

- (4> Active steps by States and peoples of the world, who though not directly concerned with the production of these weapons, are very much concerned by the possible use of them, also at present, by these experiments and their effects. They would, I venture to hope, express their concern and add their voices and influence, in as effective a manner as possible to arrest the progress of this destructive potential which menaces all alike.

The Government of India will use its best efforts in pursuit of these objectives.

I would conclude with an expression of the sympathy which this House and this country feels towards the victims of the recent explosions. Japanese fishermen and others, and to the people of Japan to whom it has brought much dread and concern by way of direct effects and by the fear of food contamination.

The open ocean appears no longer open, except in that those who sail on it for fishing or other legitimate purposes take the greater and unknown risks caused by these explosions. It is of great concern to us that Asia and her peoples appear to be always nearer these occurrences and experiments, and their fearsome consequences, actual and potential.

We do not yet know fully whether the continuing effects of these explosions are carried only by the media of air and water or whether they subsist in other strata or nature and how long their effects persist, or whether they set up some sort of chain reactions at which some have already hinted.

We must endeavour with faith and hope to promote all efforts that seek to bring to a halt this drift to what appears to be the menace of total destruction.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO SHRI B. P. AGARWAL

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that the following letter has been received from Shri B. P. Agarwal:—

"I am not keeping good health for some time and have been undergoing treatment. I have been, therefore, advised complete rest for about a month. In these circumstances, I regret it would not be possible for me to attend the Council meetings.

I shall feel obliged if leave for absence from attending the meetings of the current session of the Council is granted to me."

Is it the pleasure of the Council that permission be granted to Shri B. P. Agarwal for remaining absent from all meetings of the Council from the 19th April till the end of the current session?

(No Hon. Member dissented.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

ARREST OF REFUGEES RETURNING FROM ORISSA

SHRI B. GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the large number of refugees returning from Orissa who are being arrested by the West Bengal Government and then put into prison there. The West Bengal Government said that they are not going to do anything about them unless and until the Government of India say something about this matter, and pending the decision of the Government of India, they will be treated as vagabonds. Since the Deputy Minister in charge of Rehabilitation is sitting now in this House, may I know what steps the Government of India are going to take, in view of the fact that the Government of West Bengal has passed on the responsibility to the Government of India?