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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
New Delhi.

CONTENTS

[Debates Volume I—10th May to 22nd May, 1957]

	COLUMNS
<i>No. 1 Friday, 10th May, 1957.</i>	
Homage to Martyrs of 1857	1—2
Nomination to Panel of Chairmen	2
Members Sworn	2—20
Daily Digest	21—22
<i>No. 2 Saturday, 11th May, 1957.</i>	
Members Sworn	23
Re: Motions for Adjournment	24—25
Election of Speaker	26—38
Daily Digest	39—40
<i>No. 3 Monday, 13th May, 1957.</i>	
Members Sworn	41
President's Address	41—60
President's Assent to Bills	60—61
Motions for adjournment—	
Relief to East Bengal Refugees	61—68
Food scarcity conditions in West Bengal	68—71
Removal of certain statues	71—75
Food situation in the country	75
Strike by Burmah-Shell Employees	75—78
Papers laid on the Table	41, 78—80
Petition regarding Indian Posts and Telegraphs Act and Rules framed thereunder	
Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Bill	80—82
Introduced	82—82
Daily Digest	83—86
<i>No. 4 Tuesday, 14th May, 1957.</i>	
Member Sworn	87
Question of Privilege	87
Oral Answers to Questions—	
Starred Questions Nos. 1, 3, 4, 6 to 11, 13 to 16, 18 to 20, 22 and 23	87—120
Short Notice Question No. 1	120—22
Written Answers to Questions—	
Starred Questions Nos. 5, 17 and 21	122—23
Unstarred Questions Nos. 1, 2, 4 to 16.	123—32
Motion for adjournment—	
Government's decision on Report about Mahbubnagar Railway Accident	131—36
Panel of Chairmen	136
Papers laid on the Table	137—40
Calling attention to matter of urgent public importance—	
Rise in food prices	140—48
Election to Committees	148—51
Indian Council of Agricultural Research	148
National Food and Agricultural Organisation Liaison Committee	149

Indian Central Oilseeds Committee	150
Indian Central Tobacco Committee	150—81
Railway Budget—1957-58—presented	151—68
Business of the House	168
Motion on address by the President	168—292
Daily Digest	293—98

No. 5 Wednesday, 15th May, 1957.

Members Sworn	299
Oral Answers to Questions—	
Starred Questions Nos. 24 to 46	299—335
Written Answers to Questions—	
Starred Questions Nos. 6-A and 47 to 62	336—46
Unstarred Questions Nos. 18 to 32	346—55
Papers laid on the Table	355
Motion on Address by the President	356—464
Presentation of General Budget, 1957-58	464—505
Finance (No. 2) Bill, 1957—Introduced	505
Wealth Tax Bill, 1957—Introduced	505—06
Expenditure Tax Bill, 1957—Introduced	506
Railway Passenger Fares Bills, 1957—Introduced	506
Provisional Collection of Taxes (Temporary Amendment) Bill, 1957—Introduced	507—08
Daily Digest	509—12

No. 6 Thursday, 16th May, 1957.

Member Sworn	513
Oral Answers to Questions—	
Starred Questions Nos. 63 to 82 and 92	513—49
Short Notice Question No. 2	549—52
Written Answers to Questions—	
Starred Questions Nos. 83 to 86 and 89 to 108	552—63
Unstarred Questions Nos. 33 to 50	563—70
Motion for Adjournment—	
Price of Sugarcane	571—73
Papers laid on the Table	573—74
Statement re Dispute between Burmah Shell Oil Storage and Distributing Com- pay Ltd., and Petroleum Workers' Union.	574—76
Motion on Address by the President	576—718
Daily Digest	719—22

No. 7 Friday, 17th May, 1957.

Member Sworn	723—767
Oral Answers to Questions—	
Starred Questions Nos. 109 to 114, 116 to 120, 123 to 127 and 129 to 133	723—57
Written Answers to Questions—	
Starred Questions Nos. 115, 122, 128 and 134 to 138	758—62
Unstarred Questions Nos. 51 to 60	762—67
Point of Information	767
Papers laid on the Table	768—70
Business of the House	770—71
Election to Committees	771—74
Court of Aligarh Muslim University	771—72

Court of University of Delhi	772-73
Court of Banaras Hindu University	772-73
Sansad (Court) of Visva-Bharati	773-74
Election of Deputy Speaker	774-84
Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill—	
Introduced	784
Statement re Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Ordinance	784-85
Motion on Address by the President	785-806, 843-53
Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Bill	806-42
Motion to consider	806
Resolution re appointment of a Second Pay Commission	853-54
Death of Shri H.G. Pant	854
Daily Digest	855-58
No. 8 Monday, 20th May, 1957.	
Member sworn	859
Oral Answers to Questions—	
Starred Questions Nos. 138-A, 169, 139 to 144, 152, 153, 147 to 151 and 154 to 157	859-95
Short Notice Question No. 3	895-98
Written Answers to Questions—	
Starred Questions Nos. 146, 153, 158 to 166, 168, 170 to 178, 180 to 186	899-911
Unstarred Questions Nos. 61 to 98	911-28
Bills laid on the Table	928-29
Message from the President	930
Statement re Finance (No. 2) Bill, 1957	930-33
Estimates Committee—	
Sixty-eighth Report	933
Public Accounts Committee—	
Twenty-fifth Report	934-35
Calling attention to matter of urgent public importance—	
Token strike by Naval Dockyard Workers, Bombay	935-37
Life Insurance Corporation (Amendment) Bill—	
Introduced	938-40
Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Bill—	
Introduced	940
State Bank of India (Amendment) Bill—	
Introduced	940
Statement re Life Insurance Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance	940-42
Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Bill	942-98
Clauses 2 to 3 and 1	942-55
Motion to Pass	995
Provisional Collection of Taxes (Temporary Amendment) Bill	999-1017
Motion consider	999
Clauses 1 and 2	1017
Motion to pass	1017
Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill	1017-88
Motion to consider	1017
Clauses 2 to 4 and 1	1069-87
Motion to Pass as amended	1087
Daily Digest	1089-94

No. 9 Tuesday 21st May, 1957.

Oral Answers to Questions—

Starred Questions Nos. 187 to 194 and 196 to 205. 1095—1128

Written Answers to Questions—

Starred Questions Nos. 195, 206, 208 to 210 and 212 to 229 1129—40

Unstarred Questions No. 91 to 133 1140—62

Death of Shri T. Prakasam 1162—64

Papers laid on the Table 1164

Statement re Demands for Excess Grants, 1953-54 1164

Calling attention to matter of urgent public importance—

Sugarcane prices 1164—67

Election to Committees 1167—68

Central Advisory Committee of the National Cadet Corps 1167—68

All India Institute of Medical Sciences 1168

Railway Budget—General Discussion 1168—1306

Daily Digest 1307—12

No. 10 Wednesday, 22nd May, 1957.

Members Sworn 1313

Oral Answers to Questions—

Starred Questions Nos. 230 to 234, 236 to 243, 250 and 252 to 261. 1313—50

Short Notice Question No. 4. 1350—53

Written Answers to Questions—

Starred Questions Nos. 231, 235, 247, 249, 251 and 263 to 280 1353—68

Unstarred Questions Nos. 134 to 169. 1368—88

Motion for Adjournment—

Harassment of Scheduled Caste converts to Buddhism. 1388-89

Papers laid on the Table 1389-90

Calling attention to Matter of urgent public importance—

"Go-slow" action of telegraph workers 1390—93

Central Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill—

Introduced. 1393—95

Railway Budget—General Discussion. 1395—1502

Resolution re Thermo-nuclear Test Explosions 1502—78

Daily Digest. 1579—84

Index 1—128

N. B. The Sign above a name of a Member on Questions, which were orally answered, indicates that the Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by the Member.

LOK SABHA

Monday, 13th May, 1957

The Lok Sabha met at Twelve of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

(No Questions)

MEMBERS SWORN

Mr. Speaker: Those hon. Members who have not already taken the oath will do so now.

Shri Ram Sahai (Khajuraho).

Shri Amjad Ali (Dhubri).

Shri Digvijaya Narain Singh (Pupri).

Shri V. P. Nayar (Quilon).

Shrimati Rani Kesharkumari Devi (Raipur—Reserved).

Shri M. Khuda Baksh (Murshidabad).

Shri Sadhan Gupta (Calcutta—East).

Shri Suresh Chandra Choudhury (Dumka).

