

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA**THE UNIT TRUST OF INDIA (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 1966**

SECRETARY: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary of the Lok Sabha: —

"In accordance with the provisions of Rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of the Unit Trust of India (Amendment) Bill, 1966, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 15th February, 1966." Sir, I lay the Bill on the Table.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO SHRI
NIREN GHOSH**

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that the following letter, dated the 1st February, 1966, has been received from Shri Niren Ghosh: —

"I hereby request that leave of absence from all the sittings of the Fifty-fifth Session of Uhe Rajya Sabha be granted to me since the Government of West Bengal is preventing me from attending the ensuing session for no valid reason whatsoever."

Is it the pleasure of the House that permission be granted to Shri Niren Ghosh for remaining absent from all meetings of the House during the current session?

No hon. Member dissented

Permission to remain absent granted.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I wish to invite your attention to what Shri Niren Ghosh has written, namely, that he is being prevented by the West Bengal Gov-

ernment from attending this session. Sir, the summons are issued by the President and the West Bengal Government comes in the way of the Member attending. I do not know why the Central Government is not making it possible for him and other detenus belonging to this House to come and attending the session. I should like to have an explanation from the Government. Is it political vendetta? If it is political vendetta, how far will it be carried? This we would like to know from the Government because they have arrested two Members of this House and there are others from the other House. Almost the entire group is in detention. They have been arrested and are being detained without trial in the name of emergency or whatever it is, I don't know, I know, Sir, your difficulties in the matter. But you are the Chairman of this House and you are the custodian of the proprieties and privileges of this House. As for these two Members of this House, Shri Ramamurti and Shri Ghosh, they are under detention from this House. I should like to request you, Sir, to intervene in this matter so that the cussed Home Minister realises the need for getting them here to participate in the deliberations of this House.

**STATEMENT RE SUPPLY AND
DISTRIBUTION OF KEROSENE OIL**

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SARDAR ' IQBAL SINGH): Sir, this is a long statement. I place it on the Table of the House, with your permission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How long is it?

SARDAR IQBAL SINGH: Six page.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Uttar Pradesh): He may give a summary of it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Six pages of single-space or double-space typing?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Either you read out the whole thing or give a summary of it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: In such matters, I think you will kindly . . .

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Or give only the relevant portions.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, when the Government comes with such voluminous statements then they should get a ready-made summary also with it, because after all, he may not be good at summarising. May be otherwise, I don't know.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gupta has for once made a very helpful suggestion.

AN HON. MEMBER: You like it?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: What did you say, Sir. Only once I have made?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): This may be taken as read and copies can be circulated to Members.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: It may be taken as read and we may put questions tomorrow.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: At what time?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: At about 3.30 or 4, any time you like.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may put questions tomorrow at this time. You may lay on the Table and you may be here tomorrow to reply to clarifications that may be needed tomorrow.

Copies will be made available.

SARDAR IQBAL SINGH: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement re-

garding the supply and distribution of kerosene oil in the country in general and the State of West Bengal in particular. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5852/66].

RE CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE ON WEST BENGAL FOOD SCARCITY

SHRI D. L. SEN GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I had given a call attention notice day before yesterday for the Minister of Food to make a statement because of the appalling conditions prevailing in West Bengal and the failure of the Government of India to supply adequate quantities of rice, resulting in the scarcity of food, and agitations, mass arrests, shooting and all that. You will kindly recollect, Sir, that on the 16th of this month when I raised this question in connection with the scarcity of rice in Kerala and the Kerala trouble, the hon. Food Minister in a light-hearted manner said there was no trouble in West Bengal and the Chief Minister of West Bengal had said that since the introduction of statutory rationing there has been complete unemployment of the professional agitators. But the situation was not so. On the same day, on the very same day that we were discussing here and when I was raising the question the position was serious and the police had opened fire. Instead of giving food they gave them bullets.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have unfortunately proved a true prophet.

SHRI D. L. SEN GUPTA: We find ' that as many as six were wounded and many of them died. More than 59 were otherwise wounded and about 100 were arrested. All these things happened on the same day at the same hour, when we were discussing the matter here. I am not going to take much time, Sir.

I find in the papers that yesterday that West Bengal has asked the Centre