

The revision of tram fares is under the consideration of the West Bengal Government.

12 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**SUPREME COURT JUDGEMENT OF PUNJAB
APPROPRIATION ACT, ETC.**

श्री मधु लिसवहे (मुसोर): अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं विलम्बनीय लोक महत्सव के निम्नलिखित विषय की ओर गृह-कार्य मंत्री का ध्यान दिलाता हूँ और प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वह इस बारे में एक वक्तव्य दें :—

“पंजाब विनियोग अधिनियम इत्यादि के बारे में उच्चतम न्यायालय का फैसला और उसके बारे में भारत सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया।”

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): Mr. Speaker Sir, Government have seen press reports of the judgement delivered by the Supreme Court of India on July, 30, 1968 in the civil appeal State of Punjab vs. Satyapal Dang. Steps are being taken to obtain a copy of the judgement.

Sir, you will recall that I had informed the House on May, 10, 1968, that the High Court of Punjab and Haryana had held that the Punjab Appropriation Acts of 1968 were *ultra vires* of the Constitution and hence not valid. The Government of Punjab had appealed against the judgement of the High Court. According to information received from Government Counsel, the Supreme Court was pleased to hold that action of the Governor in proroguing the House and issuing the Ordinance to regulate the procedure in the Houses of the Legislature of the State in relation to financial business was legal and proper and was necessary for the

functioning of the Constitutional machinery.

The Government of India trust that, in view of the authoritative interpretation of certain provisions of the Constitution, controversies concerning the scope and import of those provisions will be set at rest.

श्री मधु लिसवहे: अध्यक्ष महोदय, स्वयं गृह-मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि उनके पास भी फैसले की प्रति नहीं है। हम उस जजमेंट के बारे में चर्चा नहीं करना चाहते हैं। यदि वह दो तीन दिन में उस फैसले की प्रति प्राप्त करें और हमें भी दें, तो हम सरकार की नीति के बारे में सफाई के तौर पर कुछ पूछना चाहेंगे।

MR. SPEAKER: You are right. We shall take it up a few days later. There is no hurry about it. The Calling Attention is postponed because copies of the judgment are not there.

12.03 hrs.

RE. CALLING ATTENTION NOTICES

MR. SPEAKER: Before I take up some other business, I would like to tell the House one or two points about my own difficulties. I receive a A number of calling attention notices every day—30 or 40 is the average per day. Many of them relate to strikes on the spot. It may be in a hospital, industry or somewhere else. In a huge country like ours, there are a number of strikes in different corners of the country. After all, hon. members want information. If they want information, I think a short notice question would be more appropriate than a calling attention. Today for instance about the strikes I have received about half a dozen calling attention notices. I cannot possibly admit all of them. When something more important comes, I admit it. On one or two occasions I do admit this also if it is an all-India strike. But if I admit calling attention notices

[Mr. Speaker]

about strikes in small units—some-where in a hospital 20 people are striking etc—I will be blocking more important things. Therefore, hon. members may table short notice questions on strikes. I am appealing to the ministers also. When something of that type comes, they may be good enough to accept it. I can admit one short notice question a day, so that it would be easier. Even if it is not a Short Notice Question if necessary I can include it as the first question for the day. If I consider it as urgent I can do that. But I thought it should go in the normal course as Short Notice Questions. Then it will help in relieving the pressure. Now everything that is not accepted comes as Calling Attention Notice. If a Calling Attention Notice is not accepted it comes up in the form of a discussion. If a discussion is not allowed then it takes some other form. Therefore, I am helpless in the matter. If 30 or 40 Calling Attention Notices are received any one day, about a strike here or there I cannot possibly admit all of them. It is not that I am against admitting them. Some Congress Members have also given notice about some matters. It is not as if these notices are received from one side alone. Both the sides have sent such notices. Therefore, I would appeal to them, both sides, not to give Call Attention Notices but send in Short Notice Questions. I would also appeal to the Government, where it is only a question of giving some information, to accept at least one Short Notice Question a day.

