

[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

in. Thereafter, papers to be laid on the Table and other formal business, and other business like calling attention comes afterwards. So, the hon. Member need not be anxious.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore): Under rule 216 I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Communications to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The crash of an Indian Airlines Constellation on the 11th April, 1955 in the Sea of Sarawak."

12 Noon.

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): I have to announce with deep regret that the Constellation aircraft, VT-DEP, belonging to Air India International crashed into the South China Sea whilst on a charter flight from Hong-Kong to Jakarta on the 11th April 1955 at about 14:55 hours IST. The charter had been arranged by Air India International's Hong-Kong office. The aircraft was carrying eleven passengers consisting of three staff members of the Chinese delegation to the Bandung Conference, five Chinese newspapermen, one staff member of the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and one Austrian and one Polish journalist, besides eight members of crew. The part thus consisted mostly of advance staff of the Chinese Government, and Press representatives going to attend the Bandung Conference.

According to the latest information, there are three survivors. They are Shri M. C. Dixit, co-pilot of the aircraft, Shri J. C. Pathak, Flight Navigator; and Shri A. S. Karnik, Aircraft Maintenance Engineer. All the three have sustained injuries and are being given medical attention. I have just received a report that three bodies have been recovered of which two have been identified as those of the crew.

The aircraft left Hong-Kong at 09:56 hours IST for Jakarta and was expected to arrive there at 17:45 hours IST. On its way, the aircraft sent routine radio messages of its position at 13:45 hours and 14:45 hours IST. At 14:55 hours IST a distress call was heard from the aircraft by Jakarta after which there was no contact with the aircraft. On receipt of the distress call, air and sea rescue measures were initiated.

The site of the crash is in a region about 100 miles northwest of Kuching the capital of Sarawak.

The Government of India express their deepest sympathy with the relations of the persons involved in the accident and with the peoples and the Governments concerned. Full investigations into the causes leading to the accident will be made. As the wreckage of the aircraft will be helpful for the purpose of the investigation, action has been initiated for undertaking salvage operations.

According to the International Civil Aviation Convention, the formal Court of Enquiry can be set up by the Government of the country within whose territorial limits the accident has taken place. If the site of the accident is on the high seas, the Government of the country where the aircraft is registered can appoint a formal Court of Enquiry. Action is already being taken to expedite the setting up of the Court. The Government of India will in any case offer the fullest co-operation in the investigation of the accident.

Meanwhile, all necessary steps for rescue operations have been undertaken in co-operation with the neighbouring countries. The Government of India greatly appreciate the prompt help which has been given by all concerned in this connection.

A high officer of Air India International left for the scene of the accident immediately on receipt of in-

[Shri Jagjivan Ram]

formation of the accident. Two officers of the Civil Aviation Department will be leaving tomorrow for the scene of the accident to make preliminary investigations.

Shri T. K. Chandhuri (Berhampore): May I make a submission in this connection? In view of the fact that very serious allegations have been made by the Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of China, and the official New China News Agency, that this accident was due to sabotage, may I ask through you whether Government have any statement to make on that?

Mr. Speaker: I think when facts are stated in pursuance of a notice for calling attention—the suggestion which the hon. Member makes may be all right but—it will be for Government now to proceed. They have already stated that they will give the fullest co-operation and all allegations made, it may be presumed, will be taken into consideration.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1955-56

DEMANDS *re* MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Mr. Speaker: The House will now resume further discussion of the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Out of 6 hours allotted for the Demands of this Ministry, about one hour has already been availed of on the 7th April, 1955, and 5 hours now remain.

Now I will make one position clear—I believe it has been agreed to by all sections of the House as I understand it—that the House adjourns at 4:45 P.M. This does not take up any time out of that which the hon. Members will have for purposes of discussion, and the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry will reply tomorrow. He will take half an hour. That is the arrangement which we have got now.

Shri V. V. Giri (Pathapatnam): The Industrial Policy Resolution of 1948 was good so far as it went. But unfortunately the spirit of it could not be understood or appreciated by the common man in this country. So, a new orientation of this policy was given. And the hon. Prime Minister after his return from China publicly declared that the future policy of the country or rather the future pattern of society will be the socialist pattern. That was further emphasised by the resolution passed at the Avadi session of the Congress, and later reiterated by Shri Dhebar, president of the Indian National Congress.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA *in the Chair*]

I am very glad to say that the spirit of it has been caught by the nation today. If I may say so, the nation has taken up the challenge for securing the socialist pattern of society. It behaves all sections, both inside this House as well as outside, without having mutual recriminations, to try and propagate in a sincere manner and establish the socialist pattern of society indicated by the statements of the great leaders of our country.

It may be relevant and pertinent, if I refer to a few sentences from the memorandum presented on the 4th June 1939 by our Prime Minister, who was the chairman of the All India Planning Committee which came into existence when there was provincial autonomy in the provinces. On pages 39 and 40 of that report, he stated:

"It is clear that the drawing up of a comprehensive national plan becomes clearly an academic exercise with no relation to reality unless the planning authority or those to whom it is responsible are in a position to give effect to the plan. If this authority is powerless or circumscribed or restricted and has its activities limited, it cannot plan. An essential prerequisite for plan-