

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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LOK SABHA

Monday, 14th May, 1956

The Lok Sabha met at Half Past Ten of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-29 A.M.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

STATISTICAL INFORMATION *re.* WORKING OF PREVENTIVE DETENTION ACT

The Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following papers:

- (1) Statistical information regarding the working of the Preventive Detention Act, 1950, during the period 30th September 1954 to 30th September, 1955.
- (2) Statistical information regarding the working of the Preventive Detention Act, 1950, during the period 30th September 1955 to 31st December 1955. [Placed in Library. See No. S-17/56.]

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): The House is well aware that a debate on the Preventive Detention Act is scheduled to take place some time next week. Now the hon. Minister has been good enough to lay on the Table of the House some statistical information regarding the working of the Act from the 30th September 1954—I am taking both of them together—to the 31st December 1955. May I ask whether it is really impossible for the Government to supply similar information with regard to the working of the Act up to, say, the end of April 1—123 L. S.

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1956 because that information will include the victims of the States Reorganisation bungle . . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does the hon. Member want the information about the States Reorganisation or on the dispute or bungle?

Shri Kamath: The preventively detained victims.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Why use controversial adjectives? Should the Minister reply on the bungle now?

Shri Kamath: Let the bungle go for the present; I want information about the victims of the States Reorganisation business.

Shri Datar: As I stated, we have to write to the various State Governments, and the State Governments have to call for information from the various district centres, and, therefore, it takes time. You will find that information has been supplied up to the 31st December 1955. The hon. Member wants information after this date. But it might take time to furnish this.

Shri Kamath: These are days of telecommunications.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): We have to discuss it when we take that question up in the light of the different happenings in the different States, and particularly, in the Bombay State, a large number of persons have become victims to this legislation. If we want to examine it in all its aspects, up-to-date and relevant information should be made available to us. Otherwise, whatever information we give to the House must be accepted by the other side.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There cannot be any guarantee given that any information that is given by a Member will be accepted by Government unless they provide contrary information, but certainly it will be desirable if the Government can get information after December as well. The difficulty has been explained that

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

the information is to be sought for from the States and that will take some time. Unless that is received, it is not possible to place it before the House. I can only ask the Government that, if it is possible, later information might also be collected from the States and brought before the House so that the debate might be effective in so far as the latest incidents also are concerned.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): They will do it slowly and it will take a long time.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then it is for the House to replace the Government! If the Government says that it is not possible to get that information, that is, information after that date, we cannot compel it to do it. We can ask the Government to furnish information up to the latest date that it is possible for it. I am doing that. I am asking the Government to try to obtain figures, as far as possible, up to the latest date. This is all that can be done.

Shri S. S. More: As far as the Bombay State is concerned, I may bring it to your notice and to the notice of the House that the latest figures were given by the Chief Minister by the end of March. Those figures...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then we should not have any apprehension because I am asking the Government if it has got that information, and it will place it before the House if it has got that information.

The Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): There is no need for argument, for your wish will be carried out and we will try to supply the latest information as far as it is available. It may be, of course, that it is not comprehensive in the sense of covering every State, but such as we can get, we shall place before the House.

Shri Kamath: I shall make an earnest request to you that you will kindly ask the Government not to try to supply but to supply that information. With tele-communications they can contact every State and ask them to supply the information at once. It is an evasion of responsibility not to supply it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now we shall proceed to the next item of business. The hon. Member will realise that Government may have some difficulties which

may not be apparent to us. I have asked the Government to supply the information up to the latest date that they have in their possession. That is all what can be done just at present.

Shri Sadhan Gupta (Calcutta South-East): May I draw your attention to another matter with regard to what is appearing in the Order Paper? After the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We will take it up later; the hon. Member may wait for some time.

PRESIDENT'S ASSENT TO BILL

Secretary: Sir, I have to inform the House that the Travancore-Cochin Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1956, which was passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current session was assented to by the President on the 10th May, 1956.

COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

FOURTH REPORT

Shri N. C. Chatterjee (Hooghly): I beg to present the Fourth Report of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

STATES REORGANISATION BILL

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

The Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): I beg to move:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the reorganisation of the States of India and for matters connected therewith be extended up to the first day of the next Session."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the reorganisation of the States of India and for matters connected therewith be extended up to the first day of the next Session."