

[Sardar Swarn Singh]

for the year 1958-59 along with the Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon, under sub-section (1) of Section 639 of the Companies Act, 1956.

- (ii) Review by the Government of the working of the above Corporation. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2111/60].

12.08½ hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

TWENTY-SEVENTH REPORT

Shri Barman (Cooch-Bihar-Reserved—Sch. Castes): I beg to present the Twenty-seventh Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Excesses over Charged Appropriations disclosed in the Appropriation Accounts of the Defence Services for the year 1957-58.

12.08½ hrs.

STATEMENT REGARDING MOVEMENT OF CIVILIAN TRAFFIC OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): Meetings have been held between the Indian and Pakistani Delegations during the period 14-4-60 to 18-4-60 concerning the grant of transit facilities for the movement of civilian traffic from one part of their country to the other part through the other country. Discussions have been adjourned to enable each side to collect further information for consideration at a subsequent meeting to be convened next month. It is not considered desirable in the public interest to disclose at this stage the details of the discussions held.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): These things have come in the newspapers. I do not know what fun is there in making such statements here.

Either the hon. Minister should give some reasons or make a useful statement. All these things have in almost all the newspapers. What is the use of this statement?

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Ferozabad): He might contradict anything that is contained in the newspapers!

Shri Vajpayee (Balrampur): May I know how public interest is involved in this, in not disclosing the details of the talks that are being held with Pakistan? After all, we are entitled to know.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): When any kind of discussions between two Governments about mutual arrangements take place and they are incomplete—some offers and suggestions are made it is very difficult to put them across publicly, because it comes in the way of future talks.

Shri Vajpayee: Where was the necessity for the hon. Deputy Minister to make a statement?

Mr. Speaker: Because such questions are raised. The hon. Members should be aware of what hon. Ministers—particularly the Defence Minister—have been saying about what appears in the newspapers. If the Ministers are asked to make statements, they will be authoritative statements. Newspapers make their own inferences and come out with reports. It is one thing for the newspapers to bring out and another thing for the Ministers to make a statement. It is a responsible statement. Therefore, when something appears in the newspapers, it is for the Ministers to decide whether they should make a statement or not, because they will be pinned to those statements. There is nothing lost. Hon. Members will be satisfied with what appears in the Press for sometimes, wait until conclusions are arrived at after the talks and then we will have an authoritative statement.