

15.44½ hrs.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENT re: WELFARE WORK CARRIED ON IN BASTER DISTRICT

The Minister of Planning and Social Welfare (Shri Asoka Mehta): On the previous occasion, some Members of the House had shown interest in the social welfare work carried on in Bastar district. So a report has been prepared and with your permission, Sir, I place it on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5943/66].

It is a comprehensive picture of what has been done in Bastar district.

Some hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: This is about what has been done—I suppose about the welfare of the tribes.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): In Bastar or all over India?

Shri Asoka Mehta: In Bastar district only.

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Mandsaur): The murder part of the social welfare work? Or what was it?

15.45 hrs.

RE: MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT AND CALLING ATTENTION NOTICES—contd.

BASTAR INCIDENT—contd.

Shri Ranga (Chittoor): My hon. friend wanted us to believe that the responsibility of the Home Ministry was over once the social welfare side of it was transferred to the social welfare department.

Shri Nanda: All.

Shri Ranga: If he is prepared to amend his attitude to that extent, then there is a regular responsibility placed, a special responsibility placed, on the Home Ministry in regard to their welfare which includes their political position also, their economic

and social status, their general status. That special responsibility was placed clearly on the Home Ministry; and for the past two years—it is—clear now by his admission and what is implied in it—the Home Ministry had washed its hands off this and everything was attended to by the Social Welfare Minister; therefore, all the petitions that were being sent by the late Maharaja and the masses there and the pleading that they had made before the Government were not attended to. That is the only presumption that one can draw....

Mr. Speaker: He can put his question concerning the intimation the Home Ministry had received from the Maharaja of Bastar that he felt concerned or had apprehensions....

Shri Ranga: Thank you for reminding me of what I had said the other day. A few days before that murder had taken place (Interruptions).

Mr. Speaker: The difficulty is this that whether that incident amounts to murder or not is to be determined by the Commission of Inquiry that has been set up.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Alleged murder.

Mr. Speaker: That has to make a report. Until then we should not try to say anything which might prejudice its inquiry and findings. About that, we have to be careful.

Shri Nath Pal (Rajapur): Let us say 'homicide'.

Shri Ranga: I amend it by saying—What appears to be murder. (Interruptions). My hon. friends opposite may waive their hands. But to me it appears to be murder anyhow....

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It is murder.

Shri Ranga:of the Maharaja who was found dead in his own drawing room with so many bullets in him. According to their admission, it is 3 or 5. but according to us, there were