

LOK SABHA

Thursday, 16th December, 1954.

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

12 Noon

DEATH OF SHRI JWALA PRASAD SRIVASTAVA

Mr. Speaker: I regret to inform the House of the passing away at the age of 65 of Shri Jwala Prasad Srivastava who was a member of the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) and of the Provisional Parliament. He passed away in Lucknow on the 15th December, 1954. Shri Jwala Prasad was Minister for Education and Finance and Industries, Government of Uttar Pradesh, from 1931 to 1936 and 1937 respectively. He was also Member for Civil Defence and Food in the Viceroy's Executive Council.

I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to his family.

The House may stand in silence for a minute to express its sorrow.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

LATHI CHARGE ON SATYAGRAHIS IN IMPHAL, MANIPUR

Shri M. S. Guruswamy (Mysore): Under Rule 215, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Home

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Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising out of police lathi-charge and brutal attack on the peaceful satyagrahis in Imphal, Manipur State, on December 14th and 15th causing serious injury to many satyagrahis and grave insult to many women who participated in the movement."

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): My colleague, the Home Minister, is occupied in the Rajya Sabha at the moment, and he has asked me to say that he will inquire immediately into this matter and bring such facts as are available to him to the notice of the House. Apparently, these incidents relate to what took place yesterday and the day before. One thing I should just like to mention, i.e. the background; what is happening in Manipur is what is called the satyagraha—some people sitting in front of the houses of the advisers and the advisers' office trying to prevent ingress and egress, preventing them from going in or coming out of their houses or going in and coming out of the advisers' office, because they want the Advisers' Council to be discontinued—dismissed—and an Assembly to be formed. These are their demands, which may be right or wrong. But what is daily occurring is the prevention of the going in and coming out of their offices and of their houses. Normally—not for the last two days—we have seen that they have sometimes to be removed to make a passage way for the advisers to go. That

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

is what we have found about the previous days; this happens almost daily, but as regards the last two days, if you will permit, we shall get the facts and place* them before the House.

DELIMITATION COMMISSION
(AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister in the Ministry of Law (Shri Pataskar): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Pataskar: I introduced the Bill.

RESOLUTION RE. REPORT OF
RAILWAY CONVENTION COM-
MITTEE—contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now resume further discussion on the Resolution re: recommendations of the Railway Convention Committee, 1954, moved by the Minister of Railways on the 15th December 1954. Of the 6 hours allotted for this Resolution, 4 hours and 35 minutes have already been availed of yesterday and 1 hour and 25 minutes now remain. This means that this Resolution will be disposed of by about 1.30 or 1.35 p.m.

Thereafter, the House will take up Supplementary Demands for Grants including the Appropriation Bill for which 5 hours have been allotted.

According to our usual convention, the voting on the Resolution will take place at 2.30 p.m.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair.]

Shri Velayudhan (Quilon cum Mavelikkara-Reserved.—Sch. Castes): Yesterday I had just begun to speak on the Resolution on the recommendations of the Convention Committee and then the House rose for the day.

You, Sir, being the Chairman of the Railway Convention Committee, know very well that the separation of railway finance from general finance began in 1924. After the 1924 convention, it was a feature every five years to decide how the finances between the railways and the general revenues should be adjusted. I went through the report carefully and I was sorry to find that even though the Report gave certain information, the House was not given the benefit of taking into account the various memorandum and reviews submitted both by the Financial Commissioner of Railways and the Railway Board. If these reports, which were submitted periodically to the Convention Committee, had been before the Members, we should have been able to assess the various implications that were responsible for the Convention Committee arriving at certain conclusions.

Looking into the antecedents regarding separation of railway finance from general finance, there might have been a justification at that time for a division between the two, but later on this convention has continued and it is even now being continued. I thought that a revolutionary change would be suggested by the Committee, even though it sat for only some time. I must tell you that it is my firm belief that railway finance and general finance should be integrated as soon as possible. As I said yesterday, I remember that in 1950 when we had a discussion on the railway budget I had occasion to suggest the same thing, that the railway finance or the railway department, unlike as is being administered today, should be integrated with general finance as a whole. The separation, which is still conti-

*Laid on the Table in reply to Short Notice question No. 10, dated the 24th December, 1954, See Part I of Debates—Col. Nos. 1986 to 1989.