

12.15 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) TREATMENT METED OUT TO JAWANS AT C.O.D., SHAKURBASTI, DELHI.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Maveli-kara): This is a very important matter. I gave a calling attention notice on it. Under your direction I have written a letter to the Minister, but he has given no reply.

MR. SPEAKER: You read your statement.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: It has been reported that efforts are being made by the C.O.D. authorities to suppress the evidences with regard to the death of Sepoy Kunjan Lasar. One Sepoy Verghese is the only one eye witness to the interrogation and torture on November 18, of the deceased Kunjan Lasar. But he is taken into custody and kept in the Quarterguard of one of the Regiments in Delhi Cantonment for 28 days of rigorous imprisonment on petty ground of not attending the Monthly Durbar of Ordnance Unit.

Actually Sepoy Verghese went to attend the Durbar but one of the Havildars told him that he need not attend and thus he was prevented from attending the Durbar. By keeping Verghese away from the Durbar where "Jawans" speak freely of their difficulties, the authorities were trying to prevent him from speaking about the truth.

However, on the next day the whole matter came to light through newspapers report. Mr. Verghese was charged for not attending the Durbar and was given punishment of rigorous imprisonment of 28 days and was kept away from the Ordnance unit premises.

The above arrest and imprisonment of Verghese it is alleged is to avoid him from appearing before the court of Enquiry. Even for the enquiry conducted already he was not produced for giving evidence. The "Jawans"

are under the fear that the life of Verghese is also in danger.

It is said that large scale theft is being taking place in the Ordnance Depot. This theft is taking place with the knowledge of higher authorities and they are now trying to escape by putting the whole charge on the low class employees. But if an impartial enquiry is conducted and Sepoy like K. K. Sasi, Bonnuswamy, Verghese are all given protection and allowed to give evidence without fear, the mystery behind the theft in the C.O.D. and the death of Kunjan Lasar can be brought to light"....

MR. SPEAKER: This was not the statement which you were allowed to read.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: It has been given to me just now by your office. It is your copy.

MR. SPEAKER: There is something wrong somewhere, some mistake. No, it was not allowed. Nothing to go on record. I do not allow it.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: You are questioning my integrity?

MR. SPEAKER: Not yours. It is not your fault, it is the office fault.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Am I responsible for that? In that case, please permit me to make a statement. It is a grave matter and serious thing has taken place. Under your permission I gave a letter to the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Since you say it is the office fault, I am not reading the rest, but what I read so far is under your permission, and that should go on record. It is a very important question.

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into it.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Please ask the Minister to answer my letter. I gave a letter under your direction, but the Minister did not care even to reply to that.

MR. SPEAKER: He took very great care, I know that.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN**

MR. SPEAKER: Not to go on record. Whatever he says will not go on record.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): There is a procedure whenever there is a matter of this nature, we reply. I am replying.

MR. SPEAKER: O. K. He is replying.

श्री हरिकेश बहादुर (गंगखपुर) : मैं यह पूछना चाहता था कि इस सत्र में पालेसर ट्रिब्यूनल की रिपोर्ट लाने वाले थे उसका क्या हुआ ?

(ii) TRANSMISSION FACILITIES FOR AIR.
SIMLA

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH (Mandi): Under Rule 377, I am making a statement:

There are at present two 2.5 K.W. Short Wave and 100 K.W. Medium Wave—Transmitters in the Simla Station of the A. I. R. The short wave transmitter carries the same programme as transmitted by the Medium Wave Transmitter. The Short wave transmitter has been catering to the needs of the border areas of Himachal Pradesh like Lahaul and Spiti, Kinnaur and Pangti area of Chamba District which are not reached by the MW. Transmitter which can hardly be heard in these farflung areas at day time, although there is a slight improvement before sun-rise and after sun set. Reception of the 2.5 K.W. Short Wave transmitter in these areas is also not satisfactory because of its small power and there has been a demand to transmit programmes on a transmitter which could reach these areas. Since the border areas need more attention, and it is very essential both from

security and publicity point of view to reach the people living in these areas, I request that at least a 50 K.W. Short Wave Transmitter should be installed in the A.I.R. Simla in order to cater to the needs of the people of these border areas.

There is at present only one Radio Station in H. P. located at Simla to serve the entire State. Being a hilly area and having a big chunk of Tribal population in Lahaul, Spiti, Kinnaur and Chamba districts, the listening condition need to be further augmented considerably so that the entire State could be catered to. Strategically the State has its own importance because of its borders with Tibet. In order to reach the people at all places and to create better listening facilities for the entire population it is essential that one more A.I.R. Station should be established at Dharamsala with a powerful transmitter linked to Simla.

It is also necessary that a small medium wave transmitting should be installed in the premises of the studios of AIR Simla which could be operated with the help of the generator available in the studios in order to ensure the continuity of AIR Simla's programmes in the event of shutting down of 100 K.W. medium wave transmitter due to failure of electrical supply which is quite frequent during snow-fall and in rainy season.

At present Simla Station of AIR despite having two transmitters is a single channel station. Because of the peculiar needs of the people of the State the Station is broadcasting programmes in 12 dialects in addition to the catering to the needs of other sections of the Society. It can function smoothly and properly if it is declared a two channel station so that the programmes for the border areas could be transmitted on a powerful 50 K.M. Short Wave transmitter and the 100 K.W. Medium Wave transmitter could be used for other programmes directed to the general audience.

**Not recorded.