

INDIAN POST OFFICE (AMENDMENT) BILL

LAD ON THE TABLE AS PASSED BY THE RAJYA SABHA

Secretary: I lay on the Table of the House the Indian Post Office (Amendment) Bill, 1958, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE REPORTED CLASH BETWEEN TROOPS AND STUDENTS AT SAGAR

Shri Vajpayee (Bairampur): 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 clash of troops of Mahar Regiment with students at Sagar on the 28th January, 1958”.

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): Sir, I wish to make a statement on this matter. The Inter-University Hockey Tournament was played at Saugor University from the 20th January, 1958. On the 28th January there was a clash amongst the spectators in which were involved army personnel, of a Mahar Regiment, the students of Saugor University and elements of the local population, according to all reports. Certain versions of this incident appeared in the press; other versions have also gained currency. Army Headquarters have also received reports from army officers including the Commander of the Independent Sub Area and also a communication from the Vice-Chancellor about the incident. Reports have it that a few civilians including one or more students and some officers and men of the army received some injuries during the incident, but so far as we know, a few, and these only for a short period, were hospitalised. Others received treatment in hospital and were discharged.

On hearing of the incident, under directions from the Chief of the Army Staff, the Commander of the independent Sub Area of Jabalpur visited Saugor the very next day, the 29th of January, 1958, and conducted an en-

quiry with the co-operation of the State Civil and Police authorities and the Vice-Chancellor of the University. Government understand that as a result of the prompt action thus taken by the Army Headquarters normality prevails in the local situation. The students are reported to have thanked the Army Commander for the prompt action taken and assured him that they bore no ill will against army personnel and, as far as they were concerned, they regarded the incident as closed. Each side concerned appears to have apologized to the other. The local civil authorities, however, ordered a judicial inquiry on the 3rd of February, the report of which will presumably be made to the State Government. Government have received no report or communication from the State Government as yet. So far as Government are concerned, therefore, the incident has to be regarded as sub-judice. When, however, a report or communication is received from the State Government, Government will be able and willing to make a further statement in the House with regard to this matter. In the meanwhile, Government consider it would be discourteous, if not improper, in relation to the civil authorities for Government to make any statements on the basis of reports received from any source whatsoever or to publish or to give publicity to the report of the Army Commander of the independent Sub Area which has already been received by the Chief of the Army Staff. Government are, however, glad to state that no ill-feeling now exists as a result of the incident.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): Mr. Speaker, with your permission, I rise to make my usual weekly statement on the business for this House during the week commencing, Monday, the 17th February. The following will be the order of business:—

- (1) Presentation of the Railway Budget for 1958-59 on 17th February.