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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

Wednesday, 17th December, 1952.

The House met at Ten of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-5 A.M.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

**SITUATION IN ANDHRA FOLLOWING
DEATH OF SHRI SRIRAMULU**

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have received notice of five adjournment motions relating to incidents that have occurred:

"...destruction of railway property, stoppage of trains and telephonic communications, widespread disturbance of peace and loss of life due to police firing in Nellore which is fraught with dangerous consequences to the peace, tranquillity and stability of India, the state of emergency created in Andhra Desh arising out of the passing away of Shri Potti Sriramulu, the situation resulting in police firing killing three persons and wounding a large number of citizens in Nellore, and the huge loss of public property amounting to two crores of rupees at Vijayavada railway station and the inability of the authorities to prevent the same."

I have also received a short notice question relating to the same matter, loss of life, police firing, etc. I have transmitted the question to the hon. Minister.

Now, in view of the short notice question, particularly in view of the fact that this is a matter of law and order, also in view of the fact that the facts have to be gathered—I am sure the short notice question will be
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answered and the necessary material placed before the house—in view of this I do not give my consent to these adjournment motions.

Shri Damodara Menon (Kozhikode): May I make a submission?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No submissions. Let us not go on spending the time of the House on matters other than what concerns it. There are hon. Members who are as important representatives of the people in the State Assembly as there are here.

I have received notice of another adjournment motion...

An Hon. Member: The Minister should go and see things...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: When once a serious matter has occurred, and yesterday the hon. the Prime Minister said that he was taking immediate steps and so on, in the meanwhile some people have taken the law into their own hands and caused this. It is rather unfortunate. The hon. Minister will gather the facts and place them before the House. It is a matter essentially for the local Government to control. In addition, whatever help is needed, the Central Government will give. What is it that can be done immediately? No doubt the matter is exercising the mind of every hon. Member of this House. I allowed the other day the cyclone matter and the material was gathered. Likewise they are gathering material and they will place the entire matter before the House.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North-East): When are we going to get the answer with regard to this?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): In regard to what?

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: The short notice question.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know what the short notice question is. I have to see it before I answer, or before I accept it.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: The Speaker has accepted it. *(Interruption)*

Shri Chattopadhyaya (Vijayavada): It is most unbecoming of the Prime Minister to lose his temper and turn a furnace.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I beg your pardon, Sir. I do not really understand. I have not seen the question. I cannot say anything about a thing which I have not seen. *(Interruption)* It is the practice in regard to short notice questions that a Minister has to accept it or not. I repeat. I am pointing out the practice of the House. With all deference to you, Sir, any direction from the Speaker will be carried out by me in honour to him, but the fact remains it is for the Minister to accept a short notice question.

Shri Nambiar (Mayuram): It is the duty of the Speaker.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members are aware that so far as that matter is concerned, waiving notice is entirely in the hands of the Minister. He must find out whether it is possible for him within the short time to answer this question. If it is possible, he will do so but I find that it is a matter which has to be accepted by the Minister. If the Minister accepts a short notice question, I will place it before the House. All that I said was "I shall send it to the hon. Minister and I am sure he will gather material". It is for the hon. Minister to find out in what time he can do so, whether he should accept it or not, etc. Therefore, nobody, including the Speaker, can insist upon any Minister to accept a short notice question. That is the position.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee (Calcutta South-East): The Prime Minister said it is for the Minister to decide whether it is to be accepted or not according to rules but since the Prime Minister has not seen the question, he does not know whether he will be able to answer it or not. So, could you not postpone the decision regarding the adjournment motion? You very rightly pointed out that since you are allowing this short notice question and you expect that the Minister would be able to answer it, there was no need for the adjournment motion. May I suggest, Sir, that your ruling on the adjournment motion may be postponed till tomorrow. Meanwhile we will get the answer.

Secondly, you stated that the hon. Prime Minister said yesterday that he was going to take immediate steps. So far as I could hear his remarks yesterday I do not think he said anything of that nature. Is he going to take immediate steps with regard to this matter? That might be clarified by him.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: So far, I have been unable to follow this argument. There appears to be a large number of proposed motions for adjournment and short notice questions, one or more. Presumably they refer to various things that have happened in Vijayavada and round about. These relate to certain disturbances and large-scale destruction of property and subsequently, some police action. I do submit that all that has nothing to do at the present stage certainly with this House. In any event, the House is entitled to any information that I can place before it. Whether there is a short notice question or none, I am always happy to place every information that I have before the House but I do submit that we must not mix up various things because a riotous mob did something and destroyed a large quantity of property, railway property and the rest. Whatever the excitement of the mob might be, that is hardly a question for this House to consider.

