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**THE  
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)  
OFFICIAL REPORT**

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**HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE**

*Thursday, 25th March, 1954.*

*The House met at Two of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

(See Part I)

2-58 P.M.

**PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE**

**NOTE ON N. E. F. AGENCY BY PRIME  
MINISTER**

**Shri K. P. Tripathi (Darrang):** On a point of information. Yesterday, there was a certain secret document which was promised to be placed on the Table. I do not find it here. Would it be placed today?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda):** With your permission, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the note on the North-East Frontier Agency by the Prime Minister, out of which I read certain passages yesterday. [Placed in the Library. See No. S-92/54.]

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Is that the document to which the hon. Member referred?

**Shri K. P. Tripathi:** Yes, Sir.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty (Basirhat):** Before we take up the Defence  
60 P.S.D.

Ministry Demands, I should like to know one thing.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** When I come to that, the hon. Lady Member can say what she wants.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER  
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**SITUATION IN FRENCH INDIAN  
SETTLEMENTS**

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I have received notice under Rule 215 from Shri Vallatharas calling attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of Public importance and requesting that the Prime Minister may make a statement thereon:—

“The very grave situation of terrorism, insecurity, helplessness, abduction etc. which the Indian nationals and others residing and living in the villages of the Indian Union adjoining the French Indian Settlements of Pondicherry and Karaikal are subjected to by the unlawful, highhanded and intensive depredations of the armed French Police who, on and since 24th March, 1954, have crossed the border, entered into the Union villages, trespassed into several houses, caused damage to property, insulted and ill-treated women, forcibly and violently dragged Indian Union nationals and French Indian nationals living and residing there, beat and ill-treated them in public, removed them to French territory tortured them and extorted confessions, further

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room about the villages intimidating and terrorising the people, search for persons to be taken away by them to French territory for torture and extorting confessions."

Where does he get all this information?

3 P.M.

**Shri Vallatharas (Pudukkottai):** It appeared in the papers this morning and we have also got private information. The situation is very serious and deserves the marching of the military into that area at once.

**Shri Nambiar (Mayuram):** Many reports have come to me also; my constituency is round about that area.

**The Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am glad of this opportunity to inform the House of the position as it is, in so far as we have received information. This Government is greatly concerned with the situation in the French Settlements and on the borders. The House knows that a few days back, practically all the Ministers of the Government there in the French Settlements, and all the Communes of Pondicherry—I think they are 8—the Councillors and the Mayors separately in each Commune passed a unanimous resolution in favour of immediate merger with India without any referendum, and they sent this on to the French Government, the President of the French Republic, and various other dignitaries in France. A copy of that was also sent to me. Yesterday, all the Communes—I think they are 6—in Karaikal have also passed a similar resolution. I shall read the kind of resolutions they have been passing—they are almost similar.

"We the Municipal Councillors of the six Communes of the Dependencies of Karaikal, Karaikal Grand Aldee, Neravy, Tir-noular Cotchery, Nedoucadou, have the honour to inform you respectfully resolution unanimous-ly adopted by us....."

I am sorry to say this is not a good translation of the original which is in French. Anyhow.....

**Shri B. S. Murthy (Eluru):** Read the original.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** In French? Yes, it reads.....

"Monsieur le President de la Republique. Paris; Monsieur Le President Du Conseil Des Ministres, Paris; Monsieur Le President Du Conseil Des Ministres, Paris; Monsieur Le Ministre Des Affaires Etrangeres, Paris; Monsieur Le Ministre France Outre Mer, Paris; Monsieur le President De L'Assemblee Nationale, Paris, Monsieur le President Du Conseil de la Republique, Paris; Monsieur le President de L'Assemblee Union Francise :— Nous Conseillers Municipaux des six Communes de la dependance de Karaikal, Karaikal, Grand Aldee, Neravy, Trinoular, Cotchery Nedoucadou Avons Honneur Vous Communiquer Respectueusement Resolution Par Nous Prise Unanimement Tendance population saffirmant aujourd'hui nettement faveur integration dans Union Indienne sans referendum prions gouvernement Francaise Prendre urgence mesure necessaire a cet effet—Signes Paquirissampouille .....” etc. etc.

That is, they want to inform them, the French authorities, of the wishes of the population for an immediate merger with the Indian Union without a referendum. They request the French Government to take necessary steps to this effect.

