

**Shri Vallatharas** (Pudukkottai):  
On a point of information, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** Not at present. That question is over. Now, I am going to another matter.

#### POINT OF PRIVILEGE

##### ARREST OF SHRI V. G. DESHPANDE

**Mr. Speaker:** As regards the question about the privilege of this House and its Members raised yesterday by Shri Chatterjee, I have already referred the matter to the Privileges Committee, as the House knows. Yesterday, after that was done, I received at 4-45 P.M. the following communication marked "Secret" from the District Magistrate of Delhi.

**An Hon. Member:** But it is secret.

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes, upto the time it was communicated to me it was secret, but I cannot keep it secret as between me and the House. It would have been secret had it reached me at a certain stage, but unfortunately it came to my hands at 4-45 P.M. This is how the letter reads:

"District Magistrate's Office, Delhi,  
May 27, 1952.

Dear Mr. Speaker,

I have the honour to inform you that I have found it my duty in the exercise of my powers under Section 3 of the Preventive Detention Act of 1950 as amended to direct that Shri V. G. Deshpande, M. P., be detained. Shri V. G. Deshpande was accordingly taken into custody this morning and is at present lodged in the District Jail, Delhi. The communal situation in Delhi has been tense during the last three days over the intended celebration of an inter-communal marriage. Shri V. G. Deshpande, among others, took a leading part in organising and directing meetings and demonstrations which led to a breach of the peace on May the 26th. Their subsequent conduct in continuing to hold meetings and demonstrations was calculated further to provoke a breach of the peace and as such it was considered necessary to detain them in the interest of maintenance of public order.

Yours sincerely,

**RAMESHWAR DAYAL."**

Of course, the subject is not open to any discussion, but I mentioned this letter and its contents to the House merely for information. A reference has already been made to the

Privileges Committee and I am forwarding this letter also to that body. It will take this matter into consideration along with the other matters under investigation and then make its report.

**Dr. S. P. Mookerjee** (Calcutta South-East): When was this letter received?

**Mr. Speaker:** I said, at 4-45 P.M.

**Dr. S. P. Mookerjee:** Did your office receive it at about that time, or was it lying in your office?

**Mr. Speaker:** It came directly to me at my residence.

**Shri N. S. Nair** (Quilon *cum* Mavelikkara): What is the time of its despatch?

**Mr. Speaker:** It is dated the 27th and looking to its contents, obviously it was despatched after the arrest and after Shri Deshpande had been taken into custody.

**Dr. S. P. Mookerjee:** And after it was known that you had referred the matter to the Privileges Committee?

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not know whether it was known to him. It all depends upon whether the District Magistrate was watching the proceedings of this House from moment to moment. I do not know that. He may have known or he may not have known. Anyhow, it is for the Privileges Committee to enquire into the matter now.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhury** (Gauhati): May I know whether Shri Deshpande will be allowed to attend the sittings of the House if he desires to do so?

**Mr. Speaker:** Let us await the report of the Privileges Committee.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhury:** I am making an application to you now to permit him to attend the sittings of Parliament.

**Mr. Speaker:** Even if an application is made just now, I will await the report of the Committee. I have already instructed the Committee to expedite its work, and the first meeting of the Committee is going to be held today at 3-30 P.M.

#### COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY BILL.

**The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju):** I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the appointment of Commissions

of Inquiry and for vesting such Commissions with certain powers.

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is:

That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the appointment of Commissions of Inquiry and for vesting such Commissions with certain powers."

The motion was adopted.

**Dr. Katju:** I introduce the Bill.

## INDIAN TARIFF (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

**Shri A. C. Guha:** (Santipur): On the previous day I was speaking about the quantum of protection given to certain industries. I was particularly referring to the cases of sago and the starch industries that are getting protection from Government. In 1949, the fair selling price of sago globules was Rs. 34 per cwt. In 1950, it was Rs. 41 and now it is Rs. 61. I do not know how the cost of production has been increasing so much. There may be some suspicion that the industry has been taking the protection as an encouragement to inefficiency and extravagance. During the war, about 100 factories were in existence and in 1949 only 40 were functioning. In 1950 the number became even less and there were only 20. I do not know how many of them are working now. Why are all these in spite of protection?

The hon. Minister stated that of the industries that are going to be given protection through this Bill, only bicycle and aluminium are of some interest from the consumers' point of view. But, may I inform him that sago is a poor man's diet in Bengal, Assam and I believe also in Bihar and Orissa. I do not know what is the custom in other parts. During illness people take sago.

**Shri Velayudhan** (Quilon *cum* Mavelikkara—Reserved—Scn. Castes): Everybody does that.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** Everybody, that is, the richer section may take Ovaltine or Horlicks, not sago. In view of the importance of sago, the question of protection being given to it and the consequent increase in the price of this article is a matter of some interest from the point of view of the consumer. The Tariff Commission has calculated a protection of 103.47 per cent in order to make the fair selling price of the indigenous product equal to the landed cost of the imported article. Government is now

proposing to give only a protection of 30 per cent. I do not know how this will help the industry. From 1950 there was a complete ban over the import of foreign products—I do not know if that ban is still continuing. At one stage there was O.G.L. and free import. Then suddenly the Government went over to complete banning of this article. I think Government should have some definite plan regarding this as well as other industries. I am doubtful as to how this protection of only 30 per cent. will help this industry.

Then, as regards sericulture, the protection is only up to December 1952. It is mostly a cottage industry and as such it ought to have better consideration from Government. As a cottage industry, the Government should have taken sufficient precaution to give a longer period of protection, so that those engaged in the industry may have sufficient time to set their industry in order.

Then again we find from the Tariff Commission's report that artificial silk is the greatest competitor of our cottage industry in silk. The Tariff Board has recommended that speculation in artificial silk should be regulated or banned under the Forward Contracts Act. I do not know whether Government has taken any action for regulating...

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I may tell my hon. friend that the Forward Contracts Bill has not been passed.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** I think it was passed last year.

[SHRI M. A. AYYANGAR *in the Chair*]

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Shri Karmarkar): It is under consideration now. It lapsed.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** I am sorry, Sir. I recollect it that it passed through the Select Committee stage. Anyhow, I think the Government has enough power even under the Essential Articles (Control and Regulation) Act to control the price and distribution of artificial silk.

Another recommendation of the Commission relates to the free importation of silk worms. I do not know how far that has been given effect to by Government. The Berhampore Sericulture Institute has been trying to improve Indian silk worms and I do not know what help Government has given in that direction. Unless we can put our industry