

the managing trustees of the Harijan Ashram...

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot mention all these things at the time of laying a paper. If there is any difficulty, you can write to the Committee on Assurances.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: I will do that.

Secondly, in the last session, the monsoon session, the Education Minister, Prof. Nurul Hasan, in so many words assured me and this House that the V. V. John Committee Report...

MR. SPEAKER: May I say this is not covered by the scope of these statements laid on the Table of the House? You can write the Speaker or to the Assurances Committee. They can let you know in course of time.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: The Education Minister, Prof. Nurul Hasan, gave an assurance to the House that the V. V. John Committee Report will be considered by the Gujarat Government and will be placed before the House. Does the statement contain that assurance being implemented or are we going to be kept waiting?

MR. SPEAKER: If it does not contain, you write to me.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: If I write to you or to the Assurances Committee, it will be a long process.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Shankaranand, you look into it and inform him.

NOTIFICATION UNDER CENTRAL EXCISE RULES

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. 152/74-CE published in Gazette of India, dated the 20th

November, 1974 issued under the Central Excise Rules 1944 together with an explanatory memorandum. The notification provides for incentives excise rebate for sugar factories which have gone into production for the first time in 1971-72. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8512/74.]

13.57 hrs.

RELEASE OF MEMBERS

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received the following telegram, dated the 19th November, 1974 from the Police Commissioner, Nagpur:—

"Savashri Jambuwant Dhote and Ram Hedaoo. Members of Lok Sabha, arrested on 19-11-1974 at Nagpur for offences under Section 342 IPC and Section 7 Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1932 were produced before Judicial Magistrate Second Court, Nagpur, at 4 P.M. on 19-11-1974 and were released by the Court on personal bonds."

MR. SPEAKER: We will take up item No. 10, Calling Attention after lunch. If you allow me, I can dispose of item No. 11. It is a formal item.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

FORTY-SEVENTH REPORT

SHRI G. G. SWELL (Autonomous Districts): I beg to present the Forty-seventh Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

MR. SPEAKER: We will take up other items after lunch. The Call Attention will be taken up after lunch. This is something which is happening everyday. It used to be half-an-hour after 12 O'Clock; then, it went upto 1 O'Clock. Now, it does upto 2 O'Clock and it goes after lunch. Where, are we going to?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Gwalior): There should be Government Business only after 2 O'clock.

MR. SPEAKER: I only wish you were sometimes on this side and have the taste of it.

We adjourn for lunch to re-assemble at 3 O'Clock.

14.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till Fifteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunch at three minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

N.A.T.O. FORCES, REPORTED PLAN TO HAVE NAVAL EXERCISES IN THE NORTHERN REGION OF INDIAN OCEAN

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampore): Sir, I call the attention of the hon. Minister of Defence to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The reported plan of N.A.T.O. forces to have naval exercises in the Northern Region of the Indian Ocean and the serious threat arising out of that."

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir,

We have information that the NAVAL and AIR forces of the United States, U.K., Iran, Pakistan and Turkey would take part in a combined Naval and Air exercise in the northern part of the Indian Ocean from November 19 to November 30. The exercise is being held, as announced from Turkey, under the auspices of CENTO and is code-named "Midlink 1974".

PAKISTAN IS HOSTING THIS EXERCISE. Three of the participating countries—United States, U.K. and Turkey, are also members of the NATO Alliance. Such exercises have been conducted by CENTO in the past but the exercise planned this year is the biggest held so far by this Alliance. These developments cannot but cause concern to us. The possibility inevitably increases of greater big-power rivalry in the Indian Ocean area. India would only be echoing the fears of an overwhelming majority of the littoral countries of the Indian Ocean in this regard.

We have consistently held the view that any large scale presence of the Navies of some countries in the Indian Ocean is bound to attract the Navies of others. Moreover, such exercises tend to reinforce outdated military groupings and accentuate tension in the region. Only the other day I expressed publicly India's strong opposition to these naval exercises in the Indian Ocean.

India has consistently supported efforts for maintaining the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, free from great power rivalry and military escalation. We have co-ordinated our efforts with other countries in the region to mobilise international support for the attainment of these objectives. Whilst expressing deep concern over these developments in our neighbourhood I would like to reiterate and emphasise our resolve to continue our efforts to achieve greater international understanding for reducing tension in the Indian Ocean.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: I also fully appreciate and join myself with the feelings expressed here that India is expressing its deep concern at the biggest naval and air exercise that is being held from the 19th to 30th November.

But my grouse is whether the Government is still aware that the