

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Tuesday, 23rd February, 1954

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investigation before the election tribunal. I do not want to enter into arguments. I do not know of anything about this.

The House met at Two of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

Mr. Speaker: I should like to know the facts.

Dr. Katju: I should like to have some time.

3-8 P. M.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

ALLEGED USE OF PHYSICAL FORCE BY PARTY IN POWER DURING TRAVANCORE-COCHIN ELECTIONS.

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of an adjournment motion, on the subject of "the use of physical force by the Government party" during the campaign for and conduct of the general elections in the State of Travancore-Cochin.

Mr. Speaker: The only point is that it is alleged there was "use of physical force by the Government party".

Dr. Katju: What is the Government party?

Are the elections still going on?

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: I should like to know what Government have to say about this.

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): I have no information whatsoever.

Mr. Speaker: Then it may stand over.

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): I think my friends there are facing reversals.

Dr. Katju: If there are any irregularities, that is really a matter for

Mr. Speaker: I do not know. I shall call upon the hon. Member to explain. But let the hon. Minister give me facts about this, if he knows anything. I shall keep this over for the time being.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I have received in the course of the last few days, occasionally, communications from hon. Members about certain incidents. I know nothing about them. Whenever I get them, I report them to the Travancore-Cochin Government to find out and report. In the case of some, I received their reply, some accounts as to what happened. I have also received reports containing counter-charges of violence of other people. They are relatively petty, in so far as violence is concerned. I do not quite know how to deal with them from here, or what statement I can make before you in regard to them. If there is enquiry, one could know. These are

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

certain charges and counter-charges about rowdiness and the like.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North-East): May I submit one matter for your consideration? The elections are going on till the 26th of this month. We have got here certain allegations into the merits of which I cannot possibly enter. If we have a discussion of this matter, before the 26th,—preferably we may have a discussion tomorrow—surely the authorities concerned in Travancore-Cochin, who might perhaps be involved in some of these allegations in a way which is not very right, will be pulled up, so to speak. It is our duty as Parliament here, to send word, so to speak to Travancore-Cochin that these kinds of allegations should not be bruited about from whichever side they might emanate. As far as we are concerned, we have these allegations sent to us by Shri A. K. Gopalan, and I thought it my duty, as did my colleague Shri S. S. More, to bring it to your notice, and to the notice of this House.

Mr. Speaker: I think in all such motions if the allegations have any foundation at all, and if the hon. Members believe that they are well-founded; then the best course would be to approach the Minister and invite his attention to the particular allegations and have them investigated. If I were to accept allegations from A, B, C,—I do not mean to allege that the allegations made by Mr. Gopalan may not be reliable—they may be reliable—if I were to allow that kind of thing, then, I am afraid this House shall be turned from a debating House into a sort of place for election propoganda for one party or the other. That is the danger.

There are other factors also. As I said on a previous occasion, I do not see the point of having adjournment motions without having facts before us. Again, there is the other point, that it is not really the business of the Centre to go and attend to every little matter that happens in the whole of India, in this case in a State. We most,

as I said last time, take into consideration the Constitutional provision and the Constitutional set-up. I do not say anything about this motion. Let me know what the facts are from the Government side, and then I shall see.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Does the Chair wish that the matter shall stand over till tomorrow while the Government may get the facts? The elections might be over by then.

Mr. Speaker: I do not think I could compel them to have it just tomorrow. They must have some time to bring the facts.

Shri Nambiar (Mayuram): What is the advantage? The elections are over by the 26th.

Mr. Speaker: The other possible fear is that advantage may be taken of this motion for the purposes of pushing the cause or interests of one side. The Chair is not concerned with that point.

Shri Nambiar: Mr. Gopalan has written. What else can be done, then?

Mr. Speaker: I am not at all concerned here with the executive administration. If Mr. Gopalan's car is burnt, then his remedy could lie in the State in which the election campaign is going on.

Shri Nambiar: The car is not burnt, but stoned.

Mr. Speaker: They are all irrelevant considerations.

Shri Nambiar: Further, the Ministry there has not the confidence of the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Let us have the facts, and then we shall see how to deal with this matter. I shall first hear the facts.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am very glad, Sir, you have said so. But it is rather difficult to know the facts. I do not know what the papers say; I

have not myself seen them. The number of instances given are all general. What facts are we to place? There is a general charge.

