

with which the Lok Sabha made this amendment and we in this House are agreeing to this clause would be defeated.

Madam, another aspect I would like to stress is that we should resort to the provisions of this legislation as little as possible. This legislation is not intended to be resorted to in a routine manner; just because there is this legislation on the statute book efforts at the political and administrative level to resolve the inter-State water disputes should not be weakened in any manner and I for one feel that inter-State water disputes in this country should be resolved and ought to be resolved only and solely at the political level. It may be that in particular cases, as the hon. Minister himself has said, there may be failure, there may be an impossible situation, and in cases of that character it may be that we have to resort to the provisions of this Bill. Doubts have been expressed by the hon. Member who moved that amendment and by the hon. Member who just spoke before me as to why Judges should be appointed. In the situation in which this country finds itself today I have absolutely no doubt in commending to this House that any serious problem or dispute could be resolved apparently only by the Judges of this country because everywhere we are imputing motives and we are finding doubts. If justice has got not only to be done but appear to be done, I have no doubt that the Judges of this country who are invested with powers of various and varied nature under articles 226 and 227 of the Constitution and article 32 of the Constitution so far as Supreme Court Judges are concerned, would be competent enough to resolve these inter-State water disputes which could not be resolved earlier by any other method. In this regard I am happy over the fact that Lok Sabha has suggested that it should be serving Judges and I am also happy over the fact that the hon. Minister has indicated that even distinguished lawyers could not be preferred to serving Judges in the implementation of this Bill. Therefore I submit that care is necessary in the appointment of Judges and care is necessary, a certain discernment is necessary, in the matter of referring matters of dispute to the tribunals.

SHRI U. N. MAHIDA : Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You have spoken on the consideration motion; you have spoken on the amendment and still you want to speak now?

SHRI U. N. MAHIDA : This is an important Bill. Just one clarification I want. The hon. Minister wants this Bill to solve disputes. Now these disputes involve questions of servitude. I am only asking a single question and that may be answered by the hon. Minister. Will this tribunal be able to solve or impose questions of servitude? This is a very simple question.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It is a very hypothetical question.

DR. K. L. RAO : Madam Deputy Chairman, I am thankful to the House for supporting and passing this Bill. I agree with the hon. Mr. Chandrasekharan and my earnest wish is—and I am sure it is also the wish of the House—that this Inter-State Water Disputes Bill should be used as little as possible and that we shall be able to solve our problems with amity, with give and take and with accommodation.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The question is—

"That the Bill be passed." The

motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned till 2.00 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at eight minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at two of the clock, THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) in the Chair.

**RESOLUTION RE CONTINUANCE
OF PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION IN
RELATION TO THE STATE OF WEST
BENGAL**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : Mr. Mice-Chairman, I beg to move the following Resolution

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation issued by the President on the 20th February, 1968, under article 356 of the Constitution, in relation to the State of West Bengal, for a further period of six months with effect from the 22nd September, 1968."

[Shri Vidya Charan Shukla]

The hon. House knows under what circumstances this Proclamation by the President came to be issued. A consultative Committee of both Houses of Parliament was formed to enact necessary legislation in the State of West Bengal and also to give opportunities to the elected representatives of the people to discuss such other matters as the Chairman of the Committee might allow. As I said earlier, while moving my motion, this Proclamation will expire, unless it is again extended by this House before the 21st September. Briefly, the reason for extending it is that the Election Commission, after consulting the various political parties in the State of West Bengal, came to the conclusion that the earliest the elections could be held in the State would be in November. Because the elections could not be held before the expiry of the present Proclamation, we have to come before this hon. House and seek its approval for its extension.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal):
Say something on the situation there.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : While we are managing the affairs of West Bengal, it is not merely as a caretaker Government that we want to carry on there. We have some positive programmes for improvement in the administration there. Also, we wanted to start a corrective course on various problems besetting Bengal for sometime. The Consultative Committee of Parliament has already held two meetings and in these two meetings very useful discussions have taken place on non-legislative business. I think there were four Bills which were approved by this Committee and several non-legislative items were taken up like arrangements regarding mid-term poll, food situation, law and order problems, detention under the Preventive Detention Act, labour and unemployment problems and the problems of the West Bengal Government servants.

After the imposition of President's Rule, we paid our most urgent attention to the food problem of West Bengal, which has been chronically deficit so far. Now, there has been considerable improvement in the food situation. Since the President's Rule was imposed in the State of West Bengal, there was intensification of internal procurement and this led to a procurement of 103,000 tonnes of foodgrains between February and July this year. This compares very favourably with the

corresponding figure for the previous kharif season under the United Front Government, which was only 62.2 thousand tonnes. With the increased procurement and availability resulting therefrom, we also increased the population which was covered under rationing. Before the imposition of President's Rule, statutory rationing covered 86 lakh people and modified rationing covered 1.32 lakh people. After the imposition of President's Rule, we stepped up the public distribution system and introduced modified rationing covering 236 lakhs by the end of June, 1968. We have ensured that a proper supply of foodgrains is maintained throughout West Bengal. This has been done to ensure that there is no trouble as far as the availability of foodgrains is concerned to the population. From the long-term point of view, we have also embarked upon a crash programme of self-sufficiency in food in West Bengal, within two years. Our aim is that we should increase the production of cereals from 5 million tonnes to 7 million tonnes. So far the indications are that the programme is going on very well and we hope, given good rainfall and all the normal conditions, we will be able to achieve self-sufficiency in foodgrain production.

As far as law and order is concerned, there has been considerable improvement and on the labour front also everything seems to be going on normally and quietly. When I am saying all this, I am not pleading for the continuance of President's Rule in West Bengal, nor am I justifying the imposition of President's Rule in West Bengal. We would have very much liked all these things to be done by a popularly elected Government there. We would like a popularly elected Government to be installed in West Bengal as quickly as possible. We hope that by the time elections are held in November, conditions would have stabilised in a proper way and that we shall be able to hold the elections in an atmosphere of calm and quiet, so that the people could express their wish and will in a proper manner. We hope we could again instal a popular Government in West Bengal.

With these words, I commend this Resolution for the acceptance of the House.

The question was proposed.

श्री बालकृष्ण गुप्त (बिहार) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने छः महीने तो बिना चुनाव की कोई तैयारी किये ही बिता दिये

और कांग्रेस सरकार अब फिर छः महीने के लिये प्रेसिडेंट रूल की अवधि बढ़ाने की मांग कर रही है। जब विधान में यह लिखा है कि छः महीने के भीतर-भीतर चुनाव होना चाहिए और प्रेसिडेंट रूल की समाप्ति होनी चाहिए तो इस तरह की अनियमितताएं कांग्रेस को जिताने के लिए कौन-सा मौका अच्छा हाथ आए उसी के लिए की जा रही है ताकि बंगाल में जो संयुक्त विधायक दल की सरकार बनी थी वह फिर ताकत में न आ सके। हिन्दुस्तान के, कलकत्ते के धनपति, करोड़पति बंगाल में संयुक्त विधायक दल का वामपन्थी राज नहीं चाहते। इसलिए यह सब साजिश रखी जा रही है और एक बिल की तरह से हमको कहा जा रहा है कि हम इस अन्यायपूर्ण कदम को मंजूर करके उन्हें पूर्ण इजाजत दें कि वे अगली 22 फरवरी तक, जब मन में आए, कांग्रेस के लिए सुविधाजनक हो उस वक्त चुनाव कराएं और कांग्रेस को फिर गद्दीनशीन करें। इस तरह की चीजें विधान को तोड़ने वाली कांग्रेस सरकार करती आ रही है। उन्होंने कहा, हम बंगाल में खाद्य पदार्थों में आत्मनिर्भर बनने की चेष्टा कर रहे हैं। यह तो हम बीस वर्षों से कांग्रेस के महामंत्रों को सुनते आ रहे हैं कि हम हिन्दुस्तान को सब चीजों में आत्मनिर्भर बनाने की चेष्टा कर रहे हैं। लेकिन इस प्रेसिडेन्शियल रूल के अंदर बंगाल को आत्मनिर्भर बनाने का हमको कोई तरीका नजर नहीं आता। वहां चावल अब भी ढाई रुपये किलो मिल रहा है, ब्लैक मार्केट में गेहूं दो सवा दो रु० किलो मिल रहा है और यह आत्मनिर्भरता का उपदेश इस संसद में दिया जाता है जब कि आप बंगाल के लोगों को खिलाने के लिये तैयार नहीं हैं। जहां कांग्रेस का बहुमत हो वहां इस तरह की गलत बातें बयान की जाती हैं। बंगाल की 4 करोड़ की आबादी है, उसमें पहले एक दफा दामोदर वैली की कुछ नहरें बनी थीं उसके बाद आज तक कोई सिंचाई के लिये, बिजली के लिये, गल्ले के लिये, कोई योजना

नहीं हुई। वहां अब तक, सिवाय बारह महीने के करीब, हमेशा कांग्रेस का राज रहा है और बंगाल की दशा उन बीस वर्षों में बराबर बिगड़ती जा रही है। इस तरह की बातें करना और इस तरह किमानों से बातें करना और आत्मनिर्भरता का उपदेश देना यह तो आत्मनिर्भरता का किस्सा हम लोग बहुत सुन चुके हैं, इंडस्ट्रियल टेकआफ और इंडस्ट्रियल सेल्फ सफिशियन्सी की बातें सुन चुके हैं। आज इस प्रेसिडेन्शियल रूल में बंगाल में करीब 2,000 कारखाने बंद पड़े हैं, मजदूर सड़कों में बिलबिलाते घूम रहे हैं। प्रेसिडेन्शियल रूल से शायद धनपतियों को जो पहले परेशानी हो रही थी, जो परेशानी चू रही थी, वह शायद कम हुई हो, लेकिन बाकी बंगाल की जनता इस प्रेसिडेन्शियल रूल में, गवर्नर रूल में, उसी तरह परेशान है जिस तरह कांग्रेस राज में थी। नक्षलवाड़ी के बहुत गीत गाये गये लेकिन हमारे पी० एस० पी० पार्टी के एक सज्जन सम्पथ राय थे, उन पर मर्डर का केस चलाया जा रहा है क्योंकि उसने चीनी कम्युनिस्टों का जो गिरोह था उसका मुकाबला किया और उस मुकाबले में कुछ आदमी मारे भी गये होंगे लेकिन आज सरकार जिन्होंने नक्षलवाड़ी के खिलाफ लड़ाई लड़ी उन्हीं को सता रही है। और फिर इस तरह की बातें यहाँ कही जाती हैं कि जल्दी से जल्दी चुनाव करेंगे और अब छः महीने की अवधि बांधी जा रही है। संविधान के अंदर छः महीने का ही टाइम रखा गया था, जिस संविधान को हिन्दुस्तान के सबसे बड़े वकील और नेताओं ने बैठकर बनाया था, लेकिन यह कांग्रेस वाले हर दफा अपनी सुविधा के अनुसार उस संविधान को भंग करते हैं और उस संविधान को भंग करके कानूनी रूप देने के लिये सदन में इस तरह का बिल पेश करते रहते हैं। यह कितनी शरम की बात है, कितनी बुरी बात है। क्या छः महीने में चुनावों का इंतजाम हो सकता है, इससे पहले नहीं हो सकता था। लेकिन यह तो मौका देख रहे हैं कि इन छः महीनों

[श्री बालकृष्ण गुप्त]

में चूँकि कांग्रेस की जीत नहीं होने वाली थी इसलिए उन्होंने अवधि बढ़वा ली है। वह मौके की तलाश में थे। अभी मिदनापुर में बाढ़ आई हुई है, कुछ रुपया, कुछ पैसा बांटेंगे, कुछ चीज करेंगे, कुछ लोगों को खरीदेंगे, कुछ धनपतियों से रुपया वसूल करेंगे और फिर चुनाव के मैदान में अतुल्य घोष के मोहरों को लेकर, अपनी सुविधा को समझकर मैदान में कूद पड़ेंगे। यह सब कैबिनेट, प्रधान मंत्री से होम मिनिस्टर, सब एक चट्टेवट्टे हैं। यह इस तरह से हिन्दुस्तान में जनतंत्र को तबाह कर रहे हैं, जहाँ इनके विरुद्ध सरकार बनी, उसको वह जनतंत्रीय नहीं माने। वह कहते हैं जो कांग्रेस की सरकार है वही जनतंत्र की रक्षक है। इस तरह की कार्यवाही करने से कब तक यह काम चलेगा। दुनिया में दूसरी पार्टियों का राज होता है, फौरन जाकर लोग अपने घर बैठे जाते हैं, जोनसन साहब बैठ गये, ट्रूमेन साहब बैठ गये, उनकी एक एक कालावधि थी, उन्होंने चुनाव भी लड़ा। हम नहीं कहते कांग्रेस को चुनाव लड़ने का हक नहीं है लेकिन जब प्रेसिडेन्शियल रूल के अंदर सारी सुविधाएं उसे मोहैया कर दी जाती हैं और अपने अनुकूल परिस्थिति पैदा की जाती है, जैसे वामपंथी सरकार को किस तरीके से गवर्नर के जरिये डिसमिस किया गया, किस तरह से नष्ट किया गया, किस तरह से स्पीकर को भी खत्म कर दिया गया, यह सब चीजें बड़ी शरम की चीजें हैं और अब जब मौका आता है, चुनाव 22 सितम्बर से पहले होने वाले थे, गवर्नर साहब छः महीने तक बंगाल को खाद्य पदार्थों में आत्मनिर्भर बनाने की बात करते हैं, उन्होंने ही चुनावों का प्रबन्ध किया और कहा कि इस अवधि के भीतर ही चुनाव कराया जाय लेकिन अब यह मौका ढूँढा जा रहा है। कभी 3 नवम्बर की तारीख दी जाती है, कभी 10 नवम्बर की तारीख दी जाती है और कभी फरवरी का नाम लिया जाता है।

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल : मैं माननीय सदस्य को याद दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि यदि वे अपने नेताओं से पूछें तो वह बतायेंगे कि उनकी पार्टी के नेता स्वयं इस बात के लिये राजी हुए हैं कि छः महीने के अंदर चुनाव नहीं हो सकता, नवम्बर में चुनाव नहीं होना चाहिये। आप स्वयं अपनी पार्टी के नेताओं के कथन का खंडन क्यों कर रहे हैं?

