

West Bengal, on a notice given by about 13 or 14 Members of the House, including the hon. lady Member who has given notice of this adjournment motion, and we have agreed to discuss the question on the 21st.

**Shri Muhammed Elias** (Howrah): 21st is too late.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty** (Bansihat): One of the reasons why I have given notice of this adjournment motion is that every day the prices are soaring and the figures which have been given to us by the Government do not reflect the actual state of affairs. We have received telegrams from Midnapore saying that the price of rice is Rs. 32. The statement of Government is that the price of Midnapore is about Rs. 25. Every day it is soaring. Also, the fact which he has stated on the floor of the House that now the ration shops are giving rice in good quantities, is not correct. It is not a fact. People are not able to get rice. I have got reports from Midnapore, Karnahari in Burdwan, from Hooghly and from the 24 Parganas. In all these areas the ration shops for C and D holders are not giving rice at all to them, and even those who are getting rice are not getting it during the last three or four days of the week. The position is desperate. Therefore we want an early discussion.

Some Hon Members rose—

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** So far as this motion is concerned, I have heard Shrimati Renu Chakravartty. I have yet to decide whether I should give my consent or not. If it were a discussion, certainly I would allow other Members to speak.

**Shri Muhammed Elias:** I want to make clear only one or two things.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** If any clarifications are needed, I am sorry they are not to be had just now.

**Shri Muhammed Elias:** This is the information which I have received.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Order, order. We have been told that a regular discussion is going to take place on the 21st. The only objection raised is that that date is far off; that it is a distant date. The hon. Lady Member said that because the prices are going up every day, therefore there should be an early discussion in the House. But I think her object would be served when it is brought to the notice of the Government that prices are rising and they will take care of it as much as possible. The prices will not be brought down simply by discussion. Therefore, I do not think I am called upon to give my consent to this adjournment motion.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** The Government knows about it. It is a question of policy, a question of de-control of prices. Could we have an assurance from the hon. Minister that it would be taken up earlier than the 21st? 21st is very far off; today is only the 12th. Could we have it within the next three or four days?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That would be difficult. 15th and 16th are holidays and on 17th and 19th, we have got the discussion on Kerala already fixed. Therefore, it would not be possible. So far as this adjournment motion is concerned, I am sorry I cannot give my consent.

#### BATON-CHARGING BY CEYLONESE POLICY

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:**

There is another adjournment motion by Shri Hem Barua:

"The serious situation arising out of the Ceylonese Policy baton-charging a group of Malayalees demonstrating against the President's Proclamation on Kerala on the 10th of August, 1959 within the Indian High Commission's precincts at Colombo, resulting in 14 injured, 6 of whom are in a serious condition."

I would request the hon. Member just to inform me whether this is the

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primary responsibility of the Central Government, which they have failed to perform

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati) I shall be very brief

Mr. Deputy-Speaker That is separate altogether I am not complaining just now that he is much too long Only I am asking whether he can show that this was the primary responsibility of this Government and they have failed to discharge it

Shri Hem Barua. It is the primary responsibility of this Government in the sense that the Ceylonese police came and baton-charged the demonstrators there I want to say that this a matter that concerns entirely India and the demonstrators are also Indians, they are Malayalees I just want to know in this connection whether our High Commission there in Colombo requisitioned the services of the Ceylonese police or not Whatever the reason for this demonstration might be, it is in this particular aspect of the thing that the responsibility of the Central Government comes in That is all I want to know because the demonstration was within the precincts of the High Commission and the baton-charge was also within the precincts of the High Commission If the High Commission did not requisition the services of the Ceylonese police, then I want to know on what authority the Ceylonese police came in there inside the precincts of the High Commission, and if they came in, not being requisitioned by our High Commission is it not an infringement of the diplomatic rights and privileges that a country is to enjoy in a foreign country That is one thing

