

received by the Government of India. The Mission will report to the Wheat Utilisation Committee in Washington.

Welfare Officers for P. & T., Orissa Circle

2606. Dr. Samantsinhar: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the welfare of the Posts and Telegraphs Department Staff in Orissa Circle is now being looked after by one Welfare Officer stationed at patna in Bihar;

(b) whether the Government propose to appoint a separate Welfare Officer at Cuttack for the Staff of Orissa Circle; and

(c) the details of the staff welfare activities in Orissa since 1951?

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

(b) No.

(c) 2 Cooperative Societies, 3 Canteens, 6 Tiffin Rooms, 10 Recreation Clubs, 14 Cycle Stands and 32 Welfare Committees have been established.

Quarters for Post and Telegraph Employees

2607. Shri Maniyangan: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct residential quarters in Munnar and other places in the high range areas in Kothayam District of the Kerala State for Post and Telegraph employees; and

(b) if so, when?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): (a) and (b). It is proposed to construct quarters at Munnar, Vandiperiar and Peermade. The demarcation of the Post Office sites at these places has yet to be done by the State Government. On its completion, the building proposals will be taken up.

12 hrs.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

SITUATION IN MANIPUR

Mr. Speaker: I have received two adjournment motions relating to the situation and firing in Manipur. I am asking the hon. Minister to state what exactly the situation is.

Shri Raghunath Singh (Varanasi): I have given notice of a short notice question.

Mr. Speaker: The Short notice question will also be answered now. Some time ago, Shri Hem Barua and Shri Braj Raj Singh tabled an adjournment motion that there is going to be a *sathyagraha* in Manipur, they want Hindi to be used in Manipur and so on and so forth. In that connection, I said that whether they want Hindi, or non-Hindi or responsible government, adjournment motion is not the means and that constitutional methods have to be adopted. But it seems that they did not stop with that; they seem to have gone and occupied some places which resulted in firing and so on. I am really sorry to hear that people want to force the issue on the Government and take the law unto their hands. I was about to say that it is purely a matter of law and order, and nobody can force himself on the Government. Anyhow, as there has been firing, I have requested the hon. Minister to say what exactly has happened.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): Since Manipur has no Legislature, this is the only forum where their grievances can be ventilated.

Mr. Speaker: That is not my point. The hon. Members tabled an adjournment motion here, giving a charter of demands, saying they want Hindi, they want a Legislature, they want this and they want that and if these demands are not conceded they are going to launch *sathyagraha*. I disallowed it on the ground that constitutional remedies have to be adopted. Now they have come forward with an

[Mr. Speaker]

adjournment motion that these people have gone on *sathyagraha*, there has been firing and so on. Actually, this is a consequence of the earlier action.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): No, Sir. People have not resorted to the use of force on the Government. These demonstrations are peaceful demonstrations and even the news items in the papers that have dubbed the demonstrators as the agitators have not mentioned a single case of violence on the part of the people. Even if there is violence on the part of the people, the violence on the part of the people against the bovine violence of the Government is something like the violence of the mouse against the cat. These peaceful demonstrators have been fired upon and lathi charged injuring many people including 29 women. Some of them are very seriously injured... (*Interruptions*).

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Why should they go on firing and lathi charging the people?

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow this uncontrollable talk in the House. Now, the hon. Minister.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): I am sorry that in spite of the request that has been repeatedly made by me, and others also, that Parliament alone is seized of constitutional matters and that no changes in the Constitution can be brought about by unconstitutional means and also that if we are to maintain democracy in our country then we must abjure violence.....

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Nobody has used violence.

Shri G. B. Pant: I am sorry, that the Socialist Party, is going to launch the All India *Sathyagraha* from the 1st of May.... (*laughter*).

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Why should they laugh?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): It is an all-India *sathyagraha* that they are launching

Shri G. B. Pant: They made a number of fantastic demands and made their first experiment in Manipur.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): May I say that in Manipur all other parties have joined together in the demand for responsible government? It is not one party alone.

