

quarters very soon. Till such time as they are able to vacate, they will have to pay market rent. If you like I will read out the details, but it will take time.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR: I want to know whether the Minister will fix a time-limit to those officers who are occupying government quarters to vacate those houses within a specified period so that others who are not getting houses may be provided those houses.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Efforts are made to see that they vacate.

श्री ओम प्रकाश त्यागी : अभी मंत्री महोदय ने उन आफिसर्स के बारे में बात करते हुए कहा कि चूँकि उन्हें लोन पे करना है इसलिए उनके केस के ऊपर विचार कर रहे हैं परन्तु ऐसे सैकड़ों कर्मचारी हैं जिनको लोन देना था और आपके आदेश का पालन करते हुए उन्होंने क्वार्टर खाली कर दिया और वे अपने मकान में चले गये, तो ये उनके साथ अन्याय हुआ। क्या मंत्री महोदय उनके केसेज पर भी विचार करेंगे जिनको लोन देना है और जो क्वार्टर खाली करके अपने मकानों में चले गये ?

AN HON. MEMBER: He has no answer.

SHRI SHAMBHU NATH CHATURVEDI: Would it not be proper that those who have their own houses and stay in Government houses are charged at market rent and not on subsidised rate?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Sir, as I said earlier, Government has already given them at a higher rate. I think I would have read this out so that there is....

MR. SPEAKER: Not necessary. Now last supplementary of the day.

SHRI SHIV NARAIN SARSONIA:
rose

MR. SPEAKER: No, please. You are not the only Member but there are others also who want to ask questions.

श्री किशोर लाल : मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो एम० पी० और एक्स० एम० पी० है, जिन्होंने यहां अपने मकान बना रखे हैं क्या आप उन को भी कहेंगे कि वे सरकारी मकानों को छोड़ कर अपने मकानों में चले जायें।

श्री बीजू पटनायक : वे न किराया देते हैं और न छोड़ कर जाते हैं।

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Death of Student climbers

S.N.Q. 10. **SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA:** Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state.

(a) whether a mishap happened on the 16th June near Manali when three students died while climbing Lahaul Spiti mountain.

(b) whether Himachal Pradesh Government did not take any step to save them though the information of mishap was given to them on 17th June, 1977;

(c) whether there was no wireless arrangement with the Mountaineering Association; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to avoid such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

According to the information furnished by the Delhi Mountaineering

Association, it sponsored an expedition in Himachal Himalayas led by Capt. Sudesh Kumar and five other members. This group met with an accident on the 16th June, 1977 at about 2 P.M. while climbing a mountain in the Lahaul and Spiti region. This accident took place at a height of about 17,000 feet. It is reported that two members of the expedition have died as a result of this accident.

According to the information furnished by the Government of Himachal Pradesh the information about the accident and that one member was missing, was received at Keylong, the headquarters of District Lahaul and Spiti, at about 4.30 p.m. on the 17th June. The Government of Himachal Pradesh sent a rescue party to the site of accident on 18th June at 6 a.m. In addition, two medical teams, one each from Keylong and Kulu were sent. Another rescue party was sent by the Indian Mountaineering Institute. Another rescue party, equipped with metal detectors was sent by the State Government which reached the site of accident on 21st June. This party reported that there was heavy deposit of avalanche debris at the accident site and rescue operations were not possible. On the 26th morning a rescue party consisting of members from the Indo-Tibetan Police Force, Indian Mountaineering Institute at Manali and Snow and Avalanche Establishment of the Army left for the accident site on the 26th June and carried out extensive research operations. The body was found on the 28th June and was brought to Delhi by road on the 30th June.

The rescue operations were supervised by the Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police of Lahaul Spiti districts.

The President of the Delhi Mountaineering Association has informed that it is not the practice to provide wireless facilities for small expeditions which have the object of scaling a height of upto 19,000 feet. Necessary precautions are taken by the Delhi Mountaineering Association to ensure that the participants have the necessary experience and are properly equipped but accidents of this nature are part of the hazard of mountaineering.

