

12 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, who passed away this morning at Hyderabad at the age of 79.

He was a great patriot and suffered for the freedom. He made great sacrifice and underwent a lot of suffering in the freedom struggle. He was one of the greatest sons of Andhra Pradesh and architects of India's freedom.

Dr. Sitaramayya was a Member of the Constituent Assembly during the years 1946-49 and of the Provisional Parliament thereafter. He also served as Governor of Madhya Pradesh during 1952-57.

We deeply mourn the loss of this great friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may kindly stand in silence for a minute to express its sorrow.

The Members then stood in silence for a minute.

12.02 hrs.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of a motion of privilege by Shri Vajpayee relating to the Defence Minister's public announcement about the national service scheme before taking the House into confidence. It says that the hon. Defence Minister has stated that he was trying to organise or give compulsory military training in educational institutions and so on. What is the matter? When had he to make any such statement while the Parliament was in session?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): Not that I am aware of. I think the statement refers to the speech made on the NCC day when after the Governor of Bombay

had spoken a reference was made to the expansion of the NCC, the size of which is not limited by Parliament. The expansion is within the NCC Act XXXI of 1948 and it is to bring a larger number of boys under training, especially having regard to the requirements of more disciplined populations. It is well within the Act. There is no national service scheme in the sense understood. The hon. Member has also referred to my anticipating a Resolution that is to be discussed in this House. For one thing, that Resolution was not on the Table when I made that speech. Secondly, it relates to a different subject which may have some relation.

I would have thought that, Mr. Speaker, with great respect, the House would welcome this attempt at the expansion of the NCC rather than considering it as a breach of privilege.

Shri Vajpayee (Balrampur): There is no doubt that the House would have welcomed the announcement made by the Defence Minister but it should have been made in the House and not outside, when Parliament is in session. The Lok Sabha is at present seized with a non-official Resolution moved by my friend Shri Prakash Vir Shastri that compulsory military training should be imparted to the youth. The hon. Defence Minister announced in Bombay the Government's decision that a quarter million youths of India should be imparted military education. You had always been pleased to direct the Ministers to make important announcements in the House and not outside. I think this is definite breach of privilege of the House and the matter should be referred to the Privileges Committee.

Some Hon. Members: No, no.

Mr. Speaker: I am clear in my mind that there is no breach of privilege in this matter. Even if a matter of policy were to be announced outside the House while the House is in session, it was ruled in the House of

Commons that there was no breach of privilege; it may be a breach of courtesy. When the House is in session all matters of policy ought to be announced first to the House. That is the rule that has been adopted for several years in this House also.

So far as this matter is concerned, the hon. Minister has explained that it is only an expansion of the NCC for which he need not come before the House for any particular sanction from time to time. So far as the announcement of the new policy is concerned, the hon. Minister says that there will be a Resolution and he will discuss it here. Even if he had made a statement, that is not a breach of privilege and no consent should be given to raise it as a matter of privilege. But all the same, I am sure the hon. Ministers will observe this decorum and courtesy to this House. So far as this matter is concerned, I am satisfied that the hon. Minister has not said anything outside the House which, even as a matter of courtesy, he ought to have placed before the House before saying it outside . . .

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): May I ask for a clarification? . . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. After hearing about a particular matter and disposing of it, I will not allow any hon. Member to get up.

12.06 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
AMENDMENTS TO DELHI SALES TAX
RULES

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (4) of Section 28 of the Bengal Finance (Sales Tax) Act, 1941, as in force in the Union Territory of Delhi, a copy of Notification No. F.4(54)/59-Fin. (E) dated the 26th November, 1959 published in Delhi Gazette making certain further amendments to the Delhi

Sales Tax Rules, 1951. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-1797/59.]

REPORT OF INDIAN DELEGATION TO 15TH
SESSION OF GATT

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): On behalf of Shri Kanungo I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Indian Delegation to the 15th Session of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade held in Tokyo during October 26—November 21, 1959. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-1798/59.]

REPORT OF UNION PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): I beg to lay on the Table, under Article 323 (1) of the Constitution, a copy of the Ninth Report of the Union Public Service Commission for the period 1st April, 1958 to 31st March, 1959. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-1799/59.]

NOTIFICATION TO BE ISSUED UNDER
MADRAS MOTOR VEHICLES TAXATION
ACT

Shri Datar: I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of Section 17 of the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1931 read with clause (b) of the proclamation dated the 31st July, 1959 issued by the President in relation to the State of Kerala, a copy of Notification No. TB4-36008/58/PW containing draft amendment to Schedule II of the said Act. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-1800/59.]

NOTIFICATION ISSUED UNDER MADRAS
MOTOR VEHICLES TAXATION ACT

Shri Datar: I beg to lay on the Table, under Sub-section (2) of Section 11 of the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1931 read with clause (b) of the proclamation dated the 31st July, 1959 issued by the President in relation to the State of Kerala, a