

A statement containing the information is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix 1, annexure No. 47.]

Postal Deliveries in Tripura

158. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that postal deliveries from Chandkhira to Dharmanagar to Tripura are being made by mail-runners although conveyance is available; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not utilising this facility?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan):

(a) Mails are at present conveyed from Chandkhira to Dharmanagar in Tripura by mail runners.

(b) The question of replacing the mail runners' line by a mail motor service is under consideration.

Road Bridge in Andhra

159. **Shri Madhusudan Rao:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent a scheme for constructing a road bridge across a stream near Gajpathi-Narain in Visakhapatnam District in Andhra Pradesh for approval by the Central Government; and

(b) if so, action taken in the matter?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) The scheme is under scrutiny and is expected to be sanctioned shortly.

Short-term Loan to Rajasthan

160. **Shri Karni Singhji:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any short-term loan has been given to the Government of

Rajasthan during 1959-60 for increasing farm output; and

(b) if so, the nature and amount of loan?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. An amount of Rs. 30.18 lakhs has so far been given to Rajasthan Government for this purpose. Out of this amount, Rs. 13.15 lakhs was for purchase and distribution of seeds and Rs. 5.03 lakhs for fertilisers for food production schemes and Rs. 12 lakhs for fertilisers under the 'Cotton Extension Scheme'.

12 hrs.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

LAW AND ORDER SITUATION IN KERALA

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Shri A. K. Gopalan and a few others on the following subject:

"The very serious and alarming situation existing in many parts of Kerala after the conclusion of polling in February, arising out of:

- (1) at least 5 known cases of murder of Communist party workers and voters;
- (2) burning down of a number of huts of Harijans...."

What is the matter? Is there any report in any of the newspapers about this matter?

Shri A. K. Gopalan (Kasergod): It is not a report in newspapers. I have been touring these areas for the last four days. I visited these places. I have got written reports from the persons who are aggrieved, and it is on the basis of that that I have tabled the motion.

Day before yesterday after my tour, a Harijan worker in the field was attacked and killed. It began from the 1st February when the voter, who was sleeping at night, was attacked and killed.

Mr. Speaker: After the polling had taken place?

Shri A. K. Gopalan: After the polling had taken place. On the 31st night he was warned. I bring this to your notice because it is a very serious matter and an enquiry must be made. On the 31st he was warned of the consequences if he went for polling. He said the Constitution had given him the right and he would exercise his franchise. The next day, as warned, at night at 10 O' Clock he was stabbed and killed.

On the 1st morning when 200 Harijan women and men were marching to the polling booth, there was an attack in the back, and Kunju Kunju, a worker, was killed. He died on the spot there. His wife and mother, not knowing that he died of the attack, went to the polling booth and exercised their vote, and he was lying on the road in front of the house.

Next day there was a victory celebration, and there was a clash. The third one was a clash between two sections.

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Let me hear him.

Shri Tyagi: I want to submit a point of order and it is to the effect that up till now there has been a convention that in the matter of adjournment motions personal knowledge alone is never the basis of the motion; there must be something substantial either in the press or elsewhere on the basis of which a motion can be considered.

Moreover, I have one more submission, and that is that at this stage the merits of the question which is proposed to be introduced by means of the adjournment motion are not to be gone into. At this stage the Member can only advocate and argue that the subject of the adjournment motion is urgent and is a public matter. These are the only two criteria.

Mr. Speaker: Regarding the point of order, I first of all asked him if there were any newspaper reports. If an hon. Member of this House says that he was a personal witness to some of these things, I am prepared to credit it as much as any newspaper report. Therefore, I am not going to discredit any hon. Member who says he went to the spot, made enquiries and saw it himself. It is up to the Government or any other hon. Member to contradict it.

The next point is whether the details ought to be gone into or not. I have to decide whether it is a matter of urgent importance, when it took place, whether it is a serious matter which requires adjournment of the House. These are matters *prima facie* which I have to decide before I go into the further details. Even for this purpose I must know something of it. It is not any small quarrel anywhere. He says it is a murder. I would like to know some details. Therefore, these are all incidental to it. I know I have to decide whether it is a definite matter, whether it is a serious matter, an urgent matter, and *prima facie* I have to come to a conclusion on them. Therefore, one after the other I am trying to find out. There is no point of order.

Shri Tyagi: I want to submit that there is one difficulty.

Mr. Speaker: I have disposed of the point of order.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: I will clear his doubt.

