

16.57 hrs.

RE. MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT
—contd.REPORTED STATEMENT BY THE PRIME
MINISTER ON MERGER OF SIKKIM—contd.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Before I call the next speaker, I would just inform the House that there is a communication from the hon. Speaker. This is regarding the Adjournment Motions. The Adjournment Motion is regarding the reported statement by the Prime Minister that Sikkim merger was wrong.

"These are two connected adjournment motions. They relate to a newspaper report purporting to embody the views of the Prime Minister relating to the merger of Sikkim with India. According to the report, the Prime Minister is said to have expressed the opinion that the merger of Sikkim with India was not a wise step. At the same time, he is said to have made it clear that there is no question of undoing the merger already effected.

Under these circumstances, I am unable to hold that the question raised is a matter of urgent public importance. Any expression of opinion, right or wrong, which involves no consequences cannot be considered as a matter of urgent public importance justifying the adjournment of the House.

There is a calling attention motion on the same subject. I have already allowed that calling attention motion for tomorrow (10-3-78). Further, the subject can be discussed during the general debate on the Budget.

Under these circumstances, I am unable to accord my consent to the motion in question.

The motion is disallowed."

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN (Badogara): The word used by the hon. Speaker in this is 'merger' whereas the

word used by the Prime Minister was 'annexation'. Connotation of both words is entirely different

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We are not discussing the Statement that was made by the Prime Minister. It is only the decision of the Speaker regarding the adjournment motion.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: That is why I am pointing it out to you. It is entirely in a different context 'hat this has been given.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: But he has given his decision. He has not admitted the adjournment motion. But he has admitted a calling attention which will be taken up tomorrow.

17 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET, 1978-79—GENERAL
DISCUSSION—contd.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR
(Shri Ravindra Varma): It has been suggested that since there are a number of speakers who wish to take part in this debate the time allotted for the debate may be extended, and that the Railway Minister might reply at 2.30 p.m. tomorrow so that this discussion might be concluded by 3.30 p.m., and private Members' Business might be taken up then. The General discussion on the Budget would start on Monday morning. The time that is now taken up by the extension of the debate, about two hours or so, may be adjusted against the time for the demands of the Railway Ministry.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is for the Business Advisory Committee. I hope the House agrees to this. So the Railway Minister will begin his reply at 2.30 p.m. tomorrow and conclude by 3.30 p.m.

SHRI SYED KAZIM ALI MEERZA (Murshidabad): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, as the very inception I must admit