Mr. Speaker: I might inform the hon. Member that in the notice of the adjournment motion, they have given the reasons. The reasons are:

"Mr. A. K. Gopalan, M.P., leader of the Communist group in Parliament, has sent a detailed report of various instances when violence has been used by the Congress party with a view to influencing the elections in Travancore-Cochin. He himself, apart from Mr. J. B. Kripalani, a Member of this House, and Mr. T. V. Thomas, ex-leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly and others, have been attacked in the course of their election work. This a matter of vital importance deciding the fate of the conduct of free and fair elections in our country."

"Deciding the fate of the conduct of free and fair elections" that is a matter of opinion. Now, these are the facts. But I am pinning my attention to one factor, and that is, the use of physical force by the Government party. I am not concerned with what the "Congress" party has done or not done.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There is one thing in this matter. There is one instance referring to Acharya Kripalani, about which I was deeply grieved. I enquired about it, and I know something about that and Acharya Kripalani knows more about it, and we all regretted very much over that instance, where certain young men misbehaved. We know about it, and it happened three weeks ago or thereabouts. But how can I enquire into a general charge of misbehaviour?

Shri Tyagi: On a point of order. I want to get one clarification: whether it is going to be permissible in the House to discuss the behaviour of parties in politics. I thought up to now that parties were not discussed. Adjournment motions are meant to criticize the Government for certain

acts of omission or commission on the part of Government.

Now, in this motion if they had alleged that this was the attitude of the Government and the Government omitted to take any action, and the omission of the Government was a matter under discussion, I could see that there would be some relevancy. Otherwise I beg to submit that perhaps it is not exactly relevant.

Shri Nambiar rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. There is no point of order now and I do not propose to hear any. My difficulty—rather my desire—has been to know about the use of physical force and its extent, whatever.....

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I entirely accept that, Sir. We should like to help the House and place all the facts that we possess or we can obtain. But my difficulty is that I must have a specific mention of the incident into which I can inquire. I cannot inquire into generally, as to what is happening.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): Is it not a fact, Sir, that Election Commission is an independent authority? Such matters come within his province.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): I realise the difficulty of the Leader of the House. Will it serve his purpose if we may give him some information, if we submit to him a list of incidents which has been supplied to us by Mr. A. K. Gopalan himself?

Mr. Speaker: I think that will be much better.

Shri S. S. More: We are prepared to place this list at his disposal so that he can get over the difficulty.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: If he does that, I will, or my colleague the Home Minister will, immediately send it to the Travancore-Cochin Government and await their reply. But it is not likely to come within 24 hours or 48 hours.

Mr. Speaker: I do not expect it within 24 hours.

Shri S. S. More: So I hand over the list, Sir.

Acharya Kripalani (Bhagalpur) cum Purnea: As my name has been mentioned, may I say that when I went there at some place there was demonstration and I thought the Congress Party lost a good deal of votes on that account?

Mr. Speaker: Anyway, the matter stands adjourned now.

Mr. Speaker: The point is closed now.

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Chittor): rose—
Shri U. M. Trivedi: May I make one request.....

Shri C. K. Nair (Outer Delhi): May I say, Sir.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. We will now proceed with other business.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: I would like to remind you about my notice yesterday....

Mr. Speaker: Due notice will be taken of the notice.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: I have not received any intimation.

Mr. Speaker: He may contact the office and he will get the intimation.

MESSAGES FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATES

Secretary: Sir, I have to report the following four messages received from the Secretary of the Council of States:

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 97 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Absorbed Areas (Laws) Bill, 1953, which has been passed as amended by the Council of States at its sitting held on the 22nd February, 1954."

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 97 of the Rules

of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Indian Railways (Second Amendment) Bill, 1953, which has been passed by the Council of States at its sitting held on the 22nd February, 1954."

(iii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 97 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Lushai Hills District (Change of Name) Bill, 1954, which has been passed by the Council of States at its sitting held on the 22nd February, 1954."

(iv) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 97 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Control of Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 1954, which has been passed by the Council of States at its sitting held on the 22nd February, 1954."

ABSORBED AREAS (LAWS) BILL

INDIAN RAILWAYS (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

LUSHAI HILLS DISTRICT (CHANGE OF NAME) BILL

CONTROL OF SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL

Secretary: Sir, I lay the following Bills, as passed by the Council of States on the Table of the House:—

(i) The Absorbed Areas (Laws) Bill, 1953.

(ii) The Indian Railways (Second Amendment) Bill, 1953.

(iii) The Lushai Hills District (Change of Name) Bill, 1954.

(iv) The Control of Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 1954.
