

[Mr Speaker]

they starve they must die. If they are not in the camp and do not get food by their own earnings or on the terms and conditions imposed by the Government that only those persons in the camp will be given relief, then they take the risk. However, as has been stated by the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation, there are ample opportunities to discuss this matter. 14th, 15th and 16th have been allotted for discussion on the Presidential Address. If these matters are so important—of course, they are matters of public importance, I do not deny that—there are ample opportunities, and it has been a convention of the House that, whenever there is an opportunity to discuss such matters as these the normal work of the House will not be adjourned. Therefore, I am not willing to give consent to this adjournment motion.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** May I submit, Sir, that it is not a question of relief as such to the inmates of rehabilitation camps that I have raised in this adjournment motion; it is a question of some interim relief being given to them on humanitarian grounds. They are persons who are under the charge of the Central Government. It is not a question of the general relief that is being given to the refugees. We are prepared, Sir, if I may make a submission, to persuade these people to go back to the camp, but for the interim period some relief will have to be given.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** They will get relief, not interim relief, immediately they go there.

**An hon. Member:** You brought them there.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** I did not bring them out; I was at some other place at that time. I have some sense of responsibility.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. Hon. Members ought not to talk to one another like this here.

So far as the point of order is concerned, I am afraid I do not see any point of order. As soon as they get back to Bettiah they will get relief and the Government is not willing to give any interim relief outside the camp. Relief will be given to them immediately they get back to the camp. There is no point of order in this.

#### FOOD SCARCITY CONDITIONS IN WEST BENGAL

**Mr. Speaker:** I have received notice of another adjournment motion relating to the situation created in West Bengal by the systematic refusal of the Union Food Ministry to take notice of the conditions of acute scarcity bordering on famine, obtaining for the past one month in 11 districts out of 14 in West Bengal, as a result of successive floods and the consecutive failures of four main food crops in the major part of the State, including the Rabi Crop of this year and other reasons, and to ensure an adequate supply of foodgrains or even the minimum quantity requisitioned by the State Government of West Bengal.

As a matter of fact, a notice was given by Shri Kasliwal, yesterday or day before yesterday, asking for opportunity to raise a debate on this matter of the food situation in the country at large, particularly in West Bengal. There are also a number of questions which have been tabled and I have admitted all those questions. Let us ascertain from the hon. Minister what the present situation is. I shall allow and permit all those hon. Members who have tabled questions and who wanted to give notice and who have given notice to raise a debate, to put supplementary questions to elicit facts I have put them all together and I have allowed all the hon. Members to put questions. Further, these matters can again be raised on the 14th, 15th and 16th. Still, if these matters are considered so important, I will consider and see whether any opportunity can be

given later on. I cannot give my consent to this adjournment motion.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat):** What was the statement about which you mentioned? Was it about a statement by the Minister?

**Mr. Speaker:** I said I have admitted all the questions and that I would include the names of all the hon. Members who have tabled adjournment motions also, and give all those hon. Members opportunity to put supplementary questions. Let us know the facts. Thereafter, the Members can take up the matter on the 14th, 15th and the 16th. Even after that, if they are not satisfied and if any special motion is considered necessary, the usual course is to see whether such matters could be brought up, time permitting.

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** I am going to make a comprehensive statement on the food situation in the country tomorrow. The hon. Members will have the right to table questions on the basis of that statement. In fact, I want to take the hon. Members into confidence about the food situation. The problem of the food situation is a national problem, and I shall try to benefit from any suggestions that might be made by the hon. Members.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri (Berhampore):** On a point of clarification. As a matter of convention, no questions are allowed to be put on the statement made by the hon. Ministers in this House. Will questions be allowed this time? Is it the pleasure of the Chair that on this occasion, when the Food Minister makes a statement, the Members may put questions on the statement, after the statement is made by the Minister?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** Hon. Members can table questions on the basis of that statement.

