

के भादेशानुसार दिया गया था, अतः केरल सरकार का, लाइसेंस रद्द करने के विषय में, पत्र विकास मंत्री द्वारा देखा जाना चाहिये; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार सारे मामले की जांच करायेगी ?

साथ, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास तथा सहकार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अन्नासहिव शिन्दे) : (क) से (घ). सूचना एकत्रित की जा रही है और प्राप्त होते ही सभा के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

12.15 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Disturbances and stone-throwing at election meetings in West Bengal.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :-

The disturbances and stone-throwing at election meetings in West Bengal.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : Mr. Speaker Sir. Government learnt with deep regret that when Shri Humayun Kabir was addressing an election meeting on 9th December, 1968 at Old Jail Maidan in Midnapore, some miscreants created disturbance by throwing crackers in the meeting. A cracker burst near Shri Humayun Kabir while he was speaking and injured him in the face and caused profus bleeding. He was admitted to the Midnapore Sadar Hospital and was later removed to a hospital in Calcutta. A case has been registered under sections 148, 149, 326, 307 IPC and section 6 (3) of the Indian Explosives Act. Seven persons have so far been arrested in connection with the case. Investigation of the case is in progress.

Information has also been received that a few other meetings have been disturbed.

Further details are being ascertained from the State Government.

Government strongly deplore such attempts to disturb meetings convened by different political parties in connection with the forthcoming mid-term elections. Government are determined to put down all such attempts with a strong hand and would take all necessary measures to enable free elections in Bengal as well as in other States. I would also appeal to all the political parties to condemn wholeheartedly such attempts to disrupt normal political life (Shri S.K. Tapuriah : Will they ?) and extend their fullest cooperation to State authorities in maintaining peaceful atmosphere essential for the conduct of free and fair elections.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Till a few years back it was the monopoly of the Congress Party to create disturbances and break up election meetings. Now it has boomeranged on them and, as a result, P. C. Sen and others were injured, P. C. Ghosh was prevented from speaking and Humayun Kabir is lying in hospital with a broken jaw. Bengal, which had at one time had given very illustrious sons to India, patriots, freedom fighters and; according to Gokhale's words, was the vanguard progress, has now suddenly become a place where elements, who have no respect for the Constitution and for the democratic way of life, are holding the people to ransom (Interruption)

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : It is a slur on Bengal (Interruption) He should mention names; why should he say, Bengal (Interruption) ?

MR. SPEAKER : Why should Shri Banerjee get annoyed ? He has not mentioned any party. He has not condemned any individual. Why should he think that he has named anybody ? He has paid some handsome compliments to Bengal and any Bengali must be very happy about it. He mentioned no party, no individual. Why should you get annoyed ?

SHRI J. M. BISWAS (Bankaura) : It would be better if he mentions the individuals instead of mentioning the State (Interruption).

Mr. SPEAKER : Do not make other people to believe that you are responsible for it (Interruption).

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Why should he say that they have no respect for democracy (Interruption). Bengal has produced Surendranath Banerjee and Arvind Ghosh (Interruption).

Mr. SPEAKER : If you get a chance, you may put a question about Atulya Ghosh and others. Now it is their chance. Why do you not give them a chance ? Every time it may not be Atulya Babu alone; somebody else also must come into the picture now and then . . . (Interruption)

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : These elements are preventing people from exercising their fundamental right of speech and expression. May I know from the Home Minister whether he has analysed the reasons for such type of behaviour of some of these elements in Bengal, what are the causes and what are the steps which have been formulated and are being formulated to see that these causes are removed ?

SARI Y. B. CHAVAN : As I said, I cannot give the details because the whole matter is under investigation. I do not want, particularly to mention any political party as such. This is a matter for all the political parties to take note of. I do not want to start in a wrong way and start allegations and counter-allegations. At the present moment, I am making an appeal to all political parties to take note of and to create necessary atmosphere for a peaceful election.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : I do not think the hon. Minister heard my question attentively. I wanted to know whether the Home Minister has analysed the reasons and the causes for this type of behaviour in certain elements in Bengal, what are those causes and what steps have been taken to see that those causes are removed.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : What is the question of analysing ? There are certain obvious things for which no analysis is necessary.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to warn all the political

parties, particularly, in West Bengal, through this highest national forum, that what has already started in West Bengal, a competition of violence, the breaking of heads, if it is allowed to continue in its ugly form, as it is now, I have no doubt that the mid-term elections in West Bengal will turn to be mad-term elections. Already, West Bengal is surcharged with the spirit of violence and counter-violence. A chain reaction has already started. I do not want to blame this party or that party. Every party has a responsibility

Mr. SPEAKER : That is what the Home Minister has said. Why do you want to repeat it ?

