

(a) whether the allotted money to the District of Sambalpur under crash scheme for rural employment is yet to be put to action for completion of the work within four months ;

(b) if so, the reasons for such delay ; and

(c) the remedial steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) to (c). State Government's proposals for implementation under the Crash Scheme for Rural Employment in respect of district Sambalpur were received on July 13, 1971. They are under examination. The money that will be allotted after approval will be required to be spent before 31st March, 1972. The questions at (b) and (c) do not arise.

Fire in Jhingardah Coal Mines

5719. SHRI RANA BAHADUR SINGH : Will the MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Coal has caught fire in Jhingardah Coal Mine and a result thereof Government are suffering heavy loss ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to put out the fire and the success achieved in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Jhingurda coal is highly susceptible to spontaneous ignition. On 10.5.71 fire was detected in a part of the quarry and about 7000 tonnes of coal and shales, which had been affected by fire, were dug out. Out of this total quantity, about 1/3rd has been retrieved. Whenever a fire is noticed it is quenched by watering the affected area and digging out the coal and shale affected. The National Coal Development Corporation have also sought advice from Central Fuel Research Institute for any special action that could be taken to avoid recurrence of spontaneous fire in the coal seam.

Complaints against Officials for Corruption and Irregularities

5720. SHRI SAT PAL KAPUR : Will the Minister of SUPPLY be pleased to state the designation of officials in his Ministry against whom complaints have been received for corruption, misbehaviour and other irregularities since 1967 till to-date and the action taken against those officials ?

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : A statement giving the required information upto 30th June, 1971, is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-721/71].

12.01 hrs.

RE. FLOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

SHRI MANORANJAN HAZRA (Arambagh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wrote to you, to raise this matter in the House. As ill-luck would have it, I could not get permission from you about West Bengal flood, what is the latest position ? Due to the incessant flowing of water from Mukdeshwari and Darakeswar and also the DVC discharge, the whole of Arambagh has been submerged into the water. Hundreds of houses have collapsed and thousands of men and women have been rendered homeless. I have already sent telegram to West Bengal Governor Mr. Dhavan; I do not know what has been done in this regard. Rescue party is needed and temporary shelters with food should be sent there. I am only making the statement here to draw the attention of the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : We have already fixed the Debate on that. We have already fixed up debate on Flood. You can speak about it at that time.

SHRI MANORANJAN HAZRA : In view of the serious situation there, I am referring to it.

श्री रामानन्दर शास्त्री (पटना) : सिन्धु-एकन बहुत एलागिप हो गई है अत्यन्त महोदय, सब जगह ।

MR. SPEAKER : We have already fixed up a Debate on Flood.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : The Business Advisory Committee decided that 2 or 3 hours should be devoted to floods in U.P., Bengal, Bihar and other places, immediately after the Grants are over. I would request you about it, Sir. In UP, more than 2,000 villages are washed off. Let the Minister make a statement on that. I would request you kindly to fix up that discussion also.

MR. SPEAKER : We are quite used to understand each other now.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : You may ask the Minister, Sir.

12.03 hrs.

RE : QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

SHRI KRISHNA HALDER (Ausgram) rose—

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member may mention briefly the point of privilege.

SHRI KRISHNA HALDER : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to present before the House the factual background to the privilege motion which I am going to move under rule 222 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of Lok Sabha.

The incident which I am narrating happened on the 15th July in Durgapur, which is a part of my constituency. On that day, I went to the workers' colony of the AVB factory of Durgapur, in order to make some enquiries regarding retrenchment and police atrocities. I was told that 47 workers of the factory had been retrenched and out of this number 20 were members of the executive committee of the workers' union and 6 were members of the works committee. I considered it as a case of victimisation against the representatives of workers and my views were strengthened when I come to know that eight workers had been arrested on various charges, and one of them is being held under the PVA Act.

In the workers' colony I was told in detail about the brutal way the local police under Shri Atin Mukherjee who is the ASI are dealing with them. I was told about periodic raids on the workers, beatings and tortures and even cases where woman had been molested by the savage policemen of that area. During the course of my enquiry as the representative of the people of that area to the Lok Sabha, I was shocked and surprised by the stories about the inhuman methods which are employed by the police in that area for harassing and torturing the innocent people.

It is against this background of police oppression and my visit to this colony that subsequent incidents can be properly understood.

I went to the colony at about 5.30 in the evening and at approximately 7.30 p.m. I left that place. I was travelling in a car with four companions, the driver and his assistant.

My car was stopped near the Apprentice Hostel of the AVB, by the police and CRP led by the same Atin Mukherjee, about whom I was told so much by the people of the workers' colony. The police officer who was in plain dress ordered me to get out of the car and to go with them. I then showed my card of the Parliament to him, but that infuriated him. He started shouting at me saying that the fact that I was an MP made absolutely no difference, as far as he was concerned, and again ordered me to leave the car. His behaviour was very insulting, rude and uncivilised, and he was all the time shouting and using filthy language. He then brought me out of the car by force and did the same in a much more insulting way to my companions.....

MR. SPEAKER : He may mention just those points on which he claims privilege.

SHRI KRISHNA HALDER : I was then forced to go to the police station, in spite of my repeated insistence that it was improper, that it was infringing my rights and privileges as a Member of the Parliament. All my arguments were ignored, and Shri Atin Mukherjee, the ASI, treated all that I said with either indifference or contempt.