श्री अर्जुन अरोड़ा (उत्तर प्रदेश) : यह अपनी पार्टी के नेताओं से बगावत कर रहे हैं।

श्री बालकृष्ण गुप्त : हम अपने नेताओं के खिलाफ बगावत नहीं करते। मंत्री महोदय संविधान के खिलाफ बगावत कर रहे हैं जिसमें छः महीने का विधान है।

श्री नेकी राम (हरियाणा) : आपको अपने को मुबारकवाद देना चाहिये।

श्री बालकृष्ण गुप्त : हम कांग्रेस को मुबारकवाद दे रहे हैं। हम अपने को जीवन में कभी मुबारकवाद नहीं देंगे। यह जो बंगाल को आत्मनिर्भर बनाने की बड़ी बात की जा रही है, हम तो बड़े खुश होंगे बंगाल आत्मनिर्भर हो, खाद्य में आत्मनिर्भर हो। लेकिन बंगाल में तो हिन्दुस्तान में दूसरी जगहों की वनिस्वत सब खाद्य पदार्थों का दाम दूना रहा है। बिहार, जिस सूबे से मैं आया हूँ, बराबर वहाँ से तस्करी से खाद्य पदार्थ बंगाल जाता रहा है, आसाम से भी जाता रहा है, पाकिस्तान से भी कभी कभी खाद्य पदार्थ वहाँ आता है। बंगाल के अंदर खेती के लिये जमीन इतनी पर्याप्त भी नहीं है और जो है उसमें भी दो तीन फसलें नहीं होती और अभी तक सरकार ने बंगाल में खेती की तरफ विशेष ध्यान नहीं दिया। वह दुर्गापुर बना कर बड़ी शान से दम भरते रहे, अब वह दुर्गापुर का कारखाना भी ठप्प हो रहा है, उसमें जितना घाटा है सरकारी स्टील कारखाने में उतना हिन्दुस्तान के किसी कारखाने में घाटा नहीं है, उसमें जो कोयले से कोक बनाने की भट्टी थी वह छः वर्ष के अंदर जलकर राख हो गई है और दूसरी भट्टी बनाने की योजना हो

रही है। दूसरे कारखानों की भट्टियां बीस बीस, तीस तीस, चालीस चालीस वर्ष तक चलती हैं। यह कारखाना जो अंग्रेजों के सहयोग से चलाया गया, इसकी भट्टी पांच छः वर्षों में खत्म हो गई है। यह बंगाल का हाल है। बंगाल में इस वक्त बेकारी, भूखमरी, अशिक्षितों की बेकारी, मजदूरों की बेकारी भयंकर रूप से फैली हुई है और सरकार ने उस बेकारी को मिटाने के लिये कोई काम नहीं किया। दो आदमियों के लिये नौकरी का विज्ञापन छपता है और बीस हजार तीस हजार आदमी एप्लाई करते हैं। मैंने अपनी आंखों से उनको लाइन में खड़े होते देखा है। यह तो बंगाल का हाल है जहां पर गवर्नर के शासन की इतनी प्रशंसा की जाती है कि गवर्नर शासन ने घबड़ाहट कम कर दिया, जनता की हालत ठीक कर दी। लेकिन मंत्री महोदय और उनके साथी जो मुबारकबाद की बात करते हैं वे जरा बंगाल में जाकर देखें कि वहां की क्या हालत है, कैसे वह गुजर रहा है। यह जो उम्मीदें लगाये बैठे हैं कि हम चुनाव करा के कांग्रेस को जिता लेंगे तो उनकी उम्मीदों पर पानी फिरने वाला है, इसको कोई रोक नहीं सकता, चाहे कम्युनिस्टों को कितना बदनाम किया जाय, उन पर इलजाम लगाये जाय, क्योंकि उस सरकार ने भ्रष्टाचार को कुछ खत्म किया था और यह कांग्रेस की सरकार है जिसने भ्रष्टाचार को बंगाल में इतना बढ़ावा दिया था कि अभी तक बंगाल के लोग उस भ्रष्टाचार के खून से सने हुए हैं, उसके शिकार हुए हैं। बंगाल में स्कूलों की हालत खराब है, कालेजों की, कारखानों की, सड़कों की हालत खराब है। बंगाल का जैसा कुप्रबन्ध कांग्रेस ने 20 सालों में किया है कि वहां कोई डाक हाऊस, सर्कुट हाऊस नहीं बनाया गया, वहां सड़कें नहीं बनाई गईं। कलकत्ता शहर की ऊंची ऊंची इमारतों के नीचे स्लम्स में बंगाल की जनता की दुर्दशा की है। बंगाल की बस्तियों में एक सज्जन कैन्ट्रेसवा अमेरिका से आए थे, उनको हावड़ा की बस्तियों को

दिखाने के लिये ले गये, वह देखकर चकित हो गए। कहने लगे यहां आदमी रहते हैं, हमारे यहां तो पशु भी नहीं रह सकते हैं। स्लम क्लियरेन्स की तमाम बातें होती हैं, लेकिन आखिर में यही होता है कि उनकी तादाद और उनमें रहने वालों की तादाद बढ़ती ही जाती है। बीस वर्ष के कांग्रेस शासन में बंगाल की जो दुर्दशा हुई है वह दुर्दशा जब तक कांग्रेस बिल्कुल समाप्त न हो जाय और कोई संविद सरकार नहीं बने, तब तक नहीं सुधरेगी। दूसरे तरीके से नहीं चलेगा क्यों कि कांग्रेस ने...

श्री अर्जुन अरोड़ा : दूसरा कौन तरीका है ?

श्री बालकृष्ण गुप्त : आप तो खुद ही सारे दिन उस तरीके को बखान करते रहते हैं, खुद अपने कांग्रेसी मंत्रियों को क्रिटिसाइज करते हैं।

श्री राजनारायण : वे तो पार्लियामेंटरी सेक्रेटरी बनने की कोशिश करते हैं।

श्री बालकृष्ण गुप्त : वे तो डिप्टी मिनिस्टर बनना चाहते हैं।

श्री अर्जुन अरोड़ा : राजनारायण जी से सौदा हो रहा है।

श्री बालकृष्ण गुप्त : जिस तरह से पहले के चुनाव में कांग्रेस को हार का मुंह देखना पड़ा, उसी तरह से अब के भी जो मध्यावधि चुनाव हो रहे हैं उसमें भी उसको हार का मुंह देखना पड़ेगा और उनकी बहुत बड़ी निराशा होगी।

श्री ओम् भेहता (जम्मू और कश्मीर) : आपके लिए तो अच्छा है।

श्री बालकृष्ण गुप्त : एस० एस० पी० तो 14 आदमी वहां पर खड़ा करेगी और जिसमें से 8 या 10 जीतेंगे। एस० एस० पी० वहां पर कोई बड़ी पार्टी नहीं है और न अभी तक बन सकी है। (Interruptions.) आप बंगाल जाइये और वहां पर कोशिश कीजिये

[श्री बालकृष्ण गुप्त]

कांग्रेस पार्टी को जिताने की। आप के इस काम से करोड़पति और लखपति खुश होंगे। हमारी पार्टी में तो करोड़पति और लखपति नहीं है। यह बंगाल का मसला है और कांग्रेस इस मसले में 20 साल से उलझी हुई है और अभी तक वह ठीक नहीं कर सकी है। आप जिस गद्दी पर पहले बैठे हुए थे उस पर फिर कब्जा करना चाहते हो। यही एक तरीका है जिसके द्वारा तुम वहाँ पर फिर गद्दी पर बैठ सकते हो। लेकिन कांग्रेस ने इन 20 सालों में वहाँ की खाद्य पदार्थ की समस्या सुलझाई, न महंगाई की समस्या सुलझाई, न इन्डस्ट्री की समस्या सुलझाई और न ही स्लम क्लियरेंस की समस्या सुलझाई। कलकत्ते में एक पुल बनने वाला था मगर 10 वर्ष गुजर गये हैं अभी तक वह पुल नहीं बन सका है। इस तरह से कांग्रेस वहाँ पर फिर से शासन चलाना चाहती है। यह हमेशा 6 महीने और 12 महीने की अवधि मांगती रहती है। उसने पहले पांच साल के चुनाव में अवधि मांगी थी। कांग्रेस वाले कहते हैं कि "रोम तो एक दिन में नहीं बना था", लेकिन मैं उनसे यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आपने इस 20 साल की अवधि में रोम का एक बटा चौथाई हिस्सा या एक बटा दसवां हिस्सा भी नहीं बनवाया। आपने तो वहाँ पर सब कुछ बरबाद और खत्म करके रख दिया है।

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa) : Rome was not built in a day. But Congressmen made fortunes in it.

श्री बालकृष्ण गुप्त : आप यह बात ठीक कहते हैं। कांग्रेस वालों को जरूर वहाँ पर हिस्सा मिला है। आप अतुल्य घोष जी को देखिये, उनके शरीर को देखिये, उनके चेहरे को देखिये और दूसरी ओर बंगाल के जो गरीब लोग हैं उनके शरीर और चेहरे को देखिये।

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल : राजनारायण जी भी तो मोटे हैं।

श्री बालकृष्ण गुप्त : जब से राजनारायण जी पार्लियामेंट में आये हैं, तब से वे दुबले हो गये हैं।

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल : दूसरी तरफ अकबर अली खान साहब को देखिये, वे कितने दुबले हैं।

श्री राजनारायण : हमारे बाप दादाओं ने गरीब लोगों का शोषण किया था, वह थोड़ा-सा खून है और उसको हम निकाल रहे हैं।

श्री बालकृष्ण गुप्त : वे पतले तो हो गये हैं। कांग्रेस के राज्य में वे मोटे नहीं हुए थे। कांग्रेस वाले तो 20 साल के स्वराज्य में काफी मोटे हो गये हैं और गरीब लोगों का शोषण करके वे मोटे हुए हैं।

इसलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि बंगाल के कई प्राब्लम्स हैं जो अभी तक नहीं सुलझे हैं और न ही सुलझने वाले हैं। फरक्का बांध के लिए बंगाल वालों ने बड़ी बड़ी आशाएं लगा रखी हैं, लेकिन उसमें पाकिस्तान और रूस का झन्डा बीच में गाड़ दिया गया है। यह फरक्का बांध का काम जल्दी खत्म होने वाला नहीं है और न इससे कोई सिंचाई ही होने वाली है क्योंकि सिंचाई की उसके द्वारा कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है। सिर्फ जो खारा पानी कलकत्ते के लोगों को पीने के लिए मिलता है उसको ठीक करने की इसमें व्यवस्था है और चेष्टा मात्र है। लेकिन कांग्रेस की सरकार जिस गति से इस काम को कर रही है उस गति से यह जल्दी समाप्त होने वाला भी नहीं है।

श्री नेकी राम : क्या इसमें भी कांग्रेस का कसूर है।

(Time bell rings.)

श्री बालकृष्ण गुप्त : बंगाल की दुर्दशा के बारे में बहुत सी बातें कहनी थीं मगर उप-समाध्यक्ष कह रहे हैं कि मैं बैठ जाऊँ, इस-लिए मैं ब समाप्त करता हूँ।

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, on the eve of the last General Election the people of West Bengal were feeling suffocated because of the oligarchic rule of Mr. Atulya Ghosh and party. The Congress which was ruling the State did not believe in popular measures; the only people they knew in that State were the big money bags. Mr. Atulya Ghosh is supposed to be one of the most successful cashiers or what they call Treasurers, of the Congress.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : No, no. He was not very successful. That is why he has been replaced by Mr. S. K. Patil.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : No, no. There is a tendency in the Congress Party to decry the outgoing man whosoever he is.

श्री राजनारायण : पहले नेहरू को किया और अब इन्दिरा जी की बारी आ रही है ।

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : They can decry even their father. (Interruptions) Now, the point is that he was such a successful man that I have seen many of the eminent Congressmen running after him for funds, and he was very capable of pick-pocketing.

श्री नेकी राम : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अपने साथी की बात को मानता हूँ, लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि वे भी तो दूसरे पार्टी के खजांची हैं ।

श्री लोकनाथ मिश्र : मैं किसी का खजांची नहीं हूँ, मैं अपना खजांची हूँ ।

श्री राजनारायण : वे तो पागल हैं, उनको छोड़ दीजिये ।

श्री लोकनाथ मिश्र : पागल के लिए यहाँ जगह नहीं है। अगर कोई पागल है तो उसके पागलपन को छड़ाना चाहिये ।
Lest he be dismembered from the Membership of this House.

Now, coming back to the tonic itself, Sir, Mr. Atulya Ghosh was an adept in pick-pocketing big business. Therefore, the people of West Bengal were feeling suffocated and

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frustration, they voted for the Communists, it is not that anybody in West Bengal had and sympathy or attachment for the Communist Party, for Mr. Bhupesh Gupta or for his party. But out of sheer frustration and as they did not have anything better to vote for ...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : All Bengalee sympathies, I believe, flowed into Orissa.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : ...and it is a fact. They did not have an alternative because the Swatantra Party had not organised itself in West Bengal by then.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : If for nothing else, at least for this you should congratulate us that the Swatantra Party does not exist in West Bengal; we have seen to it.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Now we are trying to organise to fight the election.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal) : You had one Minister.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : But strictly speaking

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : On a correction. He is an independent, a big landlord and a businessman, Mr. Sindhi; And then they adopted him to the Swatantra Party.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN (Andhra Pradesh) : Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, you accepted him as your Minister.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : No, no. The Congress accepted him. You accepted the Congress-PDF coalition, your Ministry under Dr. Prafulla Ghosh, not under us.

श्री नेकी राम : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपकी इजाजत से श्री भूपेश गुप्ता जी से एक सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री महावीर प्रसाद भार्गव) :
श्री भूपेश गुप्ता नहीं बोल रहे हैं, आप तगरीफ रखिये ।

श्री नेकी राम : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, क्या कोई मेम्बर यहाँ पर बैठकर अखबार पढ़ सकता है ?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It is very relevant because he is speaking. Mr. Vice-Chairman, it is a serious allegation. I am finding out whether there is any Swatantra Party man here. It is the Bengali paper, the Amrita Bazar Patrika.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: There is nothing wrong about it. If it is in connection with the speech that you are going to deliver, then you are perfectly justified in going through the newspaper. Now, Sir, there was so much interruption from so many quarters that I lost the chain.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: My hon. friend is a political geisha girl.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: All of you are being entertained. It is not a geishan's job.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I said political geisha.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : It is a platform talker's job. If geishas do it from platforms in Russia I do not know.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You ask Mr. Dahyabhai Patel to do it for you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M.P. BHARGAVA): We are discussing West Bengal, not the girls in Japan.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: I was talking about the state of the mind of the people. The misrule of the Congress Party was so undemocratic that on the eve of the elections they pushed the intelligentsia into the Communist fold. Almost all the thinking people in West Bengal thought that the Congress is not the party that can deliver the goods. Therefore, some other alternative had to be found out and the most opportunist party in the country that can avail of the state of confusion is the Communist Party. Therefore, they took advantage of it immediately. (Interruptions) They thrive all the time on confusion. Wherever there is confusion they will immediately creep into it and take advantage. Therefore, it was the Congress that was really responsible for bringing in the Communists in greater number in West Bengal.

Sir, when the non-Congress Ministry was sworn in in West Bengal I was one of the happiest because I thought it was headed by a man of conviction, a man who had national interest, the country's interest closest to his heart; thereby I mean Mr. Mukerjee. But gradually things drifted in a very wrong direction. Whatever the mistakes committed by the Congress during

the twenty years, as if that was not enough, further instability, socially, economically and politically was brought in by this non-Congress Ministry. It was not Mr. Ajoy Mukerjee who was responsible for it, it was Mr. Bhupesh Gupta's friends, either in the left or in the right—right or left is all a camouflage; actually they are one, I think—who were responsible for all this social, economic and political disorder.