I yesterday went and saw the IG of Police, and asked him whether he knew of it. He also admitted that there was a murder. It is not a question that first I went to the place. There was a newspaper report about it. I went and saw, and yesterday at 3 O'Clock I met the I.G. of Police, presented him with these things, some of which he knew, and asked him whether he knew about it. He said it was a fact that about four murders he had known; he only did not know

about day before yesterday's murder. The news did not reach him. It is not a question that I personally knew it. There were reports in the papers, and the I.G. of Police also told me that he had got those reports.

I say it is a very serious and urgent matter. I request the Prime Minister not to take it as something between the Congress and Communists. We have to discuss and find out whether really there was on the polling day an attack on the voters when they were going and one died on the spot and whether this continued. I want to request the House not to take it in the spirit that it comes from the Communist Member, but to see whether these things have happened.

There were 15 cases of arson where houses were burnt. I went to the place, the remains are there. I have taken photographs and got them with me. I will bring them tomorrow if you want to see them.

Not only that. There is evacuation of the Harijan and agricultural labourers from one place to another. I saw many of them and they said they were a raid to go because they had no protection. Also there are reports—I have verified these reports—that when they went to the police station, they did not get any protection. So, I have sent 40 petitions signed by the individuals to the Governor. These are the individuals who have not gone to the police because they are afraid, because on the 1st and 2nd the police were moving about and they beat some of them. Some they took, and there is a report of beating in the police lock-up also.

I have also referred to other things. Harijans had been taking water from a well, but when I went there I was told by one of them that he has to go one mile now to take water because he cannot take water from the usual well, they are forbidden to take water.

Social boycott is also there. They are also not given work where they

are called for work, and even where there is work there is a board put in some places that there will be reduction.

Mr. Speaker: The point is: we are trying to discuss the responsibility of the Government in these matters. There may be a number of people taking the law into their own hands, but how far is Government responsible? If this was brought to the notice of the Government in the ordinary course and Government has failed to take steps, then alone can I call upon the Government to explain.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: The police were required to give protection to those who were thus attacked; they not only refused to do this duty, in many cases they were helping those who would like to terrorise Harijans.

Mr. Speaker: What is it he is reading from?

Shri A. K. Gopalan: There is an editorial from the paper *Kerala Kaumudi* which narrated this incident and said they attacked previous Communist Government also saying they were not able to put down these things. The editorial definitely said these things were happening, it was very bad, these things must not be allowed. They referred to beating in police lock-up and attack against Harijans. It is against a section of agricultural workers and Harijans who are evacuating from their places. That is why I say it must be taken as a very important thing. There, it is the President's rule now, and the new Government have not taken charge. So, it is necessary to see that they are given protection, and if they have gone out of their place and are living somewhere else, then they must be brought back to their place, and they must be given encouragement and protection in doing so.

Shri Tyagi: May I make one submission most humbly with regard to the ruling that you have given? I have to seek a further clarification with regard to that. Your ruling will

[Shri Tyagi]

establish a sort of precedent. So, I want to know....

Mr. Speaker: I do not want to allow a discussion on my ruling.

Shri Tyagi: I want to make a submission with regard to your ruling. This House is privileged, and here any statement could be made at any moment. And Members are immune from any action, as far as any statement made by them on the floor of the House is concerned....

Shri Sadhan Gupta (Calcutta-East): On a point of order....

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow a challenge to my ruling. I have given my ruling already.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: My point of order was whether the hon. Member could make any further submission on your ruling?

Mr. Speaker: No, no.

Shri Tyagi: I want just a clarification.

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to give any clarification. My ruling is clear. Now, the hon. Minister.

Shri Punnoose (Ambalapuzha): Before the Home Minister says something, may I point out one thing? Even on the 29th of last month, we went and met the Adviser, and told him that there was a very serious situation, and that during polling and also for some days after polling, there should be police protection, and he promised us the same. But, on the polling day, police protection failed, and now it has failed in areas which we have pointed out, and where a serious situation has arisen. I would like the hon. Minister to take note of that.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): Kerala has been in a state of ferment for a pretty long time. Conditions were, to a large ex-

tent, if not completely, normalised, and normalcy was restored after the President had taken over....

Shri A. P. Jain (Saharanpur): We are unable to hear the hon. Minister. Let the hon. Minister come to the front bench and then speak.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, the hon. Minister may come to the front bench and then speak.

