

(a) whether Government are aware that huge stocks of dolomite, salt, cotton and cotton seeds have been lying uncleared for want of wagon allotment at different places in Gujarat while the industries are starving for want of cotton and dolomite and enormous stock of these commodities have been washed off and spoiled in the current rainy season;

(b) if so, what is the total wagon requirement for the smooth clearance of these commodities per month during the working season and what is the average wagon availability for them during this period; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to ensure smooth clearance of these commodities in Gujarat in future and to clear out the present stocks expeditiously?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) to (c). The loading of dolomite and salt during the period from January to 20th July 1967 has been better as compared to the corresponding period of last year. The loading of full pressed cotton on the whole and cotton seeds from Metre Gauge stations was, however, less due to less offering of traffic.

2. The loading of dolomite from Chhota Udepur region could not, however, keep pace with the level of indent as trains on the Chhota Udepur-Miyagam Narrow Gauge section were running only during day time. Night running was introduced by special arrangement from 8-7-67, as a result of which loading of dolomite was stepped up to 57 wagons per day during the period 8-7-67 to 20-7-67 as against 27.8 wagons per day during the period 1-7-67 to 7-7-67.

3. In case of salt traffic, 1284 Broad Gauge wagons and 1791 Metre Gauge wagons were loaded more this year during the period from 1st January to 20th July, 1967 as compared to the corresponding period of last year. There was, however, some gap between loading and demand on the Metre gauge due to pressure on rail transport for movement of imported foodgrain from Kandla to destinations in U. P. and Bihar.

4. In spite of this, every effort is being made to clear the traffic in dolomite, salt and cotton seeds as expeditiously as possible.

12 hrs.

RE: CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

(Procedure)

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Samar Guha.... He is not present.

Then we go to papers to be laid on the Table.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS OF THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION FOR THE YEAR 1965-66, ETC.

The Minister of Education (Dr. Triguna Sen): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Annual Accounts of the University Grants Commission for the year 1965-66, together with the Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1279/67].

(2) A copy of the Annual Report of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, for the year 1965-66. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1280/67].

12.01 hrs.

RE. QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

Shri P. Ramamurti (Madurai): I have given notice of a privilege motion. Normally I do not raise anything in a privileged manner. I have given notice of a privilege motion two days back and yesterday when we had a discussion, you were good enough to say that we would take it up today. The Deputy Secretary also came and told me that it would be taken up today. I would only politely point out that the privilege motion, of which I had given notice, was based upon facts, for example, the First Report of the Privileges Committee, Lok Sabha, in

the case of Mr. Brahmanand; Mr. Brahmanand had definitely given....

Mr. Speaker: He is going into a discussion. He may please sit down. I will explain the whole position. I have got not only the privilege notion but also a number of other things. Mr. Shivajirao S. Desmukh gave me one and some others also gave me. I know that it is an important matter which Mr. Ramamurti is raising, but whether it will come as a privilege motion, I have not been able to decide. I know this is an important matter connected with Mr. Gopalan, Leader of a Party and all that. Still the question is whether it will come as a privilege motion. Every day if you take up a privilege motion, will it be desirable for the working of the House? Because there are also the other works which the House has to do. Apart from that, if he raises it in some other method, as a call-attention as I suggested, some other method.. (Interruption) I am still on my legs Important questions need not necessarily be raised as adjournment motions and privilege motions; there are also other ways through which they can be brought to the notice of the House, the hon. members and others. Therefore, I have not yet admitted this. In fact, that is the case not only with regard to this, but even with regard to the notice given by Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh in respect of another matter. I had discussed with him, and I had discussed with Shri P. Ramamurti also not once but twice. I sat down last evening also after the meeting at about 8.30 P.M. and I suggested that we could take it up on something else, on a calling-attention-notice or on something else, not as a privilege issue. I said the same thing to both of them.