Then, if the police came and baton charged our demonstrators there without being requisitioned by the Indian High Commission in Colombo, I want to know whether it is part of the broad policy pursued by the

Ceylonese Government against our people, people of Indian origin there. At the same time

Mr Deputy-Speaker: He should conclude now

Shri Hem Barua I shall be as brief as possible

Mr Deputy-Speaker I only wanted to clear whether he asserted that there was the responsibility of the Central Government That he has said, now he is going to the facts If I give my consent afterwards, it can be considered, not now

There are notices of other adjournment motions also by Shri Sadhan Gupta Shri A K Gopalan, Shri Narayanankutty Menon, Shri Punnoose, Shrimati Parvathi Krishan and Shri Easwara Iyer on the same subject I have heard Shri Hem Barua Shri Sadhan Gupta may say a few words only on the point I have just indicated whether there is the primary responsibility of this Government in order to help me to decide whether I can give my consent

Shri Thirumala Rao (Kakinada) I would like to know whether there is any more authentic information on the subject apart from the news that has appeared in the papers

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru) Quite apart from these adjournment motions of which you are the best judge in view of the fact that something has happened there, which must necessarily interest hon Members, I am prepared to give all the facts which I have received from the High Commission

Mr Deputy-Speaker Then we can have the facts

Shri Sadhan Gupta (Calcutta—East) I think if we make our statement in the light of that, the Prime Minister may make his statement

Mr Deputy-Speaker: The Prime Minister is in possession of certain

facts which he is going to give us. If something else is wanted, let us see subsequently. First let us have the facts.

**Sri Jawaharlal Nehru:** The High Commissioner in Ceylon has informed us as follows:

On the evening of the 9th August, our High Commission in Colombo received private information that there was going to be a demonstration before their Chancery the next morning. Our High Commissioner informed the Minister of External Affairs of the Ceylon Government about this and said that he has no details as to what shape this demonstration might take. Probably they would present some memorandum of protest which he would receive and forward to his Government.

Later, the Deputy Inspector General of Police telephoned to our High Commissioner to enquire into this matter. The High Commissioner repeated what he had previously said and added that he had no reason to expect any serious trouble and he did not think that it would be worthwhile having a counter show of force by the police. The DIG of Police said that he would have the Embassy and the Chancery duly watched.

At about 10.30 A.M. on the 10th August, about two hundred demonstrators carrying placards and shouting slogans suddenly entered the chancery compound from one gate. As previously arranged, the Deputy High Commissioner and other officers went down to the entrance of the Chancery building and met them and tried to calm down some rowdies among the demonstrators. The Deputy High Commissioner offered to take five or six representatives to the High Commissioner to discuss matters and to hear their grievances. At this stage, half a dozen demonstrators rushed the building entrance. When demonstrators rushed the building entrance, the police suddenly entered from the other gate of the Chancery.

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compound and began belabouring the demonstrators with wooden batons. The crowd began to disperse from the other compound gate from which they had entered. In the melee, one man received a head injury and four or five others received very minor injuries within the limit of our Chancery. The High Commissioner was surprised at the sudden and un-called-for attack by the police and rushed down and joined his other officers who were attempting to stop the police from beating up the crowd within the Chancery compound. The injured persons were immediately taken to hospital accompanied by the Third Secretary.

Later, the High Commissioner persuaded seven of the remaining demonstrators, who were still in the Chancery compound, to come up and talk to him. They said they first wanted to lodge a protest against the High Commissioner's conduct in calling in the police to beat up their peaceful demonstrators. The High Commissioner told them that it was most unfortunate that this incident should have occurred in our Chancery and assured them that he had not called in the police because he proposed to get their representatives to come and talk to them. The fact was that when some demonstrators rushed the entrance steps, the police came in from the other gate and dispersed the crowd.

The High Commissioner repeated that it was completely wrong for anyone to imagine that the police had been called in by him or his officers and that this was a pre-arranged plan. Thereafter, a memorandum was given to the High Commissioner by those representatives. This is being forwarded by post to the External Affairs Ministry here.

