

every block. Out of the 18 blocks there were only 17 blocks where rural Hospitals were set up with 25 or 30 beds. Now the Government is not sanctioning any funds even for these 17 hospitals. The local population have contributed up to Rs. 50,000 for each of these hospitals. If these hospitals are not sanctioned, what will be the fate of the rural poor? (*Time bell rings*).

Sir, it is very difficult for me to speak when there is so much of noise. If funds for these hospitals are not sanctioned immediately, they are bound to be closed down. I would like the Home Minister to look into the matter. Why is the Punjab's rural population being deprived of all the welfare schemes? When we were discussing the Punjab Budget, I pointed out that there was absolutely no heading for rural development programmes. Punjab is predominantly a rural State. There is not even a single city comparable to the national city level in Punjab. Why is it that there is no budget for rural development in Punjab. Whatever dispensaries and hospitals were already working, they are being closed down under the President's rule. I want to know whether it will be possible for the Home Minister to assure me that he will at least look into the matter and see that justice is done to the rural population of Punjab. Thank you.

REFERENCE TO THE ALLEGED VIOLENCE INDULGED IN BY THE DEMONSTRATORS IN WEST BEN- GAL IN THE ASSAM BLOCKADE MOVEMENT

SHRI SYED SHAHEDULLAH (West Bengal): Sir, I want to raise a matter of public importance, with regard to the situation arising out of the movement of Assam blockade which has taken a violent turn and the violence has been indulged in by the Congress-(I) demonstrators in West Bengal. Sir, permit me to quote certain facts from the newspaper . . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. G. KULKARNI): You will take more time; but I have got only five minutes for you.

SHRI SYED SHAHEDULLAH: Sir, the "Hindustan Times" yesterday published a news item under the caption 'Congress-I men set fire to a truck'. It continues: "The police said that the truck was completely burnt and the driver sustained severe injuries. The driver told the newsmen that he was proceeding from Patna to Gauhati when the vehicle was intercepted by the volunteers". Similarly, Sir, the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, Mr. S. K. Sinha said that a large number of Congress-I youths came to the city office of the Indian Airlines to *gherao* it with a view to preventing sale of air tickets to Assam. Sir, The Home Minister other day said that so long as the movement was non-violent, they had nothing to do about it. But I said at that time on the 25th that this movement had a potential to become violent any time, and that has happened already. And he has not given his comments on it. And now the position has still worsened, where they are putting vehicles to fire. It is not only to prevent traffic to Bihar and Assam but to the rest of India through Bihar. This truck was carrying things from Bihar to Gauhati.

Sir, the movement has been turned into a violent movement by the Congress-I volunteers. Newspaper reports also say the same thing. It is strange that the volunteers are staying in posh hotels in Siliguri. The *Statesman* has said: "the Chhatra Parishad and Youth Congress leaders who have come to Siliguri from Calcutta to organise the movement are receiving little cooperation from the local youth, they are finding it difficult to maintain the tempo of the movement and to keep it peaceful. About 550 volunteers, nearly all of them from Calcutta, are taking to violence like setting fire to isolated trucks on the national highway. The CPI(M) which has a strong base in Siliguri town and in the adjacent tea gardens has intensified its political

Movement

[Shri Syed Shahedullah]

campaign against the blockade." That is the attitude of the Government:

"साफ छिपते भी नहीं, सामने आते भी नहीं, यह कैसा पर्दा है, चिल्मन से लगे बैठे हैं।" पर नकाब तो उतर गया।

बीबी को कहते हैं "आपका पर्दा कहा गया।"

But they are mistaken if they think that:

मर्दों की अकल पर गिर गया।

That is not the fact. People here in West Bengal and everywhere have understood; whether men or women, all have understood who is behind this game.

