

This is what we find in the morning newspapers in broad headlines.

**Shri Braj Raj Singh:** Could I make a submission?

**Mr. Speaker:** Has he got anything to say apart from what he read in the newspapers?

**Shri Braj Raj Singh:** We were very glad when the hon. Minister announced the finding of oil in this well as a new year gift. Now it transpires from the news which we have read that due to the negligence of the people there, the Oil and Natural Gas Commission people, the well has caved in, and we have incurred a loss of more than Rs. 30 lakhs; also, the morale of the people who are engaged in that exploration work has broken down.

**Mr. Speaker:** I agree. The hon. Member is only stating once again all that has been put down in the adjournment motion. I read out every item that he is saying. If in addition he has got any information, apart from what we find in the newspapers, I wanted him to say.

The hon. Minister.

**The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** This paper which claims to be a very responsible one, and I am told has a very highly organised unit of services, must have its own sources of information. When I read this news in the morning paper, I was myself surprised. Since then I have been trying to contact the various places from which I can get this information, more especially because front page and biggest types create an impression on the minds of men, and also of responsible men, that such a thing could perhaps happen. Till 15 minutes back, I was not able to get any authentic information. From the headquarters I got the news that there is no such news available to them. Then I tried to contact Calcutta. From there also I learnt that nothing like

that could happen. Then I contacted Sibsagar. Just now, while I was sitting here, I got one news, which I would like to read:

"With great difficulty, a talk on telephone with Dr. Chandra at Sibsagar could be had. All that we could hear is that the Press report is absolutely baseless, and spudding of second well in Rudrasagar area will most probably commence on 17th March, 1961."

It is possible that in spite of this news, something might have happened as a result of earthquake or some major mistakes committed by our people. So, I will request you to wait till tomorrow, before I make an authoritative statement.

**Mr. Speaker:** Very well. This will stand over. I will treat this as a Calling Attention Notice, and the hon. Minister will make a statement tomorrow. That will be better. Anyhow, he is not sure as to whether the information is absolutely, fully unfounded.

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** I want to be doubly sure, that is all.

**Shri Braj Raj Singh:** We shall all be happy if it is not true.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister will also try to find out from the newspaper wherefrom they got the news, and who is the special correspondent.

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** I know all that. I have my own views about these matters, but I want to be factual.

12.25 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

COMPLAINTS FROM INDIAN CITIZENS IN ADDIS ABABA

**Shri A. M. Tariq (Jammu and Kashmir):** Under Rule 107, I beg to

[Shri A. M. Tariq]

call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The reported complaints from Indian citizens regarding the conduct of the Indian Embassy in Addis Ababa during the recent troubles there."

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):** A joint petition signed by about 200 Indian nationals including teachers, doctors, office employees, business-men, etc., was received by Government alleging that the Embassy failed to render any assistance to the distressed Indian nationals while other foreign Mission had taken adequate steps to protect their nationals and had looked after their interests. The Ambassador's attention was immediately drawn to these complaints, and according to the report received from the Embassy, it appears that the Indian Embassy did all that was possible within its resources in the then existing circumstances. The abortive *coup d'etat* was extremely well planned as far as its secrecy was concerned. No Embassy had any previous information about its occurrence and, therefore, there was no question of our Embassy warning Indian nationals of any possible trouble. As a result of firing, there were three instances of damage to property owned by Indians, of which two were very minor. The only sizable loss was incurred in a case where an unoccupied house was shattered by a shell. Our Embassy is helping the Indians concerned in pursuing their claims with the Ethiopian authorities. Among the Indian nationals, there was no casualty, either dead or injured.

It has been reported that consideration was given by the Embassy on the morning of the 15th December, as to what could be done for the protection of Indian nationals. The Embassy considered the question of evacuation of nearly 1,400 Indian nationals and bringing them into the

Embassy premises. This was, however not found feasible owing to the lack of facilities available in the Embassy to accommodate such a large number of Indian nationals; the impracticability of transporting 1,400 Indian nationals; and the topographical fact that the Embassy itself is located in a vulnerable area. Subsequent events, according to our Embassy, showed that the Piazza area where the bulk of Indian nationals were residing was left untouched by fighting.

The allegation made in the petition signed by Indian nationals that they were not given any shelter by the Indian Embassy is not correct. Two Indian teachers while passing in front of the Embassy had asked the gateman to allow them inside the Embassy on the morning of December 16, but the gateman, contrary to the instructions issued to him, refused to let them in. The gateman has been reprimanded.

After the incident, the Ambassador and other Officers went round the town and spent some time with the members of the community. It was not possible for them to visit every home due to the fact that many streets in Addis Ababa have no names and houses no numbers.

**Shri A. M. Tariq:** I would like to know if even after the Government of India received some memorandum, letters were published in the Indian and foreign press against the working of our Embassy at that time. May I know from the hon. Deputy Minister whether any press note was issued in contradiction of this news, because it gives a bad name to the Embassy of our country?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** No press note was issued, and we did not think it was necessary to issue when the allegations made in the memorandum itself were not true.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta (Calcutta—East):** It appears from a letter by some of the aggrieved persons in *The Statesman* that while other foreign

Embassies gave timely warning that something was going to happen, our Embassy did not. May I know whether any enquiry has been made into this allegation, and whether it has been ascertained whether other foreign Embassies warned their nationals, while our Embassy failed and if so, why?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** In the statement I have stated that there was no warning. No Embassy could give any warning, because nobody know that the *coup d'etat* was going to take place. All that happened was that the people who have submitted the memorandum have enclosed a letter by the American Ambassador to his national; saying that he would like to notify if any such events took place in future. In the meantime he gave them the assurance that the Embassy was there to protect them. That is all that had happened, that is all that was brought to our notice.

**Shri A. M. Tariq:** May I seek a clarification from the hon. Deputy Minister? May I know whether those Indians who had signed this complaint and sent it to the Ministry were informed by the Ministry that their complaint was not correct, or that they were not taking action on it?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** Certainly it was done.

12.29 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ORISSA APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1961

AND

PRESIDENT'S ORDER WITHDRAWING THE  
ORISSA APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under Article 213(2)(a) of the Constitution read with clause (c)(iv) of the Proclamation dated the 25th February,

1961, issued by the President in relation to the State of Orissa—

- (1) a copy of the Orissa Appropriation Ordinance, 1961 (Orissa Ordinance No. 3 of 1961) promulgated by the Governor of Orissa on the 23rd February, 1961. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-2725/61].
- (2) a copy of the President's Order dated the 10th March, 1961 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 343 dated the 10th March, 1961, withdrawing the Orissa Appropriation Ordinance, 1961. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-2726/61].

NOTIFICATIONS ISSUED UNDER KHADI AND  
VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION ACT  
AND ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT

**The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following Notifications:

- (i) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (Amendment) Rules, 1961 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 255 dated the 4th March, 1961, under sub-section (3) of Section 26 of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-2727/61].
- (ii) The Woollen Textiles (Production and Distribution) (Control) (Amendment) Order, 1961 published in Notification No.S.O. 428 dated the 25th February, 1961, under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-2728/61].

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

HUNDRED AND EIGHTH REPORT

**Shri Dasappa (Bangalore):** I beg to present the Hundred and Eighth Re-