

[Shri Kanungo]

mated that 74 co-operative societies were started in 1958-59. The district-wise figures are given below:—

District	Ne. of handloom co-operative societies started in 1958-59
Kangra	6
Amritsar	10
Jullundur	5
Hoshiarpur	7
Ferozepur	1
Ludhiana	7
Ambala	5
Karnal	7
Rohtak	5
Hissar	2
Kapurthala	5
Bhatinda	5
Patiala	4
Mohindergarh	3
Sangrur	4
TOTAL	74

12:04 hrs.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

APPREHENDED FEAR OF RADIO-ACTIVE FALL-OUT OVER INDIA FROM FRENCH ATOMIC EXPLOSION IN SAHARA

Mr. Speaker: I have received a number of adjournment motions from Shri Goray, Shri Jadhav, Shri Hem Barua, Shri Khadilkar and Shri Banerjee. All of them refer to only one matter, namely, the likelihood of the radio-active cloud from the recent atomic explosion (*Laughter*). Order, order.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): Is it not considered serious enough by hon. Members?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. They refer to "the likelihood of the radio-active cloud from the recent atomic explosion by France in Reggan, Sahara, passing over India very soon and the resulting harm from its fall-out." All these refer to the same thing, that is, "this may result in serious consequences and Government must immediately ascertain the effects

of this and warn the people of this country and suggest protective measures." That is the substance of all of them.

Shri Goray (Poona) rose.—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Prime Minister. The news appeared in the newspapers that the cloud is proceeding towards India. What are the steps and what is the evil of it? (*Laughter*).

Shri Goray: May I make a submission? If the House feels that it is a matter which can be laughed at and is not something that should be seriously taken note of, I have no intention of moving it.

Mr. Speaker: If a few people laugh, it is not as if the whole House is laughing.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): It is a loud laughter.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members here on this side also laugh.

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): They want us to cry.

Mr. Speaker: It is not a matter to be laughed at. It is a portent of serious consequences.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Sir, this recent atomic test carried out in the Sahara by the French Government is certainly a matter which has caused grave concern, for a variety of reasons, to us here in India and to many other countries. As the House knows, there was a very emphatic expression of opinion by most countries in Africa, who are concerned, against this and even in the United Nations there was an appeal that this should not be done. Therefore it is a matter of great regret that this should be done, not so much—although that has also to be taken into consideration—because of the immediate effects of it. It is difficult to measure those effects and possibly the effects may not be immediately dangerous to anybody. But the real matter of concern is that this process

of having atomic tests has started again after its suspension and we had hoped that they will be totally banned or stopped.

Now as regards these particular motions for adjournment, I got into touch this morning with the Chairman of our atomic energy establishment, Dr. Bhabha, to enquire from him about this matter. He said that they have got monitoring stations in various parts of India which test the results of every explosion. They had measured the results of the American and Soviet explosions previously. On every occasion they had found that the rise in atomic radiation level was far below, what is called, danger level. But there had been a rise. Of course, there is the argument that this continuous little rise accumulates and may have serious consequences later. Anyhow, thus far there had been no effect observed in the Indian monitoring stations of this explosion in the Sahara desert. But they are watching and will inform us as soon as they get something. However objectionable this may be and however much we may disapprove of it, the question of any danger descending upon India from a cloud etc. was not a thing which need trouble anyone. Some kind of rather journalistic statements appearing in the Press do not give the scientific version of these facts.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): May I suggest that as this is a very important matter on which the future of the world depends, we may have some device chalked out by which we can discuss the matter in this House and the House could express its opinion?

Shri Khadilkar (Ahmednagar): I was surprised to read the first reaction of our Prime Minister when he said "just inevitably regrettable," because France is contemplating a second explosion soon, in order to qualify herself fully for the so-called Atomic Club. From the newspaper reports,— emanating from America and not from any other country, it is obvious

that the clouds at the height of 10,000 to 30,000 feet are moving in that direction and that Egypt, Saudi Arabia and India are likely to be affected if there is rain. Already Ghana has frozen the assets of France. The United Nations has passed a resolution and all the world over there are protests which have been flouted, that in keeping with the spirit of that resolution that this House carried on the former occasion protesting against the tests, some action for outlawing or treating as outcaste that nation which flouts world opinion regarding atomic tests should be taken or some expression of the House is broadcast after taking a decision? Would that not be proper at this hour?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: This aspect that the hon. Member has raised is the political aspect which, of course, as I said, is very important. But so far as this motion for adjournment is concerned, it was more the actual aspect of danger coming, and in this matter we have to rely upon our experts who have the means of judging by their monitoring machines and the like.

Shri Jadhav (Malegaon): What was the experience of the United States in this respect?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have said so, and all I can do is to place this aspect before the House from day to day; if any news comes, I shall place it before the House. I have asked Dr. Bhabha and he has promised me to ask his monitoring stations to be vigilant about it.

