

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, 11th September, 1956

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

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-40 A.M.

NETAJI INQUIRY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Netaji Inquiry Committee Report [Placed in Library. See No. S-378/56]

Copies of this will be available to Members in the Notice Office. They can take them there. As the House will remember, three members were appointed to this Committee. All the three went to various places, and more especially Japan and took the evidence of a very large number of persons, in fact, almost every person who could be traced and who had some relevant information. In this matter, they were greatly helped by the Japanese Government, and I should like to express my gratitude to the Japanese Government for all the co-operation and assistance that they gave to this Committee in this business.

On their return, they prepared this Report. Before the Report was prepared, a certain list of agreed points and conclusions was made and signed by the three members. I am mentioning this because the whole Report

now is a report of two members of the Committee. The third member, Shri Suresh Chandra Bose, when the Report was under preparation but after the points had been agreed to and signed by the three members, went away from Delhi and did not come back here. In fact, the Report was somewhat delayed by that fact. When the Report was presented to me, I think, about five weeks ago, it was our intention to place it before the House much sooner. But I thought it desirable that if Shri Suresh Chandra Bose wanted to write any separate note or Minute, he should be given time for that. I got in touch with the Chief Minister of West Bengal, who saw Shri Suresh Chandra Bose and told him so. Shri Suresh Chandra Bose said that he would write such a note and it would take him about a fortnight. We waited for three weeks, more in fact. Ultimately, we thought that we should not delay this any further as the House was going to adjourn soon. Therefore, we decided to place this Report before the House and generally before the country.

In this Report, as hon. Members will see, the conclusion has been arrived at in the last chapter as follows:

"The Committee has come to the conclusion that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose met his death in an air crash, and that the ashes now at Renkoji temple, Tokyo, are his ashes".

This is their main conclusion. They make a recommendation about these ashes, that they should be brought to India with due honour and a suitable memorial erected. So far as the

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

latter part is concerned, the Government do not propose, at this stage, to take any action. This is a matter in which, primarily, the family of Netaji is concerned, and it is with their consultation and goodwill that any step should be taken. I am not prepared to say that it is entirely a family or domestic matter. It is a national matter. Nevertheless, the family is concerned.

Anyhow Government do not intend, at the present stage, to take any action in this matter.

So far as the other matter is concerned,—the conclusion arrived at by the Committee—Government feel that the evidence adduced in this Report is practically overwhelming in this matter, and should be accepted. I should like also to express my gratitude to the Managing Committee of the Priests of the Renkoji Temple who have looked after these ashes during these many years with great reverence and care.

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): On a point of information. Is the House to understand that Shri Suresh Chandra Bose has not indicated by letter or otherwise the exact date by which he would be able to send his note? Secondly, may I also know whether the signature that is appended to the document was to indicate his agreement with the findings or was merely in acknowledgment of the receipt of the draft report of the two members sent to him?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The signature, dated 2nd July, is to the note of principal points agreed to, that is to say, before the whole Report was written. The signature is not to the Report. In fact, if I may say so, the note of principal points agreed to is in Shri Suresh Chandra Bose's handwriting. He has signed it and the other members have signed it. After that, the Report was written based on those principal points. So, the signature is only in regard to those points and not to the Report. Subsequently,

he went away, and, as I said, I tried to get in touch with him through Dr. Bidhan Roy, who saw him and discussed the matter with him, I think, twice. On the first occasion, he said that he would like to have two weeks. Dr. Roy reminded him again and he said it will take some time more. Then Dr. Roy told us that it may not be worth while waiting for that; 'you go ahead with the publication of the Report'.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North-East): May we take it that Shri Suresh Chandra Bose, purported to sign it subject to a note of dissent which he would send later or do we take it that he dissents from the major findings in regard to this Committee's decision?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I really cannot speak on his behalf. But it is clear that he has not signed the report as it is. He has signed, I repeat, a note of agreement on major points which is given there. The Report was written after that or it was being written. As a matter of fact, he was not here when the Report was completed. He had gone to Calcutta and he has not signed that Report. I cannot say to what extent he agrees with the Report and to what extent he does not. All I can deduce from his behaviour is that he does not like the Report as a whole. What part he likes and what part he dislikes, I cannot say.

Shri Kamath: Is it a fact that Shri Suresh Chandra Bose, before he left Delhi, contacted the Prime Minister or his Secretary and said that he was compelled to leave Delhi because the Government did not give him decent accommodation here?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I think he was staying at Kotah House which is normally the place where many of our guests stay.

Shri Kamath: He was given a hutment there.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Anyhow the matter was not brought to my notice at all.

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Chittor): May I make an observation? I gave notice of an adjournment motion....

Mr. Speaker: I have disposed of it.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: I have not received any intimation that you have disallowed the motion.

Mr. Speaker: I have disallowed it.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: May I add that this matter arises out of the Regional Formula as passed by this House and the agitation is entirely on account of that. Whatever fearful repercussions that are taking place in Amritsar are something in the nature of this. It would be better if this matter is discussed in this House because I have received telegrams after telegram from so many persons and from Shri Keshub Chander Sen, a man of very great standing. He says that the situation is.....

Mr. Speaker: I will not allow him to go on.

The notice received from Shri Trivedi is in such language and it makes a number of serious allegations that I do not know one can vouchsafe for the truth or otherwise of it. Therefore, let him explain. At first sight I thought it is purely a matter of law and order and completely in the hands of the State Government. He can satisfy me today and if I am satisfied that this adjournment motion ought to be allowed I will take it tomorrow.

In the meanwhile the Home Minister may also note it I give him sufficient intimation about this matter. I am not satisfied; I have already said that it is purely a State matter, a matter relating to law and order. Further the allegations are so serious that I was not prepared to give publicity to them on the floor of the House, unless I had some more material.

The Minister of Home Affairs and Heavy Industries (Pandit G. B. Pant): It shall not be raised here; that is my regret. Otherwise, I would have placed the facts before the House. It cannot be raised here.

Mr. Speaker: I shall look into this matter. If the hon. Member satisfies me to how it can be raised here.....

Pandit G. B. Pant: We have had enough of hooliganism in certain parts of the country and which should come to an end now.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member may come to me later and I shall look into this.

The hon. Prime Minister wanted to go to the other House. Therefore I called him and passed over other matters. Now, we will take up the other matters before the House.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENT *re* RETRENCHMENT OF SURPLUS WORKERS IN DEFENCE INSTALLATIONS.

The Minister of Defence (Dr. Katju): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement regarding the retrenchment of surplus workers in the Defence Installation. [See Appendix XII, annexure, No. 49.]

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

Secretary: Sir, I have to report the following two messages received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha:

- (i) 'In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 162 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Indian Post Office (Amendment) Bill, 1956, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 1st September, 1956, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state