Immediately after this incident, the High Commissioner rang up the Permanent Secretary of the Ceylon Government and gave him the facts, stating that it was unfortunate that the police should have rushed in and

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intervened when this was not necessary. The Permanent Secretary said that this episode was unfortunate and he was sorry that this should have happened in our Embassy.

The High Commissioner adds in his message to us that it is quite definite that no one on his behalf asked for police intervention at any stage. Apparently, a young police Inspector on seeing some people rushing the Chancery building entrance took the steps he did to protect the Chancery premises.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: I want to say this. You will notice that my adjournment motion relates to failure to wake up to a very serious breach of diplomatic privilege, failure to protest against this incident. And apparently this is borne out by the Prime Minister's statement that no formal protest has been made to the Ceylon Government in respect of this matter. Now, it becomes very difficult to think that all this was by way of mere bona fide exercise of protective power. You know that under international law the Ceylon High Commission office of ours is our territory and the police had no business to enter it without permission from our High Commissioner. Apparently, the position is this. The Ceylon Government is going one way in its political thinking and we know that it is an anti-communist government.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is a different thing. We are considering the admissibility of this adjournment motion, we should confine ourselves to that.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: I am explaining this matter. There can be no question of bona fides. What the Ceylon police apparently did was to teach the Indian communist a lesson and for that purpose they entered our High Commissioner's office and with excessive brutality, lathi-charged them. There can be no bona fide purpose behind the Ceylon police

action. Now, in this circumstance, apart from the fact that there is very serious breach of diplomatic privilege committed by the police in our mission by entering it without permission, there is the added fact that they were bringing their domestic policies into play into our High Commission office by trying to beat up our nationals.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am afraid the hon. Member is trying to put forward his own view and other things on this adjournment motion.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: That is my view. The Ceylon police cannot enter our High Commission. It should not be taken in a very minor light. A strong protest should have been made and if any injury has been done to our nationals compensation should have been asked for from the Ceylon Government.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is that all?

Shri Sadhan Gupta: I want to know whether this has been done. Secondly, I want to know whether when the police were intervening any attempts were made by us to contact the Ceylon authorities to get the police moved at that time. These are the two things.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: (Makandapuram): May I say ...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I had selected one of the signatories to this adjournment motion for presenting the case.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: One more point.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We cannot have any discussion now.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: We did not submit an adjournment motion but we submitted a Short Notice Question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That should be taken up differently.

**Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** Now in view of the fact that the Prime Minister has given a statement, that Short Notice Question may not be allowed

**Mr Deputy-Speaker:** He should not anticipate that

**Shri Tyagi rose—**

**Mr Deputy-Speaker:** Does he want to say something?

**Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun)** Now that this adjournment motion has been moved

**Mr Deputy-Speaker:** It has not been moved

**Shri Tyagi:** At least it has been talked out in the House. The Prime Minister has also given the facts. The public at large might perhaps go with that idea. Because this matter has been brought to the notice of the House, it must also be brought to the notice of the country that the behaviour of any Indian nationals in a foreign country who demonstrate against their own Government's policy is not only despicable but also is a matter of disgrace and they are unpatriotic to have behaved like that in a foreign country.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** That is not the opinion of the House.

**Mr Deputy-Speaker:** Order, order. So far as this adjournment motion is concerned, Shri Sadhan Gupta has worded it thus.

"Failure to protest against the brutal lathi-charge on Keralite demonstrators." Now the facts have been given. The episode is certainly unfortunate. But, however much we may regret it, it is clear that the Government could not do anything which it has failed to do there. In the wording of the adjournment motion itself I find a little contradiction. The words used are "failure to protest". If some time has elapsed and the Government has failed then there is no cause for adjournment motion. If no time has elapsed

then there cannot be any failure. Government must have some time if they are to make any protest now. Either some time has elapsed and the Government has failed, in which case there is no cause for any adjournment motion and I cannot admit it, or really no time has elapsed in which case there could not be any failure. Therefore, in that respect in itself this adjournment motion, as it stands, contradicts itself and I see no reason why I should give my consent to it. Similarly, other adjournment motions on the same subject are ruled out.

**Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** You allowed the hon Member, Shri Tyagi, to say something.

**Mr Deputy-Speaker:** I rather stopped him from saying as soon as I learnt what he wanted to say.

**Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** About the conduct of those people who entered the High Commissioner's office, he failed to understand the whole purport of it (*Interruptions*).

**Mr Deputy-Speaker:** We should not go into that question just at this moment. Now this subject should be treated as closed (*Interruptions*).

**Shri Punnose (Ambalapuzha)** It is surprising to see Shri Thomas laughing when we say some Malayalees are beaten up.

**Shri Kottukapally rose—**

**Mr Deputy-Speaker.** Order, order. I would request the hon Member to resume his seat. Now we will take up the next item (*Interruptions*). When I am standing will hon Members continue speaking like this?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** As a foreign country has been mentioned, if you would permit me I would like to say a few sentences to clear up any doubts that may be there. I have given all the facts. In conclusion I said that our High Commissioner immediately got in touch with the Ceylon Government and drew their attention to this and pointed out "it is most regret-

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table that this thing has happened." The representative of the Ceylon Government expressed his regret. It is clear, as far as the facts go, that this was not an organised affair. Some petty policeman seeing some people rushing into the Chancery building, may be, lost his head. He thought he ought to protect it. It is not a question of invading Indian territory in Ceylon against our wishes. I think he really lost his head. He ought not to have done so. But the fact is, as far as one can say, with the good intention of protecting the building the policeman entered the building. As hon Member asked 'did we protest at the time while it was going on?' "The whole thing lasted about two minutes or less."

**Shri Tyagi:** Does he approve of such demonstrations in foreign countries by Indian nationals?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** The whole thing lasted about a minute or two. It was sudden and immediately the place was cleared. And, as I pointed out, people went up and presented their memorandum to the High Commissioner, who expressed his regret to them. I do not see what more he could have done in the circumstances or we can do now. It will be unfair to drag in the Ceylon Government for what some petty police official has done, with good intention I believe.

**Mr Deputy-Speaker:** I withhold consent. Let us take the next item.

**Shri Kottukapally (Moovatapuzha):** It appears to me it is just retribution. They are getting in other countries what they gave the people of Kerala.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Order, order. I ask him to resume his seat. I am sure the hon Members of this House are mature and they would not lose their head as the Sub-inspector did. Now papers to be laid on the Table.

12.57 hrs.

### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

#### NOTIFICATION ISSUED UNDER DELHI DEVELOPMENT ACT

**The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar):** I beg to lay on the Table, under section 58 of the Delhi Development Act, 1957, a copy of Notification No SO 1709 dated the 1st August, 1959 [Placed in Library, See No LT-1709/59]

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

**Shri Karmarkar:** On behalf of Shri M V Krishappa I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for the year 1955-56 [Placed in Library, See No LT-1514/59]

#### NOTIFICATIONS ISSUED UNDER ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M Thomas):** I beg to lay on the Table, under subsection (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, a copy of each of the following Notifications —

- (i) GSR No 837, dated the 16th July, 1959
- (ii) GSR No 874, dated the 23rd July, 1959
- (iii) GSR No 877, dated the 27th July, 1959, containing the Sugar (Movement Control) Order, 1959
- (iv) GSR No 893, dated the 1st August, 1959 making certain further amendments to the Rice and Paddy (Andhra Pradesh), Second Price Control Order, 1959
- (v) GSR No 925, dated the 8th August, 1959 making certain further amendment to the Inter-Zonal Wheat Movement Control, Order, 1957. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-1516/59].