

Chamber at Bhakra

Shri Nagi Reddy: In the statement....

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow this kind of cross-examination.

Shri Nagi Reddy: I am not going to cross-examine, but I only want some information.

Yesterday, I had heard near the Bhakra dam that the emergency gates that were said to have been closed in the statement made by the hon Minister, did not function; and actually they were not closed; they stopped half-way. Is that a fact?

Shri Hathi: I think these gates were closed

Shri Nagi Reddy: Completely? Was there not a gap of two feet after the closing of the gates?

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: There was no such thing. (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Hon Members will see that an expert committee has been appointed. Nobody will allege that the hon Ministers were responsible for all that has happened. Therefore, everybody is anxious to know what exactly has happened, and to repair the damage. If anybody has been negligent, certainly, this House is strong enough to call him to order. Let us await the report of this committee. In the meanwhile, the hon Minister has agreed to keep the House informed from time to time of any further material that comes before him, and he will keep us informed. Let us wait. He will expedite the inquiry by the committee.

Several Hon. Members rose—

Shri Mahanty (Dhenkanal): What were the terms of reference?

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow any further questions.

12.46½ hrs.

STATEMENT RE: DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS (HIMACHAL PRADESH), 1956-57

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Dr. B. Gopala Reddi): I beg to present a statement showing Demands for Excess Grants in respect of the Government of Himachal Pradesh for 1956-57 (1st April, 1956 to 31st October, 1956).

12.46½ hrs.

STATEMENT RE: DEMAND FOR EXCESS GRANT (DELHI), 1956-57

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Dr. B. Gopala Reddi): I beg to present a statement showing Demand for Excess Grant in respect of the Government of Delhi State for 1956-57 (1st April, 1956 to 31st October, 1956)

12.46½ hrs.

STATEMENT RE. SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (KERALA), 1959-60

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Dr. B. Gopala Reddi): I beg to present a statement showing Supplementary Demands for expenditure of Government of Kerala for the year 1959-60

12.47 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED PRESENCE OF CHINESE SUBMARINES OFF WEST COAST OF KERALA

Shri P. C. Boroach (Sibsagar): Under rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Defence to

the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

“The reported presence recently of Chinese sub-marines off the West Coast of Kerala.”

In this regard, may I submit.....

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member has called the attention of the hon. Minister. Let us hear what the Minister has to say.

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): There have been press reports to this effect in some papers in South India. *The Current*, a weekly of Bombay also printed this story but stated that it was not in a position to substantiate it. The press story is unconfirmed.

We have no reason whatsoever to think that there is any substance in these occurrences as alleged in the reports. Units of the Indian Navy have been operating along the South-east and west coasts of India in the normal course in naval exercises. No information in this respect has been received from the Flag Officer (Commanding) of the Indian Fleet, which would most certainly have been done if there was any such occurrence or any reason indicating it. The Flag Officer (Commanding) of the Indian Fleet was, however, directed to report any unusual happenings or activities by foreign ships that were observed or brought to his notice in this connection. He has carried out the necessary investigations, and informed Naval Headquarters that the stories that have appeared are nothing but the flight of someone's imagination.

Mr. Speaker: I want to inform the hon. Ministers that with respect to certain questions, the questions are put on the basis of some newspaper reports. I receive answers from the Ministers or reports through their secretaries. Nothing has come to our

notice in this case. But we give ten days' notice. In the meanwhile, if it is a serious matter, it is expected that they will make an inquiry in view of what has appeared in the newspaper, wherever it is possible. Therefore, I expect that hon. Ministers would not merely say that 'It has not come to our notice so far'; in view of what is published in the newspapers, they must make inquiries and satisfy this House by saying 'We have made inquiries, but it has not come to our knowledge, we made further inquiries and we find that there is nothing like that'.

Shri Krishna Menon: We had made full investigations; in fact, after this press report, he was asked to inquire further, and he said—he has used slightly stronger language—it was fantastic.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I make one submission? The Colombo Radio said that there were six or seven ships laden with ammunitions and heavy war materials seen in the coast of Kerala at the time when the Kerala agitation was at its climax and the Ankamali firing incident was going on.

Mr. Speaker: Was any such thing broadcast by the radio?

Shri Krishna Menon: No. Similarly, it was said AIR Bombay had broadcast something, and we found that they had not done so. Certainly, we are not responsible for what the Colombo Radio said.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon (Mukandapuram): It might be a small fishing boat going in the night.

Mr. Speaker: Sometimes these things occur.