

Shri Sadhan Gupta: The scales have been revised.

Mr. Speaker: Is the salary of any member of the existing staff going to be effected adversely?

Shri Namblar: His salary is going to be affected adversely. When he is fitted up in the new scale he will certainly lose.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am not going to hear any more. First of all, such matters are not to be the subject-matter of any adjournment motion. New scales of pay and other things are not peculiar anywhere. Any employer, whether Government or otherwise, must have the right to revise; of course, the staff should not be adversely affected. Whatever may happen, it is a matter for detailed discussion and not in an adjournment motion. Further, the hon. Minister has said that so far as existing incumbents are concerned, one-fifth of them will have higher scales of pay and the others will not be affected at all. Whatever scales of pay may be introduced, the existing staff will be fitted in at such stage of the increments as may not affect them, so that not a pie may be lost to any of the existing staff as compared to the existing conditions of services and scales of pay.

In view of the statement of the hon. Finance Minister I am not called upon to give consent to this adjournment motion.

Shri Namblar: In fact, the staff will lose under the new scales.

Mr. Speaker: Whatever it may be, I am not called upon to give my consent to this. There are very many details. Hon. Members may seek an interview with the Finance Minister and place matters before him. The Corporation has started; may it live perpetually.

Shri Namblar: There will be heart-burning.

Mr. Speaker: There is no heart at all, and so there is no burning. (Inter-
ruption.)

FLOODS IN UTTAR PRADESH

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of another adjournment motion from Shri S. L. Saksena regarding the colossal damage caused by sudden floods in the districts of Bahraich, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria and several other districts of east U. P. Let me first of all hear the hon. Minister.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): Sir, the House is well aware that this is the rainy season and floods are not scarce these days. (Laughter).

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members made it light. It is a real fact. There is the rainy season now and so floods are there.

Shri A. P. Jain: The House is aware that my colleague, the Minister for Irrigation and Power, made a comprehensive statement on the floods in the beginning of the month. He gave full information about the floods in U.P. as also in the rest of India. We have no information of anything that has happened after that in U.P. The adjournment motion refers to the floods in one river Rapti which has affected a number of districts. I have no information about what has happened there. Unfortunately, this is the last day of the session and it is not possible for me to collect the information and make a statement in this House.

But, as you are aware, Sir, this is a subject which essentially falls in the State List. It is the State Governments which have to deal with the situation arising out of floods. So far as relief measures are concerned, the Government of India have issued definite instructions under which the State Governments can initiate actions without any reference to the Central Government. If the total expenditure on the relief measures in the State concerned does not exceed Rs. 2 crores, the Government of India automatically contributes 50 per cent. of it; if it exceeds Rs. 2 crores, then in respect of Rs. 2 crores the Government of India contributes 50 per cent.

and in respect of the balance the Government of India contributes 75 per cent. There is enough of provision and there are enough of powers with the State Governments. I am sure the State Governments are fully alive to the situation and they are in a position to take action.

Before I finish, I would like to point out one fact. The hon. Member gave notice of an adjournment motion on the 13th August last in which he said that the main, earlier paddy crop had dried up. In this adjournment motion, the hon. Member says that the reaping of the earlier paddy crop has become impossible. Oftentimes, the memory of politicians is short, but it should not be so short. When the earlier paddy crop was completely destroyed, according to the previous adjournment motion, where is the question of reaping that paddy crop now?

Shri Nambiar: Whatever remains could not be harvested.

Shri S. L. Saksena (Gorakhpur Distt.-North): May I ask—

Shri A. P. Jain: I have not finished. In any case, as this day happens to be the last day of this session, I am not in a position to collect the facts from the State Government and place them before the House. Of course, there is no case for admitting this adjournment motion.

Shri S. L. Saksena: Will the hon. Minister ask the State Government to supply the information about this matter?

Mr. Speaker: Shall we abolish the State Assembly then?

Shri S. L. Saksena: Will not the hon. Minister ask the State Government to supply—

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow such questions. The hon. Members have committed themselves or are trying to make or bring about a unitary State and a unitary Government at the Centre. They forget that

there are people's representatives, though representing smaller constituencies than here in the State Assemblies. It is unfortunate that famine and flood occur alternately. But then, can the Government or any other person or all the Opposition together or the Government together prevent famine on the one side and flood on the other? They are all accidental.

The point for consideration is, what are the steps that have been taken in this regard to alleviate suffering, which might have been caused owing to heavy downpour, etc. In the first instance, the hon. Minister has said that the State Government is responsible for this. So far as the Centre is concerned, the hon. Minister has said that the Centre has set apart an amount of Rs. 2 crores and that they are willing to share the expenditure, and that over and above this, they are prepared to contribute. The hon. Members who are interested in this matter must approach the State Government and persuade the Assembly members there to take it up, through the State Government. After doing that, if there is no statement on the subject available, and if, so far as the Centre is concerned, the Central Government has been derelict in its duty, has committed default, and that the State Government has become helpless, the hon. Members can raise the point in this House. I am not called upon to give my consent to this adjournment motion.

DATE OF GENERAL ELECTIONS

Shri A. K. Gopalan (Cannanore): May I seek your permission to raise a matter of profound importance? A few weeks ago or a few days ago, there was an announcement by the Election Commissioner that as far as he was concerned, he was ready to have the elections in February, 1957. He also had called a conference of all the parties and he discussed with them. There also, he said that as far as he was concerned, there would not be