

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Monday, 16th June, 1952

The House met at a Quarter Past Eight
of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

9-9 A.M.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

ARREST OF SHRI. DASARATHA DEB ✓

Mr. Speaker: We will first take up the question of privilege raised on Friday. What information has the hon. Minister to give?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): I have received a telegram and the Chief Commissioner of Tripura says that he has sent a detailed letter which is on its way. From the telegram it appears that Shri Dasaratha Deb was examined by the police and at their request attended the Police office at eight o'clock on the morning of the 12th instant in connection with a pending kidnapping case which is under investigation by the police and in which the police suspect his complicity. After the investigation was over he was forthwith formally arrested by the police and immediately taken to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate and was released on bail at half-past ten in the morning on that very day. That is the situation: interrogation from eight o'clock to some unatated hour—maybe an hour, or whatever it is—and then formal arrest, then removal or taking over to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate before whom the police produced him, and then his release on bail. That is the information that I have got.

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Shri Velayudhan (Quilon cum Mavelikkara—Reserved—Sch. Castes) rose—

Mr. Speaker: I do not want to hear any long argument on this question. Has he to give any information to me?

Shri Velayudhan: I want the Minister to give some information.

✓**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. As one occupying the Chair and as a responsible officer of this House in charge of the privileges of the Members, the Chair will take much more care than what the hon. Member thinks that he (the Member) can. I have heard the facts. On the facts it is clear that Shri Dasaratha Deb is no longer in detention or in prison. That is very clear. But the only point of doubt to my mind at present is—it may even be an arrest for five minutes or ten minutes—as yet I have received no information from the officer concerned that a Member of Parliament was arrested. And to my mind that requires some clarification.

Dr. Katju: May I make a statement about that, with your permission? We asked the Chief Commissioner in that telegram as to whether he had sent information to you, Sir, and we referred him to the general circular letter which had been issued by the Home Ministry last year. And he says in his reply that he does not seem to have received any such letter at all and therefore he was not aware, sitting in Tripura, that it was his duty or it was proper and necessary for him to send forthwith immediate information to you. Now, it may be that Tripura, as you know, is a very small State, a Part C State, and the letter might not have been sent to him or it might not have reached him. But he says that he had not received any such information. If there was a mistake I take the responsibility for that and you may kindly overlook it, Sir.

Shri Meghnad Saha (Calcutta North-West) *rose*—

Mr. Speaker: I do not think it requires any arguments at all. The question is very clear. It is admitted that no information is given. It is only pleaded that it was unintentional, a technical breach which should be excused. I think nothing would be lost if I refer the question to the Privileges Committee. Let it consider it and let it make its own recommendations about all the circumstances in which the arrest took place. And then it will be for the House to consider as to whether it was a technical breach, whether it should be excused or should not be excused. The Privileges Committee may make its own recommendations. *Prima facie*, on the facts, I think it is a clear case to go to the Privileges Committee. And the question, of course, of punishment or otherwise on merits will be a matter for the House. So I refer this question to the Privileges Committee.

INDIAN PORTS (AMENDMENT)
 BILL

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Ports Act, 1908.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Ports Act, 1908.”

The motion was adopted.

Shri L. B. Shastri: I introduce the Bill.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS)
 No. 2 BILL

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1952-53 for the purposes of Railways.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1952-53 for the purposes of Railways.”

The motion was adopted.

Shri L. B. Shastri: I introduce *the Bill.

GENERAL BUDGET—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

Mr. Speaker: Before I call upon the hon. Minister for Education to reply to the debate, I wish to be clear about the discussions today. I understand that the discussion will take place about the cut motions in respect of the Commerce and Industry Ministry. There are a number of cut motions. I am not placing them before the House at the stage I have got a list of the agreed cut motions. The hon. Minister in charge of Education will reply and then the debate will go on.....

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): We can meet in the afternoons.

Mr. Speaker: Not in the afternoon. I am very clear on that point. I do not propose to allow any sittings in the afternoon, unless it is absolutely the unanimous wish of the House. Even one man can dissent. It is too much for all of us. That is my inclination and it is therefore that I say that, if the House is unanimous on that point, I am entirely at the discretion of the House. I do feel that it can never be unanimous. If it is not unanimous but only substantially agreed, it cannot be agreed to. So the point that I had in view is that unless, at some point, we decide to finish the business within the time each day, we shall have to follow up by saying that the reply will be given the next day. At some time or some place, we must come to a dead wall. That is the position. Whether you want it today or you want it on some other day, I have no objection at all. It may be for the hon. Members but ultimately I do not want to have any request made that the period given or the time allotted should again be extended. (*Interruption*). That is a different matter. I do not know whether the time should be extended in that manner, unless it is on account of extreme necessity. Apart from considerations of the industry and the inconvenience to the staff, our claim is that we live for all, and the staff also has to be taken into consideration; it is overstrained and over-worked. Therefore, I was going to say that we also must cultivate the habit of putting our remarks in a short period instead of

*Introduced with the previous sanction of the President.