Mr. Speaker: Is there any other Member who has not so far taken the oath? None.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Secretary: Sir, I lay on the Table a copy of the President's Address to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 13th May, 1957.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

राष्ट्रपति : संसद् के सदस्यगण, देश के लगभग २० करोड़ निर्वाचकों द्वारा चुने गए

20 L.S.D.—1

आप लोगों ने और राज्यों के विधान मंडलों के सदस्यों ने, हमारे संविधान की प्रक्रियाओं के अनुसार, एक बार फिर इस गणराज्य के राष्ट्रपति के उच्च पद के लिए मुझे चुना है। मैं इस आदर से पूरी तरह अभिन्न हूँ और आपने जो विश्वास मुझ में प्रकट किया है उसके लिए आपका आभारी हूँ। मेरी यह प्रयत्न रहेगा कि जिस विश्वास और प्रेम का इतने समय से मैं पात्र रहा हूँ, सदा उसके योग्य बना रहूँ।

हमारे गणराज्य के इतिहास में यह दूसरी संसद् है और इसके सदस्यों के रूप में आपका स्वागत करते हुए मुझे बहुत खुशी हो रही है। आप में से कुछ लोग संसद् के किसी एक सदन के सदस्य रहे हैं अथवा राज्यों के विधान मंडलों से बहुमूल्य सांसद अनुभव अपने साथ ले कर आए हैं। आप लोगों में कुछ ऐसे भी हैं जो संसद् के लिए पहली बार चुने गए हैं। आप सब को अपने जीवन में तथा संसद् के सदस्य के रूप में इस संसद् के अन्दर और चुनाव क्षेत्रों में अपने देशवासियों की सेवा के रचनात्मक काम के लिए विभिन्न और व्यापक अवसर मिलेंगे।

हमारी द्वितीय पंचवर्षीय योजना का यह दूसरा साल है। योजना के पहले वर्ष में हमारी गति अनिवार्य रूप से कुछ मन्द हुई है, जिसका कारण किसी हद तक राज्यों का पुनर्गठन है। इसके कारण हम पर अधिक दबाव पड़ा है और इस बात की आवश्यकता है कि योजना की शेष अवधि में सरकार और जनता द्वारा और अधिक परिश्रम किया जाए। मेरी सरकार इस बात को भली प्रकार जानती है।

[राष्ट्रपति]

देश की आर्थिक स्थिति, विशेषकर योजना से सम्बन्ध रखने वाली बातें जो इस समय हमारे सामने हैं, गम्भीर चिन्तन का विषय हैं और मेरे मन्त्रियों का ध्यान उस ओर है, किन्तु इस स्थिति को भयावह कहना गलत होगा। केन्द्रीय और राज्यों के घाटे के बजट, योजना की आवश्यकताएं, विदेशी विनिमय के साधनों का अभाव और कुछ बाहरी मामले इस बात की मांग करते हैं कि हम दृढ़ और योजनाबद्ध प्रयत्न करें। आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि हम साधनों को सुरक्षित रखें और मितव्ययता द्वारा कुछ चीजों के आयात पर प्रतिबन्ध, निर्यात व्यापार के विस्तार और उद्योग तथा कृषि के क्षेत्रों में राष्ट्रीय आत्मनिर्भरता में वृद्धि द्वारा इन माध्यमों का विस्तार करें। इस बात की भी जरूरत है कि उत्पादक कार्यों के लिए धन जुटाया जाय, अन्तः उत्पादक कामों को हाथ में न लिया जाए और अतिसंग्रह और सट्टे की समाज-विरोधी प्रवृत्तियों का दमन किया जाय। केवल सरकार द्वारा ही नहीं बल्कि जनता द्वारा भी प्रयत्न करने और सावधान रहने से ही इस काम में ठोस सफलता प्राप्त हो सकती है।

जिन कमियों का मैंने जिक्र किया है उन्हें दूर करने का अधिक आसान तरीका यह हो सकता है कि हम निर्माण-सम्बन्धी काम को स्थगित कर दें पर वह तरीका रचनात्मक या लाभदायक नहीं है, क्योंकि समस्या को मुलमूलाने का यह सच्चा या स्थायी उपाय नहीं है। हमें अधिक उत्पादन करने और निर्माणकार्य में सुधार को बनाए रखने के लिए अपने साधनों को जुटाना है और उन्हें सुरक्षित रखना है। मेरी सरकार इस समस्या और इसके लिए आवश्यक प्रयत्न से पूर्ण रूप से अवगत है। उसे इस बात की भी चिन्ता है कि इन तात्कालिक कठिनाइयों के कारण उन्नति के मार्ग में बाधा न पड़न पावे और जहां जैसी जरूरत हो कार्यप्रणाली में संशोधन

द्वारा या योजनानुसार साधनों को जुटा कर उन कठिनाइयों पर काबू पाया जावे और किसी भी अवस्था में निर्धारित लक्ष्यों की प्राप्ति और विकास की गति धीमी न होने दी जावे।

ऐसे प्रयत्न की सफलता में जनमत का बहुत बड़ा स्थान है, और यह प्रायः निर्णायक सिद्ध होता है। जनसाधारण का दृढ़ निश्चय और जोश, अनुशासन में रहने के लिए उनकी तत्परता, प्रयत्नों के लिए आवाहन का स्वागत और समाज-विरोधी व्यवहार, जैसे अतिसंचय, फिजूलखर्ची आदि की रोकथाम करने का उनका संकल्प ही देश के लिए दूसरी पंचवर्षीय योजना की अवधि के इस संकटकाल को पार करने में सहायक होगा।

मंसूद के सदस्यगण, इस सम्बन्ध में मेरी सरकार जो नीति अनायेगी तथा प्रयास करेगी, जिनके द्वारा कठिनाइयां दूर कर हमें सफलता प्राप्त करनी है, उस नीति के समर्थन के लिए विशेष तथा सतत प्रयत्न की देश आप से बहुत आशा करता है।

यद्यपि अनाज के उत्पादन में वृद्धि हुई है और दैवी विपत्तियों के कारण जो हानि हुई है, विशेषकर बिहार और पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश के कुछ जिलों में, उसे छोड़ कर वृद्धि बराबर बनी रही है, हमें खाद्य के सम्बन्ध में देश को आत्म-भरित बनाने के लिए अभी बहुत कुछ करना है। अनाज की चढ़ी हुई कीमतों के गिरने के कुछ लक्षण दिखाई दिये हैं और मेरी सरकार ने कीमतों को कम करने के लिए बहुत से उपाय किये हैं। भरपूर प्रयत्नों के फलस्वरूप अनाज का उत्पादन बढ़ा है और फसल में सुधार हुआ है। कुछ मोटे अनाजों को छोड़कर, जिन पर जलवायु का बुरा प्रभाव पड़ा है, अनुमान है कि दूसरे अनाजों का उत्पादन यही नहीं कि कम नहीं हुआ बल्कि पहले से बहुत बढ़ा भी है।

अभी जो अभाव है उसे दूर करने और कीमतों में तेजी लाने के लिए सुरक्षित अन्न

भण्डार तैयार करने के उद्देश्य से मेरी सरकार ने विदेशों से अनाज आयात करने की व्यवस्था की है। अनाज भण्डार बनाने का एक विस्तृत कार्यक्रम तैयार किया गया है। अनाज की कीमतों में तेजी रोकने के लिए, जो स्थिति अभाव की आशंका और घबराहट तथा अतिसंचय करने की प्रवृत्ति से पैदा होती है, जनता का हक निर्णायक होता है और उसका बहुत महत्व है। सरकार ने जो रुदम उठाये हैं उनके परिणाम स्वरूप और उत्पादन में वृद्धि के कारण खाद्य की स्थिति ऐसी नहीं है कि जनता किसी भी प्रकार के अविश्वास की भावना को स्थान दे। अनाज की उपलब्धि और आवश्यकता के बारे में मेरी सरकार का यह विचार है कि वह समय समय पर संसद् को खाद्य-स्थिति से अवगत करावेगी। आशा है कि अनाज के सम्बन्ध में पूरी जानकारी प्राप्त होने से निराधार आशंका, कृत्रिम अभाव और कीमतों की तेजी—इन तीनों की रोक-थाम हो सकेगी।

मेरी सरकार को यह बताने में खुशी होती है कि सामुदायिक योजना सम्बन्धी कार्यक्रम में उन्होंने अनाज के उत्पादन पर जो जोर देने निश्चय किया था, उसके फलस्वरूप बहुत लाभ हुआ है। सामुदायिक योजना और राष्ट्रीय विकास सेवा सम्बन्धी कार्यक्रम बहुत सफल रहा है। खेती, सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य और सफाई के क्षेत्रों में हमारे जो लक्ष्य थे, सफलता उनसे भी अधिक रही है। राष्ट्रीय निदर्शन प्रवीक्षण (नैशनल सांमपल सर्वे) के अनुसार, पहली पंचवर्षीय योजना के अन्तिम काल में, सामुदायिक योजना और राष्ट्रीय विकास सेवा मंडलों के क्षेत्रों में फसलों का उत्पादन सारे देश के मुकाबले में प्रायः २५ प्रतिशत अधिक हुआ। सामुदायिक योजना और राष्ट्रीय विकास सेवा के अन्तर्गत इस समय २,२२,००० ग्राम हैं।

सरकारी व्यवसायों की उल्लेखनीय उन्नति रही है और प्रायः प्रत्येक क्षेत्र में उत्पादन

निर्धारित लक्ष्य से अधिक रहा। व्यवसाय के निजी क्षेत्र में भी विस्तार हुआ है। एक परिनियत संस्था के रूप में, खादी और ग्रामोद्योग कमिशन की नियुक्ति से, ग्रामीण-उद्योगों तथा खादी को और अधिक प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा। नई बड़ी योजनाओं में, जिस योजना का हाल ही में उद्घाटन होने जा रहा है वह निविली लिग्नाइट योजना है, जिस पर कार्य इसी महीने आरम्भ हो रहा है। मेरी सरकार भारी मशीनों के निर्माण के लिए कारखानों की स्थापना को महत्वपूर्ण मानती है और इस दिशा में कार्यवाही कर रही है।

