

[SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA]

on the assurance of the Labour Minister, we persuaded the workers to resume duty and they did. Thereafter, 4,000 Employees have been victimised for the last one year. During the Bangla Desh crisis, they forgot all their families and they performed their duty well, because the Barauni area is the lifeline in that part of our country. Now, the Railway Minister is adamant. The families of those workers are starving; their children are starving; the workers remain suspended. The Labour Minister has accepted in the House and said-to quote his own words—"I have given the assurance; I tried my best; I plead helplessness." The Railway Minister is not prepared to hear the Labour Minister's words. I want to know whether there is only one Government or two Governments here. (*Interruptions*) I request you to direct that the Prime Minister herself come and tell us whether there are two governments or one government here, and whether the Labour Minister's own, signed assurance is going to be honoured or not. I request that the Prime Minister should come before the House and let us know (*Interruptions*) I seek your permission to lay on the Table of the House the copy of the assurance given by the Labour Minister. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Order, please. You know I agreed that I would allow the Member to make a statement. But, that should not lead to any debate, in which case, the other Members would also like to have their say, it becomes a regular debate. Now, it is on record and the Government's attention has been drawn to it, and it is for the Government to take note of it.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : (स्वाभाविक)
उपाध्यक्ष जी, 17 तारीख के हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स में अमेरिका से श्री कृष्ण भाटिया का एक लेख छपा है जिस में कहा गया है कि राष्ट्रपति निक्सन के विशेष दूत मिस्टर किंसिजर विल्ली जाए थे, यहां आकर वह विदेश मंत्री से वार्ता कर के गए हैं। उन की यात्रा गुप्त थी। उसे पढ़ने के बाद पहले तो ऐसा लगा कि यह मजाक है...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It sounds like a fairy tale.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore) : then he roamed about in Chandni Chowk.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : लेकिन इस का खण्डन होना चाहिए। श्री कृष्ण भाटिया फेयरी टेल्स नहीं लिखा करते। मैं चाहूंगा कि इस का खंडन किया जाय या इसकी पुष्टि की जाय।

12.39 hrs.

RE. DROUGHT AND WATER SCARCITY CONDITIONS IN WEST BENGAL

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for the last several days, I have been trying to draw the attention, of the Speaker, through requests and also through Calling Attention notices, to the serious conditions that have developed in West Bengal due to unprecedented drought and scarcity of water and starvation deaths. Already, there have been 16 deaths due to starvation. In certain rural areas, the situation has developed to such an extent that the tanks have dried up and hundreds of tube-wells have dried up. The people in the rural areas are facing acute scarcity of water. I have written to the Chief Minister of West Bengal about the steps to be taken. No reply has come so far. I want to know from the Government. The former Chief Minister, Profulla Chandra Sen has said that he would fast unto death unless some provision is made for the supply of water in the rural areas.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : We have given a call attention notice ; it is a serious matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Because the Members are so anxious I have gone out of my way and I have allowed Members to mention, although strictly speaking it is the responsibility of the State Government.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : No, Sir,

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Since it is a big humanitarian problem, I have allowed him to make a statement.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : It is a concurrent subject. Drought in the eastern

region of India was discussed and the Central Government said that they had advanced certain aid to the States of West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar and other parts for dealing with the drought situation there. I want to know from the Government the amount that they have given, whether it is sufficient.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Once I allow him, he will never know how to stop.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : I want to know from the Government what steps the Government are going to take to meet water scarcity and starvation and other matters arising out of the drought situation in West Bengal.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : (Serampore) : This question must be discussed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is here. He has listened to the hon. Member. He must collect some information and prepare himself. I have allowed this off the cuff in this way. How do you expect a responsible statement to come ?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : It is not merely to go on record. Is it that you have given instructions to the hon. Minister to come out with a statement ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have said that the Hon. Minister is here and he has taken notice of what you said.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Have you asked him to make a statement ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have not. It is on record. The Minister is here. It is for him, if he wants to come forward with a statement.

MR. SAMAR GUHA : It affects millions of people

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Banerjee..... (Interruptions).

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : It is not merely a question for record ; it affects the lives of millions of people—(Interruptions*.)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Order, order. All this will not go on record. Papers to be laid.

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12.43 hrs.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

REPORT AND CERTIFIED ACCOUNTS OF THE SHIPPING DEVELOPMENT FUND COMMITTEE FOR 1969-70.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report and Certified Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Shipping Development Fund Committee for the year 1969-70 together with the Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (6) of section 16 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 2019/72].

12.44 hrs.

CORRECTIONS OF ANSWER TO S.Q. NO. 535 RE-REVISION OF MERIT-CUM-MEANS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TECHNICAL STUDIES

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN) : The answer to the Starred Question No. 535 asked by Shri Ramavatar Shastri regarding revision of the merit-cum-means scholarship for Technical Studies and replied to on 24-4-1972 may kindly be referred to (copy enclosed). In view of the recommendations of the All India Council for Technical Education made at its meeting held on 22-4-1972, the part (c) of the answer already given has to be amended to read as follows :—

“(c) The All India Council for Technical Education recommended the scheme at its meeting held on 22nd April, 1972. The Central Government will take a decision soon in consultation with the Planning Commission.”

(Interruption)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I cannot be bullied in this way.... ..

(Interruptions). I wanted to give Mr. Banerjee a chance but his other colleague,