 12th September.

". . . and caused considerable damage to the residential houses of the villagers round about Koyna dam including the project building at Koyna Nagar. A number of residential houses were badly shaken and walls thereof dislodged

from the wooden frame work. Besides, the walls of several houses collapsed while of some others cracked."

This was an incident that took place on 13th September. Then, there was an incident again which took place on the 13th October. The letter further says :

"It is in my opinion necessary that some seismographic and geological experts of the Central Government should be deputed immediately to study and investigate the causes of the shocks that are occurring for a long time."

Here was a clear warning, not from newspaper reports, but a member of the Government who has visited the scene of the tragedy warns and says and also writes that somebody should go and inspect the area; he even offers to accompany Dr. K. L. Rao. I think this letter was written on the 4th. Mr. Rao replied that a team would go.

In view of this may I know whether these unfortunate victims could not have been saved by being evacuated in time ? The earthquake would not have been prevented by Government action; I am very sure of that. But lives could have been saved because there is enough evidence to show on Government's own documents that these unfortunate victims could have been evacuated. May I know whether that team was sent, whether the Minister went and what steps were taken to evacuate the people of the affected area ?

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the hon. Home Minister.

श्री रणधीर सिंह : मुझे आधा मिनट दीजिए । जहाँ चार साल से लगातार ट्रेमर आ रहा है, वहाँ के बारे में क्या कर रहे हैं ?

MR. SPEAKER : He wants to say something about Koyna ?

श्री रणधीर सिंह : जहाँ चार साल से बराबर ट्रेमर आ रहा है, वहाँ के बारे में मैं पूछ रहा हूँ ।

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY (Kendrapara) : This is regular obstruction of the proceedings of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : We are talking about Koyna now.

श्री रजवीर सिंह : मैं पूछ रहा हूँ जहाँ चार साल से बराबर ट्रेमर्स आ रहे हैं वहाँ क्या कर रहे हैं ?

MR. SPEAKER : I am sure the hon. Member knows where Koyna is. I am sure he knows the location of Koyna.

श्री रजवीर सिंह : साल में 6-6 बार ट्रेमर्स आ रहे हैं . . .

SHRI D. C. SHARMA (Gurdaspur) : How could Shri Nath Pai get hold of that letter addressed to Dr. K. L. Rao ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : I would give whatever information is known to me personally; since I have not seen that letter, I would not be able to give information specifically on the point raised. But I may say that I had also some information about it; I would certainly make a mention of it here that what happened in September and October was known to me also. I had some discussions with the Chief Engineer here and I had also some discussion with the Maharashtra Government as to what they were doing about it. The Maharashtra Government gave me information about the appointment of the experts committee. As regards the nature of the report that they received etc., naturally hon. Members would expect a reply from Dr. K. L. Rao when he comes back. But I would like certainly to give some information about the relief measures taken, because naturally the House is concerned about knowing what relief measures have been taken.

When I reached there yesterday morning with the Chief Minister, the whole scene was a tragic one. There was a lot of human suffering which was involved; the members of the staff and other people who had been injured were rushed to Karad which is about 35 miles from that place. And all doctors and all the medical facilities available in that town were being made use of. Some voluntary associations also including doctors with medicines were rushed to that place.

The immediate problem before them was to give medical attendance and to restore the road communication and means of transport; at some places, there were some

sort of cracks which had developed in certain culverts, bridges etc. I found that a group of NCC students coming from Chiplun had done some work there to have some sort of diversion so that they could restore the road communication and transport.

The Chief Minister on the spot had given orders to all the officers there. He has given them a blanket order about the spending of money; he has told them that whatever money is to be spent is to be spent first, and he would give full support to whatever they do in the matter of rehabilitation and they need not wait for any sanctions and any orders in that regard, because the human suffering is the most important thing which has to be alleviated first, and in regard to spending whatever is needed, he has given them full authority on the spot. The commissioner of the division was present there; the collector, the DIG, the DSP etc. were all there.

There were two types of work to be done there. One was the rehabilitation work. That was the most important thing. Most of the officers there were naturally treating it as the first priority. But at the same time, the technical aspect also has to be looked into. Though the dam is quite safe—I went and saw it and saw it as a non-expert; physically it appeared to be quite safe—in view of the energetic shock that it received, it is certainly necessary to go into the matter technically and find out whether any stresses and strains have developed there.

They have now divided the work into technical work and rehabilitation work. After we left—because I thought it was much better that most of us, Ministers, must leave the place because it was better that those people started working there systematically—they were starting technical examination in the afternoon.

It is not merely the Koyna Nagar which has suffered; when I was leaving, we started getting information of the involvement of certain villages also round about the hill tract. It is very difficult to give the exact number of deaths etc. Some died in hospital also. We started receiving news about deaths in hospital also.

So I would make a request to the House. To get precise information of the

type we want, we must allow some time for the local administration also because instead of devoting their time to the collection of statistics, they have to look to the immediate requirements first. In case we receive any further information, we will certainly inform the House

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : On a point of clarification. What about the Mysore area? When he makes his next statement, will he say something about the situation in Mysore also ?

SHRI J. MOHAMED IMAM *rose*—

MR. SPEAKER : He may make a statement tomorrow.

12.56½ hrs.

INDIAN COINAGE (AMENDMENT)
BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT) : On behalf of Shri Morarji Desai, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Coinage Act, 1906.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Coinage Act, 1906".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI K. C. PANT : I introduce the Bill.

12.57 hrs.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES (AMENDMENT) BILL AND RESOLUTION RE. OFFICIAL LANGUAGES—*contd.*

MR. SPEAKER : Upto yesterday, out of 15 hours allotted for general discussion, we have taken about 10 hours so that 5 hours remain. Some of the parties have not yet spoken. The Swatantra Party has got still 27 minutes, the Jan Sangh about 24 and the DMK 12 minutes. As regards the Unattached members, three or four have spoken. They have got 16 minutes.

SHRI D. C. SHARMA (Gurdaspur) : What about Congress time ?

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंगेर) : हमारा एक भी श्रादमी नहीं बोला अब तक ।

MR. SPEAKER : He has got all the time of his party.

श्री मधु लिमये : लेकिन बहस का तरीका क्या है ? कुछ दलों के दो-दो, तीन-तीन लोग बोल चुके हैं। हमारे दल का एक भी नहीं बोला है।

MR. SPEAKER : He has not taken any time. The Communist Party (Marxist) also have not taken any time. These are the two Parties who have not spoken yet, the SSP and Communist (Marxist).

SHRI NATH PAI (Rajapur) : May I suggest that before the first round is completed, you do not call a second member from the same Party ?

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Naturally the Congress Party also has got time. My problem is not with parties' time. Parties will get their full quota. There is absolutely no difficulty. The SSP have given two names, Shri Patel and Shri Rabi Ray; the Communist Group (Marxist) have given Shri Ramani's name.

I have already allowed 3 Independents to speak. If there are 12 names more, I do not know how I can accommodate them. At the most I can allow one more Independent.

Shri Piloo Mody was on his legs. He has already taken 25 minutes. If he wants to take extra time, he should remember that he will be cutting into the remaining time of the Swatantra Party. After lunch, we shall let him resume his speech.

If he takes all the time left for his Party, the other speakers from his Party will be cut out.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) : I will take 7 minutes.

12.59 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]
OFFICIAL LANGUGAES (AMENDMENT) BILL AND RESOLUTION RE. OFFICIAL LANGUAGE—*Contd.*

SHRI PILOO MODY : I was saying yesterday that in the Soviet Union it was