PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II-Proceedings other than Questions and Answers) OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Monday, 29th March, 1954

The House met at Two of the Clock [MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

3 P.M.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

ARRANGEMENTS ON THE OCCASION OF THE I.A.F. EXERCISES ON 28TH MARCH 1954.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker. I have received three notices relating "jamming of traffic" and "want of facilities" in connection with the I.A.F. yesterday. Mr. Gopalan exercises has given notice under rule 215 to call the attention of the Defence Minister. A number of other hon. Members have also given notice relating to the same matter, and they want an opportunity to discuss. Another hon. Member, Mr. N. R. Naidu has given a similar notice under rule 215 to the effect that the arrangements have been inadequate and so on. Mr. Gopalan.

Shri A. K. Gopalan (Cannanore): Under rule 215 I beg to call attention of the Defence Minister to the following matter of public importance and 163 P.S.D.

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I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The failure of the Government of India to take adequate steps for the health, as proper steps were not taken for drinking water, and safety of the tens of thousands of people who visited the Tilpat Range yesterday to witness the exercise of the I.A.F. and in allowing an unprecedented traffic jam for hours inconveniencing public very much".

Shri N. C. Chatterjee (Hoogly): As under rule 215 there is no debate at all allowed, may I request you. Sir, to give us an opportunity to discuss the matter under rule 212 so that we can have a short discussion, having regard to the appalling breakdown?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is starting a debate without getting my permission. Let us have under rule 215 a statement. if it is necessary, let us consider the other matter.

The other notices are also of a similar nature.

Shri Bansal (Jhajjar Rewari): As you are aware, Sir, a number of short notice questions have also been tabled on this. I want to know which will have precedence—the short notice questions or these notices of motions.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Notice of the motion was given first. Mr. Gopalan's motion came the earliest. Further, it is a motion. The short notice questions have not yet been admitted. fore this will take precedence.

I would ask the Defence Minister if he has to say anything on this matter.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): We all know, Sir, that yesterday there was a tremendous traffic jam, and we know odd facts about it. Many Members may themselves have experienced it. But I confess that I do not quite know what is sought to be discussed and how any discussion will be profitable. Undoubtedly this matter should be gone into, that is by experts and others. The real reason is, obviously, that the number of people who wanted to go there was far in excess of either the expectations or of the capacity of the roads the single road or one or two roads that go there. It is quite possible, it might be somewhat better perhaps with experience, but I do not think that any amount of experience or organisation can improve it, except building one or two roads.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): Why should there have been so many invitees?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is not the invitees.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will just say this. Under this rule it is not that there should be a debate. It is 'drawing attention', which has been done by the hon. Member who gave notice. The Minister in charge may, if he likes make a brief statement now or ask for time to make a statement at a later date regarding the measures adopted etc. If he has not got the facts he may ask for time till tomorrow or day after tomorrow to place those facts. Or, if immediately he wants to make a statement he may do so.

Shri Jawaharial Nehru: Sir, I would gladly place such facts as I can gather before this House. I have seen this notice only about ten minutes ago and therefore I cannot say anything now. But apart from my making a statement—if it so pleases you, Sir, two or three days later I shall do that—I confess there are certain facts which are obvious. One is the inconvenience caused to a large number of people, including the Air Marshal himself, who is in charge, who could not get

there in time. An hon. Member asked why people were invited in such large numbers, but it is not the people who were invited, who created the jam, but the uninvited people.

Some Hon. Members: No, no.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Hon, Members can see that if as is estimated, rather accurately, that three hundred thousands people were there, and about one hundred thousand people were on the roads, well four hundred thousand people were not invited; only some thousands were invited.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: Was there not a public invitation?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Hon. Member is right that the public was, morally speaking, asked to come; that is true, and the public came in very large numbers. There being only one single road and one or two other odd roads, it resulted in an absolute, hundred per cent jam, It might have been improved, no doubt, possibly—I cannot say—probably it will be better, but I do not think this is a matter which can be discussed profitably in the House. This is a matter which should be gone into by experts and others.

Shri S. S. More: Experts managed the whole affair.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I can have no objection if the House wants to spend its time in discussing it, but I do not see how it can be discussed.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Under the Rules there is no discussion.....

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I understand, Sir, and, as I said, I am prepared to place such facts that I can gather, before the House, after two or three days.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is not a question of so much jamming only; from about 7.30 to 2.30 people were not able to go. One cannot say whether they were all invited, except in a general manner. People could not move forward or backward and there were a large number of children who could not get water. These are all

for the future, that there may be some better arrangements. The hon. Minister will look into this matter and make whatever information he could gather available to the House. under rule 215 no discussion or debate is called for. Therefore, in addition to whatever the hon. Minister has said just now in reply, if he wants to make any more matters clear, he may do so in two or three days.

Shri S. S. More: What happens to our request to have two hours' discussion in this matter?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Nobody has asked for any discussion.

Shri S. S. More: I think all sections of this House want a discussion, and further I want to make a request that the short notice questions which have been tabled by so many Members may also be taken up with it so that we may have a complete picture

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All short notice questions with the other Motion for discussion will be forwarded to the Defence Minister so that a consolidated statement if necessary, may be made.

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): Not the Home Minister?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Defence Minister is also concerned.

Shri Bansal: Sir, just now you said that the notice for discussion from Shri Gopalan was received earlier. I myself came to office at five minutes to ten and there was no one there. I want to know whether Shri Gopalan has some other door by which he has access to you.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: I went to the Deputy-Speaker's house—that is the 'door'!

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Mr. Gopalan gave me his Motion earlier than the others. Dr. Sinha gave me his notice of Motion a few minutes later.

Dr. S. N. Sinha (Saran East): No, Sir, I gave my Motion first.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: At the time I came out from inside my house, both of them, Shri Gopalan and Dr. Sinha.

were there, one with the Adjournment Motion and the other with the Motion for discussion. So far as Dr. Sinha's Motion is concerned, it is a request for fixing a couple of hours for discussion. The other was for Adjournment Motion, or Motion for immediate statement, therefore, that will have precedence. The other Motion I will consider, but that will be done only after the hon. Defence Minister has placed such of the materials as he thinks proper or is able to gather later on, before the House; but now I have adjourned it.

Shri Vallatharas (Pudukkottai): Sir, in view of the.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. No oral representation is allowed. I have not got any such notice.

Shri Vallatharas: It is for your decision,.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no more decision; I have adjourned it.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE
ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE
SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Committee in its first Report has recommended that leave of absence be granted in respect of Shri Biren Dutt, Dr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva, Shri Sadath Ali Khan and Shri A. V. Thomas for the period indicated in the report.

The Members are being informed accordingly.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—contd.

DEMAND No. 17—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

DEMAND No. 18—ARCHAEOLOGY
DEMAND No. 19—OTHER SCIENTIFIC
DEPARTMENTS

DEMAND No. 20—EDUCATION
DEMAND No. 21—MISCELLANEOUS
DEPARTMENTS AND EXPENDITURE UNDER
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now continue discussion on the Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Education.