

[Secretary]

sitting held on the 12th March, 1958, 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."

PRESIDENT'S ASSENT TO BILLS

Secretary: Sir, I lay on the Table the following two Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current Session and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on the 10th February, 1958:—

1. The Appropriation Bill, 1958.
2. The Central Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1958.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

STATELESS PERSONS OF INDIAN ORIGIN IN CEYLON

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): Sir, under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"Reported statement of the Prime Minister of Ceylon about stateless persons of Indian origin in Ceylon."

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru**): Sir, the Prime Minister of Ceylon made a speech recently in winding up the debate on a resolution dealing with the Indo-Ceylon problem at the annual session of his political party, namely, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party. No authorised report of his speech is available, but

from Press reports, it appears that in the course of his speech, the Prime Minister pointed that the problems of nationalisation and citizenship were inter-twined and if estates were nationalised first, Government would be obliged to look after the estate workers who were non-nationals. This would, in turn, create more problems for the Government. Suggestions that non-nationals be denied the right to join trade unions or to hold any post, were dismissed by the Prime Minister, who said that these methods were contrary to democratic practice.

In the course of his speech, the Prime Minister said that the problem of stateless persons of Indian origin had become deep-rooted and a satisfactory solution seemed well-nigh impossible. Nevertheless, he said that any approach to the solution of the problem would necessarily have to be based on maintaining goodwill and friendly relations existing between the two countries. He laid particular emphasis on the need to undertake a solution of the problem in a manner that would not cause undue hardship to the stateless persons and also ensure that no disadvantage would be caused to Ceylon nationals. He said that justice requires that those who have been there for many years and who have made that country their home, should be assimilated.

The Prime Minister's general approach to this problem was that it was essentially a human problem and should be dealt with as such.

Shri Hem Barua: Sir, I rise on a point of information.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. If the hon. Member is interested he may table further questions; normally I do not allow any questions to be put at this stage.