SARI SAMAR GUHA : This is from the side of Opposition. Sir, just a few days before, Prof. Humayun Kabir, a Member of this House, was brutally assaulted when he was addressing a public meeting at Midnapur. A bomb was thrown at him and he had a serious fracture in his jaw. He is still lying in hospital . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK (South Delhi) : This shows their guilty conscience. Why are they shouting ? If any proof is required, it is this proof that these people have done it. (Interruptions).

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order. Let Mr. Samar Guha complete his question.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour) : This House will become a forum for election propaganda. . . . (Interruptions);

SHRI J. M. BISWAS : We saw Mr. Madhok in Cuttack (Interruptions). How his hands were full of blood (Interruptions).

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : My head is strong enough. (Interruptions).

SHRI J. M. BISWAS : In Cuttack, we have seen how they have looted the properties of the minority community.

SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR (Peermade) : These worst criminals and murderers should not pose as great democrats (Interruptions).

SHRI J. M. BISWAS : In Ranchi, Rourkela and Donguaposi they have killed so many people that day. We are ashamed that they are in this House with us. *(Interruptions).*

श्री मुहम्मद इस्माइल (बरकपुर) : ये लोग कलकत्ता में जैसी स्पेचिज दे रहे हैं, उनसे तो जाहिर होता है कि यह घटना जनसंघ ने ही कराई है। आखिर इस बात का क्या सुबूत है कि वह घटना जनसंघ ने नहीं कराई है? इस बारे में एनक्वायरी होनी चाहिए और तमाम बातें सामने आनी चाहिए।

Mr. SPEAKER : The hon. member may please sit down. It applies to Mr. Ismail also. *(Interruptions).* I am on my legs. It does not look well to do all these. After all, a general question is being asked. No party's name has been mentioned, no individual's name has been mentioned. He is asking a general question about law and order. He has said that the mid-term elections are being turned into mad-term elections. . .

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : What a subtle way of asking questions !

Mr. SPEAKER : Mr. Basu may please sit down. If he has a right to say things against Congressmen and everybody, they too have that right. Can I prevent them? Can I put a ban that they can talk only against some parties? He should tolerate it. . . *(Interruptions)* It is a multi-party system. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI J. M. BISWAS : Why should Mr. Madhok poke his nose ?

Mr. SPEAKER : We have a multi-party system. Let us proceed without hitting each other in the name of parties. Let here be some order.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Mr. Atulya Ghosh organized anti-Prime Minister demonstration in Jalpaiguri; it was a factional fight. . . *(Interruptions)*

Mr. SPEAKER : Why do you bring in Mr. Atulya Ghosh here? Mr. Samar Guha may continue.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : A few days ago, Shri Hari Krishna, a leading member of Marxist Communist Party, complained to the Governor that when he was travelling in a train from his constituency to Howrah, he was threatened by some unknown persons. Again, a few days after that, Shri P. C. Sen, the former Chief Minister of West Bengal, when he was returning after addressing an election meeting in Burdwan district, was injured when his car was seriously brickbatted: some others who were also in the car were also injured seriously. Then in Baranagar, a CPM worker was stabbed. . . *(Interruptions)* I do not want to add fuel to the fire. I want to warn all the political parties in West Bengal that action will create counter-action and that will lead to a chain reaction of breaking each other's head; this will only result in the nullification of the democratic elections in West Bengal. . . *(Interruptions)* If you fail to protect the honour of a Member, then the elemental sense of dignity in the member would urge him to defend his own honour. As I was saying, it is not a question of this party or that party. Several workers belonging to different parties have been seriously stabbed; may be, some of them leave this world. These things are going on not only in Calcutta but all over West Bengal. The whole of West Bengal is surcharged with the ugly spirit of violence and vengeance. I would have welcomed if all the political parties had condemned, in an unqualified way, the series of violence that had developed there. Therefore, I want to know from the Home Minister whether whenever in any public meeting any political party indulges in violent activities in disrupting the election meeting, the Government will take the sternest possible measures against the members of such political parties, because they are the enemies of democracy. That is my first question. Secondly, I want to know this. Will the Government amend the People's Representation Act or if necessary issue an ordinance. If any political party removes the election posters of any other political party or if any member of any political party disturbs the election meeting of any other political party or if any member of any one political party tries to threaten or assault the member of any other political party during the election campaign, and if that is verified in the

court of law, will this Government take the sternest measures to see that the election is invalidated and that person disqualified? These are my two questions, Sir.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : As far as this is concerned, the hon. Member wanted.

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त (दिल्ली सदर) :
पहले क्या सवाल किया, यह बतला दीजिए ।

Mr. SPEAKER : He has understood the question. Why are you worried?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : With all his very lengthy preamble he asked me two questions. One was, whether Government is prepared to take strong action whenever such things happen. That is number one. Secondly, he asked, whether we were prepared to amend the Representation of the people Act so as to disqualify such parties or individuals. So far as the first question is concerned I have already said that Government proposes to take strong action in this matter. So far as the second question is concerned, it is a suggestion for action.

SHRI R. BARUA (Jorhat) : I do not want to disturb the hornets nest. But one thing is certain. There is a concerted move to disrupt the democratic procedure of this country. (Interruption) The assault on Shri Humayun Kabir was followed by assaults on Shri Narayan Chowdhury, Shri Nityananda Thakore, Shri P. C. Sen, and even the lady candidate was not spared, Shrimati Rama Devi. (Interruption) I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the political parties have come up with complete public denunciation of such activities? It is no good saying that we don't blame this political party or that political party. The broad fact remains that unless political parties in the country do not denounce these activities, it is not possible for law and order to be maintained. Therefore, I would like to ask this question for a reply from Government. Which are the political parties in the country which have come forward with public denunciation of such activities?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I have myself said that Government certainly deplors

such incidents. But I would like all political parties to take initiative and deplore such things and denounce such activities because that is the only way of maintaining the proper atmosphere.

SHRI C. K. BHATTACHARYYA : (Rajganj) : Sir, the Home Minister, in his statement referred to the case of assault on Shri Humayun Kabir. I would like to draw his attention to the assault on the Ex-Chief Minister of West Bengal, Shri P. C. Sen. He was going to Burdwan to speak in a public meeting, in the interest of three local congress candidates, on his way back he was assaulted and all the three candidates, Shri Narayan Chowdhury, Shri Nityanand Thakore and a lady candidate by name Shrimati Rama Devi were assaulted in the car and not brickbats, but big bricks, were thrown at them and Shri Nityanand Thakore was rendered unconscious in the car. And Shri P. C. Sen because of the injury he received is now confined to bed with a temperature of 105 degrees F. The Home Minister may find out the facts. This is the actual position. The peculiar coincidence of things about this is that all these three candidates are fighting rivals who belong to the Marxist Communist Party. (Interruptions)

SHRI JYOTIRMÓY BASU : We are not going to listen to all this. We are not here to remain as silent spectators to this kind of election propaganda. . .

MR. SPEAKER : The Home Minister will reply. Why should there be excitement?

SHRI C. K. BHATTACHARYYA : According to the newspaper report :

"The assailants were mostly the supporters of the Communist Party Marxist, it is learnt."

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Is reading newspapers allowed inside the House?

SHRI JYOTIRMÓY BASU : Which is that paper?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri S. M. Banerjee himself had read from the newspapers in the House so many times.

SHRI C. K. BHATTACHARYYA : Since I have been asked to name the paper, I may say that it is *The Hindustan Standard* which gives undue publicity to Shri Jyotirmoy Basu.....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : I take serious objection to this. There is no question of undue or due publicity to me. It is their paper . . . (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER : Let the hon. Member be allowed to put his question. It will be over in a minute.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : You are allowing all this propaganda to be made on the floor of the House. We would like to record our serious objection to this sort of thing.

MR. SPEAKER : Every minute, the hon. Member is talking of Atulya Babu and the Congress and so on. Does not a Member from the other side have the right to mention his name at least once ?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Shri Atulya Ghosh is behind all the mischievous deeds in West Bengal. He organised the demonstration against the Prime Minister at Jalpaiguri. He did so many things at Calcutta and other places.

