

(Shri Krishna Menon)

their own safety and upto the last thought of others than of themselves. They died in the service of their country and as honoured members of the Indian Air Force.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Ferozabad): Sir, while joining the tributes paid to the deceased, may I suggest that the reports of these enquiry committees may be placed on the Table of the House so that we may have a chance to go through and discuss them?

Shri Supakar (Sambalpur): May I know if the Government will consider it desirable, having regard to the graveness of the tragedy, to constitute a high-powered committee of enquiry to go into this matter thoroughly?

Shri Khadilkar (Ahmednagar): In view of the recurrence of these accidents, may I know whether it would not be desirable to keep the training of pilots and their exercises far away from big metropolitan cities like Delhi and construct some other airport far away from this place?

Shri Krishna Menon: These pilots are not under training in the sense they are novices; every pilot is under training all the time. As for flying in any other place, we have not got another military airfield. It will take some year even if we desire to construct one, and it is a question of policy whether pilot training should be conducted far away from Air Headquarters with all the political or other implications attached to it. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I cannot be expected to answer these questions.

Mr. Speaker: We deeply regret the loss of these two airmen while they were in flight—all honour to them. We have heard, so far as facts are available now, a full and detailed statement of the occurrence. Our sympathies go forth to these people. I request hon. Members in this House to stand in silence for a minute.

(The Members then stood in silence for a minute.)

Mr. Speaker: It is unfortunate. It seems more the hand of God than any Government that has been responsible for the accident. It is unnecessary to pursue the matter further. In the circumstances, I do not give my consent to these adjournment motions.

THREATENED CLOSURE OF THE PANJAB UNIVERSITY (CAMP) COLLEGE IN DELHI

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of another adjournment motion from Shri Narayanankutty Menon, regarding the situation arising out of the threatened closure of the Panjab University (Camp) College in Delhi involving 3,400 students and 80 lecturers and professors. Has the hon. Minister to say anything in regard to this? Is there any proposal to close this?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): Sir, the whole question with regard to the Camp College has been fully examined by Government in March, 1955. The Government of India appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. K. S. Krishnan, and the matter has been discussed both with the Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University and the Vice-Chancellor of Punjab University. A certain agreement has been arrived at between the two Vice-Chancellors. There is no question of putting these students to hardships. In fact, the Government has a proposal to set up three or four evening colleges instead of one Camp College, and every effort will be made to see that the students and the staff are not put to any hardship and their interests will be looked after as far as possible. Beyond this, Sir, I cannot say anything more.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon (Mukandapuram): Sir, this college was started in 1947. Previously, when there was a threatened closure of the

college the late Shri Maulana Azad gave an assurance that this college will not be closed. About 3,400 students, who are working during the day time, are studying in this college in the evenings. Therefore, that aspect of providing facilities for their education should be considered in case the college is closed down. The most important thing is that there are more than about 100 workers and clerks and also professors involved in this. I would like to submit that no hardship should be caused to these people also. Along with the alternative arrangements for the students to study, alternative employment for these people also should be found so that these people may not be thrown out of employment when the closure comes immediately.

Shri Sadhan Gupta (Calcutta-East) rose—

Mr. Speaker: When is it likely to be closed?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: There is no proposal to close it altogether. The proposal is that this college should also be converted into one of the four evening colleges which would be managed by the Delhi University. As I said, a meeting was held between the two Vice-Chancellors on 17th September, 1957. They both agreed that, while simultaneously the Punjab University will stop admitting students to the 1st Year of the Intermediate courses in their Camp College, in 1959 the evening colleges affiliated to the Delhi University will admit students to the 1st Year of degree courses in addition to the preparatory classes and simultaneously the Punjab University will stop admissions to the second year Intermediate classes of the Camp College. It was further agreed that this process will continue till 1961 and the Punjab University will completely stop all admissions to the under-graduate classes.

So, gradually this college will be transferred to the control of the Delhi University. I have already said, Sir, that the Delhi University proposes to open three or four evening colleges so that these students might be admitted into various classes and they may not be crowded into one Camp College.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: With regard to employees?

Mr. Speaker: There is no proposal to close this college.

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: They are closing in the sense that the management is being transferred. The proposal is that this college should be converted into one of the evening colleges of the Delhi University. At present, examinations are being held by the Panjab University.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: What is the position of the employees?

Mr. Speaker: He said the employees also will be provided for. In view of the statement of the hon. Minister that the college will be continued—though not affiliated to the Punjab University, it will be affiliated to the Delhi University as one of the evening colleges—and there is a proposal to have not only this college, but three more evening colleges so as to provide full facilities to all students who may need such facilities, I do not think it is necessary for me to give my consent to this adjournment motion. The hon. Minister also said that these professors and others will be absorbed or continued in office.

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: As far as possible. The Delhi University will have to consider their qualifications and other requirements. I cannot make a commitment on the floor of the House that all the teachers employed by the Camp College will be employed by the Delhi University. It is really a matter for the Delhi Univer-

[Dr. K. L. Shrimall]

city to decide. We have had a discussion with the Vice-Chancellor of the Delhi University and I think, as far as possible, every effort will be made to absorb some of these people who are really qualified for the job.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Hissar):** Sir, some time ago this question came up before the House and the hon. Minister was pleased to say that all the staff will be absorbed. Today we hear that only efforts will be made. I think he is changing the position. The assurance he gave should stand unchanged. Every person who was employed in this college and was competent enough to be employed then, should be employed in other places.

**Dr. K. L. Shrimall:** As far as I remember, I never gave that assurance to the House. I could not have given that assurance that all the members of the staff will be employed.

**Shri C. K. Bhattacharya (West Dinajpur):** Will the hon. Minister kindly see that these three evening colleges are opened in different parts of the city instead of being concentrated in one place, so that people living in different parts may have facilities to go to these evening colleges?

**Dr. K. L. Shrimall:** That is actually the proposal.

#### DEATH OF DR. KHAN SAHEB

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has fallen to my lot from time to time to make mention in this House of sad and tragic occurrences. I have now to inform the House that a member of the old Assembly, but much better known in other capacities Dr. Khan Saheb, was some little time ago today,

stabbed to death. We have not received any details or particulars about this tragic incident except that, I believe, it occurred at Lahore. But, I think it is right that early mention of it be made in this House not only because he was connected with the predecessor of this House as a member, but also because of the great part that he, with his great brother, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan, played in the struggle for freedom and independence of India.

We all know that, in spite of any differences that might have arisen, Dr. Khan Saheb occupied a high place in office in Pakistan. On some matters we may not have agreed with him; but we always respected him, honoured him as an old colleague, as a brave captain in our struggle for independence and for various personal reasons and contacts also, because there are many people here who knew him personally.

So far as I am concerned, my mind takes me back to almost 50 years when I was a young boy of 18 or 19 when I first met him, and we were both students in England; he was a medical student, somewhat senior to me; and during this long period of 49 years we knew each other. Although there have been many breaks, I can say about him as I can say about few persons, that though we may have differed—as we did often—I am myself had hardly ever come across a braver man and a greater gentleman. So, it is a matter, I am sure, of deep grief to us that this great fighter for freedom, this great gentleman, should have been cruelly put to death in this way. I have no news as to who did it, what the object was, but I thought that before waiting for any further detailed information, I might mention this matter to the House as the House would be interested and I am sure the House would like to express its sorrow and send its message of sympathy and