विदेशी विनिमय के साधनों पर दबाव कम करने के लिये, बड़ी योजनाओं के सम्बन्ध में मेरी सरकार ने बाद में दाम चुकाने की व्यवस्था की है। कुछ योजनाओं के सम्बन्ध में दीर्घकालीन उधार की व्यवस्था की जा रही है।

राज्यों के पुनर्गठन के बाद, संघीय प्रदेशों के लिए परामर्श-दात्री समितियाँ नियुक्त की गई हैं और हिमाचल प्रदेश, मणिपुर तथा त्रिपुरा के लिए प्रदेशीय परिषदों की स्थापना की गई है। दिल्ली के लिए शीघ्र ही एक निगम स्थापित होगा। लखदीव, मिनिकोय और भ्रमनदीव द्वीपों को मिला कर एक नवीन संघीय प्रदेश बनाया गया है और अण्डमान द्वीपों के लिये पंचवर्षीय योजना में ५,६२,५०,००० रुपये के खर्च की व्यवस्था की गई है, जिससे और कामों के अतिरिक्त इस द्वीप समूह और भारत के बीच यातायात की उचित व्यवस्था भी की जायगी।

जहाज-घाटों और आधुनिक ढंग के जहाजों के निर्माण के काम में भी विशाल-पट्टम में बहुत प्रगति हुई है और एक दूसरे जहाज-घाट के निर्माण की योजना इस समय हाथ में है।

मेरी सरकार ने हाल ही में घरों की कमी दूर करने और निवास-सम्बन्धी स्तर को ऊँचा करने, गन्दी बस्तियों में सुधार करने, बगीचों में घरों की व्यवस्था करने और औद्योगिक

[राष्ट्रपति]

क्षेत्रों में तथा कम आमदनी वाले लोगों के लिए घरों की व्यवस्था करने के लिए कुछ कदम उठाए हैं। दिल्ली और भारत के दूसरे बड़े शहरों में गन्दी बस्तियों में सुधार करने की तात्कालिक आवश्यकता है और इस समस्या पर कन्द्रीय सरकार, राज्यों की सरकारें और सम्बन्धित निगम पूरा ध्यान दे रहे हैं।

संसद् के पिछले सत्र के बाद दो अध्यादेश जारी किए गए हैं। तत्सम्बन्धी विधेयक संसद् के सामने रखे जायेंगे। वे इस प्रकार हैं।

(१) जीवन बीमा निगम (संशोधन) अध्यादेश, १९५७।

(२) औद्योगिक झगड़े (संशोधन) अध्यादेश, १९५७।

चालू सत्र में मेरी सरकार संसद् के समक्ष कई और विधेयक प्रस्तुत करेगी।

१९५७-५८ का आय-व्यय सम्बन्धी अन्तरिम विवरण संसद् के पिछले सत्र में पेश किया गया था और मतदान द्वारा वर्ष के एक भाग के लिए खर्च की मंजूरी ली गई थी। आय-व्यय का वह विवरण आवश्यक संशोधनों के साथ संसद् के इस सत्र में फिर पेश किया जाएगा, और वर्ष भर के खर्च के लिए संसद् का अनुमोदन प्राप्त किया जाएगा।

विदेशों से हमारे सम्बन्ध मंत्रीपूर्ण चले आ रहे हैं। संसद् के समक्ष पछली बार मैंने जब भाषण दिया था उसके बाद हमें पोलैंड के प्रधान मंत्री, श्री जोसेफ सिरेकीविज, संघीय जर्मन गणतन्त्र के विदेश मन्त्री, डा० हेनरीश वान ब्रेन्टानो और चिली के विदेश मन्त्री, श्री कोस्काल्डो सेन्ट मेरी का भारतीय गणराज्य के अभ्यागतों के रूप में स्वागत करने का सौभाग्य हुआ है।

जून के अन्त में लन्दन में होने वाले राष्ट्रमंडलीय प्रधानमंत्रियों के सम्मेलन में मेरे प्रधान मंत्री भाग लेंगे। इस विदेश प्रवास

के समय वे सीरिया, डेन्मार्क, फ़िनलैंड, नावें, स्वीडन, नैदरलैंड, मिस्र और सूडान की भी यात्रा करेंगे।

मध्यपूर्व में स्थिति संतोषजनक नहीं और वहां तनाव बराबर बना है, फिर भी यह हर्ष का विषय है कि स्वेज नहर जहाज़रानी के लिए फिर से खुल गई है। नहर खोलने से पहले मिस्र की सरकार ने एक घोषणा की थी जो १८८८ की संप्रतिज्ञा को पुष्ट करती है और अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय विधि तथा संयुक्त राष्ट्र के घोषणा-पत्र के सिद्धान्तों का मिस्र द्वारा अनुसरण करने का दृढ़ निश्चय प्रकट करती है। बारे सपकार उस घोषणा का स्वागत करती है। उस घोषणा में यह व्यवस्था की गई है कि संप्रतिज्ञा की व्याख्या अथवा उसके लागू किए जाने के सम्बन्ध में और कुछ जरूरी मामलों के बारे में जो विवाद पैदा हों उन्हें निर्णय के लिए विश्व न्यायालय के सामने पेश किया जाए और इस न्यायालय के फैसले को बाध्य समझ जाय। मेरी सरकार की राय में उस घोषणा की प्रभुत धारार्थे युक्तिसंगत हैं और यदि सभी संलक्षित पक्ष पारस्परिक सद्भावना तथा सहयोग का भावना से उन पर अमल करें, वे संसार के राष्ट्रों के उचित हितों की रक्षा करने के लिये काफी हैं। इस घोषणा का एक महत्वपूर्ण पहलू यह है कि यद्यपि यह मिस्र की सरकार द्वारा की गई है, उसने यह घोषित किया है कि इस घोषणा का दर्जा अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय कानून का होगा और यह घोषणा संयुक्त के दफ्तर में दर्ज कर दी गयी है। मेरी सरकार का विचार है कि इस घोषणा और इस के अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय कानून के दर्जे ने उस क्षेत्र में तनाव की भावना को कम करने के मागे को प्रशस्त किया है और उसके द्वारा उन सभी समस्याओं को सुलझाने का जो स्वेज नहर के राष्ट्रीयकरण के बाद पैदा हुई थीं, रास्ता निकल सकेगा।

सुरक्षा-परिषद् के भूतपूर्व अध्यक्ष, डा० गुनार यारिंग ने, २१ फरवरी को कस्मीर

सम्बन्धी विवाद के अन्त में सुरक्षा-परिषद् द्वारा स्वीकृत एक प्रस्ताव के अनुसार, पाकिस्तान और भारत की यात्रा की। डा० यारिंग दो बार भारत आये और उन्होंने मेरे प्रधान मंत्री से बातचीत की। उन्होंने अपनी रिपोर्ट सुरक्षा-परिषद् को दे दी है।

निःशस्त्रीकरण कमिशन की उप-समिति की बैठक कुछ समय से लन्दन में हो रही है, किन्तु, निःशस्त्रीकरण के किसी भी पहलू पर अभी कोई समझौता हुआ नहीं जान पड़ता है। आणविक तथा परमाणविक शस्त्रों के विस्फोट रोकने के सम्बन्ध में भी कोई समझौता नहीं हुआ है। निःशस्त्रीकरण के सम्बन्ध में मेरी सरकार के प्रस्ताव एक बार फिर संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ की साधारण सभा के द्वारा अन्य प्रस्तावों के साथ निःशस्त्रीकरण कमिशन के पास भेज दिये गये।

इस बीच में, अमेरिका और सोवियत संघ और अब ब्रिटेन भी सार्वजनिक विध्वंस के इन शस्त्रों के विस्फोट-सम्बन्धी प्रयोग करते रहे हैं। इन विस्फोटों का विपरीत प्रभाव संसार के विभिन्न भागों में अधिकाधिक देखा जाने लगा है और विश्व जनमत इन विस्फोटों द्वारा होने वाली हिंसा से चिन्तित हो उठा है। इन विस्फोटों को बन्द करने की मांग व्यापक है और आणविक शक्तियों को इस से बराबर अवगत किया जा रहा है, किन्तु, अभी तक इसका कुछ परिणाम नहीं निकला।

मेरी सरकार का मत है कि विभिन्न देशों द्वारा इन विस्फोटों को सीमाबद्ध और पूर्वसूचित करने के सम्बन्ध में जो सुझाव किये गये हैं, उन से यह आशा नहीं होती कि विस्फोटों के हानिकर प्रभावों से वे संसार को सुरक्षित रख सकेंगे अथवा इन विध्वंस शस्त्रों के बहिष्कार का मार्ग खोज सकेंगे। इसके विपरीत, इन प्रयोगों के किसी भी प्रकार के नियमन का एकमात्र परिणाम यह होगा कि लोग आणविक तथा परमाणविक युद्ध को न्यायोचित और विश्व जनमत द्वारा समर्थित

