

**MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA**

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

"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 Provisional Collection of Taxes (Temporary Amendment) Bill, 1957, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th May, 1957, 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."

**ARREST OF MEMBER**

**Mr. Speaker:** I have to inform the House that I have received the following telegram dated the 25th May, 1957, from the Additional District Magistrate, Kanpur City:—

"I have the honour to inform you that Shri Jagdish Awasthi, Member, Lok Sabha, was arrested under section 188 I.P.C. at 2-0 p.m. today at Kanpur, for defying the prohibitory order under section 144 Cr. P.C. issued by the District Magistrate on the 9th May, 1957. He is at present on his way to the District Jail, Kanpur where he will be lodged."

**STATEMENT RE: ACCIDENT AT THE CORONATION PILLAR SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT**

**The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar):** Mr. Speaker, it is with profound regrets that I have to report to the House that seven workmen employed by Messrs. Duncan Stratton & Co., who are the contractors of the

Joint Water & Sewage Board, for the construction of the sludge digesters at the Coronation Pillar Sewage Treatment Plant, were the victims of a fatal accident on the evening of Saturday the 25th inst. The circumstances of the accident as reported by the Chairman of the Board are as follows:—

There are three sludge digesters, forming part of the sewage disposal plant—two of which were put into commission in the month of March. The third digester was being tested by the firm for leakages during the last few days prior to its being put into operation. The inside of the tank was empty, except for a couple of feet of effluent in the conical pit at the bottom of the tank, which could not be emptied completely on account of the sub-soil water getting in through the valves. Workmen had been going in and out of the tank in connection with the test and for the purposes of cleaning the inside on the 22nd, 23rd, 24th and even on the 25th of May, until the accident took place. During all this time, compressed air was being pumped into the tank to dispel noxious gases from the chamber. The labourers also had instructions to go out every few minutes to breathe fresh air and to take rest.

At 4 p.m. on Saturday, a workman, who had been working inside for some time failed to come out as usual. His colleagues became anxious for his safety and decided one after another to go down the rope ladder from the manhole to the bottom of the tank to rescue him. Altogether seven men had thus gone down the rope ladder suspended from the manhole never to return, before it dawned upon the remaining workers that some serious mishap had taken place. The remaining men then raised an alarm and the contractors' engineers as well as the engineers of the Joint Water and Sewage Board, who were supervising other operations in connection with the construction of the plant a few yards away rushed to the top of the chamber. They concluded that the