

Am. No. 25415

Date: 09.12.2014

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, 14th April, 1955

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of
the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-52 A.M.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

EXODUS OF BENGALI-SPEAKING PEOPLE FROM GOALPARA

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of an adjournment motion. The subject is: the situation arising out of large-scale exodus of Bengali-speaking people from the District of Goalpara, State of Assam, into the District of Cooch Behar and other Districts of the State of West Bengal caused by the widespread persecution of the Bengali-speaking people in the District of Goalpara and the calling out of the Military.

In this respect, I have also received two calling attention notices and two short notice questions. The matter seems to be agitating the minds of some people. I should like to know what the facts are to consider this motion.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): The matter has been agitating also my mind and the minds of my other friends and colleagues in the Government. I share the sentiments of those who have given

notice of this motion. I can only hope that a calm and peaceful atmosphere will be restored so that the questions of grave moment which the States Re-organisation Commission has to consider may be considered in a proper way. I am distressed over the incidents that have happened in Goalpara. The State Government is doing all it can to put an end to the state of tension that has been dominating the scene for some time.

I have not the latest information with me. The matter concerns the State Government. But, if further information is received, I shall be ready to place it before the House. The State Government approached the army in Darjeeling. A military officer was sent to contact the civil authorities and to render whatever assistance was deemed to be necessary. Two companies were subsequently asked to serve as a stand by in Siliguri. One of them has since gone to another place. But, so far as I am aware, according to the latest information, there is no occasion for making use of the army there. Their presence has restored the confidence and things have possibly returned to normal. That is the information that I possess at present.

I am sorry that such happenings have taken place in any part of our country. I do not want to take shelter under the plea that it is a State Government's concern. Everything that happens in India is the concern of every one of us. But, constitutionally, the matter cannot be raised here. I have personally been in touch. I might say, with the Chief Minister

[Pandit G. B. Pant]

even before the happenings started. I had written to the Governments of the States where there seemed to be strong feelings over these matters. I received a letter from Shri N. C. Chatterjee yesterday. I had, in fact, written to the Chief Minister even before the receipt of that letter. I wrote to him again after the receipt of that letter. In my personal capacity, I am anxious to do all I can and I repeat that I am deeply distressed over what has happened.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee (Hooghly): Am I to understand that the troops are moving or they are stationed? The latest report was that the troops are going. Have they gone or are they stationed?

Pandit G. B. Pant: My information was that two companies were asked to stand by at Siliguri. One of them had gone to Goalpara. That had the desired effect. If any further information is needed, I shall make enquiries.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri (Berhampore): I have one question to ask. A large number of people have come over from Assam into West Bengal. Most of these people have been once displaced from their homes in East Pakistan. May I have an assurance from the Government that all aid would be given financially to the West Bengal Government so that these people may at least find some shelter in West Bengal?

Pandit G. B. Pant: I do not know if this question arises out of the present situation. But, I should like to render every reasonable assistance to the State Government to enable them to help these displaced persons.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): May I make one submission? As it is reported in the Calcutta Press and other papers also, there is strong allegation of partisan character against a section of the police. I would

only request the hon. Home Minister to make a full statement after ascertaining all these things. It really pains us all. We do not want in any way to precipitate things. If he can give an assurance.....

Mr. Speaker: After all, the hon. Home Minister has said that when he gets information, he will place it before the House. Do I understand it correctly?

Pandit G. B. Pant: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: He will place such information or whatever it might be. There are also two calling attention notices on which also he will be giving information. Any way, the question for the adjournment motion now does not survive. We may await the statement.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS (CIVIL) 1951-52 AND AUDIT REPORT, 1953 AND COMMERCIAL APPENDIX THERETO.

The Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure (Shri A. C. Guha): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following papers, under article 151(1) of the Constitution:

(1) Appropriation Accounts (Civil) 1951-52 and the Audit Report 1953. [Placed in Library. See No. S-116/55.]

(2) Commercial Appendix to the Appropriation Accounts (Civil) 1951-52 and the Audit Report 1953. [Placed in Library. See No. S-117/55.]

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

CRASH OF INDIAN AIRLINES CONSTELLATION IN SOUTH CHINA SEA

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member might perhaps know that in the order of business, immediately after questions, the adjournment motion comes