So far as the political aspect is concerned, I have to say that it is a matter of deep regret and deep concern that this kind of thing should happen.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether, when the African countries protested against this prospective explosion in the Sahara, we joined in the chorus of that protest or not? Secondly, the African nations are now condemning this explosion and at the same time are combining in their

[Shri Hem Barua]

attempts to prevent further explosions. May I know whether we have joined in that campaign of condemnation or not?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: There is another important thing which I want to read:

"The French have not disclosed the exact size of the device. They only said it was nominal. This usually means the equivalent of about 20,000 tons of TNT, but may easily be two or three times this figure."

We do not even know the magnitude of what has been used. So, we would like that this matter should be discussed, and if necessary, the political side of it also should be considered. Let the Prime Minister move a resolution, and this House and the other House pass a resolution unanimously.

Mr. Speaker: We are not on this adjournment motion concerned with the general question as to what steps we must take to condemn the one-sided action of France in spite of the protests of the United Nations in which we also joined. So far as future explosions are concerned, that is a political matter.

I have looked into every one of these adjournment motions, and all of them relate to a newspaper report appearing in the *Times of India* dated Washington, saying: "Radio-action cloud will be over India soon", "Sahara Blast debris is moving eastwards". The information is got from a staff correspondent from Washington. It may be that this may have very serious and adverse effects. The hon. Prime Minister has already said that Government have asked the persons in charge to detect if any such deleterious effect occurs and that the Government will be constantly watching this matter. The hon. Prime Minister has said that he will report to this House from time to time and if any measures have to be taken, they will certainly take them.

The object of this adjournment motion is small. So far as the other aspects are concerned, they know how to move motions. There are a number of occasions. If they think a resolution ought to be passed condemning it and so on, or taking any other action, they may bring forward a resolution. That does not arise out of any of these four adjournment motions.

I would like to say here that some of the hon. Members laughed over this, I am extremely pained, instead of themselves taking it up. Last year or the year before last there was a virous disease spreading in the country, and it was, to some extent, attributed to the nuclear explosion in the Pacific. The reason for our protest that these explosions should not be carried on is that their effects spread around the whole globe. As a matter of fact, it was said last time some fishermen in Japan were seriously affected. Therefore, this is not a matter which ought to be laughed over. I am really appealing to hon. Members. I was extremely pained to see that instead of themselves bringing it up or taking up this matter with the Government, they were laughing at some other persons who were active and brought it up before the House. I do not know what impression we will create on the rest of the country which we are representing here. I cannot adequately condemn this kind of laughter and derision. It is not an ordinary motion. Even the Prime Minister said that on his own he took up this matter with the authorities and asked Dr. Bhabha to see and watch from time to time. Therefore, if any suchthing occurs, we will be failing in our duty if we do not take any measures—whether they can be taken or not is a different matter. We must take adequate measures.

So far as this adjournment motion is concerned, nothing more need be done. Government is doing everything. Government will keep the House informed. So far as the political aspect of it is concerned, it is left to

the House to take it up, but not on this adjournment motion.

12:23 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORT OF KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): On behalf of Shri Manubhai Shah, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of Section 24 of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956, a copy of the Annual Report of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission for the year 1958-59. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1896/60.]

AMENDMENT TO EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUNDS SCHEME

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abd Ali): I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (2) of Section 7 of the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952, a copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 147 dated the 6th February, 1960 making certain amendment to the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952 [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1897/60].

12:24 hrs.

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS BILL

REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE LAID ON THE TABLE

Shri C. R. Narasimhan (Krishnagiri): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals and for that purpose to amend the law relating to the prevention of cruelty to animals.

12:24½ hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

SUDDEN FLOODING OF COLLIERY AT DAMUA IN MADHYA PRADESH ON THE 5TH JANUARY, 1960

Shri P. G. Deb (Angul): Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Labour and Employment to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Sudden flooding of Colliery at Damua in Madhya Pradesh on the 5th January, 1960."

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri L. N. Mishra): As the honourable members are already aware, the regrettable accident took place in Damua Colliery at 1.30 P.M. on the 5th January, 1960. The mine is owned by M/s Kanhan Valley Coal Company Limited and is situated in District Chhindwara of Madhya Pradesh.

2. The Additional Chief Inspector of Mines has made enquiries. It appears that on the day of the accident, arrangements to set supports at the face of a gallery, adjoining a waterlogged gallery, were being made when the intervening strata between the two galleries collapsed and water from the waterlogged workings rushed in, drowning sixteen persons employed at different places in the dip workings. The management is held responsible for this unfortunate mishap. Appropriate action is being taken.

3. Officers of the Mines Inspectorate arranged with other mine managements for speedy dewatering of the mine and by 9 A.M., of the 17th January 1960, the dead bodies of all the drowned persons were recovered.

4. About 250 persons are employed in the Colliery and the workers have been provided with alternative employment.

5. An ad-hoc relief of Rs. 100 per family to the families of the 16 deceased workers has been paid from the