

12.21½ hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government business for the week commencing 30th November, 1959, will consist of—

- (1) Consideration and passing of the Constitution (Eighth Amendment) Bill, 1959.
- (2) Further consideration and passing of the Kerala State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Bill, 1959.
- (3) Discussion and voting of Supplementary Demands for Grants (Kerala) for 1959-60.
- (4) Consideration of motion for reference of the Legal Practitioners Bill, 1959, to Joint Committee.
- (5) Consideration and passing of—
 - (i) Dowry Prohibition Bill, 1959, as reported by Joint Committee;
 - (ii) Delhi Land Holdings (Ceiling) Bill, 1959—and
- (6) Discussion on the statement made by the Minister of Transport and Communications in the House on the 11th September, 1959 regarding setting up of Posts and Telegraphs Board, on a motion to be moved by Shri Harish Chandra Mathur, at 3 P.M. on Thursday, the 3rd December, 1959.

12.22 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: DANDAKARANYA
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): Sir, it is about six pages. May I lay it on the Table of the House?

Mr. Speaker: He may lay it on the Table of the House.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Statement on the Dandakaranya Development Authority. [See Appendix II, Annexure No. 16.]

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Yesterday, the whole of West Bengal newspapers gave out the alarming news about the Dandakaranya. We would like you to allow some time for discussion.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Members will look into the statement.

Shri Panigrahi (Puri): May I submit that during the last two years, the House has not learnt about the progress of the Dandakaranya? I think the reports submitted to the Government by Shri Dharam Vir and also by Shri Fletcher to the Government and to the Prime Minister must be made available to the hon. Members so that they may be able to discuss them.

Mr. Speaker: This statement will be circulated to the Members of the House. They will not be sent to each and every hon. Member. I mean that whichever hon. Member is interested in it may take it from the Notice Office. If all the 503 hon. Members want a copy, they will have it. All that they have to do is to go to the Notice Office and take it.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty (Basirhat): The Head of the Administration has resigned and it has come in all our papers. It is also reported that Mr. Fletcher has submitted a 20 page letter to the Ministry saying why he has resigned.

Mr. Speaker: I have not got anything in the Order Paper.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Sir, we would like to judge both from Shri Fletcher's report as well as the report of the one-man committee set up by the Ministry to go into the

affairs of Dandakaranya. Both these two reports should be made available to the House to judge about the success of the scheme. We have been kept in the dark but it has come in the papers.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Sir, as far as the scheme is concerned, it is being implemented. As far as the note by Shri Fletcher covering 20 pages is concerned, the hon. lady Member has more information than I have because I have not received any note till now from him whether covering one page or 20 pages.

As far as my statement is concerned, I have said in my statement that we are concerned with the implementation of the scheme. I shall see that the scheme is implemented. I have said one thing more in my statement. With a view to see that the interest of the scheme is properly safeguarded, I am going to associate an officer of the Ministry with that Dandakaranya Authority. Thirdly, whether it is A officer or B officer, I want to make a categorical statement that officers are meant for the implementation of the scheme and the scheme is not meant for the officers. It is a subordinate authority. I shall see that the policy laid down by the Government of India in the Ministry of Rehabilitation is executed and carried out. If any officers come in the way of that policy, they shall have to go whether they belong to this party.....
(Interruptions).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta—Central): Would you permit me to make a statement in this matter?...
(Interruptions.) The remarks which the Rehabilitation Minister has been pleased to make are very disquieting. They give some idea in regard to the statement which he has placed before the House. It will be circulated but I find a difficulty in saying anything because we have not got the full statement. But the position is that

in the papers not only allegedly factual reports but also editorial comments have been appearing from time to time for quite a long time now. I want your guidance in regard to this matter. I do not want to precipitate the whole thing but we in this House have always been given the impression by the Minister that everything is lovely in the garden as far as Dandakaranya is concerned except in so far as the opposition factions are putting up some kind of opposition. This is the kind of illusion which he has given to us in this House. For weeks the papers are reporting a very disquieting situation for the Dandakaranya scheme and reports regarding the resignation of the chief officer concerned have also appeared in such a fashion that we cannot ignore it altogether. That being so, I wish your direction. Please give a direction that in as quick a time as possible, we shall have a discussion in this House on the basis of whatever statement the Minister has placed on the Table of the House. Without that assurance it is very difficult for us to accept what the Minister has said in a rather oblique fashion regarding the activities of certain opposition elements. The opposition elements might very well be at fault but that is not the point. The point is that the Parliament and the country have been given a very clear impression by the Minister of Rehabilitation that except for a few refractory elements, the Dandakaranya scheme has been going on very wonderfully. We shall be very happy if Dandakaranya scheme is successful but we are not going to let the Minister make this kind of an oblique observation and get away with that.. (Interruptions.)