The previous speaker, Mr. Balkrishna Gupta, gave the figure. Two thousand factories were closed down during this regime. At least the Congress has taken credit that they have allowed 2,000 factories to be set up; they were not responsible for their closure. Now this Government, which claims in the country to be the most progressive Government, was responsible for closing down these small factories, not the big mills. It is the small factories that got the most affected. How was that? They took credit for it. It is the progressive Sir, everywhere who should be really called the reactionaries. Unfortunately, reactionaries in this country go by the name of progressives because they can shout the loudest whether they are in the shape of my hon. friend, Mr. Arjun Arora, in the Congress Party or Mr. Bhupesh Gupta in the Communist Party. These reactionaries shout the loudest in the country .

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AN HON. MEMBER: Also in the House.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : We stand for everything that is progressive. The trouble with you is that Rajahs and Ranis cannot even shout.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : That is why all the time you are getting ahead of everybody else. Even Mr. Shukla, the young man in the Ministry, cannot shout as much. But he can compete with you in shouting.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: But what can I do, my dear fellow. The hon'ble Member recruits to his party retired I.C.S. officials, superannuated politicians, former Princes, Maharanis. How can he expect shouting from them?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : I shall reply to Mr. Bhupesh Gupta's contention by saying that at least the okkr people do not do any harm to the country. It is only the young men in the shape of Mr. Gupta and his party that cause the real damage.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: On personal explanation, I am not a young man. I am over fifty.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Every progressive man is young. He behaves like young man. He looks like a young man and he has the courage of getting up on all occasions and shouting.

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON (Kerala) : Every Swatantra man is old.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA): How does the conservative behave?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The trouble is, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Mr. Lokanath Misra is utterly a misfit in the Swatantra Party. Somehow or the other he has fallen into it and cannot extricate himself. That is the trouble.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: I would have very much liked the Communist Party to have brought in stability, both economic and social, to West Bengal. They imported certain slogans, certain jargons, certain ideas from abroad. Ghe-raj was started for the first time in West Bengal.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: It is a very old thing in trade unionism.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: I have never heard of it in the I.N.T.U.C. It may be in the Communist wing of the trade union. I have never heard of it in the I.N.T.U.C. even though Mr. Arjun Arora belongs to the Communist brand of the I.N.T.U.C.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : I believe in trade unionism, neither Congress brand nor the Communist brand. It is an organisation of workers not dominated by any political party whatsoever.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : I am happy he believes in real trade unionism at least for once.

Coming back to the topic in spite of interruptions, gheraos were first introduced in West Bengal and it thrived with such impunity in West Bengal that under the then Government industrialists started becoming panicky. I read in the newspapers then that Mr. Nijalingappa and other Chief Ministers started inviting them to their own States. Because they became panicky, they thought that they had to close down their factories or else they would be completely liquidated.

: SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I do not know why Mr. Nijalingappa should be dragged in. We never said that we shall not employ his son-in-law in West Bengal.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: I do not know. But Mr. Nijalingappa somehow gave a call to the frustrated industrialists of West Bengal to come down to Mysore. So many other States' Chief Ministers also did it; they invited them.

SHRI B. T. KEMPARAJ (Mysore) : What is wrong therein?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: I find something wrong in the policy of the West Bengal Government.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: What about the Centre?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : If the Communists come to power here there would be absolutely no industry.

SHRI BALKRISHNA GUPTA: Mr. Birla built his factory in Kerala.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: I was talking about panic that was created by the West Bengal Communist-dominated government. Mr. Vice-Chairman since the Congress has now taken over, I hope they would do something spectacular during the President's Rule so that the people know the difference between the Communist regime and the non-Communist regime. Even though the Centre rules there through the Governor, it is Parliament that rules. If the West Bengal people could be given the impression that the Central Government means business and if their party comes to power they would be doing something very constructive for the State of West Bengal, maybe they can keep out the Communists during the next election. West Bengal is a problem State. It has a lot of problems. Secondly it is a border State in the sense that in the north it is connected with China.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIAMENON (Kerala): West Bengal?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Yes, yes.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIAMENON: How is that?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: How then did you come into contact with the Chinese?

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON: You do not seem to have read geography.

(Interruption).

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : He has come in contact with them through the good offices of the Maharajah of Patna.

SHRILOKANATHMISRA: It is not physical geography that counts here; it is strategic geography that counts. Naxal-bari was chosen by them only because they could infiltrate a lot of Chinese or Chinese Communists or Chinese literature or whatever it was, into that area—it belonged to China whether it was the slogan or the idea or the people—and, therefore, they became successful in creating a lot of confusion. Therefore, I would appeal to this Government that if they can do something very constructive during the President's rule, let them do it now so that the people are given the impression that even democratic parties can deliver the goods.

The Calcutta circular railway has been a demand for a long time. I am happy that the Railway Minister is here—maybe by accident or maybe he wanted to remain here when this particular aspect was being considered. The circular railway is a must in Calcutta. If anybody has seen how people travel during rush hours in trams and buses in Calcutta, then there would be absolutely no need for me to put forward the argument to the Railway Minister about the necessity of a circular railway. If people ask for taxis, they do not get taxis. They hang on to the bar and sit just on the top of the trams and buses in order to reach their offices. They do not travel like human beings; you have made them to travel like this. There is absolutely no space in the buses and the trams. You cannot cope with the traffic that is there. The West Bengal Government have all these years restricted the maximum number of taxis to a certain limit. They do not go beyond it. In Delhi if you telephone for a taxi, the taxi comes. In Calcutta, it would be a dream to get a taxi in the afternoon. Even if you have to catch a train, it would be something very impossible to get a taxi. How then do you expect people to go such a long distance from one end of Calcutta to the other? Therefore, when they have the control of the administration in West Bengal, it would be very advisable for them at least to begin this work. If the people of West Bengal know that their grievances have been taken up properly by the Parliament and by the Government of India, they would feel very much relieved.

Now coming to the fixing of the date for the poll, I would say that November is not a very convenient month. Many of the fair weather roads would not have opened by then. West Bengal is not Calcutta where you have good roads everywhere so that motors can go and people can take part in the polling. There are rural areas which are not approachable even up to the end of December as in the State of Orissa. Both are contiguous and, therefore, I know how it is difficult it is to reach the rural areas even during the month of December. Therefore, in my opinion, the month of February would be ideal . . .

SHRI CHITTA BASU: But Mr. Masani says "No elections, let the President's Rule continue."

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : The longer the period, the better it is. But since I would like to have democratic rule there, I would prefer the most convenient time and I consider February to be the most convenient time.

Nov., Sir, I come to the last point. I suppose Mr. Bhupesh Gupta would take it in the right spirit. My party has been demanding the banning of the Communist Party before the elections in West Bengal.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : He is a quite right. Mr. Masani went all the way from Bombay to Calcutta to attend the Consultative Committee meeting and the main utterance that he made there was that the two Communist Parties should be banned. He made it so shamelessly that he could not repeat it again.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: The point that is advanced for the banning of the Communist Party is that these Parties do not believe basically in the rule of law, in democracy. When it suits them, when it can be a means to their ultimate end, of all undemocratic processes and what they call it as 'dictatorship', then they are very much willing to use Parliament as a means for that dictatorship. These parties and people who do not believe in this particular method of Government should not be allowed to participate in it and take ultimate advantage of these institutions. Therefore, our party has been demanding

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Which party?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: The Swa-jantra Party has been demanding that I before the dates are fixed for polling in

West Bengal, the Communist Parties— they may be Left, they may be Right, they may be ultra-Left; they are, all the same, one—must be banned in the country. If Mr. Bhupesh Gupta wants to fight, let him fight as Mr. Bhupesh Gupta himself. But they cannot take shelter under the democratic institutions of this country for their own ultimate end of dictatorship.

Thank you.

श्री निरंजन वर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश) : मैं आपको पूरा उत्तर देने के लिये खड़ा हुआ हूँ, महाशय जी। श्रीमन्, पश्चिम बंगाल के विषय में जो वादविवाद प्रारम्भ हुआ है उसमें हमारे योग्य मंत्रीजी ने उसके संदर्भ में कुछ बातें कहीं हैं। पश्चिम बंगाल का प्रश्न बड़ी गंभीरता से देखा जाना चाहिये क्योंकि पश्चिम बंगाल में जब से स्वतंत्रता का जागरण हुआ है उस समय से ले कर आज तक स्वतंत्रता की लड़ाई में बड़ा योगदान दिया है और अच्छे अच्छे कार्यकर्ता और अच्छे अच्छे रत्न देश को दिये हैं।

पिछले समय में जब कि चुनाव सिर पर आ रहा था सब लोगों की हादिक यह इच्छा थी कि कांग्रेस पार्टी जब वहाँ पर आपस में मैदान में लड़ रही है और राज्यसत्ता उसके हाथ से निकल रही है तो वहाँ अगर कांग्रेस के हाथ में से सत्ता निकले तो निश्चित रूप से वह ऐसे हाथों में जानी चाहिये जो वहाँ के लिये योग्य प्रशासन दे सकें, वहाँ के कार्यकर्ताओं की क्षमता अच्छी हो सके और वे देश के लिये एक उदाहरण स्वरूप हो सकें। इस तरह की सब ने एक इच्छा की थी। चुनाव के पश्चात वहाँ की दशा दूसरी हुई। इसमें तो सन्देह नहीं है कि कांग्रेस आपस की फूट और कलह के कारण और मनोमालिन्य के कारण बंगाल में हार गई, लेकिन उसके पश्चात जो राज्य आया वह राज्य स्टेबिलिटी का राज्य नहीं था, स्थायित्व का राज्य नहीं था। और उस राज्य ने धीरे धीरे बंगाल के निवासियों पर एक प्रकार का आतंक का राज्य चलाया जिसके कारण बंगाल के ही क्या शेष भारत

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के आदमी भी उसे अच्छी तरह से याद करते चले आ रहे हैं। हम और हमारा दल कभी भी यह नहीं चाहता और न कभी विश्वास करता है कि एक स्थान पर जहाँ प्रजातंत्र अच्छी तरह से चल रहा है वहाँ प्रजातंत्र को समाप्त करके किसी प्रकार का प्रेसिडेंट का रूल लागू कर दिया जाय। लेकिन पश्चिम बंगाल की हालत जब बहुत खराब हो गई तब हम इस मत के अवश्य थे कि वहाँ कोई परिवर्तन आना चाहिए और वह परिवर्तन इस प्रकार का आना चाहिए जिससे वहाँ की स्थिति नियंत्रण में आ सके और वहाँ पर सुधार हो सके।

पश्चिम बंगाल के तीन प्रकार के रूप हैं—एक प्रकार का रूप चाइना के साथ सम्बन्ध का है, दूसरा रूप वहाँ की आन्तरिक गड़बड़ी के बारे में और तीसरा रूप पूर्वी पाकिस्तान की जो पहले से स्थिति है उसका बंगाल और उसके कारण दूसरे प्रान्तों पर जो असर पड़ता है वह। पहला चीन का प्रश्न है। स्वतंत्र पार्टी के हमारे एक मित्र बोल रहे थे, जब उन्होंने चीन और बंगाल का एक साथ साथ सम्बन्ध बताया तो कई मित्रों ने कहा, टोका-टाकी करते हुए किसी ने कहा, ज्योग्राफी देख लें, किसी ने कहा भूगोल आंक लें। हम कहते हैं कि चीन और बंगाल बहुत कुछ अंशों में मिला हुआ है। हमने बहुत ज्योग्राफी देखी है। नक्सलवाड़ी जैसे कांड बराबर होते रहे अगर बीच में जो सिक्किम का एक छोटा सा इलाका है वह समाप्त हो जाय। अगर वह छोटा सा सिक्किम का इलाका समाप्त हो जाय तो चीन और बंगाल एक हो जाएंगे, दूसरा कोई रह नहीं सकता, बीच की कोई बाऊंडरी नहीं रहेगी। इसलिए जो हम सीमा का एक प्रान्त मानते हैं बंगाल को उसका बड़ा महत्व है। किसी बाहरी शत्रु से हम बहुत ताकत के साथ लड़ सकते हैं, हम में क्षमता है। जब जब बाहरी शत्रु से लड़ने का मौका आया हम उसमें बहुत अच्छी तरह से सफल सिद्ध हुए। लेकिन बाहरी शत्रु हमला करे और हमारे घर के शत्रु उससे जाकर मिल जाय तो

[श्री निरंजन वर्मा]

हम बाहरी शत्रु से लड़ने में कोई सफलता प्राप्त नहीं कर सकते, यह बात निर्विवाद है। अगर नक्सलवाड़ी जैसे कांड होते रहें और नक्सलवाड़ी कांड के कुछ जिम्मेदार लोग लाल चीन को आमंत्रण देते रहें और लाल चीन में जैसे एक-दो महीने की यात्रा माओ-त्से-तुंग ने की थी और उसके बाद पीकिंग पर घेरा डाल कर उसको लिया था उसी प्रकार से अगर नक्सलवाड़ी के लोग यह स्वप्न देखते रहें कि यहां से उड़ीसा की तरफ से, केरल की तरफ से निकल कर दिल्ली पर घेरा डालें और दिल्ली को दूसरी पीकिंग बना तो मैं समझता हूँ कि बंगाल की स्थिति खतरनाक स्थिति है और उस पर देश के सारे विद्वानों को विचार करना चाहिए। यदि अपने देश में कहीं इस बात की शुरुआत हो गई तो यह सिलमिला देश में बहुत जल्दी फैल जायगा जिससे देश में बहुत बड़ा खतरा हो जायगा।

दूसरी आन्तरिक स्थिति का प्रश्न है। हमें दुख है कि वहां जब सब पार्टियों का राज था तब बहुत अच्छी स्थिति नहीं रही। हम चाहते थे, इच्छा भी रखते थे कि सब लोगों का जो दल वहां राज्य कर रहा है वह सफलता के साथ राज्य करे; बहुत से मित्र जो प्रजातंत्र में विश्वास करते हैं और कांग्रेस के दुराचार के राज्य से ऊब गए थे वे सब चाहते थे और कांग्रेस के मित्र भी चाहते थे कि एक बार ऐसा समय मिलना चाहिए और आना चाहिए कि जब कांग्रेस की जगह दूसरा राज आए। कांग्रेस के स्थान पर दूसरा राज जनता की कठिनाइयों को कितना दूर कर सकता है, यह लोगों के मस्तिष्क में आए। इस प्रकार बंगाल में एक दूसरे राज को देखने की सब की इच्छा थी, लेकिन दुर्भाग्य से वह बात पूरी नहीं हुई। वहां पर जैसे एक जमाने में बंग-भंग आन्दोलन चला था या किसी जमाने में एनाकिस्ट मूवमेंट चला था उसी तरह से एक नए मूवमेंट का जन्म हुआ, उसका नाम घिराव आन्दोलन था। भारत में पहले कभी

