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LOK SABHA

Monday, 6th August, 1956.

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
(See Part I)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

12-5 P.M.

RE STATEMENT ON SUEZ CANAL  
ISSUE

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty** (Basirhat): May I submit that for a long time we have been putting short notice questions, calling attention notices etc. on the question of Egypt and the nationalisation of the Suez Canal and as yet we have not had any reply? It is time that the Prime Minister takes the House into his confidence, especially when he is making announcements in the public as well as in the discussions in the working committee of his party.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Prime Minister want to say anything?

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** I did not hear her completely, but I understand that the hon. Member referred to some announcement about Egypt.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** We have been putting a number of questions....

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** It is true that I have received a number of questions and some notices of motions

under Rule 216. I quite appreciate the anxiety of the House in this matter in the serious situation that has arisen. In fact, it is because the situation is rather a serious one that I did not wish to make a statement here before all the facts were with us; I did not wish to say anything which might perhaps come in the way of such action as we might be taking later. If you will permit me, I will make a statement the day after tomorrow.

**Shri Asoka Mehta (Bhandara):** I want to know whether the House will get an opportunity to discuss that question. I want the Prime Minister to assure us on that point.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** The House is very busy dealing with other matters and there is the question of time being available. Of course, a suitable time may be fixed for its discussion.

**Mr. Speaker:** I believe the Prime Minister can make his statement first; and, if there are any points for discussion, then the matter may be settled later.

**Dr. Rama Rao (Kakinada):** Can short notice questions be put after the statement is made?

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members can always put short notice questions, if they are not satisfied with the statement and if they want further elucidation. The statement can be made first and still if hon. Members are not satisfied, we can have a discussion on some day.

**Shri Bansal (Jhajjar-Rewari):** I want to raise an alleged question with regard to the manner in which short notice questions are generally handled.....

**Mr. Speaker:** I am always available in my room; I do not go home before 6 o'clock and I will receive all representations. Some of the short notice questions were put off because the Prime Minister was not here and he made a statement later. Some questions relating to the Naga problem were put over, because the hon. Home Minister promised to make a statement; and, he did. I withheld some of the questions on this subject, because it is still in a fluid stage and I wanted to know what the reaction of the Prime Minister was. We ought not to embarrass ourselves and others; first of all we will see what the statement is and thereafter if there are further questions to be answered, I will admit a further discussion if necessary and I will give time. So far as other matters are concerned, I am always available to hon. Members.

## MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

### FLOODS IN TRIPURA

**Mr. Speaker:** I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Shri Dasaratha Deb on the following subject:

"The situation arising out of unprecedented floods in Tripura State, particularly in Kailasahar and Kamalpur sub-divisions of the State, dislocating all means of communication and submerging many square miles of the State, and the urgent necessity for rushing relief to the area, as an alarming food scarcity is threatened on the wake of the floods."

Does he want to say anything?

**Shri Dasaratha Deb** (Tripura East): It appears from P.T.I. reports that an area of about 40 sq. miles of Kailasahar sub-division in Tripura was submerged due to heavy flood. I got a telegram from a responsible person of the affected area. The telegram says that vast areas of Kamalpur and Khowai sub-divisions also have been inundated by the floods. The airports of both Kailasahar and

Kamalpur were completely inundated and planes could not land there for the last one week. It is also reported that due to landslides on the Agartala-Assam road, vehicular traffic between Agartala and Kamalpur has been interrupted for the last one week.

May I also mention, Sir, that on the 3rd August, the hon. Minister told the House in reply to my question that the price of rice at Kamalpur sub-division was from Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 per maund in the last week, that is before the flood. Rice was hardly available even at that high price there. The only remedy was to send rice from Agartala Government godown, but now, as there has been a complete dislocation of communication both by road and by air, an acute food crisis has arisen.

When such a serious situation has been created by flood havoc, I feel that it is absolutely necessary to send immediate relief to the people in distress. This is really a serious matter which affects thousands of people, and I hope you will kindly allow this adjournment motion to be discussed by the House.

**The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda):** So far as the flood situation is concerned, very recently a very full and detailed statement was made in the House and also laid on the Table of the House.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty** (Basirhat): This is again a new one.

**The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant):** After that there was a discussion between the Members of the House and the Ministers regarding the situation there. I find from the text of the motion that it refers to the urgent necessity for rushing relief to the area as an alarming food scarcity is threatened. That is a matter regarding which my information is that the necessary action has been taken and is being taken. The details can be given of that also.