

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your point of order?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : He has not replied to my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is a different matter.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : But why can't he answer ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. K. C. Panda . . . (*Interruptions*).

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, why can't he answer ? Under what rule is he not answering ? . . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. This is not a debate.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Since the honourable Minister said something now, he should answer my point also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. You have mentioned it and that is enough.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : No, Sir. We want an assurance that it will not be done . . . (*Interruptions*) . . . We want an assurance that it will not be done.

SHRI K. C. PANDA (Orissa) : Sir I want to draw the attention of the House and of the Government through you . . . (*Interruptions*).

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : No Mr. Bhupesh Gupta. Please sit down. I am not calling upon the Minister to answer.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : All right, Sir. I will turn to the subject again.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Panda.

REFERENCE TO FLOOD SITUATION CREATED BY THE OVERFLOWING OF THE HIRAKUD RESERVOIR

SHRI K. C. PANDA (Orissa) : Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House and through you the attention of the Government to a newspaper item which appeared in "The Indian Express" of today . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : Sir, Mr. Shinde is going now. Why should he go away now ? He is running away now taking advantage of the other things here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You do not watch his movements.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, if the Minister does not show respect to the House, we will also not show respect to him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Panda, please continue. I do not want any interruptions.

SHRI K. C. PANDA : Sir, it is very much astonishing that the Hirakud dam is overflowing. A rainfall of 28.34 mm was recorded within fifteen hours at 8-30 A.M. yesterday. Sir, it is inundating the railway tracks and the other surrounding areas. The level of the Hirakud reservoir stood yesterday morning at 168.5 meters. The inflow of water into the reservoir was 6,64,00 cusecs and the outflow was only 3,50,000 cusecs. Sir, such a situation arose in 1960 and now it is worse than that. If the Hirakud dam is overflowing, what will be the condition of the coastal areas ? Now, Sir, when we are discussing these things, the people of Orissa will be screaming for help and for saving their lives which are virtually under water now.

Sir, I want to have a categorical statement from the honourable Minister, because, Sir, Orissa is under the President's Rule now. By this evening at least, before the House adjourns, I want to know what action they are taking to save the people's lives and the crops and to prevent such catastrophes in the future.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, on a point of order. Sir, such questions arose in the other House and the Speaker was kind enough—I do not say

that you should follow the Speaker, but it should be the other way round—to say, after hearing everything, that the honourable Minister concerned should make a statement. If you think that what I have said—I am leaving out the other matters—about West Bengal is serious enough, you should ask him to make a statement. The honourable Minister is here. I know you cannot compel him and I agree with you on that. But you can ask him to make a statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not asking him.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : But you can express your desire.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You see, you have made a statement. That is enough.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : But that should be clarified.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not preventing the Minister.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You are not preventing. I did not say that you are preventing him. But you can ask him to make a statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not calling upon the Minister to make a statement.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You are not calling upon the Minister. All right. But why is he not getting up? That is what I am asking. You have not prevented him. But why he is also not getting up?

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. Please sit down.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : Sir, I would say only this much. We have taken note of what the honourable Member has told and we will get in touch with the West Bengal Government to find out what their difficulties are, because their difficulties are our difficulties and we are constantly

in touch with them. And, Sir, we will be very sympathetic and we would consider them.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa) : Sir, it is not West Bengal alone. Orissa is also there. Since he is making a statement...

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is answering Mr. Bhupesh Gupta's point.

SHRI LOKNATH MISRA : Since he is making a statement, he should also say something about Orissa. Now, Sir, many areas in Orissa are marooned and floods have affected Orissa very badly and now Orissa is under the President's Rule...

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Sir, I will sit down if you ask me to.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But I have not asked you.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Sir, three districts of Orissa would be completely wiped out and swept away by the floods and the Hirakud dam is also overflowing. The inflow into the reservoir is about 6 lakh cusecs, but the outflow is only about 3,30,000 cusecs or so. Supposing, in that case there appeared to be some danger to Hirakud Dam, should he not have looked into this? What is he doing regarding distribution of food in the area?

श्रीमती सविता बहिन (दिल्ली) : सभापति महोदय, मैं सुपर बाजार के बारे में कुछ कहना चाहती हूँ।

श्री सभापति : नहीं, बिना इजाजत नहीं।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर (राजस्थान) : पहले कीमतें कम करवाइये, फिर बोलिये।

श्रीमती सविता बहिन : अगर बहुत कीमत कम कर दीं तो सारा माल आप के ट्रेडर्स खरीद लेंगे। और फिर ज्यादा महंगा कर के बेचेंगे।