

[Secretary]

that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill.'

(ii) 'In accordance with the provisions of rule 125 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 8th September, 1956, agreed without any amendment to the Public Debt (Amendment) Bill, 1956, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 1st September, 1956.

PRESIDENT'S ASSENT TO BILLS

Secretary: Sir, I have to inform the House that the following Bills, which were passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current Session, were assented to by the President during the last week:

1. The Industrial Disputes (Amendment and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 1956.
2. The Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 1956.
3. The Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 1956.
4. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1956.
5. The Securities Contracts (Regulation) Bill, 1956.
6. The Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1956.
7. The Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 1956.
8. The Newspaper (Price and Page) Bill, 1956.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

SEVENTEENTH REPORT

Shri Aitkar (North Satara): Sir, I beg to present the Seventeenth Re-

port of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

FLOODS IN ASSAM AND RELIEF RENDERED

Shri Dasaratha Deb (Tripura East): Sir, under Rule 216, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon—

'The situation arising out of recent floods and scarcity conditions in Assam and relief rendered'.

The Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): Sir, I have to make a statement. Shall I make it or place it on the Table?

Mr. Speaker: How long is it?

Shri Datar: It is about two pages of cyclostyped matter. The hon. Member wanted certain information.

Mr. Speaker: It may be laid on the Table.

Sardar A. S. Saigal (Bilaspur): Sir, it should be circulated to the Members.

Statement

Since May, 1956, Assam has been visited by several floods at short intervals. The area affected were Cachar, Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Nowgong, Kamrup and Goalpara districts. The flood waters started receding in every district but following the heavy rains in the Garo Hills during the third week of August, last, the rivers Jinari and Jinjiram overflowed their banks and into neighbouring areas in the Garo Hills and Goalpara districts. Vehicular traffic on the National Highway had to be suspended as one bridge had been washed away and other damaged.

2. Details of the actual damage caused by the floods have not yet been received from Jorhat, Gauhati and Dhubri sub-divisions as the local officers have not been able to complete their surveys. The position in other sub-divisions is as stated below:—

(a) 19 human lives were lost; 14 in Dibrugarh Sub-Division; 2 in Hailakandi; 1 in Sibsagar; and 2 in Nowgong district.

(b) 774 heads of cattle were lost: 500 in North Lakhimpur; 90 in Hailakandi; 156 in Dibrugarh and 28 in Sibsagar sub-divisions. The total value of cattle lost is estimated at Rs. 73,730/-.

(c) The total crop area affected is 1,87,292 acres containing abu and bao paddy, sali seedlings, jute, sugarcane and other crops. The estimated value of the damage to crops is Rs. 1,60,61,844/-.

(d) The area affected by flood waters is 1,447 square miles, involving 2,660 villages with a population of 4,48,382.

(e) The number of houses damaged or destroyed is 6,702 and the value of other properties lost due to floods is Rs. 1,51,900/-.

3. Erosion has also affected certain parts of the State and it is reported that a total area of 8,569 acres in 119 villages had suffered. 1,292 families have been affected by the erosion and the value of properties lost is Rs. 4,32,265/-.

4. As regards relief measures undertaken by the State Government, a sum of Rs. 3,75,000/- has so far been sanctioned by them towards house building-cum-rehabilitation loans. Besides this, the State Government have sanctioned Rs. 3,00,000/- as agricultural loans; Rs. 2,98,000/- as gratuitous relief and Rs. 30,000/- for test relief works. For the purchase and maintenance of relief boats in different areas of the State, another

sum of Rs. 1,50,000/- has been sanctioned by the State Government as gratuitous relief.

5. 294 fair price shops have so far been opened in several affected areas and more will be opened soon. In these shops paddy is being sold at reduced rates of Rs. 7/- to 8/- per maund and rice at Rs. 15/- to Rs. 18/8/- per maund. 1,320 tons of gift rice and 425 tons of gift wheat have been allotted to the six-flood-affected districts mentioned above, and are being distributed free. One bale of donated cloth received from the YMCA, Bombay, has been allotted to Cachar, Lakhimpur, Nowgong, and Kamrup districts for free distribution. As regards medical stores, the State Government have so far ordered free distribution of medicines worth Rs. 41,182.

6. A sum of Rs. 37,000 from the Chief Minister's Fund has been allotted to Cachar, Lakhimpur, Goalpara, Sibsagar and Kamrup districts. This sum includes Rs. 25,000 received from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund and credited to the Chief Minister's Fund. A sum of Rs. 4,000 has been allotted from the Governor's Fund to Hailakandi sub-division.

7. As regards assistance from the Central Government, the State Government is eligible to a grant from the Centre of half the total expenditure on gratuitous relief up to Rs. 2 crores and 3/4th of the expenditure in excess thereof.

8. A sum of Rs. 35,000 has been given to the State from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.

RESOLUTION RE SECOND FIVE YEAR PLAN

Mr. Speaker: Now, the House will take up the further discussion of the following Resolution moved by Shri Jawaharlal Nehru on the 23rd May, 1956:

"This House records its general approval of the principles, objectives and programmes of