

and Other Backward Classes in the State of Assam, during the current year.

सच लोक सभा आयोग

१२५६. श्री क० भ० मालवीय : क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि संघ लोक सेवा आयोग द्वारा इण्टरव्यू लिये जाने के समय स्थानीय प्रोफेसरों और विगेषज्ञों की सहायता ली जाती है, और

(ख) यदि हा, तो क्या इस पद्धति के परिणामस्वरूप आयोग द्वारा स्थानीय विद्यार्थियों अथवा अभ्यर्थियों का चुनाव अधिक मात्रा में नहीं हुआ है ?

गृह-कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्र. (श्री दातार): (क) मध्य लोक सेवा आयोग द्वारा इण्टरव्यू बोर्ड में विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के विशेषज्ञ और प्रोफेसरों को सलाहकार के रूप में सम्मिलित किया जाता है। स्थानीय अथवा प्रादेशिक आधार की अपेक्षा आयोग इन सलाहकारों को विशिष्ट चयन के लिए उनके विशेष ज्ञान को ही ध्यान में रख कर चुनता है।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

Forged Currency

1260. { Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri Warior:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi authorities have recently unearthed a gang dealing in forged currency;

(b) if so, whether that gang had machinery for printing forged currency; and

(c) the persons arrested in this connection?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. E. Bhagat): (a) to (c). The whole matter is still under police investigation and it would not be in the public interest to disclose, at this stage, either the facts of the case or the nature of the investigation.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

EXPLOSION IN KANPUR GOODS SHED

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of an Adjournment Motion from Shri Braj Raj Singh, Shri Jagdish Awasthi and Shri Harish Chander Sharma regarding—

“The failure of the Railway Administration to take adequate safety measures in the transhipment loading and unloading of crackers and explosives resulting in the death of three persons and injuries to six and also extensive loss to public property on 3rd September 1957 at Kanpur”

What is the source of the hon. Member's information?

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): In answer to a question on the floor of the House on the 27th August the hon Minister stated that the booking of crackers and explosives had been stopped. Only seven days after that we hear of this explosion which took place at Kanpur resulting in the death of three persons and injuries to six. This is a matter of urgent public importance.

Shri Raghunath Singh (Varanasi): I have tabled a Short Notice Question on this.

Mr. Speaker: I have also received an Adjournment Motion from Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Shri Premji R Assar—

“To discuss the situation arising out of the serious explosion that occurred on 3rd September 1957, in the Cooperganj rail shed at Kanpur resulting in the death of three persons and injuries to several others”.

and another from Shri S. M. Banerjee and Shri K. T. K. Tangamani regarding—

“Explosion in Kanpur goods shed on 3rd September 1957 resulting in death of three persons, injuries to many others and damage to railway property”.

They have attached paper cuttings with it. I have received a Short Notice Question also. What has the hon. Minister to say?

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): There was a similar explosion at Asansol and another at Katpadi. This is the third explosion. We were told that these transshipments would be stopped, but these explosions have not stopped. I would like to know whether proper safety measures are being taken in the case of such transshipments. That is the point I would like to ask the hon. Railway Minister.

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): Sir, I have not been able to collect much material about the Kanpur explosion, but I will recount the steps that we have taken after the first explosion at Asansol.

On 2.8.1957 I made a statement in the House on the explosion which occurred at Asansol on 31.7.57 and again on 27.8.57 the Deputy Minister made a statement in the House on the explosion which took place at Katpadi on 21.8.57. In both these explosions consignments of fireworks were involved. The explosions were of severe intensity in which twenty-two persons died and 12 received injuries.

Enquiries were immediately instituted into the cause of these explosions by the Railway and the Police Authorities and also by the Chief Inspector of Explosives and some of the enquiries are in progress. A magisterial enquiry into the explosion at Katpadi was held on 2.9.57 by the State Government of Madras and the findings are awaited. Regarding the explosion at Asansol it would appear from the investigations so far

made that the consignments which exploded may have contained explosives, the manufacture, possession, sale and transport of which is prohibited under the Explosives Act. But a final conclusion can be reached only after the enquiries by the Inspector of Explosives are completed.

As a precautionary measure the booking of fire-works has been stopped on all railways with effect from 23rd August 1957.

