

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I know the raw materials used in the manufacture of gelatine?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Jungle bones, dry bones, animal bones and flashings.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question hour is over.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

DISLOCATION OF TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES IN ORISSA DUE TO FLOODS

1. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the wide-spread dislocation of telecommunication services in Orissa following the recent unprecedented floods throughout the State;

(b) whether any attempt has been made to assess the extent of dislocation and if so, what are the details of the damage caused, the area affected and the duration for which such dislocation continued; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government for immediate restoration of the telecommunication services and with what result?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (DR. P. SUBBARAYAN): (a) Yes.

(b) Damage to telecommunication lines has occurred at many places between Cuttack and Balasore, resulting in dislocation to telecommunication services. The interruptions occurred on 16th August, 1960. Restoration of

the lines is in progress. Telecommunication lines between Cuttack—Sambalpur and Sambalpur—Jharsaguda were also affected by the floods on 16th August, 1960 but were restored on 18th August, 1960.

(c) Most of the telecommunication services, which were affected, have now been restored.

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SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, whether the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to the interior parts where also the service has been dislocated, and whether he has obtained any information from the Director, Posts and Telegraphs, Orissa, that this service has in any way been restored?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: Yes, Sir. The Governor himself was here and talked to me about it. I told him that, if there was anything more to be done, he could communicate it to me. Since he has not written to me, perhaps satisfaction has been given to the Government of Orissa.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I have an idea as to the extent of the progress which has been made towards the restoration of services in particular areas in any of the districts?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: In view of the anticipated delay in complete restoration of the affected lines between Cuttack and Balasore, a temporary diversion alignment has been erected to divert as many lines as possible. Reports received so far indicate that three pairs have been made available on this alignment and the working of direct telecommunication system from Calcutta to Madras, Visakhapatnam and Cuttack have now been restored.

SHRI BAIRAGI DWIBEDY: May I know, Sir, if the telecommunication line from Sambalpur to Deogarh has been restored?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: As I said, that was done on the 18th itself.

SHRI BAIRAGI DWIBEDY: No, Sir. It has not been done. Then, may I know, Sir, whether telecommunication service from Sambalpur via Meramendeli has been restored?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: I have been told that they have been restored.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ASSISTANCE GIVEN FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S NATIONAL RELIEF FUND

*574. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation or request from the Government of Gujarat or any other organisation for assistance from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund to help the sufferers from heavy floods at Junagadh and other places in the State; and

(b) if so, the amount of assistance given to them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) and (b) No representation or request for financial assistance from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund has been received either from the State Government or any other organisation in Gujarat for relief in the flood affected areas in Junagadh and other places in the State.

However, on the 30th June 1960 a sum of Rs. 23,606.59 from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund was

sent to the Chief Minister of Gujarat for flood relief in Surat. This money was received in the Fund earmarked for Surat Flood Relief during the period 1st January 1960 to 30th June 1960.

ENQUIRY INTO THE AFFAIRS OF THE AHMEDABAD ELECTRIC CO., LTD.

*579. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will the MINISTER of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Press reports at Ahmedabad and Bombay about the 'Uproar at the Annual General Meeting' of the Ahmedabad Electric Company Limited in November, 1958; and

(b) if so, whether Government have made any inquiry into the charges made at the said meeting?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(b) At the meeting, the shareholders criticised the role played by Messrs. K. G. Milne and E. D. Sheppard, Chairman and Director of the Company and Managing Directors of the Managing Agency, viz., Killick Industries Ltd., in negotiating a deal, for the purchase of turbine and boiler plants for the company, with a British Firm, on terms which were alleged to be less favourable than those offered by another U.K. Firm. Messrs. Sheppard and Milne had already resigned from their positions in the company before the general meeting held and the transaction in question was not proceeded with by the company. No inquiry into the matter by Government was considered necessary.