

[Shri A. M. Thomas.]
 them together come to 208. But one thing may be noted that there has been no human casualty at all on both sides unlike previous incidents. There has not been any loss of human life at all, and many of them may have been inadvertent.

SHRI G MURAHARI (Uttar Pradesh): I would like to know from the Government whether, in view of the agreement that they have reached regarding reduction of military potential in Kashmir, the same would be applied to the whole of the frontier with Pakistan and whether such an agreement is in the offing.

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: As far as the eastern sector is concerned also I have made mention that the troops there would withdraw.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we proceed to the next item.

STATEMENT ON POWER SHORTAGE IN CERTAIN STATES DUE TO DROUGHT CONDITIONS

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement on power shortage in certain States due to drought conditions. [Placed in Library. See No LT-5552/66].

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Govinda Reddy.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa). Sir, yesterday in your absence I had brought to the notice of the Chair that there was no Cabinet Minister present throughout, and there was a directive from the Deputy Chairman saying that at least one of

the Cabinet Ministers should be asked to come and sit through the debate here. Even though the directive was given at 3.30 till 5 O'Clock no Minister of Cabinet rank turned up. Thereby the Treasury Benches flouted the directive of the Chair. Now that you are in the Chair, Sir, I would request you to give a directive to the ruling party so that at least for all these three days when President's Address is being taken up in this House there should be at least one Cabinet Minister. We have the pleasure of having three or four Cabinet Ministers who are members of this House and what is the fun in their getting away to the other House and sitting through the debate there? Is there more wisdom being distributed? That is my question. Why should not they be here?

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is certainly not more or less wisdom anywhere. I fully sympathise with the sentiments expressed by the hon Member that members of the Government should take this House seriously and I hope that one or two of them would be present here during the course of the discussion.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I would like to say . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not on this point. Let us pass on.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The only thing I would like to point out is that every day you say this thing and

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not said this every day.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Not every day but very frequently.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Deputy Chairman said it yesterday and I said I fully agree with it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Earlier also you had said it and rightly so. I am not contesting it. But the point is, we read in the newspapers that