The second aspect of the question presumably relates to the Andhra State. I have made a statement here, I have made a statement in the other House well within 24 hours, and I do submit that I cannot be called upon to make a statement every 24 hours on the same subject. If I am in a position to state anything more, the moment I am able to do so, I shall come to the House and give the information before the House adjourns. At the moment I have nothing to add to that particular statement. If the House wants facts and figures as to what happened in the destruction, the Railway Minister would certainly collect the information and place it before the House possibly tomorrow or the day after.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: The object is not to obtain information as to the nature of the damage. The object is to apprise the Government of the gravity of the situation which is developing and to find out how early a solution can be found out and that is why the Members of the Opposition are anxious to have an opportunity of discussing this matter so that the root cause can be removed.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do think the gravity of the situation is no doubt there and I suppose it is appreciated as much by Members of the Government as by the hon. Member opposite but I do submit that great situations are met in a different way and not by the Government or anyone else being hurried into action without due thought. That is why I submit it should be met in all seriousness after due thought and consideration and as soon as I can. I shall invite the attention of the House to what we propose to do.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have already disallowed these adjournment motions. I am not giving my consent. I feel that these motions are out of order.

So far as law and order is concerned, it is primarily within the jurisdiction of the State Government. So far as the destruction of Railway property is concerned, the hon. Minister of Railways will gather information and place it before the House. If these adjournment motions are intended to ask the Government or force the Government to take any particular step, I shall not be a party to it. I will not allow these adjournment motions. Therefore, hon. Members on this side or on the other side should be patient and should not exhibit impatience on the floor of the House. There are other methods which can be adopted. All that I can say is that I am not going to allow these adjournment motions. Whatever may be the objects, they are not relevant to this House and it is not the obligation of the Ministers here nor of the Central Government to take charge of the situation.

RUBBER POSITION IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now I will proceed to another adjournment motion which has been tabled.

Mr. Punnoose has given notice of this motion:

"The situation that has arisen in Travancore-Cochin by the sudden stoppage of the purchase of rubber by the purchasing department of the Dunlop Rubber Company, Kottayam, and consequent fall in prices, dislocation of credit facilities, distress and unemployment."

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: This is more elastic, Sir.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): This question of stocking of rubber and the reduction in purchases was brought to the notice of the Government some time back and Government asked the Rubber Production Commissioner to let us know the position. I have got a telegram from the Rubber Production Commissioner dated the 15th which I would like to read if the House is willing to listen. (*Hon. Members:* Yes, yes.) It says:

"Dunlops Kottayam report following purchases from 1st to 13th December, 360 tons for Dunlop and 463 tons on behalf Firestones of which 70 tons and 62 tons respectively were purchased from 10th to 13th December. Also understand Dunlops Factory and Kottayam Purchase Depot are closing down for annual stock taking. Local enquiries reveal that rubber market is very dull at present for want of buyers on any considerable scale."

This is the information that I have got and as the House will find from the 1st to the 13th December, the purchases have been nearly 800 tons. The total production in December which is perhaps the peak production expected in any month between now and the next August 1953 is 2400 tons and I do not know what Government can do at this stage. If possibly, Dunlops are closing for their annual stock taking or for any other purpose, it is likely that their purchases will drop. If the firm says that they are closing down for that purpose, it is not possible for Government to do anything about it.

The Rubber Board have been making certain recommendations as there has been a slight over-stocking. The total stock of rubber now—on the 1st of December—is about 8769 tons, as against 8200 tons previous month. There has been a slight increase in stocks of about 500 tons. The position, therefore, is that the law of demand and supply seems to operate. What the Government have done is, we have written to the Rubber manufacturers, who have been importing to the extent of four to six thousand tons every year, asking them to put a stop to their imports. I have not got any reply from them yet.

This is all that the Government could do at the present stage. I think it is a trifle premature to comprehend a very serious situation so far as rubber position in Kottayam is concerned.