

**Correction of Answer to Unstarred Question
No. 1930 dated 6-3-1969 regarding Employ-
ment Exchange in Laccadive Islands**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOY-
MENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI
BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) :** I would like to
draw attention to the reply given by me on
the 6th March, 1969, to Part (c) of the
Unstarred Question No. 1930 by Shri P. M.
Sayeed and Shri Virbhadr Singh regarding
Employment Exchange in Laccadive Islands.
I had stated that "there are about 50 un-
employed matriculates and one unemployed
graduate in the Islands". This was based
on a wireless message received from the
Laccadive Administration. The subsequent
formal written communication received from
the Laccadive Administration, however, re-
vealed that there are no unemployed gradu-
ates in the Islands.

My reply may therefore be corrected to
read :

"There are about 50 unemployed
matriculates in the Islands".

12:12 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE
REPORTED SINKING OF KASHMIR
PLATEAU**

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond
Harbour):** Sir, I call the attention of the Min-
ister of Petroleum and Chemicals and
Mines and Metals to the following matter
of urgent public importance and I request
that he may make a statement thereon :

"Reported sinking of Kashmir Plateau."

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND
CHEMICALS AND MINES AND ME-
TALS (SHRI JAGANATH RAO) :**
It is reported by the State Government
of Jammu and Kashmir that following the
unprecedented heavy snowfall on April 29,
1969 and the rapid melting of snow and
continuous wet weather conditions thereafter,
land slides have occurred at a number of

places in the Srinagar and Baramulla dis-
tricts of Jammu and Kashmir. Small bits
of land are affected in areas of about 53
villages in the two districts. In most areas
the slides are in agricultural or forest lands.
However, in five villages of Srinagar district
and four villages of Baramulla district 170
and 85 houses respectively have been
threatened by the landslides.

It is reported that these landslides have
been caused by the recent heavy and out
of season snowfall. The sudden melting of
the snows had also accentuated undercutting
by erosion at some points, resulting in
localised slumping of the ground. Regular
winter snows generally over-lie firmly frozen
ground which is sealed to the waters from
the melting snow above. In these cases
since the snowfall took place after the spr-
ing had commenced, water could directly get
into the strata. Further the snowfall itself
was heavy and the melting was also rapid,
so that the inflow of water into the underly-
ing strata was unusually rapid, resulting in
the unsettling of the delicate balance ensuring
stability in such formations on hill slopes
where the structure and the topography render
the area liable to sliding. These occurrences
are reported to be localized phenomena and
do not constitute the sinking of Kashmir
Plateau.

The State Government have reported
that they have taken special precautionary
measures so as to prevent loss of life in
case some of the slides assume dangerous
proportions. The affected areas and those
likely to be affected have been evacuated
and the residents housed in tents and other
available accommodation. Observation
teams of officers of concerned Departments
are reported to have been posted at Lalipora
and at a central point in the Baramulla dis-
trict. These teams are in constant touch
with the district authorities. Once the
emergency caused by the slides is over, the
State Government propose to undertake
surveys so as to determine long term mea-
sures that should be taken particularly in
areas where population may be threatened.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Sir,
this statement should be circulated. It is
a long statement. It is a sinking business.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no time. Let us proceed ; let us see how deep it is sinking already.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : There had been heavy rainfall all over the country beside the Kashmir valley. Why is it that this particular place has suffered ? Srinagar also had similar snowfall and rainfall earlier. So, the argument put forward by the Minister is far from convincing. In 1963, in the same area, there had been an earthquake and there were cracks and potholes and subsidence and landslides. At that time, there was a talk of bringing experts from outside the country also to come and examine the whole thing. Has that been done ? We have been told that the Geological Survey of India also nibbled at the thing, but it did not systematically follow the whole thing. Why this has happened, the Minister should tell us. I want also to know the area involved, the number of heads of population involved and the extent of damage done. At the same time, there is an apprehension in our minds, because in Gilgit the U-2 base is being demolished by the US authorities, whether that demolition vibration has affected the subsoil strata in these areas.

SHRI JAGANATH RAO : As I stated in my main statement, it is only a surface phenomenon and not a geological phenomenon which has resulted because of the unprecedented snowfall, rapid melting of snow in the spring season and the resulting seepage of water into the substrata. We have been assured by the State Government and the Geological Department and other concerned departments of the State Government are at it and there is no danger to life or property, apart from what I have already indicated.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : May I know why the Japanese experts were not asked to come ?

MR. SPEAKER : All experts—American, Japanese and others—will come.

Now, Mr. Shastri.