घिराव नहीं था। घिराव पहले कभी होता था तो किसी आदमी को घेरकर अपनी बात सुनाने के लिये होता था, लेकिन बंगाल ने एक नई अनुश्रुति दी। इसमें एक आदमी को विवश किया जाता है हिंसा के द्वारा कि वह उन आदमियों की बातों को, जो घिराव कर रहे हैं, मान ले, उनकी हां में हां मिलाए। इस प्रकार यह घिराव आन्दोलन शुरू हुआ। घिराव आन्दोलन का जो जन्म हुआ उससे देश की स्थिति में बहुत खराब प्रभाव हुआ और बड़े बड़े कारखाने बन्द होने की स्थिति में आ गए। अगर यही प्रक्रिया जारी रहती तो इंडस्ट्री का जितना माध्यम है वह सबका सब समाप्त हो जाता और आगे चल कर जबकि हमारा देश शत्रु से घिरा है और हम बहुत अधिक सम्पन्नता के साथ अपना उत्पादन करके श्रेष्ठता साबित करना चाहते हैं उस दिशा में हम बहुत पीछे रहते और हमारा देश भी पीछे रहता। यह जो घिराव का आन्दोलन हुआ उसका दूसरे प्रान्तों पर भी प्रभाव पड़ा और वहां की स्थिति बिगड़ती जा रही है। कलकत्ता में एक जलूस निकलता था और उसको रोकने के लिए दूसरा जलूस निकलता था और एक जलूस के आदमी और दूसरे जलूस के आदमी आपस में टकराते थे। जिस प्रकार दो फौजें हों, जिनके हाथ में कोई बड़े बड़े शस्त्र न हों, वे आपस में टकरा जाएं, वैसे ही बंगाल की हालत हो गई थी। इसलिए आन्तरिक दृष्टि से बंगाल की हालत बहुत खराब थी और इसलिए हम सबको बहुत लज्जा है और हम समझते हैं कि प्रजातंत्र का वह निकृष्ट रूप हमारे सामने आया।

तीसरी बात यह कि पाकिस्तान के पूर्वी भाग की जो हालत थी उससे देश पर जो प्रभाव पड़ा बंगाल उसके लिए बहुत हद तक जिम्मेदार है। बंगाल देश का एक अच्छा प्रान्त है और वहीं पर हमने बन्दे मातरम् का गायन सीखा और वह बंकिम बाबू ने हिन्दुस्तान के लिए, सारे संसार के लिए दिया, लेकिन जब दो बंगाल बने, तो दो बंगाल बनने के

बाद कुछ बंगाली नेताओं के कारण और देश के नेताओं के कारण—जब पूर्वी बंगाल से बहुत अधिक संख्या में रिफ्यूजीज आने लगे—हमारे प्रदेश, मध्य प्रदेश में उनको बसाने की योजना रखी गई। दूसरे प्रान्तों के अन्दर कितने गए यह हमें नहीं मालूम लेकिन मध्य प्रदेश जैसे पिछड़े इलाके में दंडकारण्य योजना के नाम पर पूर्वी बंगाल के विस्थापितों को बसाया गया और वह सिलसिला जारी रखा जा रहा है और अभी भी हमारे यहां पर वहां के बहुत से विस्थापित आ रहे हैं। वे हमारे भाई हैं, हम उनको रखने में किसी प्रकार की गुरेज नहीं करते, हम उनका स्वागत करते हैं, लेकिन पश्चिमी बंगाल के राज्य-कर्ताओं को यह बात अवश्य ध्यान में रखनी चाहिए कि अगर पश्चिमी बंगाल की यही दशा होती रही, अगर पश्चिमी बंगाल में उत्पादन इस प्रकार से घटता रहा, अगर अन्न वहां बहुत कम मिलता रहा तो पूर्वी बंगाल के जो आदमी वहां भाग कर आए हैं आखिरकार उनको कहीं जाने के लिए विवश होना पड़ेगा। तो सबसे पहला कर्तव्य पश्चिमी बंगाल सरकार का यही था कि पूर्वी बंगाल से जो विस्थापित आएँ उनको पश्चिमी बंगाल में प्रश्रय मिलना चाहिए, एलिए भी कि चरित्र की दृष्टि से, संस्कृति की दृष्टि से, शिक्षा की दृष्टि से और भाषा की दृष्टि से—सभी दृष्टियों से पूर्वी बंगाल और पश्चिमी बंगाल एक प्रान्त हैं और उन दोनों के आपस में एक से सम्बन्ध हैं। उस दिशा में कोई विशेष कार्य नहीं हुआ और जो अभी मध्यवर्ती सरकार आई थी उसने भी इस प्रश्न को हल करने के लिए कोई भी कदम नहीं उठाया।

जब हम दोनों स्थितियों का सिंहावलोकन करते हैं तो हमारे सामने दोनों बातें आती हैं—एक तो कांग्रेस के समय का राज और दूसरा कांग्रेस के पश्चात का राज। कांग्रेस के समय के राज और उसके बाद के राज में बहुत अधिक परिवर्तन नहीं हुआ बल्कि वहां की स्थिति बिगड़ती चली गई और उस बिगड़ती हुई स्थिति के कारण

वहां राष्ट्रपति शासन की घोषणा करनी पड़ी और राष्ट्रपति ने अपने हाथ में प्रशासन ले लिया। लेकिन कोई भी व्यक्ति यह नहीं चाहता कि प्रशासन अगर राष्ट्रपति ने अपने हाथ में ले लिया है तो उससे बहुत अधिक लम्बे समय तक रखा जाय। हम समझते हैं और यह हमारी आकांक्षा थी कि राष्ट्रपति के हाथ में वहां का प्रशासन आने के पश्चात शीघ्र से शीघ्र चुनाव करा दिए जाय और चुनाव कराने के पश्चात एक समुचित रूप में प्रजातंत्र पद्धति के साथ प्रशासन चल सके। बहुत से कांग्रेसी मित्रों की भी यह इच्छा थी, लेकिन भारत सरकार की जो नीति है, रीति है, उस रीति-नीति के अनुसार किसी मामले में बहुत जल्दी कार्य होता नहीं है एक सप्ताह का काम एक महीने में, एक महीने का छः महीने में और छः महीने का काम एक वर्ष में होता है। उसी नीति के अनुसार इसमें बहुत अधिक समय लगा दिया गया। हमारे योग्य मित्र श्री विद्या चरण जी ने अभी बताया कि कई पाटियों ने कहा था और यह सम्भव नहीं था कि बहुत जल्दी वहां पर चुनाव करा दिये जाते और जब चुनाव नहीं कराये जा सकते तो इस प्रशासन के लिये समय लेना अत्यंत आवश्यक था लेकिन मैं इतना निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि यह काम छः महीने में नहीं बल्कि तीन महीने में हो सकता है। जब पाकिस्तान और हिन्दुस्तान का बंटवारा हुआ और वहां पर तथा दूसरे स्थानों पर रेडक्लिफ समझौता हुआ तो वह समझौता कितना जल्दी कार्यान्वित कर दिया गया, बड़ी बड़ी लाइनें खिंच गईं, सारी सम्पत्तियों का बंटवारा कर दिया गया, एक दूसरे के अधिकारों के बारे में निर्णय दे दिया गया और देश दो भागों में बंट गया। तो उससे भी शिक्षा लेनी चाहिये। हमारा तरीका हो गया है कि हम बाहर के देश वालों को कोसते रहते हैं, उनके विषय में कभी कभी बुरे विचार रखते हैं लेकिन जो कभी कभी उनकी अच्छी बातें होती हैं उनके विषय में भी सोचना चाहिये और शिक्षा

[श्री निरंजन वर्मा]

ग्रहण करनी चाहिये। तो मेरा निवेदन यह है कि इसमें बहुत अनावश्यक देर लगा दी गई, जल्दी से जल्दी चुनाव कराये जा सकते थे और जल्दी से जल्दी चुनाव हो सकता है।

एक बात और है कि कांग्रेस के मिनो को बहुत सावधानी बरतनी चाहिये। अगर उन्होंने यह यत्न किया कि राष्ट्रपति प्रशासन के काल में कांग्रेस को सबल बनाने और वहाँ के प्रजा-तंत्री दलों को कुचलने की तैयारी की तो यह प्रजातंत्र के लिये बहुत बुरी बात है। कांग्रेस तो बंगाल से निकल गई और अब कांग्रेस बंगाल में कभी आने वाली नहीं है लेकिन एक बात अवश्य है कि यदि वहाँ बूर्जुआ क्लास को, बड़े बड़े मिलओनर्स को साथ लेकर उनके रुपये से, उनके धन से, फिर कांग्रेस को स्थापित करने का यत्न करेंगे तो उससे स्थिति वहाँ पर और बिगड़ जायगी, और पूरा का पूरा बंगाल प्रदेश, जो शस्य श्यामला भूमि का देश है, निकल जायगा, उस प्रदेश की और वहाँ की राजनैतिक स्थिति पूरी तरह से बिगड़ जायगी। इसलिये हम निवेदन करना चाहते हैं कि वहाँ चुनाव जल्दी से जल्दी होना चाहिये, उसमें अधिक समय नहीं लगाया जाना चाहिये या अब जितना समय रखा गया है उसके पश्चात् और कोई बहाना नहीं लिया जाना चाहिये कि इन कारणों के कारण वहाँ चुनाव नहीं हो सका। और जो चुनाव हो वह स्वतंत्र रूप से होना चाहिए, उसमें शासन का, प्रशासन का किसी तरह से भी दखल नहीं होना चाहिए और किसी को यह कहने का मौका नहीं मिलना चाहिये कि प्रशासन ने इस इस प्रकार की दस्तदाजी की जिसके कारण वहाँ चुनाव अच्छी तरह से नहीं हुआ। यही मेरी प्रार्थना है।

3 P. M.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I have heard with respect and attention the speeches from the other side. There is a lot of concern in certain quarters about the date of election in West Bengal. One fact must be remembered in this connection. The date is to be fixed

by the Election Commission in consultation with all the political parties and not in consultation with one or two. The tentative decision to hold the election in November was taken by the Election Commission in consultation with various political parties and the latest press statement of Mr. Sen Varma makes it clear that he has not yet altered the date because, if I remember correctly, he has said that the elections may be held on November 3rd or November 10th. I am sure the Congress will not be alone in seeking a postponement of the elections from November. At any rate, the country had the confidence that the Election Commission would not act only on the advice of one political party in West Bengal, and that is, the Indian National Congress. If a postponement is necessary, all the political parties should be and, I hope, will be consulted. We cannot ignore the fact that at the moment eleven districts of West Bengal are suffering from serious floods. The other day all elements in this House angrily demanded that the flood situation in the country should be discussed in this House and it is going to be discussed tomorrow in the House. Will the members from West Bengal rise up tomorrow and say that there are no serious floods in Bengal ? They will be ignoring the realities if they do so. (Interruptions) I hope you will not. But if you will not say tomorrow, today you should also concede that there are floods in West Bengal and one does not know how long the floods will last and one does not know how much relief has to be provided to West Bengal, to the eleven districts of West Bengal, suffering from floods. I think all the political parties should come together first for providing relief, organising relief for the victims of the floods. And if necessary, in view of the floods, in view of the nature of the floods, all the political parties may agree to the postponement of the date.

I am, of course, concerned with the labour problems in West Bengal. Sir, it is a patent fact that wages in West Bengal are very low. They were low when the Congress ruled West Bengal. They remained low when a hotch-potch combination led by the Leftist Communist Party ruled Bengal for ten months. During those ten months I not only felt with utter disappointment and dismay that the Government of West Bengal, really led by Mr. Jyoti Basu, did not take a single step to increase the wages of the tilling workers of West Bengal, in any industry whatsoever. Such was the performance of the Government which had Mr. Ajoy Mukherji as a sort of titular head but which

was in fact run by Mr. Jyoti Basu. Mr. Jyoti Basu and his Government did not take a single step to increase the wages of workers of the jute industry, engineering industry or of any other industry in West Bengal.

So many hon. Members, particularly Mr. Lokanath Misra, mentioned gherao. Gherao was an act of desperation on the part of workers. They should not be blamed. Adjudication had failed. They put an alternative Government in power and that alternative Government also attended to political problems but not to the wage problem. So in desperation workers indulged in gherao. It is possible and it did happen that Mr. Dange glorified gherao but it was a revolt against the Government in which the party of Mr. Dange was included, that the people indulged in gherao. Even today there, as Mr. Bal-krishna Gupta correctly pointed out, several hundred workshops in West Bengal are closed. But employment situation in Bengal in August 1968 is certainly better than the employment situation in West Bengal in August 1967. That is a fact which cannot be denied because figures are published every month and I am sure, even Mr. Jyoti Basu had to read them. The employment situation today is much better. That itself is a condemnation of the Government of the United Front in West Bengal and is a feather in the cap of the Governor's rule which I do not very much admire, but it is an achievement.

In Bengal the problem of educated unemployment is a chronic one. I am not very old but I have been familiar with this problem for more than 40 years. That is a chronic problem of Bengal and it is idle for anybody to blame the Governor or the President's Rule for a few months for the problem of the educated unemployed in Bengal. That is a problem to which the attention of all concerned in Bengal and that of the country should be given and a long-range solution should be sought and thought of. There was only one achievement of the U. F. Government in West Bengal which I have praised and which I still praise and that was the taking over of the management of the Tramways in Calcutta. I am sorry to say that though the U. F. Government took over the management of the Tramway Company, which management was abandoned by the British owners, the tramways in Calcutta particularly and transport in Calcutta in general need a great deal of improvement. Mr. Lokanath Misra described the paucity of taxis and overcrowding in the tramways

and buses. That is a problem which must be solved and if necessary, the Central Government should make advances to the Government of Bengal to solve this problem. Calcutta is our biggest city. It is also the biggest industrial centre in the country. The people in Calcutta have to spend long hours waiting for buses and trams and long hours travelling to their places of work. The working people in Calcutta on an average spend three hours in reaching their places of work and coming back to their homes. That itself exhausts their energy. That itself is a big strain. In Bombay, for example, the suburban train service provides cheap and quick transport for the workers. Why cannot something like that be arranged in Calcutta? Urban transport is a problem of Calcutta which neither the Congress nor the United Front nor the President's Government have tried to solve. That is a big problem which must be solved and if the Government of Bengal does not have the resources for it, the Centre should treat it as a problem of national importance and make advances.

A mention of the Farrakka Barrage was also made. Now that is a scheme financed by the Centre. That is a scheme the importance of which to Calcutta and Bengal nobody denies. Why should there be any complaint that the work on that important barrage is being done slowly? The Irrigation Minister is not here but I am sure the Home Minister who is here will be able to give an assurance that the work on the Farrakka Barrage must continue and that will be speeded up. Mr. Bal-krishna Gupta imported some politics into this Barrage. There is in the country no dispute and no political party disagrees with the need for early and speedy execution of that project. Of course Pakistan has its own views and claims. Pakistan has many claims and many false ideas and Pakistan is out for trouble but we should not take any notice of that as far as the determining of the speed of the execution of the Farrakka Barrage is concerned. It must be speedily executed.

