

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, 19th December, 1956

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair].

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

12.09 Hrs.

STATEMENT RE ALLEGATIONS OF CALLOUSNESS AT ARIYALUR TRAIN ACCIDENT

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Sir, with your leave, I would like to make a statement in order to correct the wrong impression given to this House yesterday by the hon. Member, Shri Kamath, when he spoke on the Supplementary Demands relating to Railways. He said he had received a letter from a responsible person from Trichy, a Member of the District Board, Kulitalai, Shri Govindan. He also read out the contents of the alleged letter. The statements made in the alleged letter were so serious that you, Sir, wanted special attention to be paid to it and a special enquiry made into it. The hon. Minister for Railways and Transport, Shri Jagjivan Ram, also intervened and requested that the letter might be given to him in original so that he could have it enquired by the Committee which was going into the matter as the letter contained very serious allegations.

The alleged letter was sent to Shri Jagjivan Ram, who, in turn, sent it to me with the following note:

"The accompanying is the letter Shri Kamath has sent to me without any forwarding note. When he was speaking in the House he created an impression that he was reading from a letter. I think this should be brought to the notice of the Chair."

The alleged letter has turned out to be not actually a letter written by Shri Govindan to Shri Kamath but only a printed pamphlet which purports to be the English translation of a speech alleged to have been delivered at a public meeting held at Tiruchirapalli on 7-12-56 by Shri R. Govindan, which appeared in "the vernacular daily *Dina Tanthi* of Tiruchirapalli, 10-12-1956." (These words are from the printed pamphlet.)

It will be seen that Shri Kamath left a completely misleading impression on the House when he said he was reading from a letter received by him while he was actually reading from the printed pamphlet described by me above. It is unfortunate that some people should try to seek political advantages even from such poignant happenings as a Railway accident.

In my opinion, this is a clear breach of privilege of the House. But I would like to leave the matter entirely in your hands so that healthy conventions may be established in this House in the interest of all concerned. I am placing the printed pamphlet in question in your hands as also another printed pamphlet which Shri Kamath has sent to Shri Jagjivan Ram. [See Appendix V, annexures No. 75 and 76].

**Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday after you intervened, the hon. Minister also intervened and said in response to your intervention that I might send him the letter. There were all sorts of papers lying on the desk before me. It is true that as far as the statement made by the Deputy Minister goes, I got a letter containing a report of the speech made by him along with a little one-line slip from the person concerned. That was lying on the table and I wanted to fish it out from the mass of papers—the letter forwarding a copy of the report of his speech, and just asking me to “Please do the needful”. Therefore, I thought that when the accompanying slip was there to this report of the speech made by him—it was also published in the public papers,—newspapers.

**Mr. Speaker:** Where is that slip?

**Shri Kamath:** That was mislaid. I could not get it, I could not find it out. It was a one-line slip. I tried to contact Shri Jagjivan Ram, but he had left this place. I had to be here in the House because of subsequent Bills. I tried to contact Shri Jagjivan Ram in the office here, but he was not available. So I thought I would meet him here later. I sent him the report except that one-line slip, which is missing. I had here so many papers on my desk. I wonder that is supposed to be an offence, it is a small paper and along with it was a one-line slip which is now, missing. I leave it to the House. I am entirely in the hands of the House. It is a printed document, published document, which appeared in the daily Press, which is more than a private letter. Supposing he writes a private letter, he is not bound by what he has said there. His speech is published in a paper, as against a private letter. I am sorry that the forwarding slip which came along with it is missing—it simply said “Here is a copy of the report of my speech”. I thought that one line was not so important, but that slip is not traceable. It was signed and I got it along with the report by

post. So I thought it was authentic enough.

**Mr. Speaker:** Could he not have written this to Shri Jagjivan Ram?

**Shri Kamath:** I kept all the three of them here. Two I had fished out, but this one-line half-page slip is missing. It contained just these two lines only—“here is the copy of the report and please do the needful in Parliament.” I tried to contact Shri Jagjivan Ram on telephone but he was not available I however thought I should send the other papers available, and I could meet him here today because his rota is here for the Question Hour today. If at all he wants to take any action, he can take it on that report. That is all I would like to say in this matter. I am in your hands and in the hands of the House.

**Mr. Speaker:** All that I can.....

**Shri Velayudhan (Quilon cum Mavelikkara—Reserved-Sch. Castes):** It is only a covering letter.

**Mr. Speaker:** Covering letter is is everything.

**Some hon. Members:** Once he is in the hands of the House.

**Mr. Speaker:** All that.....

**Shri Velayudhan:** Just a covering letter.....

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member cannot go on like that, and I will not call the hon. Member hereafter; that is the only punishment I think of for his interruption every time. I cannot understand this kind of over-enthusiasm and exuberance. There is a limit to it. Of course, I will put up with it because it is only two days.

All that I can say is this. Of course, Shri Kamath appreciates the position that if there was no forwarding letter—even the signature is the most important thing—it would not help him. He need not repeat what he has already stated when it is in black and

white. If, as he said, letter was received by him, a single line letter with a signature, that sets the matter at rest. But I would request hon. Members that whenever they make a serious statement of this kind, they must thoroughly satisfy themselves about its authenticity. Anything that appears in newspapers is not necessarily authentic. Hon. Members have to weigh the pros and cons.

But so far as this matter is concerned, inasmuch as the hon. Member says that he received it but that he mislaid it, I would certainly take his statement for it. Therefore, nothing more need be done.

For the future, I would request hon. Members that whenever they make a serious statement of this kind, they must rely upon authentic statements, and even when they read a letter, either handed over to them or sent to them by post, they must, if they get time, make it doubly sure before they make any responsible statement on the floor of the House.

**Shri Kamath:** Only for want of time, I could not have it authenticated.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS (POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS) 1954-55 AND AUDIT REPORT, 1956, PART II

**The Minister of Finance and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** I beg to lay on the Table, under article 151(1) of the Constitution, a copy of the Appropriation Accounts (Posts and Telegraphs), 1954-55, and the Audit Report, 1956, Part II. [Placed in Library. See No. S-591/56]

#### AMENDMENTS TO CENTRAL EXCISE RULES

**The Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure (Shri A. C. Guha):** I beg to lay on the Table, under section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944, a copy of the Notification

No. 18-CER/56, dated the 27th November, 1956, making certain further amendments to the Central Excise Rules, 1944 [Placed in Library. See No. S-592/56].

#### MINUTES OF COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

**Shri Altekar (North Satara):** I beg to lay on the Table the minutes of the sittings of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House (Twentieth and Twenty-first) held during the Fourteenth Session.

#### MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

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

- (i) 'In accordance with the provisions of Rule 125 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 17th December, 1956, agreed without any amendment to the Territorial Army (Amendment) Bill, 1956, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 23rd November, 1956.'
- (ii) '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 Finance (No. 2) Bill, 1956, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 12th December, 1956, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill.'
- (iii) 'In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of