MR. SPEAKER : It cannot be the monopoly of one side only to refer to such names.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH (Pali) : He is a misguided missile from China.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : My hon. friend is a flying saucer from America.

SHRI C. K. BHATTACHARYYA : I may tell the hon. Home Minister that this is the first stage when candidates are being attacked at their meetings. The next stage will be as the election approaches, to intimidate the voters, and the third and last stage will be to wreck the polling booths and to destroy the ballot boxes. Already, a number of placards are appearing in the streets of Calcutta that elections should not be allowed to be held and elections should be avoided and there should be no elections, and those parties which have an apprehen-

sion of their defeat are indulging in these things. This is the position that we are coming to and this should be taken care of.

SHRI J. M. BISWAS : It is the hon. Member's party which has such an apprehension.

AN HON. MEMBER : It was the Congress which was trying to postpone the mid-term elections in West Bengal.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Under the direction of Shri Atulya Ghosh, Messrs. Khaitan Brothers have been given a contract to manufacture one lakh ballot boxes which could be easily tampered with.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member has had his say already. Now, he should allow other Members to put questions.

SHRI C. K. BHATTACHARYYA : I plead with you that whatever other defects I may have, I have not the gift of an uncontrolled tongue. So, I cannot meet all that my hon. friends opposite are saying. But I shall only read out to you the telegram that I have received from one of the injured candidates, namely the lady candidate Shrimati Ramadevi. This is what the telegram says :

"Preplanned murderous attack at Pauli Burdwan more than forty Congress workers injured including my self Congress Leader Prafullasen and other Congress candidates stop police absolutely in active stop formal election since impossible pray intervene immediately give proper directions."

In these circumstances, I would like to put three questions to the Home Minister.

SHRI J. M. BISWAS : It is a manufactured telegram.

SHRI C. K. BHATTACHARYYA : This telegram is addressed to the Deputy Chief Whip, Shri Dwaipayan Sen, because it is in his constituency that these things are happening. The Deputy Chief Whip can stand guarantee for this.

What steps will now be taken so that election meetings may be peacefully held by

all parties and candidates carrying on election campaign may not be assaulted and may not be debarred from their own work ? What steps will be taken for the safety of the polling booths and the security of the ballot boxes ? The Home Minister has to assure us on these three things.

SHRI J. M. BISWAS : It is a manufactured telegram.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : It is very deplorable that even a person of the standing of the ex-chief Minister and a distinguished politician, a person like Shri P. C. Sen was not spared. All these matters are under investigation.

The hon. Member wanted to know what steps we were taking to ensure peaceful election meetings. We are taking all possible steps in regard to this matter, but this cannot be done unless we get co-operation from all political parties. I would request the leaders of all political parties of Bengal

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) : if he had the co-operation of all political parties, it would not be necessary to do anything.

SHRI J.M. BISWAS : They do not want co-operation : it is due to factionalism in the Congress Party.

SHRI PILOO MODY : If he had the co-operation of all political parties, it would not be necessary for him to do anything. It is because he does not have it, therefore, it is necessary.

SHRI Y.B. CHAVAN : The hon. Member is right. I do not have their co-operation. Therefore, I am asking for it. So, it is obvious.

MR. SPEAKER : If he had it, he would not have asked for it.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I do not have it, and that is why I am asking for it.

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR (Jhansi) He will never get their co-operation.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : If I do not get their co-operation then without their co-

operation we shall see that peace is maintained during the elections.

As far as the polling booths are concerned, we have taken necessary steps to keep mobile police parties to see that peace is maintained at the polling station. I would assure the House that we shall take every step to see that boxes certainly will not be allowed to be tampered with.

12.43 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notification under Indian Telegraph Act, etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE**) : On behalf of Shri I.K. Gujral, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Indian Telegraph (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 1968, published in Notification No. G. S. R. 1961 (English version) and G. S. R. 1962 (Hindi version) in Gazette of India dated the 9th November 1968, under sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

(2) A statement showing reasons for delay in laying the above Notification.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2769/68]

Review on the working of Hindustan Steel Limited and Annual Report of Hindustan Steel Limited.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : On behalf of Shri P. C. Sethi,

I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(1) Review by the Government on the working of the Hindustan Steel Limited, Ranchi, for the year 1967-68.

(2) Annual Report of the Hindustan Steel Limited, Ranchi, for the year 1967-68.