

(घ) और (ङ). जिस यात्री का दांत टूट गया था, सिर्फ उसी को चोट आई और गाई ने प्रथम उपचार (First aid) करने को कहा, तो उस यात्री ने मना कर दिया।

12-17 hrs.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

EXPLOSION IN ASANSOL

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of an adjournment motion tabled by Shri S. M. Banerjee. It relates to the—

“urgent need to discuss the serious explosion on 29th November, 1959 at 5 P.M. at Jamuria Bazar, Asansol, resulting in death of 13 persons and serious injuries to more than 200 persons”.

What connection has the Centre with this?

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): May I say....

Mr. Speaker: He will kindly answer the specific question and not make a statement.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I am not making a statement.

Mr. Speaker: My question is specific. Is that the property of the Centre or is the Centre responsible for safeguarding it?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The Centre is responsible for any explosives because it is the duty of the Inspector of Explosives to see that they are properly stored and so on. This explosion took place in a godown. That is quite clear. I would like to know how an explosives godown could be situated in a bazar. The fact that 13 people were killed and 200 injured will show the seriousness of the explosion. I want to know further details. This is not a matter of censure against Government.

Mr. Speaker: I only wanted to know whether the Central Government were in any way responsible for the stocking of the explosives there which might have resulted in the deaths of so many persons.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The Inspector of Explosives is a Central Government employee.

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): At this stage, we have very little information at our disposal. The accident is reported to have happened at Asansol yesterday evening at about 5 P.M. As soon as we read about it in the papers, we contacted our Inspector of Explosives in Calcutta who informed us that no licence for this had been issued by him—for this godown at Jamuria bazar, near Asansol, where the explosion took place. No licence whatsoever was issued. Possibly it is an unauthorised godown which had stored these explosives. Or it might have been issued by the local authorities who had the power to give licence for storing explosives up to a quantity of 50 lbs. The Inspector of Explosives is proceeding to Asansol and will report to us as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker: A further report will be submitted to the House as soon as possible.

In view of the statement made by the hon. Minister, I do not think it is necessary to pursue this matter. I do not give my consent to this adjournment motion. He will give all the necessary information; he is not trying to hide anything.

INCIDENT AT CHINESE AND AMERICAN CONSULATES IN BOMBAY

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of another adjournment motion from Shri Braj Raj Singh. It is about the

‘Grave anxiety being expressed all over the country consequent upon the activities of the Chinese and American Consulate in Bombay as a result of which in Chinese and another American national were mishandled on 26th and 27th November, 1959 at Bombay. The incident may draw us nearer the cold war.’