

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). Amongst the Housing Schemes included in the Second Five Year Plan, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir are implementing the Low Income Group Housing Scheme only. Subject to the Ministry's budget demands being accepted by Parliament, funds to the extent of Rs. 30.00 lakhs may be allotted to the State for 1960-61 for the implementation of this Scheme.

*12.05 hrs.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

ALLEGED OCCUPATION BY CHINESE OF CHANTHAN SALT MINES AREA IN LADAKH

Mr. Speaker: I have received notices of Adjournment Motions. One is from Shri Hem Barua. To some extent it has been answered already. It says:

"The situation of grave concern for us all created by the illegal occupation of the Chanthan Salt Mines area in Ladakh, an explicitly Indian territory, by China and the conversion of this illegally occupied area into a bastion of the Chinese by encircling this region with check-posts, thereby preventing Indians from collecting salt from the Salt Mines which legitimately belong to us."

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): May I say a few words, Sir? In our latest note to China, we have affirmed that there have been no border incidents during the recent weeks. This must be due to the fact that most of these areas are snow-bound, but in spite of it, China is slowly and persistently creeping into Indian territory and there is alleged news of the illegal occupation of the Chanthan salt mines. They have not only occupied this area but they have encircled the area with check-posts. At the same time they have prevented our people from collecting the salt from the salt mines there.

Mr. Speaker: Where does he get the information from?

Shri Hem Barua: I will come to it, Sir. The pity is that the Government have so far

Mr. Speaker: I do not want arguments. First of all, let me know what is the source of information of the hon. Member.

Shri Hem Barua: This was what the Prime Minister said yesterday in the Rajya Sabha, but then, in the Rajya Sabha the Prime Minister did not indicate the date of occupation. The date is yet to be indicated. It is a pity that wherever illegal occupation of Indian territory takes place, the news of it emanates and comes to the knowledge of the people always from non-official sources, whether it is in the case of Longju or in the case of Chanthan salt mines. This is a reflection or a sad commentary on the state of things, particularly the machinery and the material the Government possess. It all emanates from non-official sources.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is going on digressing. I only wanted to know what is the source of his information. Of course, I can immediately say that if the hon. Minister makes a statement in the other House, that cannot be a matter for Adjournment Motion in this House. Otherwise, every day we will have adjournments of that House and this House on account of statements, etc!

Shri Hem Barua: May I make a submission?

Mr. Speaker: What more does he want to say?

Shri Hem Barua: In the statements made in this House during the Question Hour, certain information percolated. This question involves certain fundamentals also. My particular point in giving notice of this Adjournment Motion is this. How is it that our machinery always fails and how is it that the information comes first only through non-official agencies?

Then the information goes through a process of admission, non-admission, refusal to admit, and all sorts of things. Ultimately, it is established as in the case of Longju and as in the case of Chanthan mines. At the same time.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member obviously suggests that if the same information is known to the Government, there and then, they must come to the House and tell the House, "Yes, yes; they have encroached upon one mile, two miles, that is the location", and so on. Is that the object?

Shri Hem Barua: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: Therefore, for not having done so, this Government is censured! The hon. Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I have said something about this matter in this House and also in the other House. Surely this House does not expect me to contradict myself. I have said exactly the same thing, possibly in somewhat different language. On'y a short while ago, this question came up incidentally.

The fact of the matter is, talking about the source of information which you were pleased to enquire, the hon. Member said, it is a non-official source. I will go further; it is a non-official source from Jammu, which is so completely irresponsible that it has made a habit of spreading news which has absolutely no foundation. I am merely saying that because that happens several times. The Kashmir Government have drawn particular attention to this fact that this organisation does this with the least enquiry, knowledge, just for the fun of it, I suppose; I do not know why. Anyhow, this is completely wrong, I mean what it has said. The hon. Member is rather perhaps confused by my mentioning the checkpoints in the other House. Nothing has happened in this area for the last many months.

We discussed this position, not of the salt mines, but of the Chinese aggression, here on several occasions. Nothing has happened there to change that position. It may be, as the hon. Member himself said, nothing can happen during the winter months, because nobody goes there or can go there during the winter months. But nothing has happened to the salt mines. It is only because this organisation has mentioned something about the salt mines that they have come within the ken of the hon. Member. But they have been within that area, which months ago was broadly illegally occupied by the Chinese forces. That is bad enough; there has been no other advance or encroachment during that time and there could be none also, because of various circumstances. When I mentioned the word 'checkposts', I merely said it because in various parts of this area, not now, but many months ago, the Chinese have put their checkposts and that broad area is controlled by those checkposts. I am not referring to these particular salt mines.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether they have prevented our people from taking salt from there?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: How does the hon. Member know that? He is basing himself on some totally unreliable information from an unreliable authority based on an unreliable organisation. But again, if I may say so, apart from facts, it is physically impossible—the period is such that nobody went there or could go there.

Shri Hem Barua: The Prime Minister said that that source is thoroughly unreliable. That is what the Prime Minister of Kashmir also has said. But the fact is the news or information emanating from a source that is supposed to be thoroughly unreliable by two Prime Ministers, is corroborated by the statement of our Prime Minister in the Rajya Sabha. He has nowhere said that the salt mines are not occupied; he has nowhere said that the salt mines have not been

[Shri Hem Barua]

controlled by checkpoints; he has nowhere said that they have not prevented our people from collecting salt from there. There is a regular admission of this information emanating from whatever source it may be; it is true.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): What is this organisation which is unreliable and which is spreading the news?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member says, it is a natural inference; if the salt mines in that territory are occupied, naturally the inference is Indians will be prevented.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The salt lake has been in that part of the area which was occupied months ago; nothing fresh has been occupied....

Shri Hem Barua: Occupied illegally.

Mr. Speaker: That is so; when it is occupied, it is always illegal.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: So, I do not understand all these arguments nor the statement that I have been supporting the allegation of an organisation in Jammu. I do not know, as I had just stated, what language I am to use to be understood. Maybe my English is not good enough; I am prepared to use Hindi. I know no third language.

Shri Hem Barua: May I make a humble submission?

Mr. Speaker: No submission. I have allowed him three opportunities. He ought not to go on like this. The question is simply whether a new situation has arisen. Whatever situation had arisen long ago, three or four months ago, is there. Salt lakes had also been occupied. When Indians go there, it is not for the purpose of allowing Indians freely to go there that they occupy those areas. Therefore, this is not a new situation that has arisen. All that I am concerned

with for the purpose of the adjournment motion is if any new situation has arisen. No new situation has arisen; I am not giving my consent.

Shri Hem Barua: Regarding what the Prime Minister said about the language difficulty....

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member must resume his seat; I have given my ruling. He ought not to go on speaking.

12.16 hrs.

FAILURE TO RESTORE ELECTRIC AND
WATERSUPPLY IN SHAHDARA ON 7TH
MARCH

Mr. Speaker: Shri Braj Raj Singh has given notice of the following adjournment motion:

"Failure of the Health Ministry, Government of India, to take adequate steps to restore electric and water supply immediately after the gale had affected it badly specially in Shahdara area of Delhi on Monday, the 7th March. Failure of the water and electric supply caused very great hardships to the residents of Shahadra area numbering about 2 lakhs."

Is it the situation even now?

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): It is said in today's papers that:

"Many had to do without a bath. Water from old wells was used for cooking and drinking purposes. Water sold in these localities at four annas a pitcher."

Mr. Speaker: Immediately after the the gale, we will assume it was so. Is it so today?

Shri Braj Raj Singh: The Minister should know it.