

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

1223

LOK SABHA

Monday, 29th November, 1954

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

12 NOON

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT ✓

- (i) DETENTION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN ANDHRA
- (i) USE OF DUM DUM AERODROME BY BRITISH MILITARY AIRCRAFT

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of an Adjournment Motion. The subject is "the continued detention in the jails of Andhra State, in the context of the coming General Elections, of political prisoners, numbering about three hundred, sentenced in connection with the Wasteland and Toddy Tappers' satyagraha in Andhra". ✓

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I have no information on this subject, but I am prepared, of course, to inquire, to find out and draw the attention of the authorities in Andhra to this. But from the motion itself, it appears that certain persons were convicted for, presumably, certain infringements of the law. Now, whether any leniency should be shown to them is a question which might be considered. But I do not quite see what room there is for ✓

525 LSD.

1224

raising a discussion about it here. If you so wish, I shall find out, of course, what the position is and place it before the House.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, let us have the factual position and then we can decide on the admissibility of the motion.

Shri Sadhan Gupta (Calcutta—South-East): As regards the adjournment motion, notice of which....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. In that connection, I have already conveyed to the hon. Member that I do not propose to give consent. The subject which he has raised—I would mention it to the House—may be perhaps an important one, but I suggest that all such individual instances cannot form the subject-matter of adjournment motions. (*Interruption*) I do not want any argument on that. I find there is a tendency to give notices of adjournment motions on anything happening in any part of the country. That cannot be permitted in the form of adjournment motions. The subject is "the use of our air port at Dum Dum near Calcutta by British military aircraft for transport of Gurkha recruits of the British army on 26th November last". Whatever the importance, the hon. Member should realise that the incident does not raise any such all-India important question which requires an immediate discussion. The best course in such cases is to give notice of a short notice question or to give notice of a motion calling attention and enquiring about the facts. What is there to be discussed in this?

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I make this submission? It happened some-time ago that certain French aircraft

[Shri Sadhan Gupta]

were involved in this kind of thing and the Prime Minister gave us an assurance that it was the policy of the Government not to allow foreigners to carry troops through our country. Now, this has happened again and there is no guarantee that it is not going to happen hereafter. In view of this, it is an infringement of our sovereignty and I submit it raises a matter of sufficient importance to merit discussion in this House.

Mr. Speaker: I am not inclined to agree with that view. There are bound to be individual breaches here and there and the best course is first to get the information before coming to the House for a discussion in the form of an adjournment motion.

Shri A. K. Gopalan (Cannanore): As far as the first adjournment motion is concerned, I have to make an explanation. It is not that I am saying that they are detained under the Preventive Detention Act. What I have said is that they are inside jail. I think that only a few are convicted; the others are not convicted, they are under trial. So what I meant was not that they were detained under the Preventive Detention Act.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I know that. I did not understand it that way.

Shri Raghavaiah (Ongole): May I know when the report is going to be submitted to this House?

Mr. Speaker: As soon as possible. The whole point of the adjournment motion that is tabled is, as the hon. the Leader of the House has said, to invite the attention of the Government to the desirability of some kind of concession to those prisoners. That is the point he wants to urge. Let the factual situation be ascertained and then we shall see as to how....

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know if the Government are prepared to accept a short notice question?

Mr. Speaker: He may table it. Then I shall read it and ask them if they are prepared to accept it.

Shri Raghavaiah: With regard to the first adjournment motion, two of the persons put in prison are prospective candidates for the elections....

Mr. Speaker: Whatever it may be, *prima facie*, the position is that people who have acted against the law and are convicted in the course of the law have to take the results of their acts. (*Interruption*) The question involved is really about some kind of consideration and a political concession. That is entirely a different matter.

Shri Raghavaiah: The Governor of Andhra has promised....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am not going into that question.

AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL FORCE BILL

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill to provide for the constitution of an Auxiliary Territorial Force.

I had the privilege of introducing the Auxiliary Territorial Force Bill, 1954, on the 18th May last with the leave of this House. The object of the Bill was, to provide the legal basis for the imparting of training, and laying down the broad principles, for the establishment of training camps, and for the exercise of disciplinary control over the trainees while in camps held under the Auxiliary Territorial Force Scheme.

On the recommendation of the fourth meeting of the Central Advisory Committee for the Territorial Army, held on the 12th November 1954, it has been decided to revise the above scheme, and to have instead, a National Volunteer Force Scheme. Under the new scheme, the period of camps, which was initially 7 days and was lately increased to 10, will be 30