समझने लगेंगे। युद्ध के अधिक से अधिक घातक शस्त्रों के प्रयोग की खबरें बराबर आ रही हैं। संतोष की बात केवल यही है कि संसार का जनमत इन प्रयोगों का आज पूर्वापेक्षित अधिक विरोधी है। अप्रैल, १९५४, में मेरे प्रधान मंत्री ने, लोक-सभा के सामने एक वक्तव्य में इन विस्फोटों की रोक के सम्बन्ध में "यथा स्थिति" समझौते के रूप में कुछ प्रस्ताव रखे थे। तब से इन प्रस्तावों को विभिन्न देशों का समर्थन प्राप्त हुआ है और काफी जनमत इनके पक्ष में है। विश्व के दूसरे राष्ट्रों के साथ, मेरी सरकार इन प्रयोगों की रोक-थाम और आणविक तथा परमाणविक शस्त्रों के बहिष्कार के लिए दूसरे राष्ट्रों और विश्व-परिषदों के समक्ष बराबर अपना प्रभाव डालती रहेगी।

आज हम उस महान विद्रोह के पूरे एक सौ वर्ष बाद मिल रहे हैं जो मेरठ में आरम्भ हुआ था और बाद में भारत के अधिकांश भागों में फैल गया था। इस देश में विदेशी शासन को वह पहली प्रमुख चुनौती थी और इसके कारण कुछ विभूतियाँ प्रकाश में आयीं जो हमारे देश के इतिहास में प्रसिद्ध हैं। इस विद्रोह का नृशंसता के साथ दमन किया गया, किन्तु स्वाधीनता की भावना और विदेशी शासन से मुक्त होने की इच्छा दबाई नहीं जा सकी और बाद में अनेक अवसरों पर वह ज्वल रही। अन्त में, उस ने एक महान राष्ट्रीय आन्दोलन का रूप लिया, जो अहिंसा और शांति के सिद्धान्तों पर चला और जिसके फल-स्वरूप हम स्वाधीनता प्राप्त करने और भारतीय गण-राज्य की स्थापना करने में सफल हुए। उन सब के प्रति, जिन्होंने भारत को स्वतंत्र बनाने के लिए जीवन की प्रादुर्भूति दी अथवा नाना प्रकार के कष्ट सह्य, हम आज श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करते हैं।

भारत को स्वाधीन हुए आज करीब १० वर्ष हो चुके हैं और इस अवधि में संसद् देश की जनता की उन्नति तथा कल्याण और विश्व में सहयोग तथा शांति स्थापन के लिए प्रयत्न-

[राष्ट्रपति]

शील रही है। इन प्रयत्नों का फल काफी ठोस रहा है जो हमें इस देश में चारों ओर दिखाई देता है। इन वर्षों में जो चहुंमुखी उन्नति हम ने की है उससे लोगों में आशा और आत्म-विश्वास की भावना पैदा हुई है। भावी निर्माण और विकास की यह सुदृढ़ नींव है।

देश के बाहर मेरी सरकार का जोरदार प्रयत्न रहा है कि संसार में तनाव की भावना को कम किया जाय और विश्व-शांति के पक्ष को दृढ़ बनाया जाय। इस विचारधारा के परिणाम-स्वरूप, अपनी नीति को स्वाधीन रखने के लिये और कोरिया, इन्डो-चाइना और अब मध्यपूर्व में भी शांति की स्थापना में योगदान देने के लिये, हमारे देश ने भारी जिम्मेदारियां अपने ऊपर ली हैं।

राष्ट्रीय और अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय क्षेत्रों में हमारे सामने जो काम हैं वे बहुत अधिक ही नहीं कभी कभी बहुत भारी भी दिखाई देते हैं। किन्तु, यदि स्वाधीनता को देश के लोगों के लिये बरदान बनाना है और यदि सतत तनाव और भावी विभीषिका से संसार को मुक्त कराने में हमें सहायक होना है, तो ये सब काम हमें करने होंगे, कठिनाइयों पर विजय पानी होगी और जो लक्ष्य हमने निर्धारित किये हैं उन्हें प्राप्त करना होगा।

इन सभी दिशाओं में मेरी सरकार बराबर यथा-शक्ति प्रयत्न करती रहेगी। यह धारणा कि उसे देश की जनता का समर्थन प्राप्त है और यह अडिग विश्वास कि युद्ध के उमड़ते हुए बादलों और निराशा के बावजूद भी मानव जाति में प्रगति करने और जीवित रहने की नैसर्गिक आकांक्षा है, मेरी सरकार का बल है। हमारी क्षमता और साधन सीमित हैं और संसार में हमारी आवाज संभवतः बहुत ऊंची नहीं है, किन्तु, राष्ट्रीय हितों की दृष्टि से, हमारे इतिहास और परम्पराओं तथा विश्वासों को देखते हुए हम किसी और गृस्ते को नहीं अपना सकते। यह सीमाव्यय का विषय है कि

संसार भर के सभी लोगों का यह सामान्य ध्येय और उत्कृष्ट इच्छा है।

संसद् के सदस्यगण, मैं आपके प्रयत्नों में आप सब की सफलता की कामना करता हूँ।

The President: Members of Parliament, you and the members of the legislatures of the States, chosen by an electorate of nearly two hundred million voters of our country, in accord with our Constitutional procedures, have called me once again to the high office of the President of the Republic. I am deeply conscious of the honour and I am grateful for the confidence which you have reposed in me. It shall be my endeavour to continue to deserve the trust and the affection of which I have been so long the happy recipient.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you, as Members of the Second Parliament in the history of our Republic. Some of you have been members of one or other of the Houses of Parliament, or come to Parliament with rich experience in your State legislatures. There are others among you who have been elected to Parliament for the first time. All of you will find, in your life and duties as Members of Parliament, both in the legislature and your constituencies, immense and varied opportunities and fields of constructive work in the service of our country and people. I wish you all good fortune and a very successful tenure of Parliamentary life.

We are in the second year of our Second Five Year Plan. There has been some inevitable slowing down in the first year of the Plan, resulting partly from the reorganisation of the States. This imposes a greater strain and calls for added effort both by the Government and the people during the remaining period of that Plan. My Government are fully conscious of this.

The economic situation, more particularly in relation to the Plan, confronts us with factors which, while

they do not warrant grave apprehensions, are matters of serious concern and they are engaging the attention of my Ministers. The deficit in the Central and State budgets and the strain on our foreign exchange resources occasioned by the requirements of the Plan and of industrial development generally, as well as by external factors, call for determined and planned efforts. They call for both conservation and expansion of our resources by effecting real economies, by planned restrictions of certain imports, by expansion of export trade and by increasing national self-sufficiency both in the fields of industry and agriculture. They will call for savings to be utilised for production and the abandonment of unproductive and anti-social habits of hoarding and speculation. These can only be effectively achieved by efforts and vigilance not only on the part of Government but by the people as well.

It would be the easier, but not the gainful or constructive way, to bridge the gaps to which I have referred, by halting development. This will, however, provide no real or long term remedy. Our endeavour has to be to mobilise and conserve resources for greater productivity and for maintaining and improving development. My Government are fully aware of the problem and of the effort required. They are equally concerned that our temporary difficulties should not lead us in the direction of retarding progress and development, but that the difficulties should be overcome, where necessary, by reconsideration and revision of methods and by planned mobilisation of resources, and not by either the abandoned or slowing down of the progress towards our objectives.

Public opinion plays a large and well-nigh conclusive part in the success of such endeavour. The determination and fervour of our people, their readiness to accept discipline to respond to the call for efforts and

their resolve not to be led into anti-social behaviour, such as by hoarding or wasteful spending, alone will help the country to pass successfully through the present crucial period of our Second Five Year Plan.

Members of Parliament! the country looks to you a great deal for that sustained and special effort in support of the policies and endeavours which my Government will initiate in this behalf, which will help us to surmount difficulties and to achieve success.

While food production has increased and the increases have been maintained, except for the results of natural calamities, more especially in certain parts of Bihar and the eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh, we have a considerable way to go before our country becomes fully self-sufficient in food. There are signs of slight abatement in the rising trend of food prices and my Government have taken several measures to bring about this trend. Intensive efforts have increased food production and improved crop prospects. Except in the case of some of the coarse grains adversely affected by climatic conditions, the crop yields and estimates not only do not indicate a shortfall but have recorded appreciable increases.

My Government have also entered into arrangements for necessary imports of food grains and for building up reserves which will prevent price increases and bridge the gaps that still remain. A large storage construction programme has been undertaken. The behaviour of the public is a large and often determining factor in preventing rise in food prices which is often caused by the apprehension of shortages resulting in the resort to hoarding as well as to the tendency to panic. The food situation, thanks to the increased production and the steps taken by my Government, does not warrant any lack of public confidence in regard to supplies. My Government propose to keep Parliament informed of the position in regard to food and the estimates of supply and requirements. It may be

[The President]

hoped that a knowledge of the true facts will help to allay needless apprehensions and prevent artificial shortages and higher prices.

