

"Kashmir Tourists"

421. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to State—

(a) the number of Indian and foreign tourists who visited Kashmir in 1959 till the 31st August, 1959, and

(b) the facilities extended to them?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 3,248 Indian and 1,011 Foreigners, visited Kashmir during the period January to April 30th 1959. Information from May to 31st August 1959 is not yet available.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table [See Appendix I, annexure No 75]

CORRECTION TO THE ANSWER TO UNSTARRED QUESTION No 1884 DATED 17-12-1958

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawar Khan): I beg to lay a statement correcting the reply to Unstarred question No 1884 dated 17-12-1958 on the Table of the House

STATEMENT

The answer to part (b) of the question would now be as under—

All the nine stations on the section will be provided with rudimentary locking.

12 hrs.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

ARREST OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES PERSONS IN WEST KHANDESH

Shrimati Benu Chakravartty (Basir hat): May I ask, Sir, as to what has happened to my adjournment motion about the situation in Pondicherry?

Mr Speaker: Before that there is another motion, No 37 notice of which was given by Shri Gaikwad and other hon Members regarding the arrest of about more than 2000 Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes

agriculturists in West Khandesh, East Khandesh and Nasik Districts of Bombay State during the last three or four days, who in accordance with the recommendation of the Planning Commission as regards reclamation and distribution of Government waste lands have brought under cultivation such lands. This is purely a matter of law and order, but inasmuch as it refers to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes I thought I will pass it on to the hon Home Minister. Has he got any information regarding this matter?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): We have called for some information.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad (Nasik): May I say a few words?

Mr Speaker: No. Let him give the full information to the hon Home Minister.

Shri Datar: Without prejudice to this objection that you have referred to we have called for information which I might privately supply to him but not on the floor of the House because it may create a bad precedent (*Interruption*).

Mr Speaker: We are all interested in every subject that concerns the legislatures of the States. We are all interested because we are all citizens of India. But those questions have to be asked in those State legislatures. If any hon Member wants any information I will ask him to contact the hon Home Minister. He is willing to make enquiries. Beyond that we cannot do and convert this House into a State legislature. I therefore withhold my consent to this adjournment motion.

Now, the next adjournment motion.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: I have not followed what the hon Home Minister has said.

Mr Speaker: The hon Minister has said that he will get the information.

and pass it on to the hon Members who have tabled this adjournment motion. That is all that I would allow. We are also interested in it and therefore I have advised the hon Home Minister to take this step.

SITUATION IN PONDICHERRY

Mr Speaker: Now, the next adjournment motion is regarding the situation prevailing in Pondicherry tabled by Shrimati Renu Chakravartty, Shri Tangamani and other hon Members. It reads:

'The situation prevailing in Pondicherry when elections to the Representative Assembly are to take place from 11th August, with the police taking a partisan attitude arresting the candidates and the election workers of the People's Front, thereby affecting the conduct of free and fair elections.'

Where does she get all this information from?

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I was there in Pondicherry myself and I found that there

Mr. Speaker: In her presence the arrests were made?

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I was not present when the arrests were made but a candidate has been put into jail on a charge of just small fracas at which he was not even present at that time. Not only that. Under the French law the Public Prosecutor can just say "I am not going to give bail" and therefore it becomes a non-bailable arrest and he is kept in jail. This has happened on more than one occasion. Shri Ramalingam, one of the candidates, is still in jail. There are also people who are working for the People's Front candidates. Shri Theeradi was actually kidnapped but after being rescued when they went to police station, the police did not make an entry in the diary. Next day they arrested him and put him in the jail.

There is no appeal against it. This is the type of thing that is going on.

Mr Speaker: How long ago was the hon lady Member there?

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: About seven days ago.

Mr Speaker: What has happened since?

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: We have been making representations but nothing has happened. The election is on the 11th August.

An Hon Member: Ask them to arrest all the candidates!

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): About the elections in Pondicherry, we have received reports mostly from Pondicherry. They deal with Pondicherry, Karaikal and two other places where elections are going to take place on the 11th August. We hear that (Interruption) There are two other places, Mahe and Yanam. These elections are now taking place because the Assembly was dissolved as the Council of State Ministers did not have the majority. Now, you know that in Pondicherry whenever the elections

Mr Speaker: If candidates are arrested on trivial charges that is a matter which I have allowed to come. He need not go into past history as to why elections are taking place now.

Shri Tangamani: Whenever elections took place in the past, that is, before this *de facto* transfer took place there has always been rowdiness. Some peace loving people had to evacuate from Pondicherry. That has been in the past. Now representations have been made to the Chief Commissioner by the leader of this People's Democratic Front that a particular Police Officer, one Shri Palaniappan has been taking a partisan attitude. Instances have been brought to notice as to how he goes about in the jeep and canvasses for the Congress Party. He has also threatened the villagers that if they