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON : You said that wage increase was not made. Was it possible during a period when factories were closed down and in a period of recession? If it is said only to discredit that Government I have no objection.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: All the industries in Bengal did not suffer because of recession in 1967? The engineering industry did suffer but all industries did not suffer from recession either in Bengal or in other

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parts of the country. I challenge Mr. Balichandra Menon, whom I know as a trade unionist for 30 years, to tell me of any industry in which the Government of the United Front took steps to increase the wages? It did not and that was because its attention was focussed on political issues and not on issues of the people.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Mr. Vice-Chairman, unfortunately the West Bengal Legislature is not in a position to discuss the problems of the State. Yet, today West Bengal as a whole is passing through a terrible agony and affliction as a result of the devastating floods. I should therefore like to begin with a brief reference to the flood situation and what I consider the Government should do very broadly but before I come to this detailed discussion, I would urge on the Home Minister to immediately hold a meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Parliament on West Bengal preferably in Calcutta with only one item on the agenda, namely, the floods and the relief for that. If the Bengal Legislative Assembly had been in existence it would have discussed this matter and its collective experience could have been pooled, advice sought and solution found. Since the Legislative Assembly is not there, it is all the more reason why the Members of the Opposition, the Government and others coming from Bengal and other States who are members of this particular Committee should sit together, and take stock of the situation in a nonpartisan manner, in the manner which is called for in such a situation and suggest remedies and measures. This is an overriding necessity to-day in view of the terrible flood situation. I am surprised that some Members spoke and discussed Naxalbari, gherao and the Communist Party but they forgot to look at Bengal to-day crying for help and succour in the midst of great and untold sufferings. According to the official figures as given on 22nd July this year, I have in mind the Bengal Government press communique—3588.5 square miles had been affected due to floods. 38,96,334 men, women and children had been stricken at the stroke of that natural calamity and inclement nature. Then, according to the same calculation or figures it was found that 76 police stations had been affected, and 4601 villages with about 42,474 houses had been practically destroyed. 22,11,233 acres of land under cultivation had been affected very seriously; in fact, the crop had been destroyed; the situation was so bad.

Then came another spate of natural calamity between 1st August and 4th August. As a result, practically all the districts are affected. In Midnapore and Howrah thirteen lakh people had been affected as a result of the latest floods. Now, according to the official figure, it seems that crop land, 6,40,000 acres of crop land in Midnapore is under water today. In 24-Parganas the corresponding figure is 15,94,000 acres of land. You can imagine what exactly is the situation. There is no drainage system, and we are told that the Government has not sanctioned any money for drainage.

Now I have given you this broad description only to point out the picture as it emerges even from the official figure. I am surprised that the All India Radio is not paying due attention to what is happening in West Bengal, as if in West Bengal there is no flood, there is no devastation, there is no suffering, there is no sorrow. I hope this kind of discrimination against West Bengal will be stopped by the Central agency, the All India Radio. All India Radio owes it to the nation to tell the people all over the country as to what is happening in West Bengal, in what state West Bengal finds itself today.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, again I should draw the attention of the House to the telegram which I received or the advice of the District Magistrate of Midnapore, but the telegram came from a former M.L.A. of the West Bengal Assembly, Mr. Guranga Samanta. Now Mr. Guranga Samanta says in this telegram:

"In addition to heavy rain and flood in rivers water from Kangsabati reservoir has been released by the officer or officers of Irrigation Directorate. This has been disclosed by the District Magistrate of Midnapore in telephonic talk with me on 5th morning"—5th August. "This has overflowed, Kharagpur Debra, part of Panskura Pingla and Savang and part of Ghatal Sub-Division resulting loss of property and crops. Enquiry Commission demanded."

and he has demanded relief. Now, to the stroke of nature we have got the blow of man. Man and Nature seem to be conspiring against the people of West Bengal in order to plunge that people and their State into unaccountable sorrow and suffering, and I would like to know what steps the Government have taken in this matter. Mr. Vice-Chairman, in this connection I am constrained to say, from all

the reports that I have gathered, that West Bengal is displaying an utterly callous and soulless attitude towards the stricken people and I am sure that no Government, irrespective of whichever party it may belong to, would have displayed such bureaucratic callousness as the present Governor's regime is showing in West Bengal today. Complaints have come not merely from those you consider to be in the opposition in this House; complaints have come also from the Congress Party which was until very recently in the opposition in the West Bengal Assembly. It is not a partisan issue therefore. I may refer you to the Jugantar Patrika which I have got here, a paper which is owned by Congressmen, and it has this to say. In the Khanakul area in Howrah-Hooghly, in that region near Calcutta, they wanted 1500 tonnes of foodgrains, rice or wheat, the stricken people there, whereas 204 tonnes of Bhutto have been sent to them. This is how they are being treated. Money is not being given. Relief is not given. Medicine is not being sent. Children are suffering. Cattle are destroyed. There is complete chaos; it is not merely the chaos that I have been complaining against; utter lawlessness, cruelty and inhumanity have become the policy of the Governor's regime. These officials who sit in the West Bengal Secretariat have never known people; they live in prosperity and wealth. And when the people are stricken in this manner they are passing orders, which means nothing, and now they are doing nothing commensurate with the needs of the situation. I therefore demand appropriate steps by the Central Government beginning with an immediate emergent meeting of the Parliamentary Committee where we can discuss the problems of West Bengal and work out concrete proposals for meeting this situation almost on a war footing. I would not discuss the subject any more because I believe the subject will be discussed when we discuss the flood situation tomorrow, but I think once again I should invite the sympathies of the House towards these stricken people of West Bengal now that I am discussing West Bengal, all the more so because they do not have their own tribune in the Legislative Assembly to voice their grievances and demands. As you know, on such occasions partisan barriers sometimes disappear and we in common voice the sorrow and suffering of people supporting all parties and so on. I hope a humanistic approach will be taken in this matter. If nothing else, immediate relief should be given. According to the official figure again, the damage is of the order of Rs. 100 crores in Midnapore alone, and

demands have been made for grants by the Central Government to the State in order to meet the flood situation. Let it be discussed in the Parliamentary Consultative Committee so that we can work out a common demand, and the Central Government should certainly make funds available to the people of West Bengal. I do not for a moment forget the requirements of Gujarat and other States where the floods have wrought havoc. They should also be helped, but the conclusions we can arrive at, conclusions as to the quantum of assistance, the manner of assistance, only through a collective discussion. And that should be done immediately. Mr. Vice-Chairman, I do not wish to take your time on this matter. Now let me deal with other aspects of the matter, the West Bengal situation.

Now we are told that Governor's rule is an excellent thing in West Bengal. I believe, some day we will say: let us have Governors at the Centre, one in the Rajya Sabha Chair and another in the Lok Sabha Chair. Let two Governors rule the country. I hope the situation will not come to such a pass. But when they say that Governor's rule is good and they justify it and congratulate Governor's rule, well, it is political propaganda. My friends of the Swatantra Party, of course I can understand they are pro and foremost pro-American and anti-communist, no matter what happens. Mr. Lokanath Misra, coming from a flood-stricken area, spoke for quite at length, smiled all the time, forgot the floods in West Bengal and the suffering of millions and millions of people there_____

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: No, no, we are discussing it the day after tomorrow.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: . . . because he belongs to the Maharajas party and obviously he had little time or sympathy for the poor people who live in huts and hovels in the neglected villages of our country.

Now take the food situation. My friend Mr. Shukla,—I do not blame him. He has come here with a brief. Poor chap, what can he do? He says the food situation is good. Well, the food situation is good. Certainly not in Aurangzeb Road; the food situation in West Bengal should be good in the villages of West Bengal. It should not be good in the Western Court luncheon room, or in the Constitution Club luncheon room or in the Vithal Bhai Patel House or in the houses of Ministers

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where, I believe, sumptuous meals are served, and we also sometimes partake of them if by chance we get invited, as indeed I have been this morning when Dr. Ram Subhag Singh invited us to a luncheon. A good food situation I found in room No. 73 of Parliament House. But am I to go by this? Well, the situation is terribly bad today. People do not merely talk of the fall in prices—a slight fall has taken place compared to the peak year, the last year—but they also talk of the purchasing power of the people. They are not in a position to buy despite the fact that at some places the prices have marginally fallen. In fact, in many places there is no supply of foodgrains. It is no use parading the mathematics and statistics in your books and saying that so much area is now covered under statutory rationing or modified rationing when we know for a fact that people are not getting a morsel of foodgrain there in most parts of the country. Added to it is the flood situation.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Since the West Bengal situation is so bad, I thought, I wished you decided to forgo all invitations in the meantime. (Interruptions.) No, I thought so.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: No, no, no, it is all right; we have not taken that decision. I will not accept your invitation because it is a soulless invitation. But it is a good suggestion. You ask your Maharajas to eat a little less.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: You are the guest of Dr. Karan Singh most of the time.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Just a minute; don't disturb me. I have to finish.

Now, what about procurement? The West Bengal Government in consultation with the Food Corporation of India decided to procure 10 lakh tonnes of foodgrains but that, actual procurement has been barely 2½ lakh tonnes of foodgrains. That certainly does not show that the situation has been tackled very well and the procurement was over long before the floods came. Naturally here is a great failure on the part of the Government, on the part of the Governor's regime which has affected the entire procurement policy of the Central Government because the Central Government reckoned that they would procure 7 million tonnes of foodgrains out of which West Bengal's share was one million tonnes. Today we find they have not been able to procure these 7 million

tonnes and certainly West Bengal has to bear a part of the responsibility for the failure on this score.

As far as recession is concerned, well, 138 factories were closed before the Governor's rule and I believe only ten or so have reopened and the situation is serious. Small engineering and other industries are suffering on account of various difficulties and their problems have not been attended to. It is a falsehood to say that the labour situation from the point of view of labour or from the point of view of the general economy has registered an improvement. This is not borne out by the facts with the Labour Ministry itself although they can say that some factories have opened but others are closing down or rather are on the verge of closing down. Anyhow the situation is serious.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is improving.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Now let me come to the law and order situation. We are told that law and order has improved. During the period of the Governor's rule many major dacoities have taken place in Calcutta and the suburbs and in the interior of West Bengal and this will be borne out by any police report submitted by the Governor's regime. Even day before yesterday there was a broad daylight dacoity in the suburbs of Calcutta. About these you read in the newspapers. The situation has not improved and many other things are happening there and everybody talks about them. Jugantar, the paper of the Congress Party, the paper which supports the Congress Party has itself admitted that the situation is worse in some ways than it was under the West Bengal United Front Government.

I will give you one instance here to show how the police behaves there. Towards the end of July one Shrimati Parul Roy—she is a teacher and a resident of Azadgaih refugee colony in P. S. Jadavpur—was taken to the police lock-up and assaulted by the police. This report appeared in the leading newspaper of Calcutta, Jugantar. This is how the police there are behaving. A lady teacher is taken to the police lockup and assaulted there. It caused protests and demonstrations by the teachers and students of that area. Later on a representation was made to the Divisional Commissioner by the former Minister, Mr. Niranjon Sen, and other leaders and workers of the various political parties. This is what is happening. For lack of time I will not give you more instances but I have a good plenty of papers with me to show how

the police is behaving in different parts of West Bengal, assaulting people right and left and encouraging hooligan elements. There is absolute lawlessness there. I have gathered my reports not from the Communist press but from the press which usually supports the Congress Party, namely, the Amrita Bazar Patrika and Jugantar. These are the two papers which are coming out among the leading dailies of West Bengal apart from Basu-mati. I have not quoted Basumati because some people will say it is not a pro-Congress paper but Jugantar and Amrita Bazar Patrika are certainly established pro-Congress papers and even according to these papers the situation is extremely serious.

Now, Mr. Vice-Chairman, I would only draw your attention to what is happening in the Burdwan University today. Now the Burdwan University was established with a view to helping technical and engineering education. It is one of the new Universities which have come up in recent years after independence. The present Vice-Chancellor is Dr. D. M. Sen who was Secretary in the Education Ministry under the Congress regime. He was appointed by the Governor because he was the favourite of important Congress leaders and Ministers. That was why he was made the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Burdwan, despite the fact that he was a very unpopular figure in the entire educational world. I believe if my friend, Mr. Triguna Sen, will be honest to himself and to the cause of education, he would not deny at least this fact that Dr. D. M. Sen was an extremely unpopular figure in academic circles when he was appointed Vice-Chancellor and under him the Burdwan University is going to rack and ruin. First of all he has given a Constitution which is absolutely wrong and weighted in favour of the Vice-Chancellor and the Administration and even that Constitution Dr. D. M. Sen is not observing today :

Recently, Mr. Vice-Chairman, the Accountant General of West Bengal held an enquiry into the manner in which the University of Burdwan is spending the funds and this is the short observation made about the Audit Report :

"Payment of advances amounting to over three lakhs and thirty thousand by the Burdwan University to a Howrah contractor for construction of lavatories, teacher's quarters, canteen and some other buildings without obtaining any security has been called in question by the Accountant General of West Bengal

in a recent Audit Report of the University's annual accounts."

This Audit Report has described this expenditure as "highly irregular". This is the observation in the Audit Report of the Government of West Bengal. The Report also finds fault with the diversion of funds intended for the implementation of the development programmes of the University for different purposes. There are other findings also which show how the funds are being wasted. And this contractor is a favourite of the Vice-Chancellor; everybody knows that. Now that the Audit Report has made this observation, certainly this has to be gone into.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, the Burdwan University has no college code so to say. They do not have a college code at all and this again is a very serious lapse on the part of the Vice-Chancellor and he has given no explanation at all about it. When Dr. D. M. Sen became the Vice-Chancellor of this Burdwan University he issued orders that he would not like to meet the teachers and students. This is a strange order given by an academic head in a University. A most unhappy situation prevails in the affiliated colleges under the University. The University now has 40 affiliated colleges in the five Districts of Purulia, Bankura, Birbhum, Burdwan and Hooghly. Barring Serampore Sub-Division most of the colleges are sub-standard and no attempt has been made by the University to set things right. I can give many other things. As I said there is no college code at all. I find that the University was established to impart a technological bias in the educational pattern of the region but curiously enough it is going thoroughly in the opposite direction and non-technological bias is being increasingly felt. - If you look to the admissions of students they are mostly from among the newly rich-landed gentry. I have got papers which show the various malpractices, corruption and dictatorial behaviour on the part of the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. D. M. Sen, against whom agitation has started. The Burdwan University is going to be closed and I would ask the Central Government to remove Dr. D. M. Sen immediately. Mr. Vice-Chairman, representations have been made to the Governor who is the Chancellor and the Government has chosen to ignore the complaints against Dr. Sen. Recently we have seen that the Governor has invited Dr. Sen to meet him but I do not know the results of the meeting. But as long as Dr. Sen remains the Burdwan University cannot thrive and prosper

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because it has become under the personal management of Dr. Sen a cesspool of corruption and nepotism of the worst type. So much so, the Accountant-General of West Bengal has had to pass strictures against such expenditure. I should like to know the position from the Government, as to what they have to say. I have given a Calling Attention Notice and I understand the Home Minister has asked for papers from the Burdwan University. I am looking forward to what he has to say in reply to my Calling Attention Notice, which, I hope, will be admitted due to the importance of the subject.