श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त : अध्यक्ष महोदय जो प्रश्न मैंने पूछा है, यह कोई राजनीतिक सवाल नहीं है, बल्कि एक महत्वपूर्ण सवाल है, परन्तु मझे खेद के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि जो तथ्य मंत्री महोदय ने दिये हैं, वे ठीक नहीं हैं। मैं मंत्री महोदय और केन्द्रीय सरकार को इस बात के लिए बधाई देता हूँ कि उन्होंने व्यक्तिगत रुचि ले कर इस एक्सीडेंट के मामले में बहुत कुछ काम किया है। लेकिन इस दुर्घटना में जो नेग्लिजेंस हुई है, इनहूँ मन ट्रीटमेंट हुआ है—उस की ओर मैं आप का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है—एक्सीडेंट ता० 16 को हुआ, ता० 17 को एक बच्चे ने नीचे ब्रेस में आ कर माउण्टेनियरिंग एसोसियेशन का जो अध्यक्ष है—श्री हरनाम सिंह—उन से कहा कि मझे दिल्ली टेलीफोन करने दें ताकि मैं उन के पॅरेण्ट्स को खबर कर दूँ कि इस तरह का एक्सीडेंट हो गया। हरनाम सिंह ने कहा कि आप की जेब में पैसे हैं? एक्सीडेंट हो गया है, मरने के लिए ऐसे ही आ जाते हैं। इस तरह का इनहूँ मन ट्रीटमेंट उस लड़के के साथ किया गया। वहाँ पर तीन पार्टियाँ भेजी गईं—पहली रेस्क्यू पार्टी जहाँ तक जीव जाती थी, वहाँ तक हो कर वापस आ गई। दूसरी

पार्टी के पास पोर्टर नहीं थे, इसलिए वह पंहुले ही वापस आ गई। तीसरी पार्टी जो भेजी गई उस के पास चार दिन का राशन था, वह भी बेस तक गई और वापस आ गई। नतीजा यह हुआ कि एक्सपेडिशन ता० 16 को हुआ और ता० 28 को बच्चे की लाश मिली। एक दूसरा बच्चा तीन दिन तक तड़पता रहा—मंत्री महोदय इस बात को भी जानते हैं—अगर उस को ठीक समय पर रेस्क्यू पहुंच जाती तो वह बच्चा बचाया जा सकता था।

कल मंत्री महोदय उस बच्चे के घर गये थे—इस के लिए हम उन के बहुत आभारी है। क्या मंत्री महोदय उन तथ्यों को दृष्टि में रख कर, जो मैंने बतलाये हैं, उस बच्चे के घरवालों ने बतलाये हैं, हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार से कहेंगे कि वह इस की जांच कराये ताकि आइन्दा इस तरह का एक्सपेडिशन न हो तथा क्या वे इस प्रकार की कार्यवाही करेंगे कि जो लोग इस तरह के एक्सपेडिशन पर जायें तो उन के बेस के ऊपर रेस्क्यू पार्टी का इन्तजाम हो, वाकी-टाकी या वायरलेस को इन्तजाम हो ?

MR. SPEAKER: You have taken five minutes for a supplementary. This is not a question hour unfortunately. Let the Minister answer this.

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: Sir, the answer submitted was based on the information received from the Himachal Pradesh Government. I personally went to express my condolences to the bereaved family and I have now got their representation duly signed by a senior member of the family. I propose to send this representation to the authorities of the Himachal Pradesh Government for making a suitable enquiry.

श्री कवरलाल गुप्त : मंत्री महोदय ने इस मामले में इतनी रुचि ली, उसके लिए मैं धन्यवाद देता हूँ। मेरा दूसरा सवाल यह है कि क्या मंत्री महोदय इस बात की इक्वायरी करेंगे कि श्री हरनाम सिंह जो किसी मंत्री के सन-इन-ला है, उनका बिहेवियर इस मामले में बहुत गलत रहा है ? तीसरे जो इस प्रकार के एक्सपेडिशन जाते हैं, इनमें इस प्रकार की घटनाएं फिर न हों, और इस तरह से लोगों की मृत्यूएं न हों, जैसा कि आपको मालूम होगा कि 76-77 में 30 व्यक्तियों की मृत्यूएं हुई हैं, इसके लिए एक्सपर्ट्स की कोई कमेटी बिठायेंगे जो ऐसे रास्ते सुझाये जिससे ये घटनाएं फिर न हो सकें ? क्या भविष्य के लिए रेस्क्यू के बारे में भी आप कोई व्यवस्था करेंगे ?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: Sir, as regards this particular gentleman whose name has been mentioned here, I have no personal knowledge but whatever is contained in the complaint I will send to the Himachal Pradesh Government who will make enquiries in the proper manner. As regards the second point, it relates to a question of policy. The Indian Mountaineering Association which takes expeditions of this type informed us that when the expedition is over 20,000 feet then other proper facilities are given. It was not an expedition of that type and, as such, these steps were not taken. But as the accident has happened the matter can be reopened and we might take it up again with the Indian Mountaineering Association.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Sir, I want a categorical answer to my question whether wireless facilities and other arrangements will be made if an expedition is taken up over 15,000 feet?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: I respectfully submit that

this is a complicated process because wireless facilities can be had only with the help of the Army or the Indo-Tibetan Border Police. As I have already assured the House, I shall take up this matter with the Indian Mountaineering Association.