उनका खेल क्या है, किस का खेल है ? कौन पार्टी ने खेला है, यह सब को मालूम है।

So, the Government must stop this picnic game, as the *Statesman* put it. It is affecting the life of the people and they must stop this unofficial militia. They have thrown this—the unofficial militia—against the State organs who are in charge of maintaining discipline and to see that the traffic is carried on uninterrupted. They have thrown an unofficial militia against Assam, creating the blockade. They are saying one thing in Assam and doing another thing in West Bengal.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I am glad both of you have given. I gave two. May I speak on the Assam thing?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. G. KULKARNI): You have been allowed to speak on the situation arising out of the blockade movement. If you want to speak on this, you can do so.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The other one also. This is written here 'The tragic death of Shrimati Poor-nima Singh'.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. G. KULKARNI): This is coming up afterwards.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I do not wish to say very much. I will not take even five minutes. This has been mentioned. I have risen only to impress. (*Interruptions*).

श्री शिव चंद्र झा (बिहार)

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, एक ही विषय पर.

(*Interruptions*)

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर (उत्तर

प्रदेश) : श्रीमन्, दो स्पेशल मेशन..

(*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. G. KULKARNI): Mr. Mathur, what do you want to say?

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Special Mentions are to be taken uniformly. While one individual Member is allowed to make two Special Mentions in one day, somebody else is refused.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. G. KULKARNI): This is Chairman's job.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: This is what I am objecting to. I am putting it on record.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I am not speaking because he has spoken.

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, what is happening in West Bengal and Assam are contrary to the interests of national integrity in this country and we all condemn both the actions, in unequivocal terms. Sir, from our party, the State branch, we have served an ultimatum with the Government of India to solve the problem in Assam in a peaceful manner, as quickly as possible, within seven or eight days, or we are going

to launch a movement against the Government of India in West Bengal which will be to expose the ulterior motives of the Government of India in encouraging the movement in Assam on the one hand and on the other, encouraging the Congress (I) demonstrators, the Chhatra Parishad (I) and the Youth Congress (I) to cause an economic blockade. This game was nothing but to create a law and order situation in West Bengal so that they can swoop down on the West Bengal government to have President's Rule in West Bengal and, at the same time, hurt the interests and the sentiments of the Assamese people in Assam by not solving the problem. We will not tolerate this situation and we have served an ultimatum already.

REFERENCE TO THE REPORTED ACUTE SHORTAGE OF RAILWAY WAGONS FOR MOVEMENT OF FERTILISERS

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Railways and the Ministry of Agriculture the serious situation arising out of the non-supply of wagons for movement of fertilisers to various parts of the country. Sir you know very well that the Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Co-operative Society is the biggest co-operative society in Asia, manufacturing NPK and Urea fertilisers. It has two plants situated at Kandla and Kaloj (Gujarat). IFFCO is supplying fertilisers to all the parts of the country by Railways, but there has been persistent shortage of wagons during February and March at both the above places. IFFCO, Kandla Plant has already been shut down due to the storage being full. The position is very unsatisfactory and really desperate. It is causing great concern to the Society and the employees of the factory in general and to the farmers in particular. IFFCO has been approaching the Railway Board, the Ministry of Agricul-

ture and the Western Railway Zonal Office, Bombay, for providing the wagons. But the scarcity of the wagons is continuing. According to the approved programme arrived at with the consent of the Railways, there is acute shortfall in the supply of wagons. Approved programme is not being fulfilled. In order that the IFFCO may continue NPK production at Kandla, Railways have to give one or two rakes each day to clear the old stocks and fresh production. Similarly, IFFCO has not been getting enough wagons at Kaloj. Railway Board should consider the seriousness of the problem and arrange to give one rake each day at Kaloj also to tide over the wagon difficulties. IFFCO is prepared to help the Railways in the movement of coal by placing indents for fertiliser rake to be moved from the factories towards the collieries side. Fertiliser is a priority article and if attention is not given, it would not reach the farmers in time and this will cause great damage to the food production programme which is very much vital and essential to our national economy. Keeping in view all these factors and urgency and priority, will the Railway Ministry and the Agriculture Ministry pay immediate attention to consider the demand of IFFCO and arrange soon proper and regular supply of wagons?

REFERENCE TO NON-COVERAGE BY RADIO, T.V. AND NEWS AGENCIES OF SPEECH MADE IN THE HOUSE REGARDING ELECTORAL REFORMS

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA (Orissa): Such is the dispensation of the press . . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. G. KULKARNI): Mr. Nanda, you have been allowed to make a mention of non-coverage of speech....

SHRI PILOO MODY (Gujarat): That is why he is coming to press.