

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola) : Will your ruling cover the press also? If that is so, then we will be satisfied.

MR. SPEAKER : So far as I am concerned I am examining to see how far the use of the word 'goondai' comes under the breach of privilege.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN : May I seek a clarification on this?

श्री वासन्त साठे (अकोला) : दफ्तरी करना, चोरी करना, मुहूर्त करना पार्लियामेन्टी बर्देम हो गये आज ने। जरा डिक्लररी मगबाकर देखिये क्या माने होते हैं।

MR. SPEAKER : 'Goonda' had always been an unparliamentary expression. But he has denied that.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I shall call you. About the meaning, you come to my Chamber and satisfy me. He has denied having used this

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN : Sir, May I seek a clarification?

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry. You are completely holding us to ransom. I am equally concerned with that. I may tell you that you are not the only people who are concerned with that. We are also concerned with that.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Will you please sit down? I am not listening. I am not allowing you. In fact, I have not permitted any gentleman.

14.00 hrs.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH) : We are not questioning your ruling. Members are agitated to know whether so far as the matter relating to the *Indian Express* is concerned, you are enquiring into it.

MR. SPEAKER : So far that word is concerned, when he denies it, we will enquire from the paper.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN : What about the word "goondai"?

MR. SPEAKER : I am keeping that open.

14.01 hrs

STATEMENTS RE. THEFT IN AIR INDIA'S IMPORT CARGO WAREHOUSE AT KENNEDY AIRPORT, NEW YORK AND ATTACK ON THE INDIAN AIRLINES OFFICE IN KABUL.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : On the 30th April at about 9.45 p.m. three men entered Air-India's import cargo warehouse at Kennedy Airport, New York, and demanded that the store room be opened as a new consignment of diamond packages had been received on that day and was in the vault. The three gunmen handcuffed five members of Air-India staff on duty and gagged them. They also tied up a truck driver from Freight Forwarding Agency and his armed escort who had come to pick up freight from the warehouse. The supervisor was hit on the head with a pistol and compelled to open the vault. One of the gunmen threatened further violence to the staff but was restrained by his other two companions. Apart from a slight injury to the supervisor who was hit on the head minor injuries were sustained by the other staff due to manhandling and handcuffing. According to Air-India staff two of the gunmen were Puerto Ricans and one a white American.

After about an hour the security guard of the Freight Agency managed to free himself and telephoned to Police. Investigations are being conducted by the Police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Customs Security officials.

Of the 31 packages stolen, 30 were from Bombay and one from Frankfurt. Since the documents were also taken away by

[Dr. Karan Singh]

the gunmen, it has been possible so far to ascertain that 16 packages, of which 15 were from Bombay and one from Frankfurt, were valued at U.S. Dollars 2,74,763. It is understood that the remaining 15 packages from Bombay were valued at approximately Rs. 20.80 lakhs.

Air-India's Chief Security Manager from Bombay is proceeding to New York to liaise with the local authorities. In so far as Air-India is concerned the loss of the consignment of precious stones is covered by insurance. The Ministry of External Affairs is in touch with our Consul-General in New York who has been asked to pursue the matter with the local authorities.

Sir, with your permission I would also like to inform the House of a serious incident that occurred in Kabul on the 1st May at about 6 00 p.m. According to information so far received a person entered the Indian Airlines office and directed the Chief Traffic Assistant. Shri M. S. Sajwan, who was on duty to stand up. The intruder whipped out a revolver and fired a shot at the Traffic Assistant which fortunately missed him. The Traffic Assistant, displaying considerable courage and presence of mind, rushed towards the intruder and felled him with a blow on the head. The intruder fired two more shots which also missed. During the scuffle that ensued, the Traffic Assistant hit the intruder on his head and rendered him unconscious. An open knife which the intruder was carrying fell on the floor during the scuffle.

On hearing the revolver shots some persons collected, and the intruder's three accomplices who were standing outside the office, started running away. The crowd chased them and with the help of Police these three accomplices and the intruder were arrested. The revolver and the knife have been taken into possession by the Police who are investigating the matter.

The Afghan authorities have been requested to provide necessary protection for Indian Airlines office and staff. The Chief

Vigilance Officer of Indian Airlines is proceeding to Kabul today to liaise with the local authorities. Our Embassy in Afghanistan is seized of the matter and is in close touch with the local authorities.

14.05 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. SUPPLY OF FOOD-GRAINS TO VARIOUS STATES

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE): I have had the privilege to place before the House the present difficult food situation in the country and the steps taken to meet the food requirements of the deficit and drought affected States within the stocks that are available with the Central Government.

In view of the severe drought conditions prevailing in the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and some parts of Mysore and other States, supply of foodgrains were stepped up considerably. During the year 1972, public distribution was to the extent of 10.5 million tonnes while during 1971, it was 7.8 million tonnes. Allotment of foodgrains are made to the State Governments every month taking into account the over-all availability in the Central Pool and the needs of all deficit and drought affected States. In view of the difficult food supply position in the country resulting from last year's inadequate and erratic rains and consequent widespread drought conditions in the country it has not been possible to meet the entire demand made by the State Governments. Every effort was made to meet substantially the requirements of the State Governments. The allotment of wheat during the first 4 months of this year has been to the extent of 4.9 to 5.2 lakh tonnes per month during this period.

The procurement of wheat has started in an encouraging way. As against last year's procurement of 3.1 lakh tonnes, the current year's procurement so far has been