Shri G. B. Pant: Not only the PSP, or the Congress, but even the Naga Council, the Kukis and others have dissociated themselves from the present so-called *sathyagraha* movement. When I referred to the Socialist Party, of course, I was not referring to the PSP. We have greater confidence in PSP's sense of perspective and I did not mean anything....

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: PSP has not dissociated from the Manipur *sathyagraha*. That they have done only in the case of the all-India *sathyagraha*.

Shri G. B. Pant: Even in Manipur the PSP has declined to join the movement.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat) All parties have joined the movement.

Shri G. B. Pant: That is hardly correct. Well, I considered what. I said as a compliment to the PSP and I do not see why there should be any caveat in this connection.

Since about the 1st of April there has been a demand for the immediate establishment of responsible Government in Manipur. They selected the 1st of April for starting this.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: May I say that it was on the 10th of April and not 1st? (*Interruptions*).

Shri G. B. Pant: Well, any date that may serve the purpose can be, I think, welcomed by those who are interested in a movement. So, they started on the 1st of April. Well, the processions and meetings etc., they went on and

the administration allowed them to do what they liked. But, on the 11th of April, after they had all these meetings etc., about 1,000 persons, including also a few women, blocked all roads leading to Imphal and also the bridges within that town in the Imphal river in between. The road to the airport was blocked at three places and the IAC passenger bus was not allowed to proceed to the airport. All trade and business were brought to a standstill. To prevent the IAC daily service plane from landing about 150 heads of cattle were driven to the airport so that on that particular day no aircraft with the passengers or goods could land there. The Chief Commissioner had to advise the plane to go back as otherwise it might lead to some very unfortunate consequences.

After that, the offices were picketed. The Secretariat was picketed from day to day, not by one or two but by hundreds of people. The offices virtually ceased to function. The Officers did not disturb these people; but only tried to persuade them to let them work, and patiently watched these activities which to some, whether here or outside, may appear to be very commendable, but I think to every sensible people would seem to be something abominable.

Shri Nagi Reddy (Anantapur): You encouraged it. . . (Interruption).

Shri Hem Barua: The word 'abominable' should not be there. . . (Interruption).

Shri Nagi Reddy: If it was not abominable to remove a Government in one place, how could it become abominable to ask for a responsible government? They are only asking for a responsible government. . . (Interruption).

Shri G. B. Pant: Many people may want responsible government and some of those with different ideologies may want to replace the present system of democracy by other methods. . . (Interruption).

Shri Braj Raj Singh: There is no question of that sort of thing . . . (Interruption).

Shri Nagi Reddy: The system does not. . . (Interruption).

Shri G. B. Pant: But if they were to picket roundabout (Shri Nagi Reddy: Why not?) the Secretariat and the offices here (Shri Nagi Reddy: Why not?) and not allow them to function, I imagine that the responsible members of the Communist Party, who are here, would condemn such a course of action on the part of such people.

Shri Nagi Reddy: We learnt it from you in Kerala. To offer *satyagraha* and to picket Government offices is the right of the people who want a responsible government.

Shri G. B. Pant: So far as Kerala is concerned, I think let us not talk about the past (Shri Nagi Reddy: Why not?) though, if I were to unravel the whole story (An Hon. Member: Oh! yes) it would not redound very much to your credit. But let us leave that alone. Let us talk of Manipur.

That is, Sir, what happened on the 11th. Then, after that, as I said, the offices, the Secretariat, the Deputy Commissioner's and the Chief Commissioner's residences at a time were all picketed and, as I have already said, all official work was virtually paralysed. This went on for days and days continuously till yesterday.

On the 14th April several persons went and surrounded some of the offices as they had done previously. Then there was a procession of students. They wanted the examinations, which were to start the next day, to be postponed. The Administration even got those examinations postponed so that the boys might not get irritated and might not be misled.