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: That is why I wish you to give us some direction. . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Sir, my colleague, the Minister of Rehabilitation made a statement in regard to Dandakaranya, I think, yesterday or the day before. In that it was stated, the House will remember, that there had been some internal conflicts among the members of the Dandakaranya authority, between this gentleman Shri Fletcher and the other members. He did not go into great details about it, but said that they could not all pull together and in fact each had resigned if the other continued. That is a very unfortunate situation and this matter has been before us for the last one month or two. Naturally, my colleague, the Minister of Rehabilitation consulted the people concerned and other people like the West Bengal Government; and the Chief Minister of West Bengal and a committee of the Cabinet considered it too. We came to the conclusion that it was time Shri Fletcher was asked to go and revert to his State—Punjab. I cannot obviously go into the details at this stage. The work in the Dandakaranya might have suffered a little—I cannot say. But the real difficulty was not the work but this unfortunate conflict in the Authority itself and we think that the conflict has been removed by the removal of Shri Fletcher. It is an unfortunate thing and it does not do much credit to any person concerned that Shri Fletcher should be engaging himself in newspaper controversy on this subject in which he is himself concerned. As far as a discussion is concerned, that is a matter entirely for you to decide taking into consideration the time available.

Mr. Speaker: So far as the report of Shri Fletcher is concerned, the hon. Minister has said that whatever he might have given to the newspapers or whatever the newspapers may have got otherwise, it has not yet been presented to the Minister. It is rather a strange story that a

person who is under the Minister, a subordinate, does not give the report to the Minister himself but goes about circulating it to the newspapers and carries correspondence over them. I do not know how there can be any justification, whatever it may be. After all, the Minister is responsible to this House and if anybody under him misbehaves it is the Minister that goes. We have had experience. Therefore, let us not go into it further and take up the time of the House.

I am really sorry that Shri H. N. Mukerjee should have said that an oblique reference was made by the Minister. It is open to the Minister to say that the men whom he has engaged have unfortunately not delivered the goods and not acted properly. But who else is responsible? It is the Minister who is responsible to this House; not Shri Fletcher. Under these circumstances, let no impression be created that this House will take sides with any authority who is subordinate to the Minister who is responsible to this House. It is unfortunate that a reference had been made by the hon. Minister to the subordinate and it is unfortunate that Shri H. N. Mukerjee referred to the 'oblique' reference made by the Minister, and therefore I said rightly "order, order". It is left to the hon. Minister to present the report.

So far as Dandakaranya is concerned, I may say that if only hon. Members will go into the pages of reports, questions and the resolutions and so on, they will find that all along it is only Dandakaranya that we have been dealing with almost every day, during all these years. Therefore, it is not that hon. Members have been kept in the dark about Dandakaranya; so far as I am concerned, I have been kept in the light.

Shrimati Benu Chakravartty rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. If, however, after perusing the statement, hon. Members feel that there is any real matter to be discussed, a motion may be made, and whenever a motion is made, I will always consider that motion on merits. Copies of the statement will be kept in the Notice Office and members interested may go there and collect a copy. So far as the report by Shri Dharma Vira is concerned, is it available?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: No, Sir. I am not placing it here. It is only a departmental enquiry. I may here make one more submission with your permission. Within the next ten or 15 days, in fact earlier than that if I can, I am going to prepare a detailed note on the working of the Dandakaranya project and I shall circulate it to each Member of this House and the other House.

12.33 hrs.

RELEASE OF A MEMBER

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House that I have received the following telegram dated the 26th November, 1959, from the Superintendent of Police, Bhopal:

“Shri Ramsingh Bhai Varma, Member, Lok Sabha, released yesterday evening”.

12.34 hrs.

MOTION RE: INDIA-CHINA RELATIONS—Contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up further consideration of the motion re: India-China Relations. The original motion along with the amendments is before the House. The hon. Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must express my gratitude to you and to hon. Members of the House for this debate which has been taking place for the last two days. May I, right in the beginning, say that I am sorry that some words I used on the last occasion when I moved this motion had slightly upset some hon. Members opposite. I talked about a motley crowd with motley ideas or some such thing. I did not mean any disrespect to anybody. What I meant was that people who are of entirely different opinions and groups had gathered together in a resolution, which was not a disrespectful thing to say.

Yesterday, Shri Asoka Mehta referred to a friend of his, Shri M. R. Masani, and said that Shri M. R. Masani's economic ideas would be pushed into the dustbin of history. I would not have ventured to say that although I entirely agree with that statement. Therefore, it surprised me that some remark that I made without any intention of hurting any hon. Member was resented. Anyhow it was not my intention. I am sorry.

In the course of this debate many things have been said, and many criticisms have been made, and yet, the major fact stands out, namely, on the big issues before us there is practically unanimity in this House. I was a little surprised when Acharya Kripalani accused us of treating this matter lightly and casually as a small issue. I can assure him that whatever other mistakes we might have made, we have never considered this question as a small question. In fact, perhaps we might have attached a little more importance to it then even Acharya Kripalani, because we had to give earnest thought to all the consequences, to where it was leading us and to what might happen not today but in the months and years to come. In fact, if I may say so, there came for me one of these peak events of