Shri G. B. Pant: I was submitting that Kerala had been in a state of ferment for a long time, and conditions were restored to normalcy almost, not completely, since the introduction of the Governor's Administration there. The fact that the police had been careful and that everything has been done with a view to ensure peace and to see that individual freedom, so far as it lay with the police, was fully enjoyed by everyone, was proved by the high percentage of votes cast in the elections, which came on an average, to more than 85 per cent or nearabout 90 per cent in some cases. That the police and the Administration were able to bring about such a result proves that there has been peace all over the State. Now, after the taking over of the Administration by the President, everybody, I think, including Shri A. K. Gopalan, will concede that there has been considerable improvement in the situation.

Well, there have been some incidents sometimes, but to connect them all with politics is not, I think, quite fair. Incidents do happen in every State, and Kerala too is a big State; incidents have been occurring there even in normal times. So, if there has been any sort of deterioration anywhere, I am sure the authorities are as vigilant as they have ever been. As may be known, even after the elections were over, they used the preventive sections in order that processions may not be taken out in certain places, and even, I think, meetings were not allowed. So far as the authorities are concerned, they have been doing their

best. I have received some communications from both parties, from the Communists as well as from the non-Communists, and I have referred everyone of them to the Governor or to the Adviser with the request to look into them personally. And I have again and again impressed it upon them that it is our duty to see that peace is observed and that the Administration deals with all matters in an impartial way.

I am not aware of any incident in which the police have taken part in any such affairs, nor have I, to the best of my information—because I have got this only just now before I came here—got any intimation from any quarter, not even from Shri A. K. Gopalan that the police had been in a way conspiring with others or joining hands with others. Whatever my hon. friend has written to me, I have brought to the special notice of the authorities.

Well, it may be that some things have happened, but in a State like that some things can happen even in normal times. We were told, for example, that a number of non-Communists have been stabbed even after the elections, and also that there have been some clashes between those who voted for one side and those who voted for the other; but the number of incidents has been continuously going down so that, by the 5th or the 6th instant, so far as my memory goes, there were no such incidents. I am not vouching for it, for I am speaking from memory. And I have been trying to look into the reports that have come about the huts.

I was told that some huts were burnt at some place, but the allegations were that they were the huts of people who were not in the good books of certain parties who had expected them to vote; and they were burnt by them. The whole number, I was told, was seven or eight or nine. But, again, I am not very sure about it, because I have not got any

detailed facts, and I never knew that a thing like this would come up just today. According to the information that I have got up to the 7th instant, the number of incidents in which the non-Communists seem to be aggrieved was larger, and perhaps much larger than that of which the Communists had complained. But that does not prove anything one way or the other. Unless the facts are with us, we cannot say anything.

So, I have been repeatedly asking the authorities to take due care to see that justice is impartially administered, that all preventive measures are taken, and that so far as is possible, investigation in such cases is expedited, especially, where there is any suspicion of a political motive.

I do not want to go into further details. Still I have not got all the details; it is not possible to have all of them just at present. I can make an enquiry. I am interested in the maintenance of peace and order, in the impartial administration of justice and also in the protection of life and property. It would not in any way be creditable to the Administration or to us that we should not make every attempt to ensure that. We had to import large numbers of policemen from outside; they cannot possibly have any bias for anyone.

So far as the police in Kerala itself was concerned, it has functioned under different parties and in different times, and there is no reason why it should be against any particular party or for any particular one. There may be some stray individuals here and there, but even if there has been any case like that, I would like that to be looked into and the man punished, because it is our duty to see that protection is given to all, regardless of their political, social or other opinions.

So I submit that there are so many things that may be stated here that they cannot form the subject of an adjournment motion. I am sorry I

[Shri G. B. Pant]

cannot make any further remarks as, unfortunately, I was not here. But, as I said, I am prepared to send even these to Kerala and to ask them as to what are the realities. And if any such thing has been found, they would look into it, and they would be still more vigilant. But the conditions, from all reports that I have received, are much better than they have been ever before.

Of course, there may be some aftermath of the election; here and there incidents may have happened. Some of them may be connected with the elections, and some may not. I cannot go into every one of these incidents and give details. In fact, I have not got them with me. These require detailed inquiry from Kerala before I can say anything that may be useful. But I can assure my hon. friends, as I have assured them previously, that it is my effort, and it will continue to be my effort, to see that justice is done to everyone and maximum vigilance is observed by the police; whether one belongs to the Communist Party or to the Congress or to the PSP or to any other political party. Life and property have nothing to do with the political opinion of an individual, and the Administration should be impartial and just.