On the 16th April again 3,000 students went round in a procession, but nobody interfered because these young men were supposed to be led by others. Then there was some damage also in

[Shri G. B. Pant]

certain places to which I would not like to refer. On the 17th April it was decided to intensify the so-called, I think altogether misconceived, *satyagraha*. Then, from the... (*Interruption*) 20th April vigorous and intensive picketing was carried out in all offices on this particular day and the vehicles of the Manipur State transport were prevented from leaving the garage... (*Interruption*). About 600 persons surrounded the Imphal Police Station and immobilised 80 policemen inside. Even then, the Police refrained from doing anything in order to be able to regain their own liberty and suffered silently. On the 21st April hundreds of women squatted in the Chief Commissioner's compound and threatened not to leave until their demands were conceded, that is, the immediate establishment of responsible government or the recognition of Manipur as a State. The Chief Commissioner with great tact succeeded in extricating himself.

Then, some persons were supposed to be carrying with them certain things to which too I would not refer, and trucks (An Hon. Member: What are they?) on their way to Dimapur to fetch supplies of rice and kerosene were stopped by the agitators some eleven miles from Imphal. The IAC bus was again prevented from proceeding to the Imphal Airport on the 23rd April. At about 9-30 p.m. a mob 300 strong tried to break open the shop of Amar Singh and Man Singh and that of another Punjabi. Then the clashes within the town itself began to increase. Forcible collection of funds has been made by the agitators from passers-by on public thoroughfares. Certain sections of the people were being abused and prevented from moving about the town. Movement of transport was also being interfered with. Work in Government offices had come to a standstill, particularly from the 20th April because of this intensive picketing. The bazaar was forcibly closed on many occasions and the prices of

essential commodities were rising. In the circumstances the Administration was forced to issue an order under section 144 very early on the morning of the 25th prohibiting among other things the assembly of five persons.

Then, in spite of that crowds of picketers collected at the Secretariat and the Chief Commissioner's office and they would not disperse till the Police had to take recourse to a mild lathi charge.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Only mild!

Shri G. B. Pant: A determined mob of about 3,000 strong collected and took up a menacing attitude for about two hours. Women were placed in front of the mob and also surrounded the Police Station. In the circumstances tear gas and lathi charge had to be resorted to. At about 4 p.m. violence started aimed at damaging the Police wireless station and the vehicles of the Manipur State transport. The District Magistrate rushed to the spot. The mob there also started pelting stones. One Manipur Rifleman was injured seriously as also another Policeman. The District Magistrate had only about ten men with him. Finding his party vastly outnumbered and in grave danger, he had to order firing and, according to the information available, six persons were injured in the course of this firing. A number of men have been arrested and some have also gone to the hospital.

Shri Nagi Reddy: How many women have gone to the hospital?

Shri G. B. Pant: So far as I have this information before me is concerned, 20 women have been admitted to the hospital.

Shri Nagi Reddy: And it was mild lathi charge! (*Interruption*).

Shri G. B. Pant: But if brave men put women in front... (*Interruption*).

Shri Nagi Reddy: Does the hon. Home Minister think that the women have no right to fight for democracy and only men have it... (*Interruption*)?

Shri G. B. Pant: So far as this question is concerned, in the circumstances I wonder if the Administration has not exercised commendable restraint and forbearance, and whether any responsible person in this House would like campaigns of such violent nature . . . (*Interruption*).

Shri Braj Raj Singh: There was no violence. Violence was from your side.

Shri G. B. Pant: . . . lawlessness, disorder and so on. So far as this Manipur State is concerned, it has an income about Rs. 35 lakhs. Its population is no more than about six lakhs. It is less than half the population of perhaps most of the districts in the country. The Central Government with the approval of Parliament is spending about Rs. 5½ crores apart from what is being allotted to the State for the projects included in the Plan for the betterment and welfare of the people of the State. The set-up under which the territory is functioning was approved by Parliament only about three years ago.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: What about Bombay-Gujarat?