I referred this morning to the Calcutta High Court. Here again, I should like to mention that today's paper shows that the members of the Calcutta Bar Association are going to boycott the Chief Justice's Court and the Courts of other High Court Judges. Their complaint is that they are being discriminated against and favour is being shown to the members of the English Bar, called Barristers and so on. In the matter of appointment of Judges or otherwise, I am told, by the authorities of the Calcutta High Court Barristers, are better qualified. This is an insult and provocation to the vast numbers of our lawyers in this country who have not had the fortune to go abroad, but who are well qualified and trained within our own borders. I should like to ask the Home Ministry to look into this matter. This afternoon I personally asked Mr. Chavan to look into the matter. Mr. Chavan told me that he was helpless because the recommendations have come as unanimous recommendations of all those who are supposed to give their opinion. I can quite see the difficulty in the way of Mr. Chavan, but I have suggested to him that he should immediately take steps to meet the legitimate demands of the members of the Indian Bar Association in so far as the issue of principle is involved, namely, the members of the Bar, who have been trained in our country, should suffer no discrimination or disadvantages compared to the members of the English Bar. Technically I am also a member of the English Bar and I believe my name still appears on the Barristers' Roll of the Calcutta High Court. I have no hesitation in saying that it is a legitimate demand on the part of the lawyers who are not Barristers, non-Barrister lawyers, and in this particular case of the Calcutta Bar Association they should

be put on an equal pedestal. This discrimination should go. When we have got a Bar Council, there should not be any discrimination between Barristers and non-Barristers and certainly it hurts one's patriotism and feeling when some people are given weightage simply because they are educated in England. I hope the matter will be gone into.

Then, I come to the question of political detenus. There are 31 political detenus, even according to the Government, in West Bengal today. Reference has been made to the political detenus, but it is a matter of shame that even on the eve of the mid-term election, these detenus are not being released. It is said that there are charges against these detenus. If the charges are so tenable, why not try them? You are not in a position to try them. We are all familiar with these charges. They are a concoction of the police and intelligence branch. When they want to keep people, they talk about the charges. When they want to release people, they forget about these charges. We have been, many of us, in prison and at that time it was said that there were serious charges against us and that if we were released the heavens would have come down. The same kind of fatuous arguments are being put forward now in order to keep in captivity these political prisoners. I would urge upon the Central Government to release every single detenu in West Bengal here and now without delay, withdraw the political cases and clear the atmosphere for free and fair elections. I think this should be done not only in a technical sense, but also in the larger political sense and I hope he will agree to this demand.

Here I should like to point out another thing. Automation is sought to be introduced in the LIC in Calcutta. I have information that they are going to instal a machine for automation in Calcutta. This should not be done. I think they should not create and aggravate the situation by going ahead with automation in LIC. Now, the LIC employees have been protesting against automation. In defiance of the legitimate demands of LIC employees that automation be scrapped, it will be a shameful thing if automation is to be introduced taking advantage of the Governor's Rule.

In this connection, I should also like to refer to another fact. We understand that the State Government has taken a decision for the denationalisation of the six State bus routes in the city of Calcutta

and to permit 120 suburban private buses to ply up to Dalhousie Square in Calcutta. The workers are demanding that this be stopped and I would urge upon the Government to instruct Mr. Dharma Vira not to proceed with the plan for denationalisation of the bus route and of allowing private buses to ply up to the centre of Calcutta, namely, Dalhousie Square.

Then, I would refer to the Indian Statistical Institute. I understand that there is a plan of the Government to shift the National Sample Survey to Delhi, computerise and make it a department of the Government. We are against taking it out and giving it to a bureaucratic department and making it a departmental affair, so long as the whole nature of the Pendharkar Committee Report has not been gone into. The Pendharkar Committee was appointed only to give a report on the working of the Indian Statistical Institute and in that report the Committee has said that the NSS should be made into a corporation and then the NSS—the technical aspect and field work—could be integrated under a corporation. When you have not yet taken a decision of this kind, it is absolutely wrong to transfer it here and go ahead with computerisation. I would appeal to the Government and to the Prime Minister in particular not to make any statement with a view to giving effect to this kind of plan, which, I understand, the Government is trying to push through. We want an assurance that none of the 700 workers of the NSS will be displaced, nobody will suffer any kind of break in service and nobody will be removed from Calcutta. This is the suggestion which I am making. My suggestion in this connection to the Government again is that they should discuss it with the representatives of the ISI workers organisation, especially those who are connected with the NSS, and come to an agreement. I may tell you another thing. A Honeywell computer machine is being presented to the ISI and we are told that payment has to be made for this machine and payment will be made in instalments. In order to make that payment they are going to undertake commercial work. It would be a sad day for us if we were to introduce commercial work and do business in our scientific and research institutions. If a Honeywell machine is given for a kind of computer and scientific research, certainly it does not mean that we should go in for earning money by taking commercial work. I hope this will not be done. The workers of the NSS and ISI are very annoyed at this thing and there is indignation that

the institution that they have built up with their labour and talent should be allowed to go like this. Well, whatever you may say, they would not like this institution to be commercialised in this manner and a computer put in in order to earn money, as if in a business. That should not be done. I want to draw your attention to this. Here again I understand that representatives of the NSS workers? are here and also the ISI workers' organisation. They should be met by the Government and anyhow Government should not proceed with their present scheme. It should be done through mutual consultation and discussion with them, to the satisfaction of all. Anyhow, there shall not be any retrenchment, there shall not be any break in service. There shall not be any step which causes suffering and unemployment on the part of these employees. Let us discuss whether we can start a corporation as has been suggested by them. That Corporation can undertake the work and combine this thing. Anyhow we would not like the research work of the N. S.S. to be made a departmental affair as the Government intends to do.

I should invite your attention to another matter.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M.P. BHARGAVA) : It is time to wind up.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I am very grateful to you. You have heard Orissa, you have heard Uttar Pradesh, you have heard Madhya Pradesh, the voice of Bengal you hear.

Another point I should like to say.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY (Madras) : On one condition. We can give him ten minutes, but he must talk only about Bengal and not any other State.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I would not talk about Tamilnad for the present. Now Bengal again. We raised this matter in the meeting of the Consultative Committee, the problem of the political sufferers of West Bengal. When I say political sufferers, I do not mean the political sufferers of the post-independence era. I have in mind the people who suffered in the fiery days of Bengal revolutionary fight or in the big civil disobedience movement before independence. There are many in West Bengal whose youth had been spent in prison, ten years, twenty years, 25 years or 30 years, and youngmen became middle-aged; after release; by the

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time they were looking round the world, they were again in prison. We have got a large number who had served long years in Andamans and behind prison bars all over Bengal. I believe there are such people in other parts of the country, in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and so on. My friend had asked me not to take the name of any other State. Anyhow they should be provided for. I would appeal to the House again and again that it is not a party issue; many may be supporting, maybe, the Congress; I am not concerned with what they do, whether they support the Congress Party, Communist Party, Forward Block, R.S.P. or even the Swatantra Party or the Jan Sangh. I am not concerned with that. I am concerned with their past and I am concerned with their present suffering. When people did not dare even to take the name of independence and 'Purna Swaraj', many of these people took revolvers and bombs and walked into an open battle against the British and faced bullets. Such people have to be honoured in all situations. I would ask hon. Members: are they to starve, are they to suffer when we seek Rs. 51 as our allowance? We here ask for amenities, telephone, increase in daily allowance, travelling allowance, First Class travel, air passage, house rent, good food, free food, free motor car and everything. At the same time we see in West Bengal and other places those men, freedom fighters of hallowed memory suffering in utter destitution and poverty without even any rags to put on. They go on begging from door to door for a morsel of food, people about whom we have been proud, young men and boys in their time. It is our duty to look after them. Mr. Vice-Chairman, I would earnestly appeal to the Government, the Prime Minister, the Home Minister and the Government as a whole, that they should discuss, set up a special fund for them, put Rs. 50 lakhs or Rs. 60 lakhs in this particular fund, create a Trust Board or a Board like the various Flood Boards or other Committees for the various States, and then give them an adequate, reasonable, decent allowance and make provision for them so that the remaining part of their life they can live well. This is the suggestion. Mr. Chavan said he would look into it. I should like to know what steps he has taken in this matter. I tell you, because I had also shared imprisonment in my boyhood with many of them, I cannot forget for a moment, no matter which situation I am in, the heroism, sacrifice and suffering of these people who

made Bengal what it was, our pride, which we shared with them. We did not have many things. The Bengal people were certainly very poor people. But we had on the one hand Bankim Chandra and Rabindranath and on the other hand these undaunted martyrs who knew how to walk into the valley of death for the vindication of our national honour and self-respect. Let the nation not let them down at this hour. We spend crores and crores even for organising foreign tours of troupes and other things or for maintaining this or that institution. Why cannot we pay for the great institution which symbolises the honour, the martyrdom, the patriotism, the history, the culture, everything that has been noble and heroic in our past when we were fighting the British? I hope hon. Members will not make it a party issue. Here sit Members from Maharashtra. There are those from Uttar Pradesh. They too have martyrs. They too have their heroes still suffering in utter poverty and abysmal sorrow. I hope steps would be taken.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, here I should like therefore to make a suggestion. A fund should be created. I would ask the Congress Members and the Opposition to join together and make a common representation to the Government. Let us recapture something that is common to us. We should find points of agreement, and here is an occasion, here is an issue over which all can unite irrespective of political parties because it is not only homage to our great past, it is a homage to our heroes, to our freedom fighters.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, in this connection may I humbly submit that we are bringing out commemoration stamps. I think commemoration postal stamps should be brought out in the name of Bhagat Singh—I think it has been done—in the name of Chandra Sekhar Azad, in the name of Surya Sen of West Bengal, leader of the Chittagong Armoury Raid, in the name of Jyotin Mukherjee, leader of the Bengal revolutionary fight who for the first time in the history of Bengal gave an open fight on the banks of Buribalam in Orissa in 1915, and even Sir Charles Teggart had to say, "If Jyotin Mukherjee had been born in my country, he would have received a hero's reception there." For such people commemoration should take place. This is a matter to be considered.

Finally, I should like to submit that the Andaman jail cells where many of these long-term prisoners spent their life

beginning with Savarkar, Barin Ghosh and many others from Maharashtra, Bengal and Punjab, should be preserved as a national memorial. We should go and see these things, and there should be a museum of the biographies of these people, museum which should contain a brief history of the freedom fight which began at the end of the 19th century till it went on up to the British withdrawal from our country.

I do not wish to take your time any more, you have given me time. Only I should like to say that I have not gone into the question of mid-term election because I wanted to voice some of the grievances of the people of West Bengal here, and I have done it. As far as the mid-term election is concerned, it has been settled that it would be held in November. I hope it will be held in November. Anyhow it is for the Election Commission to decide in consultation with the parties. Indeed it has done. I congratulate the Chief Election Commissioner for the courage and independence he has shown in this matter because he had been subjected to a lot of pressure and he has withstood this pressure. I say this because we want this office to be independent, to be above suspicion. Caesar's wife may even be under suspicion but not our Election Commissioner. The Election Commissioner should be above suspicion, and I hope he would live up to the tradition set by Mr. Sukumar Sen, not always observed during Mr. Sundaram's regime.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, I have made certain suggestions. I should like to know from the Government what they propose to do. These are all concrete cases I have given. Once again I appeal to the Home Minister to view the flood situation with human sympathy and seriousness, and let there be a discussion about it in a matter of days so that collectively we can make an effort to bring relief and succour to the stricken millions of West Bengal who are crying for help and relief and are looking forward to Parliament all the more because they do not have their Assembly now.

4 P. M.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, while taking part in this debate, I shall not peep into history as to how the United Front Government in West Bengal was toppled, I shall not discuss the ignominious role that was played by the party in power at the Centre or by the capitalists or the monopolists or the vested interests in the matter of

bringing down that Government in West Bengal. But today West Bengal has been overtaken by a natural calamity the like of which has not been witnessed for the last fifty years or so. Sir, you might be aware that a vast area of West Bengal's territory has been swept by the fury of the floods leaving a trail of destruction, leaving a trail of horror, leaving a trail of woe, which defy description. If I may quote from a conservative newspaper which is run by the Congress leaders of the State—I quote from the Amrita Bazar Patrika of August 8—that particular newspaper has said in an editorial comment :

"The worst-hit area seems to be the District of Midnapore. Several other West Bengal Districts have not escaped the aggression of the bursting rivers. According to a report from Kharagpur over 7,00,000 people have trekked into numerous relief camps. Over 50 per-cent of the paddy cultivation is said to have been lost."

This is the report only about a district, about some part of the deficit State. Even today I have seen in West Bengal newspapers a report that the Governor, Mr. Dharma Vira, himself had to agree that in six out of seven districts of West Bengal, not less than 43 lakhs of people have been the victims of the ravages of these floods. And in my own estimate, that number is much bigger. But when the magnitude is so much, we see with great horror and dismay that there has been no adequate arrangement made for the relief of these victims of these floods. Even it has been reported that far-off villages which have been marooned have not received a single grain of food or any relief or any shelter. People are living in the streets, they are living on the wayside, and they have not been even provided with temporary shelter. In this connection, I would urge upon the West Bengal Government and particularly the Union Government that adequate arrangements should be made so that they get adequate relief provided for them. Even today I have heard that the West Bengal Government has asked for Rs. 2 crores by way of relief to meet this situation. But, again, I will tell this House that when the number of people who have been involved in this flood situation is more than 50 lakhs, Rs. 2 crores are not at all adequate and much more funds should be made available to the Government of West Bengal so that the flood-stricken people can get some sort of succour and relief at the time of their distress. Had

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there been a popularly elected Govern* ment, that Government might have come to greater assistance of the people today. But they have bee'n denied a popular Government; they have been denied democracy, even a semblance of democracy.

The hon. Minister in his opening remarks referred to the question of the Consultative Committees. It is also a farce. Mr. Vice-Chairman, you might have observed the proceedings of these Consultative Committees. We had the occasion to meet under your Chairmanship also. Did you not observe that there was no democracy in the sense that the majority was converted into a minority? Had the Consultative Committee been formed in the way as it was formed in the case of Kerala or Haryana, in this Consultative Committee the popular representatives of the State might have been in the majority. Of course, it is generally accepted that Committees of that nature do not function by way of majority and minority. But you were a witness when we had to decide a particular procedure at the meeting by casting votes. Therefore, I want to say in this regard that the people of West Bengal have not only been denied a popularly elected Government but even the semblance of democracy which you may find in the so-called Consultative Committees has been completely erased today. It is not only a question that the people have been den'ed democracy; today they have also been denied relief and succour.

Some questions have also been raised regarding the performance of the United Front Government. Some point has been pressed here that the President's rule or the Governor's rule or the Home Ministry's rule, whatever it is, is better for the people of West Bengal. It is utterly wrong, it cannot be accepted. Therefore, I want to say something in that regard.

The hon. Minister was pleased to refer to the problem of food in the State. He said that the food position has improved in the State today. This is absolutely wrong. It is based on an obsolete and false report from the Government of West Bengal. If I am to rely on the documents of the Government itself, I can say today that the number of people of West Bengal who are under modified rationing or under fair price shop rationing or under Statutory rationing does not include more than 2,68,00,000 people, whereas the population is more than four crores. And to the best of my knowledge, even the areas

which are under the modified rationing system do not get a single morsel of foodgrains for months together. It has already become a farce, it has already become a mockery. Although they are said to be under the modified rationing system, they do not get a single morsel of foodgrains from the Government's channel or from the Government's distributing agencies.

