

MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE) NOTIFICATION

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Sir I also beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) Notification G.S.R. No. 1063, dated the 11th August, 1962, under sub-section (4) of section 43B of the Sea Customs Act, 1878, publishing an amendment in Government Notification G.S.R. No. 575, dated the 28th May, 1960. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-378/62.]

THE CUSTOMS AND CENTRAL EXCISE DUTIES EXPORT DRAWBACK (GENERAL) AMENDMENT RULES, 1962

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Sir, I also lay on the Table a copy of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) Notification G.S.R. No. 103, dated the 18th August, 1962, under sub-section (4) of section 43B of the Sea Customs Act, 1878 and section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944, publishing the Customs and Central Excise Duties, Export Drawback (General) Amendment Rules, 1962. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-378/62.]

STATEMENT RE FLOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement on the flood situation in the country. [See Appendix XL, Annexure No. 77.]

If you will allow me, Sir, I may, in addition to this statement, read out to the House this latest report about the flood situation received from Uttar Pradesh, and request that this may become part of the statement laid just now on the Table of the House. This additional information was received in the morning today and so could not be incorporated in the original statement.

"Most of the rivers, viz., the rivers Ganga, Ram Ganga, Gomti, Ghagra, Choti Gandak, Bari Gandak, etc. have started receding slowly but the river Ganga at Etah and the rivers Gomti and Sai in Jaunpur and the river Ghagra in Ballia, Azamgarh and Deoria are rising. The districts of Etah, Moradabad, Kanpur, Fatehpur, Ballia, Gorakhpur, Basti, Azamgarh, Deoria, Luncknow, Sitapur, Kheri, Gonda, Bahraich, Barabanki and Faizabad have been affected so far by floods and excessive rains. There were land-slides in districts Chamoli and Pithoragarh. The total area affected is reported to be 14,17,926 acres. The number of villages affected is 5,752. The Population affected is 16,84,280. The number of houses damaged or destroyed is 9,853. The number of human lives lost is 20. The number of heads of cattle lost is 6.

Military assistance in the shape of boats for rescue operations in districts Gorakhpur and Deoria has been obtained. Gratuitous relief and house subsidy is being distributed to poor and needy flood victims. Taccavi loans are also being distributed. About 1,022 boats have been engaged on rescue and evacuation work. 24,382 persons and 20,752 cattle have been removed to safer places. Relief and rescue operations are continuing. Extensive damage to crops is apprehended."

ENQUIRY RE PROPOSED PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): With your permission, Sir, I wish to bring to your notice a rather serious matter concerning the rights and privileges of this particular House. It does not concern me individually. Now, Sir, Mr. K. C. Reddy, a Member of Government, has given notice of a motion in the other House to create a Committee on Public Undertakings, which is includ-

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta.]
ed in the List of Business of the other House. I am not concerned with the other House; I am concerned with the rights of this House and with the Government. There are two motions. One is about the functions of that Committee, and the other deals with our House; as to what we should do or should not do is being dealt with in the other House. Now Mot on No. 2 reads as follows:

"This House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate five Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings, and to communicate to this House the names of the Members so nominated by Rajya Sabha.

This is one part.

The second part is . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can we not wait till the motion comes to us?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: But, Sir, I have got the motions because the Government should state its position. Now, this is the second part.

"The said Committee on Public Undertakings shall discharge its functions as if it were a Committee of Parliament except that when discharging the function now discharged by the Estimates Committee, the Committee shall function with the Members elected from this House. .

It means the other House.

.....as a Committee of this House only."

I may inform you here that the matter was raised in this House as to what should be the nature of this Committee on Public Undertakings. We said our House should be there, and we thought that a Joint Committee should be formed consisting of Members of both Houses and being given equal powers and rights. Now what they are doing? They are not only not forming a Joint Committee; they are asking us to nominate five

people; they determine the number, as to how many should be there, and ask this House, or you perhaps, to nominate them. And secondly, they say that we shall be second-rate citizens on that Committee, that is to say, we will not have equal status or power in certain matters. Their Members will form the Committee and we shall be, whoever may go from this House, mere onlookers. It is a most dangerous thing. Either you scrap it; do not take us at all; or take us with dignity and honour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What do you want Mr. Gupta?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I want this; I submit on behalf of the House that you should call upon the Government to explain the position, what they mean by this kind of thing. We are not charity boys of anybody. This House functions under the Constitution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gupta, you need not dilate on that. Please put your question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I wish to dilate because it is a serious matter. Have you been consulted, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I have not been.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You have not been consulted. It is quite clear.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You need not dilate on it, Mr. Gupta.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I have to dilate on it, Sir, and I think I would have been failing in my duty as a member of this House, like many other Members, if I did not bring to your notice immediately this matter came to our notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Mr. Subramaniam, a Member of Government, is here. Others are also here.

