

[Shri Rishang Keishing]

I have also got the names of the villages where people died of starvation. I would also like to bring to the notice of the hon. Home Minister that some *lamboos* i.e., Government men, visited the area and they also reported that there is starvation deaths. I would also draw attention to the Press release by the Secretary of the Famine Relief Committee which was constituted last year sometime in October. There also the allegation has been made that seven persons died of starvation....

Mr. Speaker : We are now concerned with the adjournment motion and not with what happened in October last.

Pandit G. B. Pant : Does the hon. Member mean that the people in that area would be so apathetic and indifferent to their colleagues and neighbours as to allow them to die of starvation? Rice is being sold there at Rs. 9 per maund and the off-take from the shops has been very little; it is inconceivable to believe that men will die like that. Supplies have been made and rice is being sold at a subsidised rate of Rs. 9 per maund and it is also being airdropped.

Mr. Speaker : I ask the hon. Member why those friends who took the trouble of writing to the hon. Member who is a Member of Parliament did not approach the officers near at home and bring to their notice those deaths. He does not know why there is also a short notice question. This matter has been answered by the hon. Minister and he has said that all facilities have been afforded. Whatever additional information the hon. Member has got, he may pass it on to the Home Minister for making further enquiries in the matter. There is absolutely no such information and the hon. Member is not in a position to say that the authorities were apprised of the situation.

Shri Rishang Keishing : More than 12 persons from that area....

Mr. Speaker : He has not answered my simple question.

Shri Rishang Keishing : They have brought this matter to the notice of the State Government also, but the State Government refused to take action. As I have said, the *lamboos* who generally work in the hill areas have reported that there is starvation deaths. I would request the hon. Home Minister to appoint responsible person to go there and

enquire whether the report of the people is right or the Government's report is right.

Mr. Speaker : I have heard both sides on this adjournment motion. The Minister has made a statement that no such cases have arisen. The hon. Member says that he has received information and letters from his friends indicating deaths due to starvation. He has also tabled a short notice question. All the information available to the hon. Minister has been placed before the House. I would suggest to the hon. Member to pass on any further information or particulars that he has in his possession to the hon. Minister. I am sure further enquiries will be made and all steps will be taken. In due course, further information will be placed before this House.

Shri Rishang Keishing : You have asked me to supply the necessary information to the hon. Minister. May I know if the hon. Home Minister will trust the people as much as he does the Government of Manipur and if he will do that here is the information.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member need not so much underrate himself.

Shri Nambiar (Mayuram) : The adjournment motion has not been disposed of.

RELEASE OF MEMBERS

Mr. Speaker : I have to inform the House that I have received the following letter dated the 19th May, 1956, from the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta :

"I am to state that Shri Bhajahari Mahata, M.P. (Purulia General Constituency) and Shri Chaitan Majhi, M. P. (Purulia Adibasi Constituency) were discharged from the case on 18th May, 1956."

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

GOVERNMENT'S POLICY WITH REGARD TO ALGERIA

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma (Kanpur Distt.—South cum Etawah Distt.—East) : Under Rule 216, I beg to call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :—

"Government of India's policy with regard to Algeria."

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The Government of India view with deep concern and regret the grave developments in Algeria which have now reached the dimensions of a large-scale conflict with mounting violence, with considerable forces and arms engaged, and with no end of the conflict in sight.

This conflict, it must be recognised, is one in which basically all the urges, the passions, the hopes the aspirations and that mass upsurge of peoples which go to make the great movements of rising nationalism, are engaged. Too often are such movements and their consequences regarded as mere challenges to constituted authority which can and must be suppressed. The result has been violent conflicts and mounting hatreds which render peaceful settlements of them more difficult each day and less fruitful, when they may, at last, be reached.

The conflict in Algeria is part of the great wave of national upsurges that have swept Asia and Africa in the last two generations. Whatever view we may take of particular aspects of the present Algerian situation and however much we may recognise, as we must, the practical difficulties and complexities involved, we and all concerned may not fail to recognise this basic issue.

The position taken by the Government of India in regard to all such movements for national liberation, and specifically with reference to Algeria, has been repeatedly stated. It was also adopted by the Government of India, in unity with the other independent Governments of Asia and Africa, at Bandung last year when they joined in declaring their support of the rights of the peoples of Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia to self-determination and independence and appealing to the French Government to bring about a peaceful settlement of the issue without delay. This approach has two essential aspects which must both be always remembered—our support to freedom movements and our adherence to a peaceful approach.

