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LOK SABHA

Monday, 25th April, 1955

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-85 A.M.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

DEPORTATION OF CERTAIN SATYAGRAHIS BY PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES

Mr. Speaker: I have received a notice of an adjournment motion. The subject of the adjournment motion reads as follows:

"Deportation by the Portuguese authorities of 32 Goa *satyagrahis* (including Indian nationals), who were arrested in August, 1954, and sentenced to terms of imprisonment up to 28 years."

Whatever the merits of this motion, so far as its admissibility is concerned, the subject appears to be pretty serious and the sentences too shocking. I would like to know from the hon. Members or any one of them as to whether they have any further information about the sentences. It is stated that the sentences are 'up to 28 years'. It is not clear whether sentences are different and how many have been sentenced in that manner.

Shri Asoka Mehta (Bhandara): All these persons were arrested on the

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15th August when the *satyagraha* was launched in Goa. All of them have been convicted and sentenced. The sentences are varying, for different periods, the highest sentence awarded is 28 years and the minimum sentence given is 4 years. These 32 persons have been deported from Goa and have been sent to some place in Africa. The deportation took place about two or three days back. That is the information I received yesterday by telephonic communication.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to ask Government to give some information on this point, whatever they may have, not necessarily today. If they have the information, it can be given; otherwise, the information could be called for, and I should like to keep this matter open till the return of the Prime Minister. Information, if possible, may be given earlier because it is a matter which really causes tension throughout the whole of India. I will decide formally about the admissibility of the motion after the information is given.

PRESIDENT'S ASSENT TO BILLS

Secretary: Sir, I have to inform the House that the following Bills, which were passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current Session have been assented to by the President:

1. The Drugs (Amendment) Bill, 1954;
2. The Dentists (Amendment) Bill, 1954;
3. The Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment Bill, 1955.