

it is a matter of shame that the police authorities have not given any information to the Speaker. It is a question of privilege of the Members of the House. Sir, you should ask for the reaction of the Government immediately. Let them make a Statement. If Members of Parliament can be detained at any time by any police officer, what is the protection for us?

MR. SPEAKER: I have not received any information about his arrest so far. The Home Minister will make a statement on this subject.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore): Sir, we will have to bring a privilege motion against the police authorities.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): I rise on a point of order, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: On what?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: On the arrest of Mr. Dhote.

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise it when it comes up.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Upto 1.30 P.M., you have not received any intimation from the police authorities. This is a gross breach of privilege. The police officers are treating the House with contempt. No intimation has been received from the police authorities. Sir, you will remember the case of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia when a privilege motion was accepted. I would request you to kindly treat it as a privilege motion so that the police authorities are brought to book. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Daschowdhury.

~~MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION~~  
 (~~Shri Daschowdhury in the Chair~~)

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY (Cooch-Behar): Sir, I wish to raise the following matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377 of the 493 LS-9.

Rule of Procedure and beg your leave for the same:

The food supply position in West Bengal is very precarious and rationing system in the State is on the point of break-down. Repeated demands were made by the hon. Food Minister of West Bengal to the hon. Food Minister of the Government of India to supply the back-log of 53,000 tonnes of rice, out of which only 32,000 tonnes of rice upto 25th April, leaving a back-log of 21,000 tonnes of rice for the last month, i.e. March, and for the current month, out of the total quota of 40,000 tonnes of rice, only 6,600 tonnes of rice, has been supplied so far.

The Food Minister of West Bengal stated in his teleprinter message that "if the allotted quota of rice and wheat is not supplied in time, it would be impossible to run the administration and so far as ration supply is concerned."

Moreover, out of the total wheat supplied, substantial quantities or huge quantities are contaminated and unfit for human consumption and, therefore, the supply of that contaminated wheat through ration shops has been stopped. The Food Minister of West Bengal regretted that the Union Food Ministry is not realising the gravity of the acute food crisis there.

Therefore, I demand that immediate arrangement be made for food supply to West Bengal by the Union Food Minister.

13.33 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1973-74—  
 Contd.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION—Contd.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of