

Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, for the year 1978-79 together with Audited Accounts. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-649/80].

NOTIFICATION UNDER DELHI POLICE ACT, 1978

SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH: On behalf of Shri P. Venkatasubbiah, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. F. 3/8/79-Home (P) Estt. (Hindi and English versions) published in Delhi Gazette dated the 10th January, 1980 making certain amendment to the Punjab Police Rules, 1934, in their application to the Union Territory of Delhi, under section 148 of the Delhi Police Act, 1978. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-650/80].

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now call attention.

12.04 hrs.

RE. QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU, Diamond Harbour): You told me that you would take up the privilege motion after papers were laid.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All of you please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, order. Please hear me. Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu gave notice of a question of privilege against the Minister for Energy and Irrigation regarding alleged misleading information given to the House on 11th March 1980 during supplementaries to Starred Question No. 3 relating to power generation by D.V.C. After going through the factual note furnished by the Minister for Energy and Irrigation, I do not find that the Minister has deliberately given any misleading information to the House. I have not, therefore, given my consent to Shri Bosu to

raise the matter in the House as the question of privilege. A copy of the Minister's factual note has already been given to Shri Bosu. If Shri Bosu still considers that there is any discrepancy in the statement of the Minister, he may give notice under Direction 115 which will be examined on merits.

I am going to the next subject—Calling Attention.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All of you please sit down, I am going to the next subject—Calling Attention.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I saw you in the Chamber about....

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down.

You came and saw me in the Chamber. I have given my own decision. Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu is a senior and an hon. Member. He has to guide me also. He should not be responsible for some confusion in the House. That is my humble appeal to you. I want your co-operation.

Now we go to the next subject—Calling Attention. Shri K. P. Unnikrishnan.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Please listen me.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. I am not permitting you.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You see me in the Chamber again. I make a request. We are close friends. We will discuss. Please sit down all of you. It is my appeal.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is all right. Please sit down. I have called Shri K. P. Unnikrishnan.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nobody other than Shri K. P. Unnikrishnan will go on record.

*(Interruptions)***

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported economic blockade of Assam and tension arising therefrom

SHRI K. P. UNNIKISHNAN (Badagara): I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the reported economic blockade of Assam and tension arising therefrom.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): Sir, The House will recall that on the 19th March in the Lok Sabha, PM while speaking on a reference to the threat of blockade of Assam had made it clear that Government were not for any step which would increase tension or aggravate the situation in any way whatsoever. Again on the 21st March, PM reiterated that the situation demanded restraint and expressed the hope that the situation in West Bengal would be peaceful.

According to information received from Government of West Bengal, supporters of Chhatra Parishad(I) staged a demonstration on 24th March, 1980. At about 10 A.M. the demonstrators started blocking the Assam-bound traffic near Siliguri town on National Highway No. 31 and also at Siliguri Railway Station and other nearby wayside stations. 6 passenger trains, including 4 Mail and Express trains were detained for periods varying between 1 to 4 hours. The parcel van of an Assam bound train had to be detached before it was allowed to proceed. Movement of goods trains was also to some extent affected. Altogether 147 picketeers which included 22 women, were arrested. President, Vice President and

General Secretary of Chhatra Parishad(I) were among those arrested.

3. On the 25th March, about 700 to 800 Chhatra Parishad(I) volunteers demonstrated on the road to Assam near Bagdogra. They were dispersed by the police who made a mild lathi charge. 153 arrests were made. Trucks that had been held up were escorted by the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police upto Malla-guri near Siliguri town where another group of volunteers, about 100 strong, had gathered to block the road. They were also removed and the road was cleared by about 330 P.M. 47 arrests were made. Out of 200 arrests made on the 25th March, 25 were women. All arrested persons were subsequently discharged. The flow of traffic was smooth and trucks went towards Assam unhindered. One train which had been detained by Railway authorities at Naxalbari was also able to resume its journey towards Assam in the afternoon.

4. Our immediate objective is to defuse the situation and restore normalcy in the entire region. The House will agree that the situation needs to be handled with full understanding of the sentiments and emotions involved. I would, therefore, appeal to all not only to maintain peace and harmony but also to exercise restraint and desist from taking any step which would make our task of restoring normalcy in Assam more difficult. I would, at the same time, reiterate the appeal made by Prime Minister to students and other organisation in Assam to appreciate the concern felt in other parts of the country over their prolonged agitation, and the difficulty which all the people of India are experiencing, and respond by calling off their agitation.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKISHNAN: Sir, I have read this astonishing statement. The hon. Home Minister was present here a little while ago. He is absent now; he has disappeared. I do not