

March. The Chairman of the N.N.R.C., Lieut-General Thimayya, has already arrived in India.

16. The eighty-eight POWs who have been brought to India are at present living in the Delhi Cantonment. They consist of seventy-four North Koreans, two South Koreans and twelve Chinese. The majority of them are young men and the largest group consists of students. There are also some doctors, engineers, tradesmen, technicians and farm labourers among them. Further enquiries are being made about their qualifications and also about the neutral countries they wish to go to. After these enquiries have been completed, full information will be sent to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

17. The N.N.R.C. submitted its final report to the two Commands on the 21st February and was dissolved on the 22nd February. The two reports of the N.N.R.C. are at present being printed and will soon be placed on the Table of the House. Apart from disposal of the eighty-eight POWs who have been brought to India, the responsibilities assigned to India in Korea have come to end. India accepted these responsibilities at the request of both the Commands in order to help in settling the question of repatriation of prisoners of war. Because of a disagreement between the two Commands on this question, the signing of an Armistice was held up for more than a year. Eventually, an agreement was reached which was based on some proposals which had been put forward by India in the Seventh Session of the General Assembly.

18. India's representatives in Korea had to deal with a complex problem and their difficulties were aggravated by the differences between the two Commands. In carrying out this difficult and delicate task, India's representatives both in the Commission and the Custodial Force, showed a high sense of duty. Their patience, tact and firmness, in many difficult situations, earned them the respect of those who came in contact with them.

STATEMENT ON KOREA

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The statement laid on the Table of the House is rather a long one, and I do not propose to take up the time of the House by reading it through. It is a factual statement, and if I may say so, there is nothing new in it which hon. Members do not know and which has not appeared at various times in the Press. It is really a kind of continuation of the account of what our Forces had to do in Korea since I made a statement in this House in December last. Now, that chapter is practically close so far as the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission is concerned.

The only point remaining over for us is the fact that we have got 88 of those old prisoners of war here in Delhi with us, and we are holding them on behalf of the United Nations—that is, not the United Nations Command, but the United Nations Secretariat in New York. We have referred the matter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations as to what we are to do with them.

These 88 persons are those who refused to be repatriated and at the same time refused to be handed over to their old detaining sides. Out of the 88, 2 are from the Southern Camp and 86 are from the Northern Camp. These are the persons who first elected to go to various neutral countries, and among the neutral countries named was India. They could not be sent to neutral countries unless the neutral countries accepted them and there were arrangements for them to be sent.

Some of them said at the moment that they wanted to go to the United States of America, but the United States were not a neutral country; so, they could not be sent there. These difficulties could not be got over, and we pointed this out to them before our Custodian Force came back. We said again that either we could send them back to their own homes or hand them

over to the U.N. Command. A number of them said that they were prepared to be handed over to the U.N. Command, provided they gave an assurance and a guarantee that they would not be handed over to the South Korean Government or the Government of Formosa. The U.N. Command were not prepared to give this guarantee to them, and in fact said, "As soon as you come to us, we will release you, and you can go anywhere you like."

The result was that we had the choice of leaving them in the Camp and coming away, or bringing them with us. When these people learnt that we were on the point of leaving, they,—some of them, at any rate,—were much agitated that they might be left behind, and some of them even threatened something in the nature of suicide. They said, "We won't be safe here if you go away; therefore, we might as well commit suicide." Maybe, it was an idle threat. Now, we could not very well leave them in the lurch, and so we brought them here with us, and here they are with us at the present moment.

We are in communication with the U.N. Headquarters in New York as to what to do with them. That, more or less, closes the chapter of our work in Korea in connection with the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission and the Custodian Force. I am sure that, as previously, this House would like me to express on its behalf our high appreciation of the work of our representatives in Korea.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

PRESENTATION OF FOURTH REPORT

Shri M. A. Ayyangar (Tirupati): Sir, I beg to present the Fourth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

PART ONE OF THE REPORT OF THE DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION FOR 1951-52; DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 1954-55

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Part One of the Report of the Damodar Valley Corporation for the year 1951-52, under sub-section (5) of section 45 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948. [Placed in Library. See No. S-76/54.]

I also beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Damodar Valley Corporation Budget Estimates for 1954-55 in accordance with sub-section (3) of section 44 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948. [Placed in Library. See No. S-77/54.]

GENERAL BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION—contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now resume further discussion on the General Budget. Before the discussion is resumed, I should like to remove one misapprehension or misunderstanding in the minds of hon. Members. Some of them are inclined to think that if a list is given or a name is sent, they need not try and make an attempt by rising to catch the eye of the Speaker. I want to make the position clear, that it is not sufficient merely to send in one's name or party's name. Each hon. Member whose name is included in the list has to make an attempt, of course, not by disturbing the proceedings but by rising, to show to the Speaker that if called upon he is willing to speak. After this explanation, I need not say anything further.

An Hon. Member: It is very heartening.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri (Gauhati): Can I attempt to catch the eye of the Speaker?