**Shri A. K. Gopalan (Kasergod):** We are glad that the Minister has said that he would make a statement. But our plea is that there have been so

many statements. Even a week or ten days back, not only this Minister but other Ministers also made statements. There have been so many statements, and that is the very reason why we wanted to have a discussion immediately, because the situation in the country demands it. As far as the statements are concerned, it is one thing. But, as far as the reality of the situation is concerned, it is another thing.

I shall give an example. Two days back, the Kerala State Legislative Assembly passed a resolution saying that the food situation is very bad and that they are going to approach—

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister has stated that he will make a statement tomorrow morning.

**Shri A. K. Gopalan:** We want to know the true situation. As far as the State Legislative Assemblies are concerned, their statements say that the situation is very bad. There are also reports from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh that the situation there is a very bad. In Bengal also, it is so. We want to know whether the statement given by the Assemblies is wrong, or, whether the statements given by the Ministers are wrong. We want to know the position. There have been statements after statements. We want to know whether the position as we read from the newspapers is wrong or not. What I say is that what the hon. Minister has said is not right. That is the only submission I wanted to make.

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** If I may point out, the hon. Member is criticising something on the assumption that the statement may not be to his liking.

**Shri A. K. Gopalan:** It is not a question of my liking. There have been, of late, two statements: one by Shri Krishnappa and the other by the Minister himself. I can bring a cutting of the statement which says that basically the situation is very good, and that there is nothing serious in the country.

**Mr. Speaker:** So far as these matters are concerned, the hon. Minister has stated before the House that he would make a statement. I requested him to make the statement before the discussion on the President's Address starts, so that if any point about the food situation has to be raised, it may be raised during the course of the discussion on the President's Address.

I have also sent to him all the questions which I have admitted in respect of this subject so that he may answer all those points referred to in those questions wherever necessary. He will also take notice of the adjournment motion that is tabled and find out how far the facts mentioned by the hon. Members agree with the facts as they are. The hon. Minister will refer to the statements made by other Ministers on this subject, wherever necessary, and he will naturally make as full a statement as possible with the facts available to him.

I see no need to grant permission to this adjournment motion. I come to the next one.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** There is another adjournment motion on this subject.

**Mr. Speaker:** I shall treat it likewise.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** I want to know whether my point has been taken into account.

**Mr. Speaker:** I will come to it.

#### REMOVAL OF CERTAIN STATUES

**Mr. Speaker:** About the adjournment motion regarding the removal of certain statues, I can say immediately that I do not give my consent to the motion. It has been said that a satyagraha is going on in Uttar Pradesh regarding the removal of statues, that so many people are doing a patriotic task, and that as the Education Ministry is in charge of this subject, it should pro-

vide accommodation for housing those statues here.

So far as this adjournment motion is concerned, it is purely a matter of law and order in respect of the State concerned. Further, this statue business has come in here several times. The hon. Prime Minister wants to say something.

**Shri Vijayram Raju (Visakhapatnam):** The Chair has not read the adjournment motion. How can the Prime Minister make a statement then?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member is new to this House. Of the three copies, one is given to the Notice Office. Another is given to me and the third is with the Minister in charge. He has already got it.

**The Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** The Chair has ruled out this motion, as I understand it. I need not say anything about it, because, if I may say so with all respect, it has no relevancy here in this context. I would venture to point out to the hon. Member that, apart from the context of the adjournment motion, he makes a very large assumption in this House, on behalf of the people of Uttar Pradesh, that of all the hon. Members here who represent Uttar Pradesh, he alone is the representative! But, as far as this subject is concerned not the adjournment motion but the larger question must necessarily interest him and all the hon. Members of this House and others. If you, Sir, would permit me to say a few words as to what our policy is, I shall proceed. Our policy is—

**Shri Surendra Mahanty (Dhenkanal):** On a point of order. When you have ruled out the adjournment motion, what is the point of the Prime Minister in explaining it?

**Mr. Speaker:** All that I say is, the hon. Minister is willing to give some information to the House, so as to satisfy the House. Though this matter may not be taken up by way of an ad-