श्री मधु लिखडे (मुंगेर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप इस पहलू की ओर ध्यान दीजिये कि तीन राज्यों में राष्ट्रपति शासन है।

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore): Sir, from the present Calendar of Sittings you will notice that 8th of August is the last date for giving 21

days notice for admitting questions. Therefore, after the 8th we will have no opportunity to give any more notice of starred questions. As you were saying very correctly, after the 8th up to the end of this session the only remedy is to send in Short Notice Questions. If the Ministers go on in this present attitude of rejecting everything then we will have no remedy left.

MR. SPEAKER: I have suggested a remedy.

श्री रवि राय (पुरी) : आप भी उन पर दबाव डालिये।

SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai): Sir, it is most astonishing to find that they never accept Short Notice Questions. We always get a chit saying that the Minister is not prepared to accept the Short Notice Questions and there the matter ends. It begins and ends there. About Calling Attention Notices I would like to point out one thing. Once upon a time I used to say that the Parliament Secretariat is the most efficient office in India, but now I am having some doubts. What happens is, when I submit a Calling Attention Notice I am informed that it has been rejected, but a couple of days after that I find that it has been admitted in somebody else's name. Yesterday this happened. A particular Calling Attention Notice which I had submitted and to which I was informed that it had been rejected mysteriously came in the Agenda yesterday.

MR. SPEAKER: It was brought to my notice and on the spot I included Shri Samar Guha's name. If it is pointed out the Office will be the first to point it out to me that it was a mistake due to oversight.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDI (Kendrapara): But in that process his name instead of being put as the first name was put as the last.

MR. SPEAKER: But lots are drawn.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY: There is no lots in this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Whether first or last only one question is allowed.

SHRI HEM BARUA: Sir, I am very unlucky in that matter. I have never got anything in lotteries during my life. Whatever that might be, if lots are drawn and if my name does not come up that is understandable. But when my name itself is not put in the lots, that is very difficult to understand.

MR. SPEAKER: If anything happens like that I would request hon. Members to bring it to my notice and I am prepared to correct it. I have no hesitation in doing that. Only tell me in the Chamber or write to me and I am prepared to correct it. My office also will not hesitate to correct it if there is any error.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Sir, broadly speaking, I agree with what you have said. You have your own difficulties, but you must realise our difficulty also. On certain matters the Ministers themselves must realise the gravity of the situation—they are as intelligent as we are if not more—and they should make a statement. Our Calling Attention Notices are rejected. Here is the Home Minister. Just in front of his residence all the central trade union leaders have been arrested today. Is it not possible for him to make a statement? Why should he wait for our Calling Attention Notice? All the leaders have been arrested. Tomorrow there might be discontent among the Central Government employees.

12.10 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

KANPUR AND MEERUT UNIVERSITIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, AND ANNUAL REPORTS ETC. OF THE COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (DR. TRIGUNA SEN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Kanpur and Meerut Universities (Amendment) Act, 1968 (President's Act No. 20 of 1968) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th June, 1968 under sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Uttar Pradesh State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Act, 1968. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1559/68]
- (2) A copy of the Annual Report of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research for the year 1966-67 along with the Audited Statement of accounts and the Audit Report thereon for the year 1965-66 (Hindi version). [placed in Library. See No. LT-1560/68]
- (3) A copy of the Audit Report on the accounts of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research for the year 1964-65 (Hindi version). [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1560/68]

U.P. OFFICIAL LANGUAGE (SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS) ACT, AND WEST BENGAL GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATIONS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA):

Sir, I beg—

- (1) to re-lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Uttar Pradesh Official Language (Supplementary Provisions) Act, 1968 (President's Act No. 10 of 1968) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th April, 1968 under sub-section (8) of section 3 of the Uttar Pradesh State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Act, 1968 (Hindi and English versions). [placed in Library. See No. LT-1279/68]