

[Shri Narendra Kumar Salve]

Sir, the dismissal of the Ajoy Mukerjee Ministry has been a matter of very very bitter controversy between the State and Centre. The people in the State, specially those who are now going to form the Government there, contended that it constituted a flagrant violation of the constitutional propriety whereas, here, we said, "No. If at all anything has happened, it has strengthened the constitutional propriety and democracy." If this be correct, this officer is going to be speaking about constitutional matters throughout the country on questions which impinge upon the Centre-State relationship. This is a very important matter which involves the question of demeanour of public servants on such matters that have created embarrassment in between the relationship of the Centre and the State. In view of this, may I know from the Home Minister whether he will agree to have an inquiry into the whole matter as to whether the officer is guilty of misdemeanour and, therefore, liable to be penalised.

Secondly, I want to ascertain whether this officer who has been speaking widely in all parts of the country on various questions which have close nexus with current political problems, is doing so as an emissary of the Law Minister or the Law Ministry or on his own.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: The hon. Member has raised a question which certainly requires consideration in the sense whether a Government official has no right to express his views on academic aspects of problems. That is, really speaking, a very ticklish question. Whether in this particular matter, Mr. Gae should have used his discretion to speak or not to speak, there can be two views on this. But I cannot say that he has committed any breach of rule as such; I personally do not think so. As far as inquiry is concerned, I cannot say that an inquiry is necessary. About that particular view, I may agree with it or may not agree with it; that is a different matter. The question of dismissal of the Government of Bengal has now become a matter of past, of history, and somebody can academically examine the question also. (Interruptions)

SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai) : He was stating the Constitutional position only.

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SALVE : Strictly speaking, the Constitutional provision...

MR. SPEAKER: We go to the next item.

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SALVE: This is an important matter...

MR. SPEAKER: No. I cannot allow. Otherwise, it will become a precedent. Some other member will say that the matter is very very important and, therefore, he should be allowed to ask three questions and all that. (Interruption) Now papers, to be laid on the Table.

12.07 hours

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

AUDIT REPORT RAILWAYS, 1969
AND ECONOMIC SURVEY, 1968-69

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND
MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI
MORARJI DESAI) : I beg to lay on the
Table—

- (1) A copy of the Audit Report, Railways, 1969 under article 151 (1) of the Constitution.
- (2) A copy of Appropriation Accounts, Railways, for 1967-68, Part I—Review.
- (3) A copy of Appropriation Accounts Railways for 1967-68, Part II—Detailed Appropriation Accounts.
- (4) A copy of Block Accounts (including Capital Statements comprising the Loan Accounts), Balance, Sheets and Profit and Loss Accounts, Railways, for 1967-68. [Placed in Library, See No. LT—61/69]
- (5) A copy of 'Economic Survey' 1968-69. [Placed in Library, See No. LT—63/69]