The Government of India take this opportunity of according their full recognition of the wisdom and statesmanship of the Government of France and the generosity of all the parties concerned, in bringing about a solution of the problem of Morocco and Tunisia. They hope that the independence of the two

countries, now recognised by France, will soon be well established and that they will soon become members of the United Nations.

The Government of India realise that there are special factors and complexities in the Algerian situation, but they should, however, not be permitted to bar settlements. They call for negotiation and accommodation.

The Government of India are happy to think that their recent contacts with French statesmen lead them to believe that in France there is an increasing recognition that the claims of Algerian nationalism have to be met. At the same time, there is the grim fact that large forces are deployed in Algeria and violent conflict rages. It should be our endeavour to assist the forces of a constructive settlement by urging the fuller recognition of national aspirations and at the same time by not encouraging hatred and violence by either side.

The Government of India consider that the first step to peace and settlement in Algeria is the stopping of violence and bloodshed. They, therefore, venture to appeal to all concerned to initiate and to respond to any moves to this end.

A cessation of fighting in Algeria, the desires for which have recently been expressed in diverse quarters, including the two sides, is the first and essential step. We hope that the French Government will pursue in Algeria the path which yielded helpful results in Morocco and Tunisia, and that the Algerian people will be ready to respond.

In their desire to help resolve this conflict and promote a negotiated settlement which will bind the parties in friendship and co-operation, the Government of India venture to make the following suggestions, viz.,

- (i) the atmosphere of peaceful approach be promoted by formal declarations by both sides of the substance of their recent statements in favour of ending violence,
- (ii) the National entity and personality of Algeria be recognised by the French Government on the basis of freedom,
- (iii) the Equality of the peoples in Algeria irrespective of races be recognised by all concerned,

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

- (iv) Recognition that Algeria is the homeland of all the people in Algeria, irrespective of race, and they shall all be entitled to the benefits and share the burdens arising from the recognition of the Algerian National entity and personality and freedom,
- (v) Direct negotiations based on the above basic ideas and in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations be inaugurated.

The Government of India have the highest regard for the traditions of France and are happy to regard themselves as in very friendly relations with that great country. They share with the Algerian people the faith in the justice of the cause of national freedom and feel bound to them in this common aspiration. They, therefore, express the fervent hope that no further time will be lost by either side to respond to the call for peace.

The House will recall that in Indo-China the first step towards termination of a long conflict began with cessation of hostilities, and that a similar appeal as the present one evoked the unanimous approval of the House and helpful response elsewhere. It is our hope that in a situation no less fraught with danger to the parties and to international peace than the war in Indo-China, now happily ended, this fervent appeal will reach the friendly ears of the parties to the present conflict, both of whom we regard as our friends and for whose co-operation and friendship with each other and with ourselves we are dedicated.

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): On a point of clarification,....

Mr. Speaker: No questions on a statement.

Mr. Kamath: No question. On a point of clarification, may I know whether the Prime Minister's attention has been drawn to some statements or notes put out by the *Ouai d'Orsay* or the French Foreign Office with regard to the talks M. Pineau and the Prime Minister had and whether those notes represent correctly the talks that the two statesmen had?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: With whom?

Shri Kamath: In India.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It has nothing to do with this. If you so wish, I will draw the hon. Member's attention to a statement issued by us on this very subject at that time.

Shri Kamath: They issued a different statement.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: If the hon. Member will see, they have issued a statement not about what we said, but about what they said, that is, clearing up their position. They did not issue any statement about what we said. It is we who issue a statement of what we said.

Shri Kamath: That statement was about Mr. Pineau's impression of the talks....

Mr. Speaker: I will not allow further question and cross-questions on this matter.

LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION
BILL—Contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up further consideration....

Shri Vallatharas (Pudukkottai): I want to make a submission. A motion raising a question of privilege of very great importance....

Mr. Speaker: It has not yet been brought to my notice.

Shri Vallatharas: I have given at 11-15. The thing is this.

Mr. Speaker: I won't allow that thing to be stated here.

Shri Vallatharas: I have asked under rule 247....

Mr. Speaker: There is time for all that. I am sitting here and getting through the work. I have not got four heads, one for this matter brought before the House after work has started. Whatever the motion is, I will consider.

Shri Vallatharas: I want to make a statement.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member need not interfere. I will look into it and if I give my consent, I shall allow him to raise it tomorrow.

Shri Vallatharas: Will the hon. Speaker give this assurance....

Mr. Speaker: I am not giving any assurance on a matter which I have not noticed yet. No hon. Member should ask for an assurance from the Speaker. I shall go through the motion and see.