Shri G. B. Pant: So I appeal to this House to take a charitable, and a just, view of the thing, and would request them not to countenance such steps, or to give such an impression to the people who are carrying on such lawless activities that they have the sympathy or support of anyone here. I hold that these adjournment motions have absolutely no substance and they should be disallowed.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: May I put one question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

330 (Ai) LSD—4.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: With regard to responsible Government, I have nothing to say, but what has the Home Minister to say with regard to the other demands which have been made by the people of Manipur?

Shri G. B. Pant: Immediate replacement of English by Hindi in Manipur?

Shri Braj Raj Singh: And that is a demand of the people of Manipur, not by me or anybody else.

Shri G. B. Pant: I am not aware at least of that.

Mr. Speaker: An elaborate statement has been made by the hon. Home Minister.

On the 20th instant when an adjournment motion was tabled here saying that satyagraha was going to be started if the demands for establishing a Legislative Assembly there, introduction of Hindi as the official language etc., were not granted, I said there were legitimate methods of persuading this House to change the Constitution. Any hon. Member can bring a Bill for amending the Constitution, making Manipur an autonomous State like other States. Instead of that, unfortunately the people there seem to make it impossible for the administration to carry on. In the circumstances, I would not be well-advised to allow even a discussion of this matter here. If picketing goes on harmlessly, that is one way of expressing their view, but it is quite a different thing if they picket and make it impossible for the officers to enter the offices and carry on the administration, or if they send cattle to the aerodromes to prevent passengers coming. These are all unfortunate events.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Why can't they meet them peacefully?

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members want to have democracy, they can have it by persuading, by moving and amendment of the Constitution.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: The Government refuse to be persuaded.

Mr. Speaker: I would certainly advise the persons in charge not to carry on this kind of movement. There are other methods open. I cannot give my consent to this motion.

12.24 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE INDIAN AND CHINESE PRIME MINISTERS

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I beg to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the joint communique issued last night as a result of the conversations that I have been having with Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China. [*Placed in Library, See No. LT-2123/60*].

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Ferozabad): In view of the joint communique which has already appeared in the press, may we know from the Prime Minister what immediate steps he proposes to take now to get the territory which is already occupied by the Chinese vacated?

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): I would like to know the trend of the discussions that the two Prime Ministers had, because the whole country is anxious to know about it, and the newspapers are not capable of giving the information. The Chinese Prime Minister has already held a press conference.

Shri Vajpayee (Balrampur): I want to say the House should be given an opportunity to discuss the whole situation.

Shri Mahanty (Dhenkanal): The joint communique has already appeared in the press. Therefore, there is practically nothing very significant in laying that document on the Table of the House. What we would like to

know, and what we expect from the Prime Minister, is clarification about the six points which have been mentioned by the Chinese Premier. In fact, we find there enunciation of the principle of a plebiscite in the border areas.

Mr. Speaker: We are not having a discussion. What does he want? If there is a statement, let him read it properly.

Shri Mahanty: We want that there should be a full-fledged discussion of this.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Before Parliament adjourns.

Shri Mahanty: Many crucial issues have been raised.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Last night, soon after the issue of the joint communique, Premier Chou En-lai held a press conference. It was a very prolonged press conference which, I believe, lasted for about two hours and a half. There is some reference to it in this morning's papers, but they have been unable to give a full report, which possibly may appear tomorrow. I myself have not seen the full report of that, but such things as I have seen indicate that he had naturally stated and given expression to his point of view, which, very often, is not our point of view, of the Government of India. It is possible some misapprehension might arise occasionally.

The hon. Member refers to the six points.

Shri Mahanty: But what are our reactions to these six points?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We do not agree to them. The points were—I am reading from the script which he gave to the press:

"1. There exist disputes on the boundary between the two sides."

Of course, there exist disputes. That is the first point.