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LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

1035

LOK SABHA

Friday, 2nd December, 1955

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

12 NOON

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATION UNDER ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): I beg to lay on the Table, under subsection (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, a copy of the Notification No. S.R.O. 2247, dated the 12th October, 1955 cancelling the Ministry of Food and Agriculture Notification No. S.R.O. 2740, dated the 25th August, 1954. [Placed in Library, See No. S—406/55].

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

SITUATION IN RATACHERA IN AGARTALA

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up the consideration of the adjournment motion tabled by Shri Dasaratha Deb and Shri Biren Dutt regarding alleged police excesses in Ratanchera in Agartala (Tripura). The hon. Deputy Minister will now make a statement.

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): The reports received from Tripura show that the allegations that on the 21st November, 1955, the Police burnt houses, molested women and beat the people in Ratanchera as a result of which panic prevails in six villages are entirely

incorrect. The facts ascertained are as follows:

On the 22nd October, 1955, on Dhan Singh of village Emrapasa was arrested by the Police of Fatigroy Police Station for being in possession of an unlicensed gun. While the Police party were returning to the Police Station with the arrested man, a mob of about 300 persons attacked the police and forcibly took away Dhan Singh from their custody and chased the police party. Some local villagers gave shelter to the police. In order to preserve order in the area where the mischief-makers who had attacked the police had gone underground and to give protection to the law-abiding villagers who assisted the police, a temporary police camp has been opened in the village of Emrapasa which is inhabited mostly by anti-social elements. So far only two accused persons have been arrested. The anti-social elements who were responsible for the attack on the police are reported to have themselves set fire to some dilapidated huts with a view to accusing the police of oppression. The State Government have reported that all allegations that the police burnt down houses of villagers, tortured their women and looted money, rice, jute, etc., and created a state of terror are entirely incorrect.

Shri Dasaratha Deb (Tripura East): The police went to Emrapasa and Demdumchera villages, caught hold of three women and raped them. When the other womenfolk came to the spot to rescue the raped women, the police fired four rounds and burnt their houses and in order to hide from view such barbarous acts, they fabricated the unlicensed gun story. Four

[Shri Dasaratha Deb]

women from Boratali of Sabroom, who were raped by policemen have already given a complaint to the local authorities. Two policemen were punished, it is learnt. I want to say that a situation of terror is prevailing in Emrapasa, Ratachera, Raj Krishnapara and Gungamanik para, Rani Bala-Gopa, Kiran Bala Debi, Gitarani Debi and Mohanbarasi Debi of Boratali and Kalapura area of Subroom where the four women who were molested. It is a very important matter and I request the hon. Speaker to allow this motion to be discussed in this House.

Shri Biren Dutt (Trioura West): Women have been raped and on the representation from the ladies, to the Police Superintendent, two police officers have been suspended. When that is the case, how can we be satisfied with statements like the one made by the Deputy Minister?

Mr. Speaker: There seem to be two different stories and I think I must accept the story given by the Deputy Home Minister. But it appears that there is room for further investigation and ascertainment of facts. Now specific instances have been given by the hon. Members. What has troubled me most is the allegation of molestation of women. I could perhaps imagine that there might have been some reprisals, though it is difficult to see what the facts were; but, the molestation of women even as a part of reprisals is a thing which it is difficult to swallow. I would, therefore request the hon. Home Minister to make further enquiries into the specific allegations made now and give a statement in respect of those facts; and, then I will dispose of this Adjournment Motion.

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): I would like to submit one point for clarification. Up till now there has been a custom in this House that allegations against the official machinery were based on some publicity made thereof or some other grounds. So, I hope the hon. Member has some such document in his hand whereby he can make these alle-

gations in this House. If allegations have been on personal information, they have been ruled out. Therefore, unless he has some cuttings from the Press or some other authentic proof of what he says, the adjournment motion could not be admissible.

Mr. Speaker: Of course, the general rule is that so far as the question of facts is concerned, the statement of the Government has to be accepted. But in this particular case it appears *prima facie* that the set of facts as stated by the hon. Members is different from the set of facts as disclosed by the hon. Minister. Now, the information may not necessarily be documentary. The hon. Member may have statements of persons whom he considers to be reliable. He may not have any such statements, but I presume he is relying upon something which at least *prima facie* is a ground for further investigation of facts. The press reports may or may not be true. I am not relying on press reports; but hon. Members coming from that area are probably more aware when they are giving specific instances and naming persons and villages. They also allege the fact that the Police Superintendent of the place investigated into the matter and has dealt with two police officers in respect of molestation of women. That, I think, is serious enough, deserving a further enquiry to ascertain the facts, and it would be wrong on my part to disallow this motion merely on the statement of the facts as disclosed by the Home Minister. That is how I feel about it. To my mind it is a serious matter that the police who are expected to protect the people should be capable of committing offences of rape and molestation of women; whether it is in a remote corner or in a city it is immaterial. That is how I feel about this.

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): As you are holding over this motion, may I request you to direct the hon. Minister to make a further statement within a week at the outset or at any rate

during this session? It should not be delayed too long.

Mr. Speaker: The object of the motion is to know the facts correctly. Though I should like the statement to be made as early as possible because this is an adjournment motion, the statement should be as complete and as correct as possible. I am sure the two hon. Members who have tabled this motion will help the hon. Minister with facts in their possession to enable him to make a complete enquiry into the matter and then come to the House for the disposal of this adjournment motion.

Shri Biren Dutt: I can place a statement of those who had been raped.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member may submit those statements to the Home Minister, have a talk with him and help him in the matter of ascertainment of facts.

**RAILWAYS STORES (UNLAWFUL
POSSESSION) BILL**

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House as follows:

The Railway Stores (Unlawful Possession) Bill, 1954, was passed by Rajya Sabha on the 31st August, 1954 and was transmitted to this House on the 1st September, 1954. This House referred the Bill to a Select Committee on the 12th March, 1955 and the Select Committee presented its Report on the 31st March, 1955. The Bill as reported by the Select Committee of this House was passed by the House yesterday

The Select Committee made changes in clauses 1, 2 and 3 and the enacting formula to which the House agreed yesterday.

The Bill as amended by this House is now to be transmitted to Rajya Sabha for their concurrence in the amendments to the Bill made by this House yesterday. A message is accordingly being sent to Rajya Sabha.

**CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO
STARRED QUESTION**

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): In connection with Starred Question No. 1137 answered in the Lok Sabha on the 25th of August 1955, Shri Syamnandan Sahaya asked a supplementary question whether the mine sweepers were new or old. In reply I said that they are not very old, they are certainly not new. I regret that what I stated in my reply is not correct and I seek your permission to correct my answer and substitute it by the following:

They are brand new.

PART C STATES (LAWS) AMENDMENT BILL

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): I beg to introduce the Bill further to amend the Part C States (Laws) Act, 1950, for the purpose of extending certain Acts to the State of Manipur.

**DELHI (CONTROL OF BUILDING
OPERATIONS) BILL**

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the control of building operations in Delhi.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduced a Bill to provide for the control of building operations in Delhi."

The motion was adopted.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I introduce the Bill.

**PREVENTION OF DISQUALIFICATION
(PARLIAMENT AND PART
C STATES LEGISLATURES)
AMENDMENT BILL**

The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri Biswas): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Prevention of Disqualification (Parliament and Part C States Legislatures) Act, 1953.