My Government are happy to state that their decision to lay stress on food production and agriculture generally in the Community Project plans has yielded handsome results. The Community Development and the National Extension Service programmes have made great strides in achievement. Higher targets in agriculture, health and sanitation have been achieved. The National Sample Survey shows that, at the end of the first Five Year Plan, the crop yields in the Community Development Project and National Extension Service Blocks areas were approximately 25 per cent. higher than for the country as a whole. The Community Projects and National Extension Blocks now cover 222 thousand villages.

State undertakings continue to make notable progress and new targets have been reached in almost every enterprise. There has also been expansion in the private sector. Khadi and Village industries will receive a further impetus with the setting up of "The Khadi and Village Industries Commission" as a statutory body. Among the major new projects that will soon be inaugurated is the Nayveli Lignite Project where the first mine-cut will be made this month. My Government attach importance to the building up of a plant for the manufacture of heavy machinery and steps are being taken to this end.

To reduce the pressure on our resources of foreign exchange, my Government are making efforts to obtain deferred payment arrangements for major projects. Long term credits for certain projects are being negotiated.

Consequent on the reorganisation of the States, Advisory Committees have been set up for the Union Territories and Territorial Councils have been established in Himachal Pradesh, Manipur and Tripura. A Corporation

for Delhi will be soon established. A new Union Territory of the Laccadives, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands has come into existence and the Five Year Plan for the Andaman Islands at a total cost of 592.50 lakhs will include the development of communication between the islands and the mainland.

Shipyard construction and the building of ships of modern design have made great progress at Visakhapatnam and plans for a second shipyard are now in hand.

My Government have initiated measures to relieve housing shortages and promote housing standards, slum clearances and Plantation Housing Schemes and housing for low-income groups and subsidised industrial housing. An urgent requirement of Delhi and the other great cities of India is the clearance of slum areas, and this problem is receiving the consideration of the Central and State Governments and the Corporations concerned.

Two Ordinances have been promulgated since the last session of Parliament. Bills dealing with these Ordinances will be placed before Parliament. These are:—

(i) The Life Insurance Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance, 1957.

(ii) The Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Ordinance, 1957.

My Government will also submit to Parliament a number of other Bills during the current session.

An interim statement of revenue and expenditure for 1957-58 was presented to Parliament during its last session and votes on account authorising expenditure for a part of the year were passed. That statement of revenue and expenditure will be presented again to Parliament in this session with such changes as are considered necessary, and Parliament will be asked to approve funds for the whole year.

Our relations with foreign countries continue to be friendly. Since I addressed Parliament last, we have had the pleasure of receiving as the guests of the Republic, Mr. Jozef Cyrankiewicz, Prime Minister of Poland, Dr. Heinrich Von Brentano, Foreign Minister of the Federal German Republic, and Mr. Osvaldo Saint Marie, Foreign Minister of Chile.

My Prime Minister will attend the meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers in London at the end of June. During his absence abroad, he will take the opportunity of visiting Syria, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands, Egypt and Sudan.

While the situation in the Middle East continues to be unsatisfactory and charged with tension, it is a matter of gratification that the Suez Canal has been re-opened for navigation. My Government welcome the Declaration made by the Government of Egypt, prior to the opening of the Canal, which re-affirms the Convention of 1888 and the determination of Egypt to continue to abide by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of International Law. The Declaration provides for the reference of disputes arising from interpretation of the Convention and its application as well as certain other matters to the World Court and also to abide by its decisions. The main provisions in the Declaration are, in the view of my Government, reasonable and adequate to safeguard the legitimate interests of the world community, if they are worked in a spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding by all concerned. A notable feature of the Declaration is that, while it is made by the Government of Egypt, that Government has declared that it has the status of an International Instrument and this has been registered with the United Nations. My Government feel that this Declaration and its status as an International Instrument is a notable contribution to the lowering of tensions in that area and will provide a

solution of the difficulties that followed the nationalisation of the Suez Canal.

Dr. Gunnar Jarring, a former President of the Security Council, visited Pakistan and India in pursuance of a Resolution passed by the Security Council on the 21st of February this year at the end of the debate on Kashmir. Dr. Jarring visited India twice and conferred with my Prime Minister. He has submitted a report to the Security Council.

The sub-committee of the Disarmament Commission has been sitting in London for some time, but no agreement appears to have been reached on any aspect of Disarmament, including the suspension of explosions of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons. The proposals of my Government in regard to Disarmament were once again referred by the General Assembly of the United Nations at the last session, along with all other proposals, to the Disarmament Commission.

Meanwhile, the United States, the Soviet Union, and now the United Kingdom continue their experiments to explode these weapons of mass destruction. World opinion is increasingly concerned about the harmful effects of radiation which has been increasingly and more frequently felt in various parts of the world. The demand for the suspension of these explosions is widespread and continues to be impressed upon the nuclear powers, but hitherto without success.

My Government do not consider that the compromise proposals suggested from diverse quarters for the so-called limitation of these explosions or for their registration will ever rid the world of their harmful effects, or open the way to the abandonment of these weapons of mass destruction. On the other hand, such regularisation of these tests tends to make thermo-nuclear war legitimate and as having the sanction of the world community. Reports of experiments with more

[The President]

and more deadly weapons of war continue to be received. It is however a matter of some gratification that the volume of world opinion against the continuance of experiments has reached a higher level than ever before. My Prime Minister in a statement before the Lok Sabha in April 1954 put forward for consideration the proposal for a "Standstill Agreement" to suspend these explosions. These proposals have since gained much support and the movement of world opinion in favour of it has gathered momentum. My Government will continue to exert their influence with other nations and in the counsels of the world to bring about the abandonment of these test explosions and the prohibition of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons.

We meet here today one hundred years after the great rising which began in Meerut and spread over considerable parts of India. That was the first major challenge to foreign rule and it threw up notable figures, famous in India's history. The uprising was cruelly suppressed, but the spirit of freedom and the desire to be free from foreign domination continued and found expression on many subsequent occasions. Ultimately it led to a great national movement which followed peaceful methods and succeeded in achieving the independence of India and the establishment of this Republic of ours. We pay tribute now to all those who gave their lives or otherwise suffered so that India may be free.

India has been independent for nearly ten years now and during this period Parliament has laboured for the well-being and advancement of this country and her people and for peace and cooperation in the world. These labours have produced substantial results which we see all round us in the country. The progress we have made during these years in our own land has produced in our people hope and self-reliance. This

is a substantial foundation on which we can build for the future.

Abroad, my Government have striven strenuously to help to lower existing tensions in the world and to serve the cause of peace. The country has also accepted heavy responsibilities in the pursuit of this policy, in regard to maintaining the independence of its approach as well as in making contributions to the maintenance of peace, as in Korea, Indo-China and now in the Middle East.

The tasks that confront us both at home and abroad are not only considerable but at times appear overwhelming. But these tasks have to be faced, difficulties surmounted and objectives achieved if the fruits of independence are to be ensured to our people and if we are to help the world being spared the continual stress and horror of impending catastrophe.

My Government will continue their strenuous endeavours in all these directions, to the best of their capacity conscious of the confidence reposed in them by the country, and fortified by the conviction that despite clouds of war, and even despair, the desire for survival and progress is inherent in humanity. Our capacities and resources are limited and our voice in the world may be but small. But neither our national interests nor our history and traditions, nor our convictions chart any other course for us. Happily for us, this is the common aim and the firm desire of all our people.

Members of Parliament, I wish you success in your labours.

PRESIDENT'S ASSENT TO BILLS

Secretary: Sir, I lay on the Table the following 9 Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Fifteenth Session of First Lok Sabha and assented to by the President

since a report was last made to First Lok Sabha on the 18th March, 1957:

1. The Appropriation Bill, 1957.
2. The Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1957.
3. The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1957.
4. The Kerala Appropriation Bill, 1957.
5. The Finance Bill, 1957.
6. The Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 1957.
7. The Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 1957.
8. The Kerala Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1957.
9. The Appropriation (Railways) (Vote on Account) Bill, 1957.

I also lay on the Table copies, duly authenticated by the Secretary of Rajya Sabha, of the following 2 Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Fifteenth Session of First Lok Sabha and assented to by the President since a report was last made to First Lok Sabha on the 18th March, 1957:

1. The Sea Customs (Amendment) Bill, 1957.
2. The Foreigners Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1957.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

RELIEF TO EAST BENGAL REFUGEES

Mr. Speaker: I have received notices of as many as seven adjournment motions; two were presented the other day. The first one has been tabled by Shri T. K. Chaudhuri, and Shri Ghoshal. The subject is:

"The situation created by the refusal of the Central Rehabilitation Ministry to provide the minimum relief by way of food and temporary shelter on human . .

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri (Berhampore): A slight verbal change, Sir. It

should be 'humanitarian' and not 'human'.

Mr. Speaker: . . . "humanitarian grounds even to 10,000 (ten thousand) destitute East Bengal refugees, under the charge of the Union Rehabilitation Ministry and the Union Government, who were forced to come back to Calcutta to escape the intolerable conditions of life in Bettiah where they were sent under the auspices of the Union Rehabilitation Ministry and the resulting death of men, women and children refugees by starvation, malnutrition and epidemic diseases in the streets of Calcutta, in Howrah maidan and Sealdah Railway Station precincts in Calcutta."

How many have died?

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: The daily rate of death, to my knowledge, in Howrah Maidan and Sealdah station is about 6.

