

the railway employees who have retired under the P.F. (Contributory) on or after 1-4-57 were given ample options to come over to the pension scheme and if they have retired under P.F. (Contributory) Rules, they have done so on their own volition.

Backward Areas of Maharashtra

7000. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a memorandum from the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce regarding taking up for survey/execution of various lines in backward but potentially viable areas of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, furnish details of the communication received by the Government during the current year;

(c) the reaction of Government to the same proposal-wise; and

(d) details of action taken/proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Yes.

(b) Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce in their memoranda dated 19th December, 1978 and also 21st February, 1978 have requested for construction of 35 Km. long railway line between Dhule and Amalner.

(c) and (d). Dhule and Amalner are linked by a well-developed road. Traffic on Chalisgaon-Dhule branch line is limited and its extension to Amalner is not expected to improve traffic prospects. In view of the tight fund position and availability of road services, construction of the proposed line is not contemplated at present.

12.56 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE: NOTICE RECEIVED FROM HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that on the 11th April, 1979, a notice has been received from the Assistant Registrar of the High Court of Karnataka in the matter of Writ Petition No. 2865 of 1979, requiring the Secretary, Lok Sabha, to appear in the High Court in person or through an Advocate duly instructed or through some one authorised by law to act for him in the case on the 17th April, 1979. With the notice, a copy of the writ petition filed by Shri C. Nanjappa, a voter of Chikmagalur Parliamentary Constituency, challenging the validity of the resolution passed by Lok Sabha on the 19th December, 1978, and the subsequent notification of that date issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, regarding expulsion of Shrimati Indira Nehru Gandhi from Lok Sabha has also been enclosed.

As per past practice of the House, the Secretary, Lok Sabha, has been asked not to respond to the notice. The Minister of Law is being requested to apprise the High Court of Karnataka of the correct constitutional position in this regard.

SHRI RAJ NARAIN (Rae Bareli): On a point of personal explanation.

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. That question is over.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai): On a point of clarification so far as your order in the matter of the expulsion of Shrimati Indira Gandhi is concerned, I would like to get the position cleared from the Chair.

A particular notification has been issued by the Secretary of the Lok Sabha conveying the decision of the House. We have got our own objections to the interpretation by the Secretariat in this matter. We have

taken a particular decision, the Secretary of Lok Sabha has sought to interpret it in a particular way, and thereby the decision of the House has not been correctly conveyed.

MR. SPEAKER: That stage is past now. You have mentioned that earlier.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Arising out of this, when we ourselves are so much confused about this, is not the entire country also bound to feel confused, more so the electorate?

MR. SPEAKER: That is not my subject.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: My point of order is: was it open to the Secretary of the Lok Sabha to interpret the decision?

MR. SPEAKER: We are not on that subject now.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: It arises from the...

MR. SPEAKER: It does not arise at all.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Then I shall raise it later.

13.00 hrs.

RE: SITUATION IN JAMSHEDPUR

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Idukki): With your permission, I would like to bring to the notice of the House a very serious situation at Jamshedpur. The whole of yesterday, from morning onward, there were certain clashes.

MR. SPEAKER: You just ask for a statement. I have allowed a statement under Rule 377.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: In the evening, clashes took place, a sort of communal riots have taken place. Papers have reported that deaths

have taken place. I would just like to bring to your notice certain rulings which have taken place earlier when there were serious occurrences, which affected people, took place and when the House is in session, under Rule 372, *suo motu* the Ministers concerned come and report to the House.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already told . . .

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: This has not happened. They should have done it. It is a very serious matter. I talked to the Prime Minister, I talked to the Home Minister yesterday and subsequently, the Home Secretary talked to me and told me that he would give me full information.

I had expected to them come forward with a statement, even without asking. I would beseech of you to direct the Government to come forward with a statement today itself, because they were asked only yesterday as to what exactly the position is. It is a very serious matter. Clashes of communal nature are taking place. People are in a frantic condition. Reports are coming to me with a ring of despair. Military has come in. Curfew has been imposed. Many deaths have taken place. But still, the Government has not chosen to come and report it to the House. You must take serious note of it and you must ask the Government to make a statement today itself. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: We are in the initial stage. The Government has to make a statement

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. C. GEORGE (Mukandapuram): I have only one point. The House is not sitting on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Let me bring to the notice of the House the point which was not mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition. Tomorrow is Friday. We have reliable information that