

में चुनाव अवश्य हो जायें। चूँकि इन छः महीनों में चुनाव होना सम्भव नहीं होगा, इसी लिए हमें राष्ट्रपति की उद्घोषणा को छः महीने और बढ़ाने के लिए माननीय सदस्यों के सामने प्राना पड़ा। जो बातें मैंने यहां पर रखी हैं, मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि उन पर विचार कर के माननीय सदन इस उद्घोषणा को छः महीने और बढ़ाने में अपनी सम्मति देगा।

श्री शारदानन्द : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं एक स्पष्टीकरण करना चाहता हूँ। अभी मंत्री महोदय ने अपने जवाब में कहा है कि जिला परिषदों और उन के अध्यक्षों पर इस प्रकार के अस्पष्ट चार्ज न लगाये जायें। मैं ने तो एक निश्चित चार्ज लगाया है और मैं चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय इस बात की खुफिया जांच करायें कि सीतापुर, लखीमपुर खीरी, हरदोई, बदायूँ, पीलीभीत, बरेली आदि जिलों में वहाँ के प्राइमरी स्कूलों के अध्यापकों से इस प्रकार का चन्दा वसूल किया जाता है या नहीं। अगर मंत्री महोदय किसी भी जिले में इस की एन्क्वायरी करायेंगे, तो वह इस नतीजे पर पहुँचेंगे कि उन के साथ ज्यादती की जा रही है।

श्री बाल गोविन्द वर्मा (खेरी) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, सीतापुर के बारे में तो मैं नहीं जानता। वहाँ जो कुछ भी होता हो। लेकिन लखीमपुर खीरी में ऐसी कोई बात नहीं हुई है। इस लिए ऐसी बात कहना उचित नहीं है।

श्री शारदानन्द : तो लखीमपुर खीरी के बारे में ही एन्क्वायरी कराई जाये।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Hon. Members should remember that the Hon. Minister has already given an assurance in his reply that if a specific charge is made and evidence is

given, he will certainly institute an inquiry, but vague charges cannot be enquired into.

Now I will put the amendment of SHRI S. M. BANERJEE to the vote of the House. The question is :

'That in the Resolution,—for "six months" substitute—"three months."
 (1)

The motion was negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation dated the 25th February 1968, in respect of Uttar Pradesh issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, as varied by subsequent Proclamation dated the 15th April, 1968, for a further period of six months with effect from the 25th September, 1968."

The motion was adopted.

18-16 Hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : CONTINUANCE OF PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION IN RESPECT OF WEST BENGAL.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will now take up the Resolution regarding West Bengal.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : I beg to move :

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation dated the 20th February, 1968, in respect of West Bengal issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 22nd September, 1968."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation dated the 20th February,

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

1968, in respect of West Bengal issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 22nd September, 1968."

There are some amendments. Shri S. M. Banerjee is not here. So also Shri Deven Sen. What about Shri Jyotirmoy Basu ?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour): I am moving my amendment. I beg to move:

That in the Resolution,—
for "six months" substitute—
"eighty-five days" (3)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Is Shri Ganesh Ghosh moving his amendment ?

SHRI GANESH GHOSH (CALCUTTA SOUTH): Yes, Sir. I beg to move:

That in the Resolution,—
for "six months" substitute—
"ten weeks" (4)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Both the Resolution and the amendment are before the House. Dr. Ranen Sen.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, I would like to speak first while moving the Resolution.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the circumstances under which President's Rule was promulgated in West Bengal are common knowledge and I do not want to go into the sordid history of what happened in West Bengal after the general elections. Many attempts were made in West Bengal by many political parties, I assume to give good governance but, as I was saying in the earlier speech of mine when I was referring to President's Rule in UP, the alliance which was functioning in West Bengal probably

was not single-minded, as far as political programme was concerned, and that is why all kinds of difficulties arose. But, in stead of solving those difficulties, the Central Government was sought to be blamed for many things that happened there and, ultimately, the political wrangling went to an unmanageable extent and in public interest and in the interest of continuance of constitutional government in West Bengal it was necessary that President's Rule should be imposed and mid-term elections ordered.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore): You skipped over something very important in-between. You tried to do something else in-between but did not succeed.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: The Central Government had nothing to do with all that. I included all that in "sordid history". It is not the responsibility of the Central Government. As I said earlier, what the local politicians did in West Bengal cannot be the responsibility of the Central Government.

After the introduction of President's Rule in West Bengal, several measures have been taken to redress the grievances of the people and to improve the administrative machinery.

It was a hard task but we had to fulfil our responsibility because we do not consider President's rule as only a caretaker government. It is easy to treat it as a caretaker government and just bide for time until elections are held and a responsible government is formed. But it is our intention to see that positive programmes of public good and public welfare are launched during the period of the President's rule.