Mr. Speaker: How long has this been going on?

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: About a month.

Mr. Speaker: At that rate, already 200 people have died; is it?

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister.

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): Sir, I have made enquiries from the Government of West Bengal as well as the Government of Bihar. There have been no deaths either in Bihar or Howrah maidan, either due to malnutrition or starvation. Normal deaths do take place and they are taking place. The percentage of deaths in both these States, according to the information given to me, is in no sense higher than the normal percentage which prevails in those places. Not even that, Sir, in this matter we have supplied

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: If I may intervene, I am not interested in and

[Shri T. K. Chaudhuri]

I have not raised the question of deaths in Bihar. I have only raised the question of deaths by malnutrition, starvation and epidemic diseases of the refugees who are now living in Howrah maidan and Sealdah railway station precincts in Calcutta. There are other aspects also, but so far as these deaths are concerned, of course, I cannot accept the statement of the Minister because I have seen people dying before my very eyes.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I have raised the question of Bihar because, according to the hon. Member in the Adjournment Motion which he wishes to move, he has stated categorically that due to intolerable conditions in Bihar people have left Bihar in large numbers and come to Bengal. What I wanted to say and urge before the House was that the conditions in Bihar are humane and no deaths....

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I just intervene.....

Mr. Speaker: No.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Not a single death due to malnutrition....

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: He is arguing the merits of the case.

Mr. Speaker: He is only giving the facts.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: As regards Bengal, I have just made a statement of the same nature that no deaths due to causes mentioned in the adjournment motion have taken place in Howrah maidan.

Mr. Speaker: Was any relief that was being given to the refugees withheld recently to 10,000 destitutes?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Relief is given to a person who goes into our camp. These persons were in our Bettiah camp. Their number was about 28,000. They were being given proper relief. On the top of it we spent Rs. 40,00,000 on foodstuffs that were given to us by CARE for the care of these very persons. We have

got stocks worth another Rs. 40,00,000 even now. For the information of the House I may submit that these people went to Bettiah as far back as June 1956 and the large scale desertions took place towards the end of February 1957, that is nearly after eight months.

Mr. Speaker: Has this kind of relief been withdrawn since?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Relief is given to the people in the camp. If these people go back to Bettiah Camp they shall get the relief. We are not denying relief to anybody.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: My submission is this, so far as the question of relief is concerned, it has been categorically stated by the Chief Minister of West Bengal only the other day, that they have no means at their disposal to give any such relief. He has also stated that so far as these people are concerned they are under the charge of the Central Government, because under the terms of the agreement entered into

Mr. Speaker: We are not going into the merits of the case. The hon. Minister says—assuming them to be under the charge of the Central Government—that relief is being given to persons in the camp.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: No, it is not being given.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister says it is being given to those persons who have not gone out of the camp. Relief will not be given to those persons who have gone out of the camp unless they go back.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: We are going to have a general discussion on the Budget in a few days. All these matters could easily be discussed then. It is not a matter of urgent public importance, important in the sense, as I have already categorically stated, that no deaths have taken place either due to malnutrition or starvation.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat): About 18,000 people are living in Howrah maidan, and the situation is so bad that people are dying due to epidemics and starvation. It is a very serious situation.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Does the hon. Minister want us to go on hunger strike here before he admits the seriousness of the situation? What is the meaning of this kind of a statement that it is not a matter of urgent public importance? I have seen with my own eyes people dying just on the platform of the Sealdah station, in the railway shed and before the First Class railway booking office. Do you ask me to believe that this is not a matter of urgent public importance (*Interruption*).

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I am only making a statement that the allegation the hon. Member is making, that deaths have taken place due to malnutrition and starvation, is unfounded.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: That statement is not based on facts, it is not correct and it does not bear any correspondence to facts.

Mr. Speaker: However important the subject might be, there is no meaning in going on making statements and counter-statements.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The question before you, Sir, appears to me to be a simple one. I have no doubt at all that great misery is caused to these people on the Howrah maidan or at the Sealdah station. These people can get relief the moment they are in the camp. We cannot give relief in the streets or elsewhere, and the moment they go back they get relief. If it is said that the camp is not a good camp, it is not properly looked after, or relief is not properly given, it is a matter for enquiry in the camp. We have made the enquiries. Newspaper correspondents have gone there, others have gone there, and hon. Members

can go there and see. We say it is a good camp and that such little complaints as there may be can be dealt with there. They cannot be dealt with as people marching up to a heavily populated city like Calcutta, sitting on the Howrah maidan or Sealdah station precincts and trying to compel the Government to feed them there. Bengal, as everybody knows, has suffered greatly in many ways, and when a huge influx of refugees comes we can only settle them in other places. Bengal has settled as many as it could; there is no room for more. We have made, with the help of other State Governments, arrangements to settle them elsewhere. We are making them and it is a continuing problem. Then, if people go there and are induced to go there they get into difficulties. We are very sorry for it. It is right for them to go back and get all the help in food or otherwise they can. By sitting there and expecting that the help should go to them they merely aggravate the problem, the difficulties and miseries, and do not solve the problem at all.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: My submission is.....

Mr. Speaker: I have heard enough about it. So far as this matter is concerned, when it has been expressly stated by the hon. Minister...

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Sir, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. When I am addressing the House there is no question of any point of order. So far as this matter is concerned, it is not denied that those people who are in the Bettiah Camp are being given the relief. Those who have gone out of the camp, evidently they want relief even though they are not in the camp and are outside. So far as that matter is concerned, it does not appear to be any breach of the undertaking that has been given by the Central Government or their obligations to these refugees. Now, so far as deaths are concerned, it may be, if

[Mr Speaker]

they starve they must die. If they are not in the camp and do not get food by their own earnings or on the terms and conditions imposed by the Government that only those persons in the camp will be given relief, then they take the risk. However, as has been stated by the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation, there are ample opportunities to discuss this matter. 14th, 15th and 16th have been allotted for discussion on the Presidential Address. If these matters are so important—of course, they are matters of public importance, I do not deny that—there are ample opportunities, and it has been a convention of the House that, whenever there is an opportunity to discuss such matters as these the normal work of the House will not be adjourned. Therefore, I am not willing to give consent to this adjournment motion.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I submit, Sir, that it is not a question of relief as such to the inmates of rehabilitation camps that I have raised in this adjournment motion; it is a question of some interim relief being given to them on humanitarian grounds. They are persons who are under the charge of the Central Government. It is not a question of the general relief that is being given to the refugees. We are prepared, Sir, if I may make a submission, to persuade these people to go back to the camp, but for the interim period some relief will have to be given.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: They will get relief, not interim relief, immediately they go there.

An hon. Member: You brought them there.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: I did not bring them out; I was at some other place at that time. I have some sense of responsibility.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Hon. Members ought not to talk to one another like this here.

So far as the point of order is concerned, I am afraid I do not see any point of order. As soon as they get back to Bettiah they will get relief and the Government is not willing to give any interim relief outside the camp. Relief will be given to them immediately they get back to the camp. There is no point of order in this.

FOOD SCARCITY CONDITIONS IN WEST BENGAL

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of another adjournment motion relating to the situation created in West Bengal by the systematic refusal of the Union Food Ministry to take notice of the conditions of acute scarcity bordering on famine, obtaining for the past one month in 11 districts out of 14 in West Bengal, as a result of successive floods and the consecutive failures of four main food crops in the major part of the State, including the Rabi Crop of this year and other reasons, and to ensure an adequate supply of foodgrains or even the minimum quantity requisitioned by the State Government of West Bengal.

As a matter of fact, a notice was given by Shri Kasliwal, yesterday or day before yesterday, asking for opportunity to raise a debate on this matter of the food situation in the country at large, particularly in West Bengal. There are also a number of questions which have been tabled and I have admitted all those questions. Let us ascertain from the hon. Minister what the present situation is. I shall allow and permit all those hon. Members who have tabled questions and who wanted to give notice and who have given notice to raise a debate, to put supplementary questions to elicit facts. I have put them all together and I have allowed all the hon. Members to put questions. Further, these matters can again be raised on the 14th, 15th and 16th. Still, if these matters are considered so important, I will consider and see whether any opportunity can be

given later on. I cannot give my consent to this adjournment motion.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat): What was the statement about which you mentioned? Was it about a statement by the Minister?

Mr. Speaker: I said I have admitted all the questions and that I would include the names of all the hon. Members who have tabled adjournment motions also, and give all those hon. Members opportunity to put supplementary questions. Let us know the facts. Thereafter, the Members can take up the matter on the 14th, 15th and the 16th. Even after that, if they are not satisfied and if any special motion is considered necessary, the usual course is to see whether such matters could be brought up, time permitting.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): I am going to make a comprehensive statement on the food situation in the country tomorrow. The hon. Members will have the right to table questions on the basis of that statement. In fact, I want to take the hon. Members into confidence about the food situation. The problem of the food situation is a national problem, and I shall try to benefit from any suggestions that might be made by the hon. Members.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri (Berhampore): On a point of clarification. As a matter of convention, no questions are allowed to be put on the statement made by the hon. Ministers in this House. Will questions be allowed this time? Is it the pleasure of the Chair that on this occasion, when the Food Minister makes a statement, the Members may put questions on the statement, after the statement is made by the Minister?

