

are working for more than 5 years, is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—4283/70].

Long distance transfers are resented by the workers on account of extra expenditure on conveyance and the dislocation caused in the studies of their children. However, steps are being taken to transfer the staff, who are due for transfer, according to a phased programme, subject to administrative convenience.

12 hrs.

PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION
FROM FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF
GERMANY

MR. SPEAKER : As is our convention, I welcome the President of the German Bundestag Mr. Kal-Uwe von Hassel, and Dr. Volker Hauff, Mrs. Antje Huber, Mr. Wilhelm Helms, Mr. Wilhelm Rawe, Dr. Guenter Rinsche and Botho Prince zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein, members of the Bundestag, Dr. Helmut Schellknecht, Secretary of the Bundestag and Dr. Peter Scholz and Mr. Heinrich Kilian, Officers of the Bundestag. I welcome them and extend to them our very very hearty welcome.

12.01 hrs.

REFERENCE REGARDING CYCLONE
IN EAST PAKISTAN

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): Sir, we are shocked and grieved by the news of the tragic natural calamity which has struck East Pakistan. A cyclone has devastated vast areas and has taken a heavy toll of lives. The full extent of the damage will be known only later. As soon as I got the news I sent a message conveying our deep sympathy to the Government and the People of Pakistan. I also announced a

contribution of Rs. 5 lakhs as a very small token of our concern. I am sure that all sections of the House will join me in sharing the sorrow of the People of East Pakistan.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH (Buxar): It is shocking that over three lakhs of people have died by cyclone. The people of East Pakistan, in fact of the whole of Pakistan, are our kith and kin. I would not have said anything had this little amount not been mentioned. We should liberally go out to help them with medicine, blankets, foodgrains and money, Sir, I would request you to convey to the Government of Pakistan the feelings of the Parliament of India.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta North East): I would like to say a few words, if you do not mind, because I come from a part of the country which feels a very special link of friendship with East Pakistan. Whatever our differences in juridical status may be and whatever may be the controversies which are pending between India and Pakistan, we in West Bengal have fellow feeling for our friends in East Pakistan. We speak the same language which we learnt at our mother's knee. At this moment of anguish it is particularly necessary that we associate ourselves as closely as possible in the tasks of relief. I would suggest to the Prime Minister that immediate efforts are made to send medical missions and that sort of thing and I am sure a large number of Volunteers would come forward to take up this job.

The quantum of assistance might also be considerably increased. You will forgive me, as a Bengali I feel agonised and anguished at what has happened and would like myself, my party and everybody else to be associated with this.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: There is a general wish of the House that we should help to the greatest extent possible. We are in touch with the Pakistan High Commission here. We will give all that we can give. The contribution we sent was an initial token grant from a relief fund.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : We should all contribute one day's allowance.