Now, every Commune in these French Settlements, excepting a small village and Mahe and Yennan, have passed this. I think the population of these French Settlements is roughly about 3,20,000 of which Pondicherry has 2,20,000 and Karaikal 70,000. We have a good majority in Karaikal and Pondicherry and at those places all

the Mayors and Councillors have unanimously passed this resolution. There can be no more clear, emphatic, and widespread expression of opinion of these Settlements than this. When we heard of this, we thought that there should be no further difficulty for at least the *de facto* transfer of authority of these Settlements to the Indian Union. Some time back, a year or more perhaps, we suggested to the French Government that there should be this *de facto* transfer, though the *de jure* formalities can be undertaken later. They did not agree with it then. After we heard of these resolutions, we again drew the attention of the French Government to our previous suggestion and said that the time has now come for this *de facto* transfer. As a matter of fact, in the case of small enclaves, the question of our taking a referendum in three or four villages in the middle as to whether they should be in the Indian Union or not is rather odd, as if three or four villages in the heart of India, or as if any village in the heart of a country, can decide an international question as to whether there should be a merger. On the face of it, these enclaves had to come to India and have to come to India. Apart from that obvious argument, the fact that all their representatives had declared emphatically in favour has put an end to any possibility of argument about that. So we drew the attention of the French Government to this; we have not had their reply, although in the newspapers there are some references to it. But let me say this. As soon as these resolutions were passed by the Communes, it appears that the authorities in these French Settlements adopted an attitude, which I can only describe briefly. They tried various methods of intimidation to frighten those people, the Mayors and Councillors, and other leaders of the merger movement, and to make them retract and to generally make out that the people of the French Settlements were not in favour of integration with India. The local French administration went about asking all their officials and pensioners to send telegrams

to Paris requesting continuation of the French rule, and officers were sent to other Communes in Pondicherry to get further declarations from pensioners in favour of France. Actually, violence was used and a number of people, who, we are informed, were paid persons of the *goonda* type, were sent to some of the leaders of these parties—the Chief Party concerned being the French Indian Socialist Party—and some of them were arrested and, we are told, subjected to shameful treatment. Others went to the houses of the Mayors and Councillors and tried to frighten them by shouting abusive slogans. The police, as such, took part in this, going about all these Communes and telling people that if they demonstrate in favour of merger or if they express any pro-Indian sentiment, they will meet with a dire fate. The police behave in a curious way, apparently, in Pondicherry. It appears that the police of Pondicherry took out effigies of some of the leaders of the movement and of some of the mayors also in the streets of Pondicherry just to frighten people. All this occurred within the French Settlements.

But yesterday another incident occurred which is of an even more serious character. One of the Mayors had apparently taken refuge in Indian territory. The House may perhaps not know that there are all kinds of enclaves there, that is to say, there is a French enclave in Indian territory and an Indian enclave in the French territory. So, I think in one of these Indian enclaves in French territory the Mayor took shelter with some Indian citizens. The French police, that is to say the police from the French Settlements, entered into Indian territory, arrested the Mayor, and possibly the three Indian citizens also who apparently had given him hospitality, and carried them off to their own territory.

Now, this is a very serious matter. We have previously for the last two or three days, protested both to the French Government in Paris, to their Ambassador here and locally in Pondicherry against various activities

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they were indulging in against people in favour of merger. This news has come today and we have immediately taken action and communicated with the French Ambassador here and with the authorities in Pondicherry. We shall communicate with the French Government also. We have demanded also the immediate return not only of the Indian citizens but the Mayor who was taken away, and punishment of the policemen who had perpetrated this outrage on Indian territory. We have also taken measures, that is, through the Madras Government, the armed police of the Madras State, to prevent any armed people policemen or any persons with arms entering Indian territory from those French Settlements. That is all that I have to state before the House.

The situation is obviously a changing and developing one and if anything important occurs I shall come before the House and place the information before it.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF  
MEMBERS FROM SITTINGS OF  
THE HOUSE

PRESENTATION OF FIRST REPORT

**Shri Altekar** (North Satara): Sir, I beg to present the first Report of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 64.]

\*DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—contd.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The House will now take up the Demands for Grants of the Defence Ministry.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty** (Basirhat): Sir, I would like to make a submission. In view of the fact that the Congress Party and the Treasury Benches will be supporting the Government policy, and in view of the fact there are so many Ministers who will

be taking part in the discussion, may I suggest that the time as between the Congress Party and the Opposition may be allotted on a fifty-fifty basis?

**Shri Nambiar** (Mayuram): They have no cut motions to their credit; we have tabled all the cut motions.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I thought the hon. lady Member was about to say that the Ministers' time ought to be excluded from the time taken by the Congress; that is what they have been doing. (Interruptions).

I shall try to adjust. I have been giving an opportunity to the leaders of the various groups.....

**An Hon. Member:** May I suggest that the matter may be taken up by the Business Advisory Committee?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I have already divided the time and I shall see to it that no representatives of the groups are unrepresented in the debate. That is what I can do. Now, let us proceed with the Demands. The House will now proceed with the consideration of the Demands for Grants Nos. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 114.

Members and leaders of groups may hand over the numbers of the cut motions which they select to the Secretary in fifteen minutes. I will treat them as moved if those hon. Members in whose names those cut motions stand are present in the House and they are otherwise in order.

These numbers of selected cut motions have been received *Praja-Socialist Party*: Nos. 63, 65, 67, 68 and 69.

*Communist Party*: Nos. 530, 531, 532, 542, 837, 838, 510, 826, 710 and 839.

*Democratic Group*: Nos. 842 and 822.

On behalf of Independent Members Parliamentary Group the following cut motions will be moved:

**Shri G. S. Singh**:...No. 715.

\*Moved with the previous sanction of the President.