Shri A. P. Jain: Hon. Members can table questions on the basis of that statement.

Shri A. K. Gopalan (Kasergod): We are glad that the Minister has said that he would make a statement. But our plea is that there have been so

many statements. Even a week or ten days back, not only this Minister but other Ministers also made statements. There have been so many statements, and that is the very reason why we wanted to have a discussion immediately, because the situation in the country demands it. As far as the statements are concerned, it is one thing. But, as far as the reality of the situation is concerned, it is another thing.

I shall give an example. Two days back, the Kerala State Legislative Assembly passed a resolution saying that the food situation is very bad and that they are going to approach—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has stated that he will make a statement tomorrow morning.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: We want to know the true situation. As far as the State Legislative Assemblies are concerned, their statements say that the situation is very bad. There are also reports from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh that the situation there is a very bad. In Bengal also, it is so. We want to know whether the statement given by the Assemblies is wrong, or, whether the statements given by the Ministers are wrong. We want to know the position. There have been statements after statements. We want to know whether the position as we read from the newspapers is wrong or not. What I say is that what the hon. Minister has said is not right. That is the only submission I wanted to make.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): If I may point out, the hon. Member is criticising something on the assumption that the statement may not be to his liking.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: It is not a question of my liking. There have been, of late, two statements: one by Shri Krishnappa and the other by the Minister himself. I can bring a cutting of the statement which says that basically the situation is very good, and that there is nothing serious in the country.

Mr. Speaker: So far as these matters are concerned, the hon. Minister has stated before the House that he would make a statement. I requested him to make the statement before the discussion on the President's Address starts, so that if any point about the food situation has to be raised, it may be raised during the course of the discussion on the President's Address.

I have also sent to him all the questions which I have admitted in respect of this subject so that he may answer all those points referred to in those questions wherever necessary. He will also take notice of the adjournment motion that is tabled and find out how far the facts mentioned by the hon. Members agree with the facts as they are. The hon. Minister will refer to the statements made by other Ministers on this subject, wherever necessary, and he will naturally make as full a statement as possible with the facts available to him.

I see no need to grant permission to this adjournment motion. I come to the next one.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: There is another adjournment motion on this subject.

Mr. Speaker: I shall treat it likewise.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I want to know whether my point has been taken into account.

Mr. Speaker: I will come to it.

REMOVAL OF CERTAIN STATUES

Mr. Speaker: About the adjournment motion regarding the removal of certain statues, I can say immediately that I do not give my consent to the motion. It has been said that a satyagraha is going on in Uttar Pradesh regarding the removal of statues, that so many people are doing a patriotic task, and that as the Education Ministry is in charge of this subject, it should pro-

vide accommodation for housing those statues here.

So far as this adjournment motion is concerned, it is purely a matter of law and order in respect of the State concerned. Further, this statue business has come in here several times. The hon. Prime Minister wants to say something.

Shri Vijayram Raju (Visakhapatnam): The Chair has not read the adjournment motion. How can the Prime Minister make a statement then?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is new to this House. Of the three copies, one is given to the Notice Office. Another is given to me and the third is with the Minister in charge. He has already got it.

The Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The Chair has ruled out this motion, as I understand it. I need not say anything about it, because, if I may say so with all respect, it has no relevancy here in this context. I would venture to point out to the hon. Member that, apart from the context of the adjournment motion, he makes a very large assumption in this House, on behalf of the people of Uttar Pradesh, that of all the hon. Members here who represent Uttar Pradesh, he alone is the representative! But, as far as this subject is concerned not the adjournment motion but the larger question must necessarily interest him and all the hon. Members of this House and others. If you, Sir, would permit me to say a few words as to what our policy is, I shall proceed. Our policy is—

Shri Surendra Mahanty (Dhenkanal): On a point of order. When you have ruled out the adjournment motion, what is the point of the Prime Minister in explaining it?

Mr. Speaker: All that I say is, the hon. Minister is willing to give some information to the House, so as to satisfy the House. Though this matter may not be taken up by way of an ad-

journalment motion in the House, it is a matter with respect to which any person in the country would like to have the views of the Government, and the hon. Prime Minister is the fittest person to explain to the House. There is no point of order.

Shri Surendra Mahanty: But you have ruled it out.

Mr. Speaker: I am allowing the hon. Prime Minister to speak. There is no point of order.

Shri Vijayram Raju: The Prime Minister is making a statement without the House knowing what is the adjournment motion which I have tabled. I would like the adjournment motion to be read clearly and then the Prime Minister may make the point.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member has made out a huge memorandum regarding this particular matter, and so, is it necessary that I should go on reading it to the House and take away the time of the House? I have explained to the House the gist of this adjournment motion. The adjournment motion says that all the people in Uttar Pradesh are very much agitated about this statute business and so on. I need not read all the details. The hon. Member says that satyagraha is going on regarding the removal of statutes and that the Uttar Pradesh Government says "We have no accommodation here". An adjournment motion must relate to the failure of the Government here to take action. The failure of the Government does not lie in not providing accommodation for the statutes!

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I was venturing, Sir, to place before the House what the general policy of Government is in regard to this question of statutes put up during the period of the British rule in various parts of India. There are various kinds of statutes; some may be considered historical, some may be considered artistic and some may be considered, well, rather offensive in themselves, and of various types. Our general attitude has been, first of all, to remove such

20 L.S.D.—2.

as might be considered offensive, and that too, gradually without making too much fuss and without doing anything to raise ill will between countries. We have removed some of those statues and we propose to continue doing that. There are those which have been historically significant without causing offence; we shall also remove them and put them in historic museums. There are those that are not important historically or artistically. I do not know what we will do with them; if somebody else wants them, we will make a present of them. In particular, regarding such statutes as may be considered in a sense offensive to our national sentiment, we have taken them up and we do propose to take them up; but, we wish to do all this in a manner so as not to create international ill will and raise up old questions which are dead and gone.

Shri S. A. Dange (Bombay City Central): On a point of clarification. Will the Government take a census of statutes in the three categories, those which are offensive, those which are historical and those which are artistic, and make a statement to this House at a later stage?

Mr. Speaker: They want to avoid satyagraha.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I may mention to this House that these are not all statutes. There are numerous paintings, some of high artistic value. Sometimes we have exchanged them for valuable articles of Indian art. So, we proceed in this way to benefit ourselves as far as possible and not to be burdened by them.

Shri S. C. C. Anthony Pillai (Madras North): My colleague, Shri Vijayram Raju, requested that this adjournment motion may be read out. On the other hand, only a paraphrase of it has been given by you, Sir, and it has been suggested by you...

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member has not tabled the adjournment motion. I gave a gist of it. I need not have brought it before this House at all; I might have rejected it, but I only

[Mr. Speaker]

wanted that the House should know the Government's view. The hon. Member who has tabled the motion has no objection, but another hon. Member wants to come back on my paraphrase.

Shri Vijayram Raju: I asked you to read it out; when you refused, I accepted it.

FOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

Mr. Speaker: There is another adjournment motion relating to the alarming food situation in the country and the prevailing famine conditions in many parts as revealed by press reports, etc. I have already said that the hon. Minister will take this matter also into consideration when he makes the statement tomorrow. As he himself has said, if his statement does not cover all the points raised here either by way of adjournment motions, questions or calling attention, those matters may be referred to in the debate. Even then if hon. Members are not satisfied, we shall consider it later.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat): In addition to the famine conditions and scarcity, the very sharp rise in the price of rice has also to be dealt with in the statement by the hon. Minister, because that is also important.

Mr. Speaker: That is the subject-matter of a series of questions, which I have admitted; I am sending them on to the hon. Minister. The hon. Minister will kindly take note of that also.

There is another adjournment motion by Shri Ramji Verma again on the food situation. Then, there is an adjournment motion by Shri S. C. C. Anthony Pillai.

STRIKE BY BURMAH-SHELL EMPLOYEES

Shri S. C. C. Anthony Pillai (Madras North): I have given notice

of an adjournment motion and I should like it to be read out.

Mr. Speaker: I am reading it.

"The grave and imminent threat of a general strike in the oil-distributing industry which will paralyse the economic life of the country consequent on notices being served on the striking employees of Burmah-Shell that if they fail to resume work by tomorrow, they will all be dismissed."

What is the suggestion of the hon. Member? Does he suggest that they may go on striking and the employers should go on keeping quiet? What is the adjournment motion? How is this Government responsible for this?

Shri S. C. C. Anthony Pillai: Under the Industrial Disputes Act, the Government of India can appoint a national tribunal to settle this dispute.

Mr. Speaker: Has that been the demand?

Shri S. C. C. Anthony Pillai: The point is this. Certainly, no one has declared this particular strike as illegal. It is true that the workers have a right to strike; but, as to whether the strike is justified or not, no one has declared anything. The workers have felt that they are being dealt with arbitrarily. All that the workers have requested is that this particular question should be referred to a tribunal or a labour court for settlement. In April, 1956,...

Mr. Speaker: Let us not have a general survey of this matter. What is the failure of the Government. They were asked to refer this matter to a tribunal and they failed to do it. Is that the failure of the Government?