Moreover, we also want that many schemes which were sanctioned earlier for which financial allocations were made and which were not making proper progress or which were not being implemented with the speed that was needed, we should take them out of the mire and try to see that

those were properly implemented. In a general way we are making this attempt in West Bengal.

SHRI GANESH GHOSH : What are they ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I will give you the details.

Here we face a lot of difficulties. One of the main difficulties that we are facing in conducting this programme is our anxiety not to burden the forthcoming popular government which, we expect, will be formed after the mid-term elections with financial responsibility and burden. We do not want to initiate anything which will give all this burden to the government which will be formed after the elections. Within this policy framework, which I have explained, we want to do within the few months available to us as much work of public good as is possible to be done.

Recently there was a serious situation created in West Bengal because of the floods. Only this morning we met hon. Members from West Bengal belonging to both Houses and this matter was extensively discussed. The relief measures that have been taken have already been explained and I do not think I should go into that again. But I want to mention one thing, namely, that no efforts within our means will be spared to see that prompt and needed relief is given to the stricken people there. We are sorry that such a calamity should have befallen the people of West Bengal. It is really heartbreaking to see that those poor peasants of West Bengal, who have been doing their best to increase agricultural production and to improve their standard of life, have been subjected to such natural calamities.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : So you have given a drop in the ocean.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : As far as the law and order situation is concerned, I have to report that after the imposition of

President's rule there has been considerable improvement in the law and order situation in West Bengal. We can find it out from the regular reports that come to us and the reports that appear in the newspapers. It is not as though we have had to do any special effort to bring back the law and order position to normalcy. The only thing that the State Government under President's rule had to do was to become absolutely impartial. As soon as impartiality was restored to the State administration the law and order situation came back to normal. There have been instances where we were a little worried, but whenever any such instances occurred they were because of political rivalry and political considerations. Still, I must congratulate the local administration for dealing with these cases with the outmost consideration and with the utmost impartiality.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Under the command of your emissary, Shri Dharma Vira.

SHRI GANESH GHOSH : Shri Shukla.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : As far as the labour front is concerned, I would say that there has been considerable improvement in the labour situation also. A good many factories and industrial establishments, which had ceased to work during the period immediately preceding President's rule, have now resumed production. The labour unrest is much less and the effort of the Government is to see that the problems of labour are dealt with in a sympathetic manner and that they are given a fair treatment.

AN HON. MEMBER : What about gherao ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Hon. Members know that after the President's rule came we have not heard of any gheraos as far as West Bengal is concerned. The situation is not yet normal but if it is not normal it is not because of the local administration but because it is

the general economic situation in the country. Since the general economic situation is improving, I am sure that within a short time normalcy will come back as far as the industrial and labour fields there are concerned.

There have been certain complaints and some misgivings in the minds of the people regarding the forthcoming elections. An allegation has been made that efforts are being made to postpone the elections. We have made it clear, more than once, in the House that the Government of India is not at all interested this way or that. The dates of the elections are determined by the Chief Election Commissioner, by the Election Commission, in consultation with the major political parties. The Chief Election Commissioner visited Calcutta, consulted major political parties and, with their consultation, fixed a tentative date in November. Now, as far as the situation goes today, that date has not been changed. If at all it is changed, it will be changed by the Chief Election Commissioner with the consultation of the major political parties.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Do you really apprehend that the date would be changed ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : No; I am not apprehending that. I am only making the statement that in case the Chief Election Commissioner thinks it necessary that because of flood situation or any other reason, the change in the date is required, I presume, he will again consult the major political parties in West Bengal and, with their consultation, he will take a decision. As far as the Government of India is concerned, we are not at all interested this way or that. We are only interested in fair and impartial elections so that the people in every part of West Bengal get a chance to vote in the elections. If there are some parts of West Bengal where the people cannot travel to polling booths, cannot exercise their franchise, and the Election

Commission thinks that it would not be possible to hold elections there, it is their look-out and the political parties will have to advise them whether the information is correct or not. So far as the Government of India is concerned, we are not at all interested either to postpone the elections or to say that the elections will be held at a certain date. It is absolutely for the Election Commission to fix the date. I would request the hon. Members not to entertain any doubts as far as this matter is concerned.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Since you came to know that you are divided within the party.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : The Government of India is completely united as far as this question is concerned.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : You are divided in the Congress Party.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Probably, your party has greater divisions than our party. We are not considering that matter at present.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I suppose, you will take some more time.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Then you may continue tomorrow.

18.28 HRS.

DISCUSSION RE: RENEWAL OF LEASE OF CALCUTTA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are a number of Members who want to participate in the discussion. So, there must be some time-limit fixed.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour) : This is a very important subject.