Again, Mr. Vice-Chairman, the West Bengal Government, if I am to rely on their report itself, made it completely clear to the Government of India that this current year's deficit for the State is of the order of 23 lakh tonnes. The Union Government assured a supply of 14 lakh tonnes. Mr. Vice-Chairman, can I not ask this question in this House, in this august body? While the West Bengal Government, a Government which is run by them, not by the United Front, has said that the deficit of the State for the current year is of the order of 23 lakh tonnes, why is it that the Government of India does not come out and offer one hundred per cent making up of the deficit of the State? I would like to tell the Government of India that the food situation there is not as much improved as they want to say; the Government of India has not promised to make good the entire deficit of the State. Now, this time, the Government of India should promise and make available the entire deficit of the State.

The question of law and order has been referred to. I have got records with me to show that the West Bengal Government, under your rule, had to agree with this fact. I quote from a document of the Government :

"It is true that crime is in the increase. Economic slump with consequent unemployment, soaring prices of essential commodities and general disregard for law and order have led to the emergence of a class of anti-social elements indulging in crime."

Our friend, hon. Shri Bhupesh Gupta, referred to some facts. I have also got some figures which show that whereas in the last year under the United Front regime the total number of dacoities was not more than 842, after the Presidential Rule within six months it has been more than 500 involving crime of a much more virulent nature. And there is no law and order in that sense. Technically, you cannot even apprehend the culprit. Dacoits run into more than 300. In my

own town, a rickshaw-wallah was burnt alive within his house but the police could not trace the culprit. A man was burnt alive to death in a sub-divisional city town and the police under you could not find out the culprit even till today. This is the law and order position. On the other hand, what do you see today? Now the mid-term election is approaching and the police officers, big or small, are all wreaking vengeance on the United Front workers; they are threatening them. They say, "Oh! you are a United Front worker. You will have to learn a lesson. You are to bear the brunt of it." This is the law and order position which is prevailing in the State.

SHRI B. T. KEMPARAJ : What is the proof

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I say this from my own experience.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, our hon'ble friend, Mr. Varma, was referring to the failure of the Government in the matter of relief and rehabilitation within the State of West Bengal. (Interruption by Shri Neki Ram.) Do not disturb me. Mr. Vice-Chairman, I want your protection. Either they put a question or listen to me.

श्री नेकी राम : मैंने कहा भूपेश गुप्त उधर आपके नजदीक बैठे हैं। हम आपकी मदद कर रहे हैं, अगर आप नाराज होते हैं तो अपने शब्दों को वापिस लेते हैं।

SHRI CHITTA BASU : According to Government's own figures only 229,000 families have received rehabilitation benefit in the following order :—

1. Total No. of families settled in Government sponsored colonies (No. of colonies—503).	85,000
2. Total No. of families settled in 'Squatters' Colonies (No. of colonies—149)	30,000
3. Total No. of families settled in Private Colonies (No. of colonies—756)	59,000
4. Total No. of families settled in places outside West Bengal including Dandakaranya Project.	55,000
	229,000

Mr. Vice-Chairman, when the influx was more than 8 lakh families, even today more than 5 lakh families are awaiting rehabilitation by the Government.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, you will be astonished to learn that in the year 1960-61 the Government of India, in consultation with the Congress Government then existing in West Bengal thought that the rehabilitation programme was scuttled in the State and they thought that to solve the refugee problem a sum of Rs. 21 crores or Rs. 22 crores would be necessary. That is the Government's position. The United Front Government wanted to reformulate the policy and suggest to the Union Government that the entire responsibility of rehabilitating the uprooted humanity from East Bengal lies with the Government of India and they would have to bear the responsibility. (Time bell rings) If you order me I will resume my seat.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA): How much time do you want?

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Another five minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA): All right. Carry on.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: It is a problem of a very big nature into which I cannot go here because I have no time. According to my estimation the residuary problem comprises a long list. But according to the Government of India's residuary programme, it remains confined to granting some financial aid to a certain number of displaced persons. The United Front Government suggested to the Union Government that the policy should be recast on the basis of the objective situation. They should set aside more money and they should have more sympathy towards the uprooted humanity of that part of the land.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would refer to the horrible condition of the workers of the State today. Even today, Mr. Hathi might be knowing, that about 7-78 lakhs of organised industrial workers of the State are on a total strike today. They are on the streets. They are not working in the factories; they are involved in a total strike. The industrial workers of the jute industry, of the cotton industry, of the engineering industry, they are all on strike today. The number of those who have taken part in the strike is more,

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than seven lakhs out of the 14 lakhs of the entire organised labour of the State. And what is their demand? Their demand is pure and simple that they want the Engineering Wage Board award to be implemented expeditiously or published early ...

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI JAISUKH-LAL HATHI) : Implemented or published? What do they want?

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Implemented and brought out also. It should be expedited and implemented.

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI: How can it be implemented unless the Wage Board is constituted?

SHRI CHITTA BASU: There is the question of variable dearness allowance. You know the entire thing. The entire jute workers are on strike on the demand of the revision of the wage structure. Therefore, as the hon. Member, Shri Arjun Arora, pointed out, the wage level in West Bengal is the lowest in the country. It is lower than the one prevailing in Maharashtra. It is lower than in any other advanced industrial State. Therefore, it is perfectly right for the workers of the State to organise themselves and demand increased wages.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, before concluding, because I do not like to intrude upon your time, I only refer to the demands of the State Government employees. Their number is 1,75,000. Their demand is that they should be given D.A. at par with the Central Government employees. They have been denied the benefits, whether it is re-employment or automation. I have got my figures with me to show that even today more than a thousand State Government employees have been retrenched or discharged on frivolous charges on the plea that they have been rendered surplus, without providing them any alternative jobs. The United Front Government in the State accepted as a matter of principle the granting of D.A. to the State Government employees on par with the D.A. of the Central Government employees. For that, financial assistance from the Union Government was necessary. But that was not made available to the State. The State Government wanted to democratise the administration and wanted to recognise trade union rights. Now the West Bengal Government under

Governor Dharma Vira has taken away, has smashed, all the democratic rights of the State Government employees. They are also now on their way to strike.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, therefore, I want to conclude by saying that the people of West Bengal have been denied a popularly elected Government, have been denied democracy, have been denied even the semblance of democracy and, therefore, at this critical juncture, a popularly elected Government would have been a source of inspiration and strength for them and they would have withstood this stress with courage and hope. I think the Government of India would do well if it instructs and advises the Governor to take concerted action to meet the present needs of the suffering people of West Bengal.

With regard to the elections, I feel that elections should be held as early as possible and as the Election Commission has already announced, the elections should be held in the month of November so that the people of West Bengal may be given scope and opportunity to elect their own Government. Under no circumstances should the dates of elections be changed and the Election Commission's right in that matter should be respected. With these words, I resume my seat.

SHRI T. CHENGALVAROYAN (Madras): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I do not belong to Bengal, but Bengal belongs to me and, therefore, I have every right, title and interest to support this Resolution which has been moved by the hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs. In doing so, Mr. Vice-Chairman, I should most respectfully join with the regretful reflection of my esteemed comrade, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, of the great horror and havoc that the recent floods have caused to Bengal and the fair people of Bengal. I should join also with his very fervent and sincere appeal made to the Government that all relief measures, all ameliorative efforts must be speedily and in a massive scale undertaken for the benefit and for the succour of the Bengal people. I also join with him in very many other aspects that he has stated in his very strong speech. There are certain matters which vitally affect the welfare and the progress of Bengal and I have no doubt in my mind, considering the long tradition of the Government of India headed by our great Prime Minister, that in all places which require and call for any such efforts, our Government would not be hesitating in the least.

But, on this occasion, Mr. Vice-Chairman, we have to consider the origin and the genesis of the unfortunate political disappointment that recent events in Bengal have shown to us.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) in the Chair];

When the 1967 election verdict was announced, we all thought that in our country democracy, which the Congress has fostered, which the Congress has founded, would be not only indicated but also vindicated in all the States where the people had given their verdict. Mr. Vice-Chairman, I had a dream that democracy will be safeguarded; I had a dream that peace will be maintained; I had a dream that progress will be continued. But what happened? We found that a certain mongrel mixture of mountebanks under the name and style and dignified appellation of "United Democratic Front" was formed and the Government was constituted. Even then, Mr. Vice-Chairman, I had my own misgivings with regard to the future of such United Democratic Fronts, for anyone who has read contemporary international politics would be convinced of the fact that wherever and whenever United Democratic Fronts were formed, they would not last long. We found that what was a United Democratic Front became nothing but an Ultimately Diminishing Force. The abbreviation of U.D.F. which stood for United Democratic Front in the beginning very soon became "Ultimately Disappearing Force". In Bengal we have found that to our great dismay and disappointment. Even during that time, we thought that they would be trying to function within the constitutional framework in order that the long-standing grievances of the people of Bengal would be redressed. But we found to our great surprise, if not to our sorrow, that there were many sins of omission and commission on the part of the United Democratic Front Government headed by my esteemed and venerable friend Mr. Ajoy Mukherjee. My friend, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, on another occasion characterised my very great venerable leader, Mr. Ghosh, in an epithet which, I think, parliamentary dignity and decorum prevents me from repeating. I can equally use very many zoological epithets against leaders of such a party, but refrain from doing so because of the great tradition to which I have been accustomed. But, Mr. Vice-Chairman, if we just turn the very purple pages, the bloody sheets of the Government of the United Democratic Front in

the short time that it functioned, we find to our great surprise that democracy was drowned, that peace was disturbed, that law was banished, that order was blown up, that labour was unemployed, in other words, it was nothing but absolute, total, complete chaos. Mr. Vice-Chairman, nobody removed the United Democratic Front. It removed itself. That is the curse. That is the course of all such mongrel types of parties which unite on the eve of the election and disappear after some time. In other words, Mr. Vice-Chairman, as students of political institutions, we found within the United Democratic Front...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN): It is not "United Democratic Front", it is "United Front."

SHRI T. CHENGALVAROYAN: I think it was "Democratic Front", Mr. Vice-Chairman. We found that it had an internal combustion itself with the result that it consumed itself. I, therefore, feel that when the United Democratic Front—I still prefer to call it so in spite of your correction, Mr. Vice-Chairman...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN): As a matter of fact it is only United Front.

SHRI A. D. MANI (Madhya Pradesh): United Pseudo Democratic Front.

SHRI T. CHENGALVAROYAN: I stand corrected, Mr. Vice-Chairman. I was saying that the conditions that were created after the functioning of the United Front were so confusing that it became rather very necessary and expedient that that Government should be replaced. Now when that United Front Government disappeared, it disappeared unwept, unhonoured and unsung...

SHRI CHITTA BASU: No, no.

SHRI T. CHENGALVAROYAN: . . . and we were forced to have recourse to President's rule. We on this side of the House are very reluctant, if not very much loath, to resort to President's rule. For one thing, Mr. Vice-Chairman, we always believe and believe strongly and firmly that the people must have their own representatives to govern them. But if a condition is created and a situation is developed where it becomes very necessary and expedient that the Government of the people must be carried on, we have to take recourse to President's rule. We

[Shri T. Chengalvaroyan]

shed copious tears—not glycerine tears— on the extent of the President's rule. But there was no escape from that. And today if the Motion seeks an extension for a further period under article 351 of the Constitution, it is again because of the conditions that have now been created. For example, Mr. Vice-Chairman, we have been told, and told by no less a person than my esteemed comrade, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, of the great devastation that the recent floods have caused in Bengal. It is very unfortunate. Bengal should not be the victim of such vicissitudes, political sometimes, sometimes natural, sometimes created and sometimes imported. All these are the unfortunate history of Bengal. But brave Bengal can brave all these things. That has been the history of Bengal. Today we still hope and trust that, in spite of this extension of the President's Rule for another constitutional period, time will propitiate itself when the elections could be held. It has been told that during the term when the President's Rule was there there has been improvement on all fronts. On the food front there has been a considerable improvement. My friend said that there was no improvement. I accept his correction. But may I plead with him to understand that what our own Minister has said about improvement, it is not improvement in absolute terms but it is improvement in comparative terms. It is an improvement which is much better than what it was during the spell of the previous Government. We still feel and feel very regrettably that much more has yet to be done and when we realise what we have done so far and when we understand what we have to do still more, we shudder at the possibility of the tremendous responsibility that is thrown upon ourselves. Yes, there have been dacoits, but it is only a lingering limb of the past rule; we are trying to tackle it. If we do anything more, it will be considered to be repression but if we do not tackle dacoits, it will be considered as not upholding law and order. Nevertheless I must say that I have heard very many people that they heave a sigh of relief that there has been a good interval between one tragedy and another scene. Of course much depends upon my comrades; if they help in the matter, we could avoid another tragedy.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, another point that really raises an important issue is the date of the election. In this connection may I, as an humble follower of the Congress

tell this House and also tell the other people, particularly in Bengal, that the Election Commission is sacrosanct so far as we are concerned? We value it as an independent supreme authority where party colours and complexions could not have any effect whatsoever. Today, Mr. Vice-Chairman, if there can be a grand and great testimony for absolute dedication of the Congress to the Election Commission, the results of the 1967 Elections would have shown to the world that the Elections were free and fair. The world thought that 20 years of the Congress rule would have corrupted all the fountains of public life but the Elections in 1967 were so free and so fair that all other Ministers in the States, all our stalwarts, were defeated. What does that show? Mr. Vice-Chairman, that only shows that the Election Commission was the supreme authority in charge of the election. Today the Election Commission has fixed the date in November for elections. But for these floods, personally I would submit myself to that very date, because whatever the Election Commission proclaims in regard to the elections must be absolutely obeyed and complied with. But I plead with the Election Commission and I think I have got the right to plead with the Election Commission to look at the tragedy of these floods, look at the devastation that these floods have caused, look at the enormous social ameliorative work that one must be engaged in. What about the social agencies? What about the Government officers? What about the village officers? What about our political friends? What about my comrades of the Communist Party? I am sure their heart will throb with the same pulsation as we do that all of us shall forget the election for some time and remember the cries of the children, remember the cries of the wailing women and go to their rescue. After all, Mr. Vice Chairman, for whom are the elections held? They are for the people, of the people and by the people. If the people are in such dire distress, if the people are encircled in gloom and if the people are so much submerged in water with their heads crying for food, crying for some help, crying for some safety, is that the time when we must go and tell them "Vote for the Congress or vote for this Party?" Therefore, Mr. Vice-Chairman, I plead with the Election Commission to see the desirability of postponing the elections for some time. When we do that, it is not at all to escape any of the consequences of facing the elections. We will face these elections as we have faced many other elections, but first we want to face the distress of the people and remove it. With these words, Mr. Vice-

Chairman, I have great pleasure in commending this Resolution for extension of the President's Rule for six months with the hope and prayer that conditions will so develop once more that Bengal will sing the song of freedom and the song of Vande Mataram.