Certain representations, however, have been received requesting relaxation of these restrictions; but this cannot be considered until the enquiries into the causes of the explosions are finalised.

All these consignments have been booked from one place, Sivakasi. Even the packages which have exploded at Kanpur were received from Sivakasi. As I have said, all the consignments have been stopped. These packages—44 packages—of crackers which were lying in the goods shed at Kanpur were received there on various dates. The oldest one was received there on 6th February and the latest on the 29th August. They were received there on various dates—on 2nd August, 9th August, 29th August. Perhaps the one received on the 29th August was the last consignment which might have been booked on a date previous to 23rd August from Sivakasi—because we had stopped all consignments from 23rd August. These consignments were not taken by the consignee and were lying in the goods shed.

It is too early for me to say what was the cause of the explosion at the Kanpur shed, because an enquiry is being held there, and the Inspector of Explosives also has been approached to make an investigation. The explosion was of a severe intensity. The sheds were blown off. We have also called a conference here of the Intelligence Bureau, the Department of Explosives and Railway officers to examine the question further.

At this stage I am not in a position to say more than that. But I can say

[Shri Jagjivan Ram]

that ample precautions were taken in the goods shed for guarding the consignments, as is apparent from newspaper reports that even some Security people were killed. So we have taken all possible precautionary measures in this matter and I cannot say what exactly is the cause of the explosions.

I may add one thing more. Whether prohibited chemicals and explosives had been used in the fire-works or not is to be certified by the manufacturers who send the consignments, and we have no arrangements for checking it. We have to take their certificate.

Shri Supakar (Sambalpur): May I know why the enquiry into the Asansol explosion has not been completed although the explosion itself took place in the month of July?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I wanted to have a chemical test of the contents of these things. Instead of taking samples from the manufacturers themselves, we decided that sample from consignments which were in transit in some of the wagons should be taken and examined by the Inspectorate of Explosives, and they are examining it. As I have said, there are some indications but we cannot finally say, because we have not received the final report of the Inspector of Explosives.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri (Berhampore): In view of the fact that all these consignments were sent from one centre, namely Sivakasi, what is the guarantee that many more such consignments from Sivakasi, or other places, are not already on their way under transit or deposited in the different railway godowns in different parts of the country, and what steps have the Railway Ministry taken to ensure that there will be no recurrence of such explosions?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh (Sasaram): They should all be destroyed.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: So far as I can say, we have stopped the movement of the consignments also.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: What about the consignments already taken in?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: We have stopped the movement of wagons on their way also. On that point we have taken precautions. Here also all precautions from the railway side were taken—because the packages were in storage and they were being guarded.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: The hon. Minister makes a statement on the floor of the House that all possible precautions were taken, and he also assures that consignments have been stopped. But it seems that consignments are on the way or are deposited in various railway godowns. So we press that this adjournment motion should be allowed.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: And the hon. Minister is not opposing the adjournment motion.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): It has become a regular feature

Mr. Speaker: It is a serious matter. For some time past a number of questions, Short Notice questions and Calling Attention notices have been received. A starred question, as was referred to by the hon. Minister, about the explosion at Asansol was answered on 2nd August 1957. It is not easy to understand, when the Minister had come to a conclusion and issued directions on 23rd August that no more consignments ought to be sent, and a consignment was received in Kanpur on the 28th or 29th, why it was not examined before it burst on the 3rd. I find that as many as twenty-two people had died, and three persons died at Kanpur. It is a serious matter. Merely saying "I have issued instructions" does not satisfy this House. As a matter of fact, I will read out the other ones also which I have gathered as I was trying to avoid as much excitement in the House as possible. That question

was answered. A statement was made by the Minister regarding the Asansol explosion. Then a statement was made by the Deputy Minister about the Katpadi explosion. Eleven people died there. It is still under enquiry. These three notices have been received today. Then a Short Notice Question was raised for discussion on the recent explosions, by Mr. Ramaswami. For want of time during the current session it was not possible to accommodate such discussion. A starred question regarding the explosion has, however, been admitted on the 11th. I would like to allow, whatever might be the work before the House, on the 11th I will devote two hours after the day's normal work is over for discussion of this matter to see that further mischief may be avoided and all possible steps may be taken. In view of this it is not necessary to pursue this adjournment motion. Two hours will be devoted for this discussion on the 11th. Earlier in the day the question will be answered. A reference will be made and whatever is available with the Minister so far will be placed before the House. In the meantime all steps will be taken to see that whatever consignment is on the way or is in the godown will be tested and no more such accidents are allowed to occur.

