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LOK SABHA

Friday, 21st December, 1956

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

12.01 hrs.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

RELIEF MEASURES IN FLOOD-AFFECTED AREAS OF EASTERN U.P.

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Shri R. N. Singh and Shri Ramji Verma, which reads as follows:

"The total failure of the Government in providing adequate measures to relieve food shortage in the flood-devastated areas of the Eastern district of the Uttar Pradesh and the consequences thereof in the form of widespread starvation prevailing all round, people forced to flee as refugees and foodgrains being sold at the Government shops at prohibitive rates."

May I have any information regarding this from the Minister?

The Deputy Minister of Food (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): A similar motion was brought forward in the U.P. Assembly by Mr. Gainda Singh, the Leader of the Opposition there.

Mr. Speaker: When was it brought?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: It was on the 17th of this month. The Chief Minister of U.P. stated that the relief measures taken in Eastern Uttar Pradesh were adequate, and there was enough of foodgrains supplied by the Central Government. Thousands of fair-price shops had been opened, and wheat was being sold at Rs. 13. That was the cheapest price at which wheat was available there.

Regarding the exodus of people from these districts, the Chief Minister had stated that even in normal times, the people from the eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh, like Gorakhpur, Basti and Deoria used to go to the neighbouring districts of the eastern States to get harvesting jobs, and then they used to come back. These areas were thickly populated, and during harvest time, they used to go to the neighbouring districts and get some employment, and then they used to come back.

It has been stated by the Chief Minister that the measures taken are adequate, and there is nothing like people going out from those districts because of starvation or unemployment there.

On our part, we have sent a circular to all the State Governments that they need not wait for help from us to take relief measures, because in some cases it may be very urgent. So, we have stated that they can spend any amount, and that the Central Government would be prepared to meet 50 per cent. of the expenditure up to Rs. 2 crores and 75 per cent. above Rs. 2 crores. So, it has been stated in the U.P. Assembly that things are all right there.

In September, we had given them 16,000 tons of wheat, in October 25,000

[Shri M. V. Krishnappa]

toris, and in November 33,000 tons. For this month, we have allotted them double the quantity in November, that is, 66,000 tons, and we are running a special train by which wheat is being moved to these districts.

श्री रा० न० सिंह (जिला गाजीपुर-पूर्व व जिला बलिया-दक्षिण-पश्चिम) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि देवरिया, गाजीपुर, आजमगढ़, बस्ती आदि से हजारों की संख्या में लोग बंगाल, आसाम आदि की तरफ मजदूरी करने के लिये जा रहे हैं और यदि इन को राहत न पहुँचाई गई तो इस का चुनावों के ऊपर बहुत बुरा असर पड़ेगा। मार्च में..... (Interruptions).

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wants those persons who normally go away during the harvest season in search of employment, on account of the thickness of population in that particular area to come back. Of course, hon. Members who are going to stand for election must induce them to come back and vote. Now, I am not saying that they must give any better inducement than the inducement of employment. Anyhow, these are all inevitable. The rest of the people will choose, and whoever secure a majority from among the rest will be the best men.

In view of the statement, I find that this is a matter which is essentially the concern of the State Government. The State Governments are used as agents for the Central Government only in those cases where the subject exclusively belongs to the Centre. But this is a State subject. The Central Government have done their best. Even in advance, they have said that expenditure may be incurred up to any amount, and that up to a limit of Rs. 2 crores, they will contribute 50 per cent. of the expenditure, and over and above Rs. 2 crores, they will contribute 75 per cent. So far as the actual management of the affair is concerned, such as the opening of relief shops, giving inducements to these

people to stay there and not to go in search of employment to other places etc., these are all entirely in the hands of the State Government.

Only recently, on the 17th of December, there was a debate in which there was a reference to this matter in the U.P. Assembly, and the Chief Minister of that State explained the position at length. In spite of that debate, he has not written to the Central Government that very bad conditions prevail there, and that unless the Central Government come to their aid with a larger degree of co-operation, they cannot tide over the difficulty.

This ought to be a forum which is used for those purposes only when all other remedies are exhausted and the State Government think that they can no longer continue in office.

I cannot allow this adjournment motion.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENTS SHOWING ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON ASSURANCES ETC.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I beg to lay on the Table the following statements showing the action taken by the Government on various assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various Sessions shown against each:

(1) First Statement, Fourteenth Session, 1956, of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 121]

(2) Supplementary Statement No. VII, Thirteenth Session, 1956 of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 122]

(3) Supplementary Statement No. XIII, Twelfth Session, 1956 of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 123]

(4) Supplementary Statement No. XV, Eleventh Session, 1955 of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 124]