It is not as if I am against allowing something. I had given it due consideration for three days since Sunday and then I had suggested that it should come up as a calling-attention-notice so that the hon. Member can call the attention of the hon. Minister and he could reply and then some questions

may be asked, and I suggested that we could take it up that way. Even now, I suggest the same thing to Shri P. Ramamurti. I have not allowed it as a privilege issue, but I am prepared to allow it as a calling-attention-notice.

Shri P. Ramamurti: Please hear me....

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North East): We had given a calling-attention-notice....

Mr. Speaker: I am prepared to admit it.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: But we were informed that you had not admitted it. Of course, that is a different matter, if you say now that you are prepared to admit it. But we were told that it had not been admitted. That was the information given.

Mr. Speaker: I shall have to explain the position again, because the hon. Member seems to have understood it in a different way. I was prepared to admit the calling-attention-notice but not the privilege motion.

Shri Surendramath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): There was a calling-attention notice on this matter by a Member and that had been rejected by you. (Interruptions).

Shri P. Ramamurti: I want to point out that this question is not one of getting some information. Here, when I allege that a breach of privilege of a Member has been committed, I would like to point out that after all, this House has earlier come to this conclusion in the case of Shri Brahmanandji, because it had been stated in the report of the Committee of Privileges that:

"After a thorough examination of the evidence given before the Committee, the Committee have come to the conclusion that irrespective of whether Mr. Brahmanand was arrested or not within the strict legal meaning of the term 'arrest', he was, in fact, under some kind of detention by the

[Shri P. Ramamurti]
police, and the Committee held that it was a case of breach of privilege.”

Therefore, this question of breach of privilege arises because a Member of Parliament cannot be treated like others.

Since Shri A. K. Gopalan has written to you that he has been definitely detained for two hours, it is definitely a question of privilege which involves the point whether a Member can be detained or not. These are facts. Therefore, it is not a question of getting information.

Mr. Speaker: As I had said earlier, and as I would suggest even now, I am prepared to admit a calling attention-notice on this. (*Interruptions*).

Shri E. K. Nayanar (Palghat): He was detained for two hours. So, it is a question of privilege. We are opposed to its being admitted as a calling-attention-notice.

Shri A. Sreedharan (Badagara): He was detained for two hours. So, it is a privilege matter and not a matter for a calling-attention-notice

Mr. Speaker: I am admitting only the calling-attention-notice and not the privilege notice, and that calling-attention-notice will be taken up when we get the time for it.

12.10 hrs.

RE. CALLING ATTENTION TO
MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE—*contd.*

(*Procedure*)

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): Shri Samar Guha was absent when you had called his name. He was out for a little while, under the impression that the short notice question would come up and that would take some time.

Mr. Speaker: How can I go back to an earlier item now? How can I go back upon a principle? If I make an exception in the case of one Member, then every day, I shall have to do it for other Members also.

Shri A. Sreedharan (Badagara): We are not satisfied with the calling-attention-notice only. We want that it should be taken up as a privilege motion.

Mr. Speaker: I cannot make an exception in the case of one Member today because every day the same thing may happen. If I go back to an earlier item and allow it to be taken up now, then every day this may happen, and a Member who is absent when a particular item is called may come half an hour later and say that he was busy somewhere else and, therefore, the item might be taken up. I would not go back to the earlier item now.

Shri Samar Guha (Contal): This is a very important question. It relates to the rights of the minority communities. So, I request that as a special case, this may be allowed.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: He thought that the short notice question would take some time.

Mr. Speaker: I am not responsible for it.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: I suggest that you may kindly make an exception in this case. There are not even five Members, but there is only one Member and it would take only about two or three minutes.

Mr. Speaker: I know that. The answer can be given too. But it is not a question of one Member or two Members. But it is a question of the principle. After going ahead and disposing of one or two more items, how could I go back to an earlier item? It is not a question of time at all. I am not worried about the time at all. Yesterday, for instance, we had spent the whole day on one item. So, it is not the time factor about which I am worried. After I have gone to the next item and we have begun to discuss the next item, how could I go back to an earlier item? If I do that today, then tomorrow, if some other Members also want it, then what can