They should explain what they mean by it. Have they given up the idea of a Joint Committee for the public undertakings? And what do they mean by taking us into that Committee as associate nominated Members and not giving us the right in respect to many matters, and giving the right only to the other Members of that House? What do they mean by all this? You should consider the whole matter, Sir, and Government should tell us as to where we stand with regard to this whole business.

MR CHAIRMAN Mr Subramaniam, would you like to say something at this stage?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND HEAVY INDUSTRIES (SHRI C SUBRAMANIAM) I am not in a position to say anything now, Sir.

SHRI A B VAJPAYEE (Uttar Pradesh) Then may we know who is in a position to say? The motion is coming up there. The motion has been moved or is going to be moved in the other House.

MR CHAIRMAN the House is in a state of surprise. I did not know this. This must be passed on to me. I would get into touch with the Government and find out, and if there is anything to communicate, I would do so.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA It is a matter of urgency. It comes up there tomorrow, or may be the day after tomorrow. Tomorrow's agenda paper contains this.

MR. CHAIRMAN Please sit down.

SHRI K. SANTHANAM (Madras) I suggest that you should convey to those concerned that this House is not likely to agree to any secondary status. They may do what they like.

SHRI GANGA SHARAN SINHA (Bihar) If the matter is going to be raised in the other House tomorrow, I think the Government should make a statement here today. Otherwise, it would be very difficult later.

SHRI A B VAJPAYEE It is a strange thing that nobody

MR CHAIRMAN Mr Lal Bahadur wishes to say something.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI LAL BAHADUR) I merely wanted to say this. I am suggesting that since this matter has just been raised, I hope you will be good enough to allow us to look into the matter further, and then we can communicate to the House the Government's decision.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA Do I have an assurance that unless they have looked into the matter and consulted you, they would not proceed with this motion which is supposed to come up there tomorrow, and the Government Motion now standing in the name of Mr K C Reddy involves a high policy and, what is more, the rights and dignity of this House. I want an assurance on that score and then we will wait.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY (Mysore) How can the Minister give an assurance without looking into the motion?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA It is there in the List of Business. Certainly he is aware of what is happening.

MR. CHAIRMAN Mr Gupta.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI (Uttar Pradesh) The leader of the House is there and he can give an assurance.

(Interruptions.)

MR. CHAIRMAN Mr Gupta, he wants time to consider, I would consult him and now, if he is not in a position to make a statement, I cannot extract one from him.

SHRI GANGA SHARAN SINHA Before this matter is raised in the other House, I think you must be informed about it. He must make a statement this afternoon. Otherwise, if this motion is moved there in the

[Shri Ganga Sharan Sinha.]
other House and passed, what is the use of discussing it here or making a statement here when it is too late?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You will understand what we say, Sir. Let us have an assurance. I am not saying that the Government should do it immediately but they should give an assurance that they shall consult you and, through you, us and only after that they will proceed in this matter so that the present position is remedied straightway. After the Resolution is passed in that House what shall we do?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you in a position to give that assurance?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I can only get in touch with the Minister, Shri K. C. Reddy, who is moving that Resolution. I shall do so immediately but I cannot say anything further.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: In that case I request you to convey through your own agencies to the Speaker of the other House that we take serious exception to this Government motion, and that this motion should not be allowed to be debated and discussed by them until and unless mutual consultations have taken place and an acceptable arrangement is arrived at.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have understood the position. I will get in touch with the Minister and if there is an assurance forthcoming, I would communicate it to this House and then the House would know what to do.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this question was raised in this House earlier also and all sections of the House were unanimous on this one thing that if we are asked to associate with a committee in any capacity other than a full-fledged Member, we shall not be in a position to accept it.

SHRI K. SANTHANAM: Yes, Sir. That is the position.

SHRI S. C. DEB (Assam): Sir, the hon. Minister made a statement regarding the flood situation in the country. May I know whether he has taken into account the serious situation obtaining in Assam in connection with the recent floods?

SHRI GANGA SHARAN SINHA: It is entirely a different subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is now over. You had better raise it immediately after the Minister's statement.

ALLOTMENT OF TIME FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE APPROPRIATION (NO. 4) BILL, 1962

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that under Rule 162(2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I have allotted one hour for the completion of all stages involved in the consideration and return of the Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 1962, by the Rajya Sabha, including the consideration and passing of amendments, if any, to the Bill.

ALLOTMENT OF TIME FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) NO. 4 BILL, 1962

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that under Rule 162(2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I have allotted 30 minutes for the completion of all stages involved in the consideration and return of the Appropriation (Railways) No. 4 Bill, 1962, by the Rajya Sabha, including the consideration and passing of amendments, if any, to the Bill.