Thank you.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Mr. Vice-Chairman, I am glad that except probably one lone Member nobody else has really opposed the extension of the President's Rule for another six months in West Bengal. Sir, the hon. Member who opposed this extension is probably completely out of tune with the realities of the situation in West Bengal as also in the country and probably he is also completely out of tune with his own Party too. When he was speaking, I was reminded of the usual pre-election speeches that we used to hear in West Bengal and other places. His speech had unfortunately no relevance to the actual situation existing in West Bengal today. He was saying that we had fixed this time for elections to benefit the Congress Party or to give some extra advantage to the Congress Party. This is a view which even the other Opposition Members have not shared with him. Mr. Bhupesh Gupta paid a richly-deserved compliment to the Election Commission for its impartiality. I must tell Mr. Balkrishna Gupta, who is unfortunately not here, that the election in November was fixed by the Chief Election Commissioner not under instructions from the Government of India or the Congress Party but in consultation with all the major political parties in West Bengal, including the S.S.P, which is not such a major party. Even then the leaders of the S.S.P, in West Bengal did not object to fixing the election in November. They had agreed with the Chief Election Commissioner that that was the earliest time when it could be held. When these are the actual facts on record, it is surprising that some hon. Member should come before this hon. House and say things in an irresponsible manner. We would have very much liked to hold the elections within six months' period; it is no pleasure to us to keep a major and a vital State like West Bengal under the President's Rule for all this period but it was only because of certain difficulties that this period had to be extended.

The hon. Member belonging to the S.S.P, was further pleased to say that we are violating the law and the Constitution by not holding the elections within six months. All Members who serve here in Parliament know that whenever there is a State under the President's Rule and a

Proclamation has been approved by Parliament, then the elections should be held within the stipulated period, of course depending upon what time the Election Commission has fixed. It is not a question of violating the Constitution or any law. I would advise Mr. Gupta to refresh his memory as far as the Constitution is concerned.

Mr. Lokanath Misra and some other hon. Members also mentioned the problem regarding circular railway in Calcutta. Now this is a serious problem as far as Calcutta is concerned and unfortunately there has been delay in the solution of this problem. But I am told that the Railway Ministry has pleaded with the Planning Commission to include the circular railway scheme for Calcutta in the Fourth Plan and there are good chances that this scheme will be included in the Fourth Five Year Plan.

The question which is at present under discussion is whether this should be a circular railway or over-ground railway or it should be an under-ground railway. There are problems regarding over-ground railway because Calcutta is a very thickly populated area and there would be problems regarding the acquisition of land and many other connected problems when we have to provide for so many stations and railway lines all around and these problems may not be there for an under-ground railway. For an under-ground railway, may be, a little more funds may be required. But I hope that all these difficulties will be overcome and we shall have the railway system which will serve the suburban needs and the needs of the citizens of Calcutta included in the Fourth Plan period.

Mr. Misra and some honourable Members, Sir, also referred to mid-term poll and Mr. Misra was pleading for the mid-term poll to be postponed from November to February. As is well known, we have no say in these matters and if the major political parties of West Bengal agree and also if the Chief Election Commissioner thinks that it is proper to do so he might consider the suggestion. As far as the Government of India is concerned, we take it that the elections will be held in November as decided unless the decision is changed by the Chief Election Commissioner.

The other suggestion which Mr. Misra made was the banning of the Communist Party. Sir, this demand has been rejected very many times in the House and I do not know how he can talk in contradiction of that accusing the Communist Party of

[Shri Vidya Charan Shukla]

dictatorship and this and that. When this question came up he asked for a very dictatorial measure to be adopted against the Communist party itself. I must say that we do not believe in banning any opposition party and as far as possible we shall never take recourse to this kind of banning unless it becomes absolutely essential in public interest to do so.

Mr. Niranjan Varma expressed the view that President's rule should not be used for extending the Congress rule in West Bengal. Sir, if serving the people in an efficient and proper manner is strengthening the Congress Party in West Bengal then we may be accused of it. But we have never undertaken any work in West Bengal so far to strengthen any political party or with any political motive. Whatever we have done, we have done so to only serve the people of West Bengal to the best of our capacity. It is unfortunate for the people of West Bengal that they have lost their popular Government and President's rule had to be imposed and this unfortunate situation can be redeemed to an extent by our trying to do our best in the circumstances to see that in the intervening period before a popular Government is again elected, the work is carried on as well as we can do it and I would assure the honourable Member, Mr. Niranjan Varma, that we have no intention whatsoever to play politics at this time.

Regarding the flood situation we have been receiving almost hour to hour information about the flood situation. I must say, the flood situation and the misery caused to the people is very worrying and it is a very bad situation in certain parts of West Bengal and we are doing our best to meet the situation. I can assure Mr. Gupta and other honourable Members of the House that nothing will be allowed to come in the way of the relief being provided and there would be no financial stringency....

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : It is not the point, Mr. Shukla. I understand... it is not a party issue. We have got in touch with the people there, I understand from the newspapers also and also from the contacts that we have made, including even the District Magistrate, that the situation is extremely serious and immediate relief and other measures are not being taken. There is a lot of inefficiency and of course, funds are not being made available. These are broadly the suggestions or criticisms that have been made from honourable Members including some on that side. I cannot say all.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : The latest wireless messages that have been received by us indicate that relief operations have already started in a big way. Certain districts have been particularly mentioned here. I do not know if they have already been covered or not. If not, they will be covered soon.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AK-BAR ALI KHAN) : The honourable Minister should draw the attention of the Governor regarding the matters that the speakers have brought out about this flood situation.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Yes, Sir.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : It is not a question of short duration discussion . . . {Interruptions}. . . In Gujarat the situation is extremely serious. There the Legislative Assembly is at work. But here we have no Legislative Assembly. In fact that part of the machinery is not working at all. Therefore, I thought all the reasonable ways and means should be found . . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AK-BAR ALI KHAN) : Mr. Gupta, I have suggested to the honourable Minister that he should draw the attention of the Governor regarding the matters that the speakers here have brought out about this flood situation.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : We are all seriously concerned with the situation there and as I was saying, we have already taken strict relief measures. Whatever lacunae may be there, we shall try to remove them.

Sir, Mr. Gupta was pleased to make some remarks about the food situation. Now as far as the food situation is concerned, there may be differences of opinion because of political reasons. But as far as the statistics go and as far as the present conditions go and from the reports that we get from all kinds of sources it is without dispute that the food situation—I am not talking of the flood situation; flood situation may have disrupted the food supply but before this calamity came about—was far better than last year. This is not my reflection on the United Front Government. May be because of the shortage of production or for any other reasons of their own they may have had this difficulty; but this is a fact that the procurement, the internal procurement was much less during that time, the last kharif season.

This time we were able to get much more foodgrains and cereals in the internal procurement and we have been able to cover more and more population and with the modified rationing system also supply greater quantity of foodgrains here and there. This is also true as regards the essential commodities. The essential commodities supply position has also improved a lot. And as Mr. Gupta himself hinted, even the prices have gone down because of the improved supply position. So it is not that I am trying to strike a contrast between the United Front Government and the President's rule...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Mr. Shukla, why do you bring in my statement... {Interruptions} What I said was, compared to the big prices last year, marginally the prices may have fallen. Even then the prices are higher.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, whatever it is, I have only repeated whatever he has said. I am very happy...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I never said that prices are going down.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AK-BAR ALI KHAN) : No, no. Comparatively the price situation is going down.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Whereas the price was Rs. 4 J it may be Rs. 3 or Rs. 3½ now. That does not mean that people can buy at that price.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AK-BAR ALI KHAN) : That is what Mr. Shukla is saying.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Even though there has been a decline in the prices, the present prices are also abnormal.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Mr. Vice-Chairman, some other honourable Members have mentioned regarding the Statistical Institute, denationalisation of road transport and all that. We shall definitely look into all these points that the honourable Members have mentioned.

There is one point about which I would like to make a special mention and that is regarding political sufferers in West Bengal. Sir, it is a fact that the valiant freedom fighters in Bengal were at the forefront of the national struggle and that is why I think they were one of the greatest sufferers in our fight for political emancipation. I also know that most of them are too

proud to ask for any assistance and they have never stretched their hands for any assistance; but nonetheless it is our duty to see that whatever can be done should be done for them. And this question was raised sometime back and we found out from the Government of West Bengal that they were setting up a home with all kinds of things for such political sufferers who have no immediate family of their own.

They were too busy fighting the British to get married or do anything of that kind and they are now left completely alone in their advanced age with nobody to look after them. I think it is the least we can do in our gratitude towards them. I am told that sufficient funds have been provided in the current year's Budget for setting up a home for 60 freedom fighters.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Give an idea of the funds.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : They are setting up a home.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I am not crossing swords with Mr. Shukla over that matter. It is not a question of only providing the home. It is something more.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I am coming to that. I was saying that in this particular problem there is complete unanimity of views. We cannot agree more with Mr. Gupta in whatever he said about the freedom fighters. There is no difference of opinion as far as this matter is concerned. The Bengal Government have taken a particular step and they have informed that they have taken this step. As far as the relief matter is concerned I must confess that the help and relief to the political sufferers have not been sufficient. They have been deficient and there is a good deal of scope for improvement in this matter. This matter was first considered in 1950 and the decision then taken was that since most of these matters related to the State administration this question of relief to the political sufferers should be left to the State administration. We coordinate and decide the policy and that was adopted by all the State Governments and there it was decided that free land grant, cash grant, educational facilities, political pension monetary relief, all these will be undertaken by the State Government. The State Governments in various ways have done it but as I said earlier, I do not think sufficient was done. There is a good deal of deficiency in our efforts to help and support the valiant freedom fighters. There is no doubt in my mind about it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AK-BAR ALI KHAN) : I hope the Central Government will also help in this matter.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : We do help them ourselves. The Home Minister has a discretionary fund at his disposal and we from time to time give ad hoc advances to political sufferers but unfortunately the fund is not large enough to give as much relief as would be necessary normally, but still we have been taking this matter with the various State administrations from time to time and we are now going to take up this matter of health assistance or free medical assistance to the various sufferers and their families,

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I make a suggestion? The fund you have is very inadequate. I am glad you have said it. I know the amount but it is necessary that you must have a recurring grant for the fund. Rs. 50 or Rs. 60 lakhs should be at your disposal. When you have recurring grants for various other things, why cannot you take it up with the Finance Ministry for a recurring grant so that the fund goes on? We are giving to the Princes and to so many people. Why cannot we make this a charge on the Consolidated Fund?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I take it as the unanimous wish of the Rajya Sabha—what Mr. Gupta has said— and we shall forward this to the Finance Ministry for their consideration. I only wish to say that we have been doing our best with the help of the State Governments to redress and help the freedom fighters to the extent possible.

I think I have touched upon most of the points that the Members had raised.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Will you look into the case I brought up about the lady teacher being locked up ? I hope you will at least let us know.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I have already said that various other points have been raised and we shall look into them. Having said all this, I would request the House to unanimously approve of this motion to extend the Proclamation for another six months.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Have you heard, Mr. Shukla—I forgot to mention— that some of the people belonging to the minority running papers are being prosecuted ? It seems some of the papers have been

prosecuted by the Government and Paigam is one of them. I am not going into the merits of the case. There is a feeling among the minority community members that certain repressive measures are being used to suppress the press belonging to the minority community. You must take note of it because after attending the Srinagar Integration Conference when I went to Calcutta, a number of journalists belonging to the press—rather the press that is championing the cause of the minority community—and their editors told me about this and asked that this matter should be taken up with the Government. Since I have received letters also saying that harass-ments are taking place. I hope you will look into the matter so that an impression does not get round that the Government are assuming some powers and they would be used against the minority community to curtail their liberties. The matter is most serious.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: I agree with the Member. I am aware of this feeling and we have looked into the matter. I may tell the Member that it is not a fact. There have been prosecutions launched against certain papers belonging to the minority community but there have been a greater number of prosecutions of papers belonging to the majority community and we have already stated here clearly that there would be no paper, whether it belongs to the minority community or majority community, if it indulges in the propagation of communalism or if it incites communal hatred, that will be spared. That is why action has been taken and in the future also action will be taken.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: (SHRI AK-BAR ALI KHAN) : There should be no discrimination.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: There have been a greater number of prosecutions against the people of the majority community and much less of the minority community.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: (SHRI AK-BAR ALI KHAN) The question is :

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the proclamation issued by the President on the 30th February, 1968, under article 356 of the Constitution, in relation to the State of West Bengal, for a further period of six months with effect from the 22nd September, 1968."

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : On a point of order. I move an amendment :

"With the hope that the Congress would be defeated in the mid-term elections". It is a simple amendment.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AK-BAR ALI KHAN) : No, no.

The question is.

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the proclamation on the 20th February, 1968, under article 356 of the Constitution, in relation to the State of West Bengal, for a further period of six months with effect from the 22nd September, 1968."

The motion was adopted.

बिहार राज्य विधान मंडल (शक्तियों का प्रत्यायोजन), विधेयक, 1968

[THE BIHAR STATE LEGISLATURE (DELEGATION OF POWERS) BILL, 1968]

गृह-कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि :—

“विधियाँ बनाने की बिहार राज्य के विधान मंडल की शक्ति राष्ट्रपति को प्रदान करने वाले विधेयक पर विचार किया जाय।”

That the Bill to confer on the President the power of the legislature of the State of Bihar to make laws be taken into consideration]”.

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, इसके सम्बन्ध में जब राष्ट्रपति जी की अधिघोषणा के ऊपर यह सवाल पेश हुआ था तब इस महान सदन में काफी बहस हुई थी और इसलिए जब यह विधेयक यहाँ पेश किया गया है तब इसके

† [] English translation.

लिए केवल एक घंटे का समय इसलिए रखा गया है कि इसके बारे में बहुत कुछ बहस पहले ही हो चुकी है।

जिन परिस्थितियों में राष्ट्रपति का शासन बिहार में लागू करना पड़ा उससे यह सदन भली भाँति परिचित है और मैं तो यह समझता हूँ कि यह प्रजातंत्र का बड़ा भारी दुर्भाग्य था जो इस तरीके से बिहार सरीखे राज्य में जहाँ राष्ट्रवाद की ऐसी गहरी और भारी परम्पराएँ हैं वहाँ लोकप्रिय सरकार का राज्य समाप्त हुआ और राष्ट्रपति का शासन लागू करना पड़ा। उसमें एक खास बात ध्यान देने की यह है कि पिछले आम चुनाव के बाद इन 15-16 महीनों में वहाँ तीन बार सरकारें बदलीं और चार मुख्य मंत्री बने। अब ऐसा किस कारण से हुआ, किस वजह से हुआ। वहाँ राजनैतिक सीदेबाजी की गई राजनैतिक अनैतिकता का परिचय दिया गया पदलोलुपता का परिचय दिया गया और राजनैतिक अवसरवादिता के कारण यह सब दुर्गति बिहार में राजनीति और प्रशासन की हुई। मैं समझता हूँ कि हमारी जो बिहार की जनता है वह इस बात को सोचेगी कि आगे चल कर किस तरह से वह अपने मताधिकार का प्रयोग करे जिससे इस तरह की दुखद घटनाओं की पुनरावृत्ति फिर न हो सके।

Sir, I have not completed. There is no time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AK-BAR ALI KHAN) : The House stands adjourned till U A. M. tomorrow.

The House adjourned at five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Tuesday, the 13th August, 1968.