Shri Goray (Poona): Are you sending anybody to Sivakasi to make investigations on the spot?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Step has already been taken. The Madras Government has been requested, and also the Inspector of Explosives.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): I would like to know if the report of the Government Inspector of Railways and also of the Chief Inspector of Explosives who have already enquired into the matter would be ready by the 11th.

And secondly, Dipavali is fast approaching. So many consignments might have been booked. Wherever

they are in transit they must be properly protected and the staff should be warned.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: They should not be kept in goods sheds.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: We have separate sheds for explosives at some stations.

Shri S. V. Ramaswami (Salem): If not the final report, we should have at least an interim report about this.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon (Mukandapuram): There was another disturbing news in one of the Madras Dailies that some of the hon. Members of Parliament have approached the Minister of Railways so that the stock frozen in Sivakasi may be released for Dipavali and that those stocks are going to be released. I wanted to enquire about that.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): So far as the Sivakasi matter is concerned, in view of what has happened, no stock is going to be released from there. And I am sure my colleague is going to see to everything that has come out, whether it is in transit or stored somewhere, and deal with it adequately and immediately.

Mr. Speaker: In view of this statement we shall have a full discussion, which will be as good as a discussion on this motion, on the 11th after the normal work before the House is over, and I shall devote two full hours. In the meanwhile, the hon. Minister will kindly see that the report is expedited or at any rate, whatever material is available, is placed before the House.

Shri Dasappa (Bangalore): There was a similar explosion in Mysore City.

Mr. Speaker: That may also be brought to the notice of the House.

Shri Dasappa: I want to suggest that it is not confined to Sivakasi, but there is something wrong in the whole affair

[Shri Dasappa]

which needs to be looked into. Three people died, and a number of persons were injured.

Mr. Speaker: In the meanwhile if any hon. Member gets information regarding any particular wagons, he may write to the hon. Minister to take adequate steps to stop them or freeze them wherever they are in a position to do so.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: There are three Ministries involved in this. One is the Railway Ministry, another the Government Inspector of Railways who is under the Communications Ministry, and the third is the Inspector of Explosives who is under the WHS Ministry. Let those three Ministers be present on that day

Shri Raghunath Singh: The Home Minister also

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: An assurance was given on the floor of the House

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid all hon. Members are taking part in the discussion simultaneously. It is true that we do not know what the jurisdiction of the Inspector of Explosives was when they were loaded. The hon. Minister has said there is no agency to find out whether it contains explosives or not. It seems to be rather curious. When combustible material is put in there, whatever might be the opinion of the person who puts it in, the persons there must be competent to judge whether it is combustible. Precautions are no doubt taken to put them in separate wagons. That alone is not enough. As a matter of fact, it has arisen here that they are not ordinary crackers but regular combustible material which will explode. So, the Minister who is concerned with ammunition will also take part in the discussion and explain to the House what exactly the position is with a view to preventing occurrences of a similar nature.

In view of what has been stated, I do not propose to give my consent to

these adjournment motions. There will be a regular discussion on the 11th.

Shri Tangamani: One question, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Whatever the hon. Members have to say, they will write to the hon. Minister of Railways.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENT ON FLOOD CONTROL PROGRAMME AND FLOOD SITUATION

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement on the flood control programme and the flood situation in the country.

[Placed in Library. See No. S-246/57]

EXPENDITURE TAX BILL—contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now resume further discussion of the Expenditure Tax Bill.

Out of nine hours allotted for the general discussion and the clause-by-clause consideration, seven hours and 52 minutes have already been availed of, and one hour and 8 minutes now remain.

After the clause by clause consideration is over, the third reading of the Bill will be taken up for which one hour has been allotted.

Clause 5 was under consideration. The Deputy Finance Minister may continue his reply.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon (Mukandapuram): Yesterday at the close of the debate the hon. Finance Minister said that regarding clause 5(1) he will look into my amendment, which desires that any expenditure that comes out of borrowing should come within the scope of the expenditure tax while the clause as it is lays down that borrowing for the purpose of expenditure liable to expenditure tax will be exempt from the tax altogether.