

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

am quite sure that between the people of Karachi or the people of Pakistan and the people of India, there is no great ill feeling except when they are excited, except when they are incited. If any person or if anything is wrong, at least the major wrong, if I may say so, is some part, if not all—of the Press of Karachi in Pakistan. I have seldom during the fairly long career or experience of the Press in India and Pakistan—and the Pakistan Press has not been a good example to follow anywhere in the world—come across such concentrated venom and invective as the Pakistan Press in these very days in their leading articles and their display and their headlines, etc. If some of the people of Pakistan naturally got worked up when they see their Press behaving in this way, it is not surprising. You will see—the House will notice—that they are those very people who have been worked up no doubt by these articles and the headlines in the public Press. When they heard Shri Mehr Chand Khanna for three minutes, actually they cheered him afterwards. So, I do not blame those people. They were misled.

I do think it is a serious matter that any country's Press should devote itself in this concentrated way to spread hatred against another country and another people. That is a very serious matter. But that is not a matter which comes before or can be dealt with in the course of a motion for adjournment.

Mr. Speaker: In view of these facts and the fact that no further action arises, I refuse to give my consent.

ALLEGED OCCUPATION OF KACHCHA THIVU ISLAND BY CEYLON GOVERNMENT

Mr. Speaker: There is another adjournment motion standing in the name of Shri Vallatharas which reads:

"The urgent serious situation that has since arisen consequent on the present violation by the Ceylon Government of the sovereignty and the mutual relations of the Indian Government by entering into and occupying the Indian territory of the strategic island of Kachcha Thivu near Danushkodi claiming it as their own, and by directing their Air Force to use the island for practice bombing and gunnery range on from 1st April, 1956."

Shri Vallatharas (Pudukkottai): I may submit that the island is personally known to me. It was in the exclusive possession and enjoyment of the Raja of Ramnad when he was a zamindar of the Ramnad estate. After Government assumed the zamindari, that island was under the control of the Indian Government. It is an Indian territory. Quite recently, some months before—in October—this trouble arose and there was correspondence between the Ceylon Government and the Indian Government about its ownership. I understand that the Government of India have not paid proper attention to it and no reply has been sent. On that basis, the Ceylon Government have assumed some sort of a claim and entered into the island and occupied it and they have directed their Air Force to use it as a base. Under the present circumstances of SEATO and so many other suspicious factors around, I attach very great importance to this move. I want to know whether that island is ours, whether it is a fact that the occupation has been done and what steps the Government have taken in all these months to controvert the approaches of the Ceylon Government.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I am afraid, I have no adequate information on this subject. We are enquiring from the Madras Government about it.

Mr. Speaker: Anyhow, inasmuch as this has been going on for sometime past, there does not seem to be any urgency.

Shri Vallatharas: There is urgency; they are going to use it as a base for training, bombing as well as for gunnery range. It is very serious...

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member has said enough. If he wants full information, the hon. Prime Minister has referred the matter to the Madras Government—he may table a short notice question and I shall see what can be done about this matter.

ARREST OF A MEMBER

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House that I have received the following telegram dated the 27th March, 1956, from the Police Commissioner, Bombay: