

[Shrimati Sushila Rohatgi]

Auditor General of India on the Appropriation Accounts (Defence Services) of the Union Government for the year 1970-71.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-3199/72 for (i) and (ii)].

MR. CHAIRMAN : Calling Attention.

RE INTIMATION OF THE ARREST OF SHRI SITARAM SINGH

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सभापति महोदय, मुझे आपसे यह निवेदन करना है...

श्री सभापति : कालिंग अटेंशन के बाद जो कुछ आपको कहना है कहिये ।

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : इसके पहले एक मिनट जरा सुन लीजिये । श्रीमन्, कल इस सदन के सदस्य श्री सीताराम सिंह को पुलिस ने 12 बजे गिरफ्तार किया और 12 बजे गिरफ्तार करने के बाद भी आपको कोई सूचना पुलिस ने नहीं दी । कल पांच बजे तक यह सदन चलता रहा ।

श्री सभापति : अब सूचना आ गई है ।

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : आ गई होगी मगर मैं श्रीमान का ध्यान दिलाता हूं और पूरे सदन का ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित करता हूं कि क्या इस तरह से मामला होगा कि दिल्ली में गिरफ्तारी होती है, 12 बजे गिरफ्तारी होती है और पांच बजे शाम तक श्रीमान को उसकी कोई सूचना नहीं दी जाती ? इस तरह की नेगलीजेंस और लापरवाही अधिकारी अगर बरतेंगे और सदस्यों को सदन के काम में हिस्सा लेने से रोकेंगे तो इस सदन की मर्यादा समाप्त होती है ।

श्री सभापति : मैंने सुन लिया । I want to inform the House that telephonic communication was received by the Office but we do not act on telephonic communications merely. We asked for something in writing and when the letter came the House had arisen. That is the position. They did inform us by telephone that this incident had occurred.

SHRI S. D. MISRA (Uttar Pradesh) : Why could not they inform you in writing ? Is it very difficult ? Is it not their duty ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : They informed us in writing.

SHRI S. D. MISRA : That was subsequently. I am asking why they could not inform you in writing straightway.

MR. CHAIRMAN : They thought it fit to inform us by telephone immediately. We said we want it in writing.

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : सभापति महोदय, सदन की मर्यादा आपके हाथ में है । दिल्ली में तो एक घंटे में, दो घंटे में भेज सकते हैं ।

श्री सभापति : आपकी बात मैंने सुन ली ।

SHRI T. N. SINGH (Uttar Pradesh) : The only thing is in Delhi there is no place from where a man cannot send a communication in one or one and a half hours. There was enough time for him to send that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right ; thank you.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa) : The particular officer should be pulled up for his negligence ; or else there would not be any discipline and there would not be any meaning in sending intimation. Probably all the officers all over the country are informed...

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will look into the matter in detail.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : *Prima facie* he was arrested at 12 o'clock yesterday and today we have been intimated. So *prima facie* it looks as if there has been some negligence somewhere.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will look into it.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : And you kindly intimate to the House about the action you have taken about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can come to me in my Chamber and I will talk to you. Do not take the time of the House on this.

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : श्रीमन्, मैं नियम 188 के अन्तर्गत इसका नोटिस देता हूं ।

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

**DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF
THE COUNTRY**

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव (बिहार) : श्रीमन्, मैं वर्षा न होने के कारण देश के अनेक भागों में सूखा की स्थिति और प्रभावित व्यक्तियों की कठिनाई दूर करने के लिये सरकार जो कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है, उनकी ओर कृषि मन्त्री का ध्यान दिवाना चाहता हूँ ।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Hon'ble Members will recall that we had occasion to discuss the drought situation in certain parts of the country during the previous Session. At that time, the anxiety was mainly due to inadequacy of pre-monsoon rains as a result of which summer crops suffered. Since then, the monsoon, although delayed, broke out in the second half of June over different parts of the country and continued till the first half of July. Unfortunately, however, we have been overtaken by a dry spell in large parts of the country since the first half of July. As a result, sowings of early paddy and the main kharif crops have been affected. Reports of drought conditions during the current year have been received from the States of Bihar, Gujarat, Kerala, Manipur, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Besides these States, drought conditions are continuing from the last year in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Mysore.

2. The concerned State Governments have undertaken the necessary relief measures wherever found necessary. These measures include :—

(i) opening of relief works, to provide employment opportunities to the affected population and to provide them with purchasing power, *e. g.* digging and deepening of wells, tanks, construction of village roads, etc.

(ii) distribution of taccavi loans ;

(iii) arrangements for drinking water supply ;

(iv) distribution of gratuitous relief

to children, nursing mothers and the old and infirm ; and

(v) strengthening of the public distribution system of foodgrains ; etc.

3. In accordance with the prescribed procedure for Central assistance, Central teams have visited the States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal during the current year, and a team is visiting Tripura currently. A request for a Central team has also been received from Bihar recently. *Ad-hoc* loan assistance to the concerned State Governments, wherever necessary, has also been provided.

4. The prospects of kharif crops in un-irrigated areas would depend largely on the behaviour of the monsoon during the next few weeks.

5. An emergency food production programme for implementation by the Central and State Governments to save the existing kharif crops to the maximum extent possible, is being formulated and being taken up. This includes :

(i) putting all existing minor, medium and major irrigation works throughout the country into proper shape to operate round-the-clock ;

(ii) supply of pumping sets for utilizing surface irrigation, wherever available, to the maximum extent ;

(iii) preferential supply of electricity for agricultural purposes ;

(iv) completion of all incomplete minor irrigation works on a priority basis ;

(v) arrangements for immediate supply of fertilizers and pesticides for top dressing if it rains within the next 2 or 3 weeks ; and

(vi) formulation of a massive programme for rabi and summer production to meet the shortfall in the kharif crops.

6. The stock position of foodgrains both with the Central and the State Governments continues to be comfortable and all the reasonable demands of the State Governments for their public distribution system are being fully met. At present, over 1,25,000 fair price shops are functioning throughout the country and the State Governments and Union Territories have been advised to strengthen the public distribution system in their States.