

[Shri Raj Bahadur]

sary we may sit for one hour more. Because we have got so much business and because of the situation that faces us from day to day, we would not like to give more time to this than is required.

SHRI H. M. PATEL : He said that this is to meet the aspirations of the vast majority of the people, but for that very reason, an important issue like this should get adequate time for discussion.

MR. SPEAKER : As for the lunch hour, we will have to decide for all time that we will have no lunch hour. It is no good dispensing with it off and on.

SHRI PILOO MODY : Yes, no lunch hour for all time.

MR. SPEAKER : I will put the motion to the House.

SHRI PILOO MODY : I have never known a matter like this to be decided by voting, and I think it is a great shame.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : I have agreed that we can sit longer, but we want to finish it in two days.

MR. SPEAKER : Two days is all right. Leave it to me, I will adjust. The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 23rd November, 1971."

The motion was adopted

12.45 hrs.

RE. SITUATION IN MAILAN AND BALAT REFUGEE CAMPS IN MEGHALAYA

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) : Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the

tragic and alarming situation that has developed in Mailan and Balat refugee camps. It is only a small place with an area of 6 square miles where more than three lakhs of refugees have taken shelter. There is no water and they are suffering in the biting cold. Recently, along with the Minister four of our members also visited that camp and we found that a number of shelters were gutted and 20,000 people were rendered homeless, I would not say home less. This has happened not once but twice. Just a few days back we got information that a similar thing happened in Balat camp. As a result of this, about 50,000 people have been rendered shelterless. You can imagine their plight. There is lack of transport and lack of communications. It is an inaccessible area flanked by two hills. In the biting cold, 50,000 people are shivering there without any cover passing the days and nights. It is a horrible situation. I want to know what steps Government have taken. This burning of huts has been done by Pakistan saboteurs. How could they come ? Why have the Government not taken enough precaution ? Thousands of young men are there. Why have they not been recruited as a volunteer corps to protect the refugees from Pak saboteurs ? It is a serious matter and I want Government to make a statement about this matter.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R.K. KHADILKAR) : It is true that Pakistan has stepped up the sabotage activities in that area, because of which some huts were burnt. The first information I have is that about 15,000 persons living there have been rendered homeless because of the fire. About other matters, I will get the information from the Meghalaya Government and make a statement. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : When you have said so much, is there any scope left for a second intervention by you, Mr. Guha ? Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu also should not intervene without my permission.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : The condition in Balat camp is really serious and steps must be taken to improve the condition there.