SMT. PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Sir, the Minister has said that he will get in touch with the Himachal Pradesh Government to have the matter enquired into. I want this matter to be taken up seriously and a high-level enquiry instituted into the whole incident. We want to encourage mountaineering and it is already catching on more and more. Sir, normally scaling the high-peaks is finished by the first week of June but in this case it is not so. Secondly, the scaling parties leave before 11.30 hrs. whereas in this case the party left after 13.30 hrs. So, there is gross negligence all along the line. Therefore, Sir, it is not just a question of writing to the Himachal Pradesh Government. Government should immediately set-up a commission to go into this matter so as to create confidence amongst the young boys and girls who are interested in mountaineering that adequate precautions will be taken.

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: When we take up this matter with the Himachal Pradesh Government, we should observe their reaction and if afterwards we find there is necessity for a commission we will think of the same.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Sir, I know that from my State of Gujarat also a good number of young boys and girls of universities and colleges and a few from high-schools go every year for mountaineering, expeditions etc. and, as such, I feel concerned about this incident. In view of this, may I ask the Minister whether he will ask the mountaineering Institute to examine the question not only of the height of scaling but also the hazardous nature

of such expeditions? If you make it 15,000 again something may happen at 12000 ft. The question is not the height but the hazardous nature of these expeditions which might be urgently looked into, so that younger people in future from any State of India may not feel prevented from going because of the negligence or otherwise of such accidents.

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: As I said, all mountaineering is hazardous; whether it is 15000 or 12000 ft. the risk is always there. I have assured this House that I shall take this matter up with the Mountaineering Association because I am not an expert in this.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: This naturally brings us to the question whether there are any rules laid down by the Government governing the expeditions and if there are such rules whether they impose any obligations on the part of the Mountaineering Institute, the State Government concerned and the Central Government.

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: This is a matter which comes under Sports and the Central Government has not laid down any rules in this behalf, as far as I know. As I said, some of the points which have been raised in this House will be taken up with the appropriate authority.

श्री नवाब सिंह चौहान : प्रश्नकर्ता ने कहा है कि जिस व्यक्ति ने बुरा बर्ताव किया वह किसी मंत्री जी का दामाद था। क्या वह हिमाचल सरकार से मालूम करके बताएंगे कि वह कौन साहब है और किस मंत्री के दामाद है ताकि जनता को यह मालूम हो जाए कि कोई चाहे किसी भी बड़े से बड़े आदमी का रिश्तेदार हो किसी भी नागरिक के साथ अभद्र व्यवहार नहीं कर सकता है ?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: I may submit that this question does not concern this Ministry.

SHRI VINODBHAI B. SHETH: Is there any proposal to give compensation to the bereaved family?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: Sir, such a demand has not been made and I personally visited the family and no such claim was made, but still I mentioned when I parted company that they might let me know what I could do in this matter.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Rare MSS in Rajasthan

*304. SHRI CHATURBHUI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether lakhs of rare manuscripts relating to the subject arithmetic, astronomy, ayurved, literature, culture and history are in the personal possession of certain organisations, princes of the former princely States and the citizens in Rajasthan;

(b) whether in the absence of their proper security and care, these rare manuscripts are not being utilized by anybody and sometimes some of them find their way out of the country clandestinely; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) A large number of manuscripts relating to various subjects are in the possession of various organisations in Rajasthan. Certain publications like the *Oriental Studies in India* and the *Directory of Museums*

in India mention number of manuscripts in the possession of various museums and organisations. The number of manuscripts in the personal possession of the former Princes and other citizens are not known though many of them have registered their illustrated, painted or illuminated manuscripts under the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972.

(b) It is true that manuscripts which are in the personal possession of individuals are not being utilized properly. But no case of theft of manuscripts is reported from Rajasthan.

(c) The Government will soon take decision on the question of extension of the scope of registration to include unillustrated manuscripts.

सिंचाई योजनाओं के लिए नर्मदा जल का उपयोग

*309. श्री धर्मसिंह भाई पटेल : क्या कृषि और सिंचाई मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :—

(क) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार ने रामी, करजन, सूखी और हिरन सिंचाई योजनाओं के लिए नर्मदा जल के उपयोग की मंजूरी दे दी है और यदि हां, तो इनमें से प्रत्येक योजना को कब मंजूरी दी गई थी; और

(ख) किन योजनाओं को अब तक मंजूरी नहीं दी गई है और इसके क्या कारण हैं तथा मंजूरी कब दी जायेगी ?

कृषि और सिंचाई मंत्री (श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला) : (क) नर्मदा बेसिन में गुजरात की रामी, सूखी और करजन सिंचाई स्कीमों में योजना आयोग द्वारा क्रमशः मई, 1975, फरवरी, 1977 और मई, 1977 में मंजूरी दी गई थीं ।