Shri S. C. C. Anthony Pillai: They have been told on the 11th of this month that the interpretation of a Settlement that was reached under the Industrial

Disputes Act should be referred to a tribunal under section 36A...

Mr. Speaker: They failed to do so; that is the point.

The Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri Nanda): Just a few minutes before I came to the House, I received intimation of this motion. It happened that about that time I received a factual report from the Delhi Administration. This matter is being dealt with at the level of the Delhi Administration and I am not able to say immediately what the merits of the case are. But I understand that it assumes some urgency from the fact that if the employment of that number of workers who are on strike is terminated from tomorrow morning, there may be complications. Therefore, I am quite willing to intervene in the dispute myself. In the course of the day, we shall see if any way can be found for dealing with it, I may, for the benefit of the persons concerned, convey this to the hon. Member, the mover of this motion, that I would like to ask, if my intervention can be helpful at this stage, why was it not invoked at an earlier stage, before the strike? I could have been more helpful then than I may be now. Still, I will go into the various aspects of the matter...

Shri S. L. Saksena (Maharajanj): The Secretary of the Petroleum Workers' Union told me that they had written a letter to the hon. Minister, and had sought an interview with him, and had personally met Mr. Abid Ali; Deputy Minister but nothing has been done. So, it is not true that they have not approached the authorities before the position became worse. They approached the authorities early enough, but unfortunately notice is taken by you only when the situation becomes grave.

Shri Nanda: I received a letter and I have replied to that letter. Some representatives of the workers met the Deputy Minister for Labour also and they were given some advice,

which they were considering. As I have pointed out, the matter is being dealt with at the level of the Delhi Administration. We cannot go on poking our nose at every stage.

Shri T. C. N. Menon (Mukundapuram): The hon. Deputy Minister advised the representatives of the workers to go to the State of Kerala. That was the advice given and so far nothing has been done.

Mr. Speaker: We have heard enough about this. We have heard the explanation of the hon. Minister. He says he will try to do his best and intervene in this matter. He only says that before the strike was launched, when they were not satisfied with the advice given by the Deputy Minister they might have gone to the Minister himself. The hon. Minister is willing to intercede and intervene. I do not see any reason why this adjournment motion should be allowed.

Shri S. C. C. Anthony Pillai: Can we have an assurance from the hon. Minister that if there has been a breach of settlement that was reached under the Industrial Disputes Act before the Conciliation Officer, he will discharge his duty and refer the dispute to the Industrial Tribunal, as required by law?

Mr. Speaker: Every hon. Member has taken an oath that he will discharge his duty properly!

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

AMENDMENT TO EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUNDS SCHEME

The Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri Nanda): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (2) of Section 7 of the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952, a copy of the Notification, making certain further amendment to the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952. [Placed in Library. See No S-2/57].

ORDINANCES PROMULGATED BY THE
PRESIDENT

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table under the provisions of Article 123(2) (a) of the Constitution a copy of each of the following Ordinances promulgated by the President since the dissolution of the first Lok Sabha:—

(1) The Life Insurance Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance, 1957 (No. 3 of 1957) [Placed in Library. See No. S-3|57]

(2) The Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Ordinance, 1957, (No. 4 of 1957). [Placed in Library. See No. S-4/57].

AMENDMENTS TO DELHI ROAD TRANSPORT AUTHORITY RULES

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of Section 52 of the Delhi Road Transport Authority Act, 1950, a copy of the Notification making certain farther amendment to the Delhi Road Transport Authority (Functions and Duties of the General Manager and Chief Accounts Officer) Rules, 1952. [Placed in Library. See No. S-5|57].

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE NATIONAL HIGHWAYS ACT

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the three Notifications of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, under Section 10 of the National Highways Act 1956. [Placed in Library. See No S-6/57].

PROCLAMATION ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENT

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): Sir, I

beg to lay on the Table, under clause (3) of Article 356 of the Constitution, a copy of the Proclamation issued by the President on the 5th April 1957 revoking the Proclamation issued by him on the 1st November, 1956 in respect of the Kerala State. [Placed in Library. See No. S-7|57].

AMENDMENTS TO THE CENTRAL EXCISE RULES

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table under section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1954, a copy of the Notification making certain further amendments to the Central Excise Rules, 1944. [Placed in Library. See No. S-8/57].

PETITION

PRESS AND REGISTRATION OF BOOKS ACT 1867 AND AMENDMENT OF THE INDIAN POST OFFICE RULES

Shri Viswanatha Reddy (Rajampet): Sir, I beg to present a petition signed by a petitioner regarding the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 and amendment of the Indian Post Office Rules.

COAL BEARING AREAS (ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT) BILL*

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to establish in the economic interest of India greater public control over the coal mining industry and its development by providing for the acquisition by the State of unworked land containing or likely to contain coal deposits or of rights in or over such land for the extinguishment or modification of such rights accruing by virtue of any agreement, lease, licence or otherwise, and for matters connected therewith.

*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 13-5-57, pp. 45-60.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to establish in the economic interest of India greater public control over the coal mining industry and its development by providing for the acquisition by the State of unworked land containing or likely to contain coal deposits or of rights in or over such land, for the extinguishment or modification of such rights accruing by virtue of any

agreement, lease, licence or otherwise, and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Sir, introduce the Bill.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 14th May 1957.

DAILY DIGEST

[Monday, 13th May, 1957]

COLUMNS

COLUMNS

MEMBERS SOWNR

8 Members made Oath or Affirmation as follows :
 5 in English
 2 in Hindi and
 1 in Malayalam

41

Minister of Food and Agriculture, the Speaker withheld his consent to the moving of adjournment motions given notice of by

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

41—60

Secretary laid on the Table a copy of the President's Address to both Houses of Parliament.

(i) Sarvashri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri, Subiman Ghose and Aurobindo Ghosal, regarding scarcity conditions in West Bengal.

PRESIDENT'S ASSENT TO BILLS—

60—61

Secretary reported that the following Bills which were passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Fifteenth Session of First Lok Sabha had been assented to by the President :

(ii) Shri Shripad Amrit Dange and others regarding the food situation in the country and the alleged famine conditions in many parts of the country.

(i) The Appropriation Bill, 1957.

(iii) Shri Ramji Verma regarding the food situation in the eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh.

(ii) The Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1957.

(iii) The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1957.

(3) The Speaker also withheld his consent to the moving of an adjournment motion given notice of by Shri Vijayram Raju regarding the removal of statues in Uttar Pradesh as the subject matter of the adjournment motion was the concern of the State Government.

(iv) The Kerala Appropriation Bill, 1957.

(v) The Finance Bill, 1957.

(vi) The Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 1957.

(vii) The Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 1957.

(viii) The Kerala Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1957.

(ix) The Appropriation (Railways) (Vote on Account) Bill, 1957.

(4) In view of the statement made by the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning, the Speaker withheld his consent to the moving of adjournment motion given notice of by Shri S.C.C. Anthony Pillai regarding the alleged strike by the employees of Burmah Shell Oil Company

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

61—68

(1) After the statements made by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Rehabilitation the Speaker withheld his consent to the moving of an adjournment motion given notice of by Sarvashri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri, Subiman Ghose and Aurobindo Ghosal regarding relief by Government to refugees from Betiah.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

41, 78—80

The following papers were laid on the Table:—

(1) A copy of S. R. O. No. 815, dated the 16th March, 1957, under subsection (2) of section 7 of the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1951,

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—Contd.

making certain further amendment to the Employees Provident Funds Scheme, 1952.

- (2) A copy of each of the following Ordinances promulgated by the President since the dissolution of the First Lok Sabha under the provisions of Article 123 (2) (a) of the Constitution :

(f) The Life Insurance Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance, 1957 (No. 3 of 1957).

(ii) The Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Ordinance, 1957 (No. 4 of 1957).

- (3) A copy of the Notification No. 18. TAG(23)/54, dated the 11th June, 1956, under sub-section (3) of Section 52 of the Delhi Road Transport Authority Act, 1950, making certain further amendments to the Delhi Road Transport Authority (Functions and Duties of the General Manager and Chief Accounts Officer) Rules, 1952.

- (4) A copy of each of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Transport and Communications under Section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956 :

(i) Notification No. S.R.O. 1180, dated the 13th April, 1957.

(ii) Notification No. S.R.O. 1181, dated the 13th April, 1957.

(iii) Notification No. S.R.O. 1182, dated the 13th April, 1957.

- (5) A copy of the Proclamation issued by the President on the 5th April, 1957, under Clause (3) of Article 356 of the Constitution revoking the Proclamation issued by him on the 1st November, 1956, in respect of the Kerala State.

- (6) A copy of the Notification No. S. R. O. 1303, dated the 27th April, 1957, under Section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944, making certain further amendments to the Central Excise Rules, 1954.

PETITION PRESENTED ... 80

Shri T. N. Viswanatha Reddi presented a petition signed by a petitioner regarding the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, and amendment of the Indian Post Office Rules.

BILL INTRODUCED ... 80-82

Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Bill was introduced.

AGENDA FOR TUESDAY
14th May. 1957—

The Budget (Railway) 1957-58.
Motion re President's Address.