

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: Is it not the privilege of the House.....

Mr. Speaker: I agree with Shri Chettiar and disallow the adjournment motion.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I submit to you....

Mr. Speaker: Now it is over.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Whenever there has been any question of limitation of anything regarding elections this House has always been seized of the matter. On many occasions this House has always been the custodian.

Mr. Speaker: Who says it has not been?

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Why should this be considered.....

Mr. Speaker: I cannot understand why the hon. lady Member should be too touchy.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: There is no question of being touchy.

An Hon. Member: We are anxious to have free elections.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: That does not affect my Party at all. Therefore my point is. . . .

Mr. Speaker: Now it is over.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Whether it is on the wrong side or on the right side, you often brought it up.

Mr. Speaker: Does an observation of any hon. Member require discussion? It is not as if I say that I am not going to bring it up. My order should not be understood to have been based on Shri Chettiar's recommendation. His objection ought not to have retrospective effect. I have brought it up because I considered that this was a serious matter. Any matter relating to any irregularity or any

action which is likely to prejudice one candidate and give an advantage to another candidate will always have my attention and, if necessary, I will bring it up before the House. Shri Chettiar at the end of it said that and humourously I said, "I adopt his advice." There is nothing more to be said on this.

Shri C. D. Pande (Naini Tal): We appreciate that.

12.13 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

FIRE AT THE RAILWAY TIMBER DEPOT AT
NAWADAH

Shrimati Maimoona Sultan (Bhopal): Sir, Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Railways to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

The destruction by fire of timber worth several thousands of rupees at the Railway Timber Depot, Nawadah (Bihar).

Mr. Speaker: This is another fire? (Interruption).

An Hon. Member: Yes, Sir.

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): A fire broke out at midnight between the 26th & the 27th March, 1961, in sleepers stacked outside the Permanent Way Inspector's Store Yard at Nawadah Railway Station on the Eastern Railway which is about 35 miles from Gaya on the Gaya-Kiul Section. About 4,500 wooden sleepers were stacked near the main line. On receipt of the report from the Station Master, the Assistant Engineer, Gaya, proceeded to the spot by train immediately alongwith the Railway Protection Force Fire Fighting Squad and reached there at 3.45 A.M. A call

was sent to the Gaya Civil Fire Brigade also which reached the site by road at about 3 A.M. The fire was extinguished at about 5.30 A.M. About 2,600 sleepers were burnt in the fire and the total loss is estimated at Rs. 64,000 approximately.

2. A Senior Scale Officers' enquiry has been ordered and the cause of the fire is under investigation.

Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi (Puri): Sir, there was such a big fire on the Punjab side. Now there is another fire in Bihar. How is it that in the first year of the Third Plan all the railway property is on fire?

Shrimati Maimoona Sultan: May I know if this tragedy has been in the nature of a pure accident or is it that the possibility of sabotage cannot be entirely ruled out, because it is a strange coincidence that within a very short time of the other incident at Dhilwal we have another incident at Nawadah? What is the Government's information?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The officers' enquiry is going on. We have to await a report.

Shrimati Maimoona Sultan: To whom has this enquiry been entrusted?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: It is an enquiry by senior scale officers.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): What does that mean? Is it by the head of the department or by the divisional officers? All of them are senior scale officers.

Mr. Speaker: The amount here is Rs. 64,000. Both the reports will be placed on the Table of the House as soon as a report is received and the Government takes action thereon.

12.16 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

AUDIT REPORT, DEFENCE SERVICE, 1961
AND APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): Sir, on behalf of Shri Morarji Desai, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers:—

(i) Audit Report, Defence Services, 1961 under Article 151(1) of the Constitution. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-2788/61].

(ii) Appropriation Accounts of the Defence Services for the year 1959-60 and Commercial Appendix thereto. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-2789/61].

AMENDMENT TO THE PUNJAB MOTOR VEHICLES RULES

Dr. P. Subbarayan: Sir, on behalf of Shri Raj Bahadur, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. H(T)14-168/58 published in Himachal Pradesh Gazette dated the 25th November, 1960 making certain amendment to the Punjab Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940 as applied to Himachal Pradesh, under sub-section (3) of Section 133 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2790/61].

12.17 hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH AND HUNDRED
AND SIXTEENTH REPORTS

Shri Dasappa (Bangalore): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports of the Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Transport and Communications:—

(1) Hundred and Fifteenth Report on the Training and Employment of Civil Pilots; and

(2) Hundred and Sixteenth Report on Hindustan Shipyard Limited (Reports and Accounts).