So I repeat that I will bring the statement that has been made by Shri A. K. Gopalan to their notice and ask them to be still more careful and still more vigilant. I wonder if I can say anything more.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: May I make an appeal to the Home Minister? The Home Minister has said that even in normal times such incidents occur. Instead of a departmental inquiry that may be conducted, may I make a suggestion? On behalf of the Communist Party, I promise that everything will be done by us to see that these things do not happen. During the time of the elections, to ensure the peaceful conduct of elections, the Collectors

called all the Parties together. Certain conditions were laid down and all the parties were asked to abide by those conditions. In the same way, may I suggest that now that there is the United Front, and the Communist Party is also ready, these parties may be called together to discuss this matter? This is not a question of incidents happening at some times, after the elections or before the elections. It is a matter of the observance of a certain code of conduct by all political parties so that these things may not happen. If the Prime Minister or the Home Minister intervenes, calls all the political parties, to take stock of the situation and discuss it with them and come to an understanding, such things can be avoided in future. It is no use the Communists saying that it is not more Communists, it is more Congress or it is the mistake of the Congress and not of the Communists. There is no use the other Party saying it the other way. There is no use of making charges and counter-charges.

So far as the Communist Party is concerned, I promise that everything will be done by us, if only the Prime Minister will intervene, call all the parties together and see that peace is maintained and such things do not happen at least hereafter, whatever be the condition (*Interruptions*). I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, when I say this there is noise in the House. At least as a political worker who had been in the Congress, at least as a Member when I am making an appeal to see that something must be done to ensure peaceful conditions, even then there is shouting (*Interruptions*). I here noises being made as if we are not for peace. We are also for peace. We want peaceful conditions. That is why I make this appeal. So far as Kerala is concerned, whether it is today or two months hence, the same thing is continuously done; murders are taking place. If these things are to be stopped, it can be in two ways. One way is to call

all the political parties together and discuss the situation with them. That is the appeal I am making. I am sure if the hon. Prime Minister will intervene and see if something can be done to see that such things do not happen hereafter, the situation will improve and peaceful conditions will be restored.

Shri G. B. Pant: I agree with what Shri A K Gopalan says. So far as his suggestion is concerned, I will communicate it to the Governor and see that the political parties in this matter agree to use their influence in order to help the forces of peace and to maintain peace. I agree with him there. That is what the political parties also should do.

Mr. Speaker: After the elections have been concluded so nicely and a large number of people have gone to the polls when there were no incidents, if any incidents have occurred recently, it is unfortunate. But I am sure that as soon as the new Government comes into being—I hope it will come into being as early as possible—the entire thing will die down. If in the meanwhile owing to over-exuberance either on account of success or on account of failure, there may be incidents either on the one side or the other, the matter will be looked into. Therefore, as the hon. Home Minister has said, he will kindly send all these to the Governor, and let him send for the leaders of the various Parties and see to it that there are no incidents at all hereafter—not only now but even hereafter.

Parliamentary democracy requires discussion in the Assembly. When once a decision is taken, the entire community must abide by that decision. It is open to them to get that decision vacated by proper means. I am sure that since the elections have been conducted, Kerala will certainly give a very good account of itself and there will not be any incidents in future, either from the one side or the other.

I do not think it is necessary or useful to pursue this matter any further here. The Governor and all the officials there will take proper notice of it. Whenever any incidents come to the notice of any hon. Member here, I am sure the hon. Minister will certainly take note of them and take all steps necessary.

I do not think I should give my consent to this adjournment motion.

ALLEGED STARVATION DEATHS IN MIZO HILLS DISTRICT

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of another adjournment motion. It is an ordinary matter relating to the food situation in a State, but inasmuch as it is said that there have been some deaths due to famine, namely:

“Urgent need to discuss the death of five people due to starvation in the famine-affected Mizo Hills District (news appearing in the *Times of India* dated 15-2-60). Central Government’s intervention to save the lives of the people is absolutely necessary”.

what is the situation?

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): The news has appeared in the *Times of India*, quoting one Shri Lalsawia. It says:

“Another member of the delegation, Mr. Lalmawia, who is the Parliamentary Secretary for Tribal Affairs, said that 11 people had died in Mizo district. He said that the Government did not accept this figure, although he had himself verified it.

“Mr. Lalsawia said that the quantity of rice sent to Mizo Hills district was hardly sufficient to meet a fraction of its population”.

It is also stated further:

“He said that the people had become so desperate that they had started looting trucks transporting rice from Silchar to Aijal, the headquarters of Mizo district.”