

**COAL MINES PROVIDENT FUND (AMDT.)
SCHEME AND EMPLOYEES PROVIDENT
FUNDS (NINTH AMDT) SCHEME AND
STATEMENTS.**

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND RE-
HABILITATION (SHRI G VENKAT-
SWAMY) I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Coal Mines Provident Fund (Amendment) Scheme, 1972 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No GSR 1187 in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 1972, under section 7A of the Coal Mines Provident Fund Family Pension and Bonus Schemes Act, 1948
- (ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the above notification [Placed in Library. See No LT-4506/73]
- (2) (i) A copy of the Employees Provident Funds (Ninth Amendment) Scheme 1972 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No GSR 1448 in Gazette of India dated the 21st October 1972, under sub-section (2) of section 7 of the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act 1952
- (ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the above Notification. [Placed in Library See No LT-4507/73]

13.36 hrs.

**RE. DEMAND FOR INCLUSION OF
NEPALI IN THE EIGHTH SCHEDULE
OF THE CONSTITUTION**

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore)
Sir, I sought your permission just to draw the attention of the Prime Minister to a very urgent matter. At her

invitation, a very representative deputation, an all-party deputation representing the hill people of Darjeeling was in the capital yesterday to have talks with her regarding their demand for the inclusion of the Nepali language in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution. We are not aware of the outcome of those talks. This is the third occasion within a few months when the Prime Minister at her own initiative had a talk with them. I am glad that she is going on with this dialogue with them once in Darjeeling once in Calcutta at the time of the Congress session and now again in Delhi she has invited them to come for talks.

I only wish to bring out this point, that so far as I know nothing has been decided in this matter yet. As she knows very well this is the time of tensions, regional tensions, linguistic tensions and such tensions in various parts of the country. I would say that in the interests of national unity and national integration, and before the situation gets, shall I say, hotbedded up it is better that we should try to come to some settlement across the table with those people. They are undeveloped people of the hill areas who feel very strongly about the Nepali language. All parties without exception—the ruling Congress party, the Gurkha league, the CPI, the CPM—everybody is united on this issue. This issue is not confined to Darjeeling. Of course, Nepali language is spoken by lakhs of people. But I would request the Prime Minister, she can have consultations also, if she likes, with the representatives of the different parties in the House, but some positive initiative should be taken in this matter. Otherwise, we know how in these conditions these questions can get blown up into major issues and tensions and thus lead to undesirable developments, particularly in an area on our border. Therefore, I would re-

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

quest her, if she likes to take us into confidence and tell us what she has told them. As far as I know, nothing has come out despite three rounds of talks.

1338 hrs

[MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA
(Serampore) **

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER Order please. This will not go on record. (Interruptions) Order, please. Let me first understand what you are saying. Now, Shri Indrajit Gupta has raised the point. I do not know if the Prime Minister has anything to say.

THE PRIME MINISTER MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRI MATI INDIRA GANDHI) Sir, I entirely agree with what Shri Indrajit Gupta has said that it is better to take decisions across the table rather than allow the situation to get 'hotted up' and that is what we are trying to do. As the House knows, no question is ever simple. Every question evokes various reactions and therefore we have to see what the repercussions are likely to arise. I have talked to the people who came to see me and as the hon Member knows that delegation consisted of members of all parties of the Darjeeling area. We took them into confidence and told them what our difficulties were and how we are trying to meet them. During our first meeting the language demand was of course very prominent but they also touched upon a number of other matters. They felt that they were not getting equal opportunities in various areas. The Government of West Bengal has taken every step assuring them that there

will be no kind of discrimination in the services and various other activities. Nepali has been accepted as a language of that area. Many other facilities are being given. This time the stand of the delegation was a little different. They said the demand was an emotional one. We have assured them that we are looking into it.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA
No question of emotion

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI This was the word they used. It is not my word. (Interruptions)

So I assure the hon House and the hon Member that we are looking into this matter in depth. A number of other States are also concerned. We have had a talk with the Chief Minister and we are looking into it.

1340 hrs

RE LAND EROSION BY GANGES IN MURSHIDABAD DISTRICT

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Calcutta South) This is a very important question before you and the hon Minister of Irrigation and Power. Shri Rao is present and he will give his opinion.

Mr Deputy Speaker Sir, you are aware and the House is aware that quite for a lot of time the erosion by Ganges of Ganjpur sub-division of Murshidabad District has reached almost an extreme stage and as a result of it about 6,400 acres of home land was lost. An estimate was made that 14,400 houses—kutchha and 1,600 pucca houses were lost. The other day the Minister of Irrigation and Power was telling the House that he has not received any estimate from the State Government. I would like to submit before you that the Government of