

[Mr. Speaker]

which I have just indicated. However, if the Home Minister has any facts to give to the House, he may make a short statement.

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): I have only read this morning's papers and I have just read a statement issued by the Delhi authorities. In addition to those facts I have none in my possession. If I may say so, I invite attention to the suggestion made by you with respect to a short notice question being put. If that is put, I shall make it my business to give to the House as complete information as I possibly can. I may also add that so far as I know and I have received no information either up to this time that there is any further tension in the city.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

ARREST OF SHRI V. G. DESHPANDE

Mr. Speaker: I have received a letter of request from the hon. Member Mr. N. C. Chatterjee, who wishes to have my consent to raise a question of privilege upon the arrest of one of the Members of this House. The motion is that a breach of privilege of the House of the People has been committed by the arrest of Shri V. G. Deshpande, M.P. by the police in the early hours on the morning of the 27th May, when the House is in session and the House is deprived of the contribution that the said Member would have made by participating in the deliberations. Of course, we are not much concerned with the latter part of the motion but the substantive motion is that the House is in session and a Member of this House has been arrested by the executive government.

Instead therefore of going through the long procedure that is prescribed in the Rules of Procedure I would prefer to exercise my authority under rule 214 and refer the question raised in this notice to the Committee of Privileges, who will inquire into all the facts connected with this matter and also consider as to whether, on the facts as elicited by them, they constitute a breach of privilege of the House. So nothing further requires to be done and this matter will go now to the Committee of Privileges.

Shri Nambiar (Mayuram): May I respectfully submit to the hon. Home Minister through you, Sir, to see if he could make a statement as to under what rule and under what circumstances this hon. Member has been arrested, whether he is likely to be released soon, or whether he will

continue to be detained. If some information is given then we will be able to understand.....

Mr. Speaker: I do not think we need go into that at all. Hon. Members feel anxious about their colleague in this House and so does the Chair. That is why I am referring this question specially to the Committee of Privileges, which consists of hon. Members of this House who represent various parties. They will, in the committee, try to scan the evidence on the various facts that they will probe into and will come to proper conclusions. The matter will then come before this House for such disposal as the House may like.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee (Hooghly): Sir, Mr. Deshpande has been detained under an executive fiat under section 3 of the Preventive Detention Act.....

Mr. Speaker: He need not give the information to the House but he may give it to the Committee of Privileges.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: May I make one suggestion. Under the rule under which you have exercised your prerogative would you kindly fix an early date for the report of the Committee to be submitted, so that the matter may be finalised and placed before the House.

Mr. Speaker: I shall ask them to finalise it as early as possible. After all the Committee will work in its own way and I will stress the urgency of the matter on the Committee.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Mr. Speaker: I have to announce that under sub-rule (1) of Rule 133 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House of the People, the following Members will form the Committee on Petitions, namely:—

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava,
Shrimati Renu Chakravarty,
Shri Asim Krishna Dutt,
Shri Govindrao Dharmaji Vartak,
Prof. C. P. Mathew.

RAILWAY BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION—cont'd.

Mr. Speaker: We will now proceed with the further general discussion on the Railway Budget. I am just having a reference to the composite list of Members who want to speak. The list is pretty formidable—the names