श्री रघुवीर सिंह शास्त्री (बागपत) : श्रीमन्, अखबारों से यह पता चलता है, इन्होंने बताया

कि 29 तारीख को इस प्रकार का हितपात शुरू हुआ और यह आपत्ति आई, अखबारों की रिपोर्ट से पता चलता है, 10 मई के दिल्ली के अखबारों में निकला कि वहाँ के निवासी दस रातों से बिना सोये रात काट रहे हैं, तो क्या यह इस बात का प्रमाण नहीं है कि सरकार की इतनी बड़ी असावधानी है कि 53 गावों के लोग दस रात से बिना सोये रात काट रहे हैं और सरकार ने उनकी सहायता का, उन की रक्षा का कोई उपाय नहीं किया ?

दूसरे, मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ, यह जो सरकार के पास रिपोर्ट आई है यह काश्मीर राज्य के माल मुहकमे ने भेजी है या आप ने वहाँ कुछ भूगर्भ-वैज्ञानिक, ज्यालाजिस्ट्स भी भेजे थे जो जाकर देखें कि इसका कारण क्या है ?

तीसरी बात—आपने कहा कि ज्यादातर खेतों की ओर जंगलों की भूमि घंस रही है। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि कितना रकबा घंस रहा है, किसानों का कितना नुकसान हुआ है और उसके लिये सरकार किसानों को कितना मुआवजा और राहत देने जा रही है ? एक जगह श्रीनगर और बारामूला के बीच सोपुर के पास श्रीनगर-बारामूला सड़क घंस रही है। इससे क्या यह साबित नहीं होता कि सारा एरिया जो है उसके अन्दर ऐसी खराबी है कि जिसके लिए बहुत जल्दी ऐक्शन लेना और एहतियात करना जरूरी है ? मैं सरकार से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इन सब चीजों के लिये सरकार क्या स्थाई उपाय कर रही है जिससे कि इस तरह की विपदायें न घायें और जो आपद्ग्रस्त लोग हैं उनको बसाने या दूसरे प्रकार सहायता देने के लिए सरकार क्या विचार कर रही है ?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO : Newspapers reports evidently do not seem to be correct. The State Government have assured us that this occurrence was only local at one or two places and they have taken the necessary

[SHRI JAGANATH RAO]

precautions to see that persons who are likely to be affected were evacuated from the area and housed elsewhere. About prevention of recurrence of such things, I have said that steps will be taken by the Geological Department of the State and the Geological Survey of India to see that such things do not recur. There is no likelihood of any threat of slumping of major land blocks elsewhere in the Kashmir Valley.

श्री रघुवीर सिंह शास्त्री : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरी बातों का जवाब नहीं दिया एक तो यह कि अखबारों की रिपोर्ट है कि दस रातों से उन गांवों के लोग बिना सोये रहे, इसका क्या कारण है, सरकार क्यों इतनी लापरवाही बरतती रही ? दूसरे मैंने पूछा कि जंगलों की ओर किसानों की कितनी भूमि घंसी है और कितना नुकसान हुआ है ?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO : When there is heavy rain and likelihood of flood, naturally people in those areas would be spending sleepless nights; We can understand that. But I can assure the House that no damage was caused to any person.

श्री प्रकाश वीर शास्त्री (हापुड़) : यह भी तो बताइये पाप तो बहुत नहीं बढ़ गए वहां ?

SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOUDHURI (Krishnagar) : It has been reported that another 1000 people in District Lulipura are going to be affected and 4 or 5 village in that district are threatened by the mud that is coming through. So, altogether a total number of practically 8,000 to 10,000 people are going to be affected. What is the Government going to do to give them alternative accommodation somewhere ? Has any arrangement been made about that ? The report says that small children are suffering very badly in that area due to the shifting. I want to know whether any arrangement has been made to provide some particular medicines and clothing to small children.

SHRI JAGANATH RAO : All those measures that were required were taken by the State Government, and the damage caused, according to the State Government,

is not so much as stated by the hon. Member. The press reports may be on the high side, but all necessary steps have been taken and will be taken.

12.21 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENT CONTAINING PRINCIPAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AERONAUTICS COMMITTEE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : Sir, on behalf of Sardar Swaran Singh, I beg to lay on Table a statement containing principal recommendations of the Aeronautics Committee. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1164/69].

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) PHUL RENU GUHA] : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the year 1967-68 Vols. I and II, under Article 338(2) of the Constitution. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1165/69].

REPORT OF NATIONAL COAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION COMMITTEE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI JAGANATH RAO) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Report of National Coal Development Corporation Committee. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1166/69].
- (2) A copy of the Mineral Concession (Third Amendment) Rules, 1969, published in Notification No. G. S. R. 939 in