

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

MINUTES (1955-56) VOL. 5, No. 6

श्री बी० गो० मेहता : अध्यक्ष महोदय मे
एस्टीमेट्स समिति ११५५-५६ का
कार्यवाही-सारांश, खंड ५ अंक ७ पेश
करता हूँ ।

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

COMPENSATION BY PAKISTAN IN CON-
NECTION WITH NEKOWAL INCIDENT

Pandit D. N. Tiwari (Saran South):
Under Rule 216, I beg to call the at-
tention of the Prime Minister and
Minister of External Affairs and
Finance to the following matter of
urgent public importance and I re-
quest that he may make a statement
thereon:

"The communique issued by the
Pakistan Government on the 4th
August, 1956, contradicting the
Indian Prime Minister's statement
in Parliament re: payment of
compensation by Pakistan for the
Nekowal incident."

Dr. Rama Rao (Kakinada): May I
point out that we had given a Short
Notice Question on this? By exclud-
ing the Short Notice Question, we are
prevented from putting any supple-
mentaries. We sent a Short Notice
Question on this.

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): So
did I.

Mr. Speaker: In certain matters
like this, some Short Notice Ques-
tions and also motions for calling
attention are tabled. Then I allow
the hon. Minister to make a com-
prehensive statement. If still there
are some matters which have to be
elucidated, I will allow further ques-
tions later on, not today. Let them
read the statement and then put
questions. I will allow them.

Dr. Rama Rao: In such cases, may
I submit that along with this motion
you may also admit the Short Notice
Question so that after the statement,

some supplementaries may be allow-
ed.

Mr. Speaker: No.

**The Prime Minister and Minister
of External Affairs and Finance** (Shri
Jawahar Lal Nehru): May I point out
that the acceptance or otherwise of
a Short Notice Question is the Minis-
ter's responsibility and nobody else's?
It is for me to accept or not to accept.
I very gladly accept them normally,
but I am really putting the consti-
tutional position. I have no objec-
tion to this matter being brought up
again in a Short Notice Question, if
the hon. Member wants. But it
should be remembered that a Short
Notice Question is a special proce-
dure to get over the normal proce-
dure. It is only done by consent of
parties.

Ever since the Nekowal incident,
there has been a great deal of cor-
respondence between the Prime Minis-
ter of Pakistan and me. We had
drawn attention to the U. N. Obser-
vers' Report and asked for adequate
compensation. The Pakistan Govern-
ment had refused to admit any
liability to pay compensation.

Ultimately on the 19th May, 1956,
the Prime Minister of Pakistan wrote
a long letter to me in regard to the
Nekowal incident. It was a long
argumentative letter meeting our
arguments and seeking to answer them
and saying that they had no respon-
sibility for this.

In the course of this letter, the
Prime Minister of Pakistan said as
follows:

"While for the reasons given
above, I do not consider that my
Government is at all liable to pay
any compensation in respect of
the Nekowal incident, I am perso-
nally conscious of the human suffer-
ing involved in an incident
where a number of lives have
been lost. Having regard to this
aspect of the matter, we would
be prepared to make an *ex-gratia*
contribution of Rs. 100,000/-
towards the rehabilitation of the