

are not intended for purposes like the present; those powers are intended for suspension of the Constitution and such like. Now, that is a matter which cannot be decided in a debate of this kind. There is no method by which the Minister can override the decisions of this committee which is charged by the statute and by the rules made thereunder to award punishments. That may be a very unsatisfactory state of affairs and this House in its wisdom may have to consider it. This opens up a field of enquiry. But this House knows very well that if the Central Government begins to interfere with the affairs of States, whether they be A, B or C, there will be an awful uproar for all sorts of reasons.

A question has arisen. The country is aroused about the tragedy and what is more, the House is not satisfied about the degree of punishment awarded. As I said, the Ministry itself may or may not have other views about it but it is no use expressing a view on a matter on which it has no competence. That is a tribunal under the statute; that statute is legal. Certain things are laid down. There have also certain rights been vested in the individuals concerned. In order to make the position the legal factors have been closely examined and we are told that the Chief Commissioner of the Delhi State has to take the action concerned. The Central Government have powers to give direction to the Chief Commissioner usually speaking. This is not a case in which such a direction can be given. After all a direction can be given only before he has signed and passed judgment. How can we know what he is going to decide or what he was not going to decide? It is not a case in which the Central Government can interfere.

I want to add once again this. From all the papers I have seen, the conduct of these officers may have deserved more severe treatment. It is not for me, who is not competent, to give a decision on account of the limitations imposed by law and respect for parliamentary obligations, to pronounce upon that. I would say that there has been a dereliction of duty, error of judgment—what is more, the attempt to pass on responsibility to someone else including the enquiry committee. That is a most deplorable state of affairs. So far as these men are concerned the disease that visited a large number of Delhi citizens and the tragic results are on their conscience, they would also have in their ears and

their minds, the censure that has been conveyed, though not by a resolution but by the speeches and the utterances, and the sentiments of this House. That, itself I think, would be punishment. If the House desired to take further steps, that would be a matter that would have to be dealt with according to the procedure laid down for the purpose.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : The hon. Minister himself admitted that the punishment given was far from satisfactory. May I know whether the Government will take such action through Parliament which will take away the power from the Board and punish them by other methods. (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : Order, order. He has made it clear that he also feels that the punishment is not adequate. But there must be other methods of pursuing the matter. There are other remedies open to the hon. Members to pursue the matter. (*Interruptions*.)

Some Hon. Members *rose*—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : Order, order. Now the discussion is closed. There is no motion before the House and there is nothing that we can pursue. I shall take up the next business.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

Secretary : Sir, I have to report the following message from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha :

“I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 29th May, 1956, has passed the following motion :”

Motion

“That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to leave being granted by the Lok Sabha to withdraw the Bill to amend the Manipur State Hill Peoples (Administration) Regulation, 1947, for the purpose of making provision for elected village authorities and for matters connected therewith, which was passed by the Rajya Sabha on the 21st September, 1954 and laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on the 23rd September, 1954”.

6. 35 P.M.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Ten of the Clock on Wednesday the 30th May, 1956.