

29th April. These persons were on broad Indian vessel 'Ratnagiri' which had drifted ashore near Karachi reportedly due to mechanical trouble.

(b) The Government of India have already taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan who are being pressed to release these persons for early repatriation to India.

#### International Film Festivals

755. SHRI P. GOPALAN:  
SHRI C. K. CHAKRAPANI:  
SHRI N. K. SANGHI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to hold an International Film Festival this year;

(b) how many such festivals were organised by Government in the past; and

(c) the benefits which accrue from such festivals?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. K. SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal to hold an International Film Festival early next year is under consideration.

(b) Three International Film Festivals have already been held in India in the years 1952, 1961 and 1965.

(c) Besides providing an international forum to world cinema, it enables the host country to project its cinema and provides our artists, directors, producers and other cine-workers the unique opportunity of artistic and business contact.

#### Energy Survey of India Committee

756. SHRI P. R. THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the action which has been taken on the recommendations made

by the Energy Survey of India Committee, 1965;

(b) whether another survey has been undertaken in accordance with the recommendations of the said Committee;

(c) if so, the progress thereof; and

(d) if not, the arrangements which are being made to expedite the next survey?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI):

(a) The report covers a wide range of subjects relating to planning for energy in the country. Many of the recommendations have already been accepted; there are others which call for further study and examination. These are being pursued.

(b) to (d). The next survey of energy requirements of the country will be undertaken as soon as a decision is taken on the plans of development for the new Fourth Plan. In the meantime, compilation of certain basic statistics pertaining to consumption of energy in various sectors subsequent to 1962-63 has been taken up.

12 hrs.

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

##### ABOLITION OF PRIVY PURSES

SHRI R. BARUA (Jorhat): I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

The outcome of the negotiations held recently with the Ex-Rulers of Princely States on the question of abolition of their privy purses and other privileges.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in pursuance of the intention of Government to abolish privy purses and privileges of former Rulers of Indian States I have had meetings with their representatives, on 3rd November, 1967, 26th December, 1967, and 29th May, 1968. The first meeting was for a preliminary exchange of views. I explained to the Princes the broad approach of Government's thinking in the light of changing circumstances. (Shri Ranga: Breaking the plighted word) I told them that I was having discussions with them to seek common ground of agreement with goodwill. At the second meeting I conveyed to them that Government's basic decision was to abolish privy purses and privileges, to make transitional arrangements, and to have negotiations with the Princes for implementing the decision. I explained that I was willing to give a scheme for transitional arrangements whenever the Rulers desired, but perhaps they might themselves wish to suggest something in the light of the general approach. The representatives of Princes said that they would convey Government's views to their brotherhood and get their reaction. A meeting of the Rulers was held in May 1968. At the meeting held on 29th May, 1968, it was reiterated on behalf of the Rulers (Shri S. M. Banerjee: Ex-rulers)—Ex-rulers, thank you very much, Shri Banerjee—at some length as to why in their view privy purses and privileges should not be abolished. I explained that Government's clear intention was to abolish rulership, but that about the manner of doing so Government wanted to have discussions with the Princes. I noticed some reluctance to discuss matters on this basis, but they promised to send a note, which has not yet come. Since then Government have been giving further thought to the matter and are examining proposals for legislation and transitional arrangements. It is proposed to have discussions with the representatives of

the Rulers about these arrangements before taking the final step. I am anxious to have the discussion as early as possible, so that further action may be taken without delay.

SHRI R. BARUA: While appreciating the anxiety of the Government to resolve the issue through negotiations, it is very difficult to understand why after having taken a decision the process is being prolonged in such a way that it consumes a lot of time whether it is the question of the re-organisation of Assam or of the abolition of privy purses. In view of that may I know from the Government whether they can give any firm time when they are coming with a firm proposal because a decision was already taken?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: Yes, Sir; I can understand the anxiety of the hon. Member, but I can tell him that as far as firmness is concerned, it is there. We have accepted in principle the abolition of privy purses and privileges. That decision is there, but certainly we would like to do that with the goodwill of the ex-rulers. Therefore we wanted to discuss these matters with them. As I explained, we are examining certain proposals and before taking a final decision we certainly would like to have talks with them.

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंबई) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, कुछ दिन पहले जब मैं युगोस्लाविया में था तो वृतावास के एक घादमी ने मुझे से कहा कि भारत सरकार ने फैसला कर लिया है कि राजाओं के निजी कोष समाप्त किये जायेंगे तो मुझे बड़ा ताज्जुब हुआ और मैंने उन से कहा कि आप कुछ गलती कर रहे हैं, शायद यह फैसला हुआ होगा कि अब हम फैसला कर रहे हैं कि जल्दी ही फैसला करने के बारे में सोच विचार करेंगे। वैसे ही हुआ है। पिछले वर्ष अध्यक्ष महोदय, जब इस विषय पर मैंने बहस उठाई थी तो जो जवाब हुआ

[ श्री मधु लिमये ]

मंत्री जी ने दिया था उस से अधिक, एक साल बीतने के बाद भी उन्होंने कुछ भी नहीं कहा है। उन्होंने सदन को जो आश्वासन दिया था उस आश्वासन का यह उल्लंघन होता है। तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वह इस सदन को इस समय यह साफ साफ बताने के लिये तैयार हैं कि एक विशेष अवधि के अन्दर राजाओं का निजी कोष हम समाप्त करेंगे और उन में से जो कुछ ऐसे लोग हों जो कि इस को बन्द करने से बिल्कुल भूखों मर जायेंगे तो उन लोगों के लिये इन्तजाम करेंगे लेकिन बाकी सब लोगों का निजी कोष समाप्त करेंगे फलां फलां तारीख के अन्दर? क्या इस तरह की वह घोषणा करेंगे? और हमारे जो नीजवान तुर्की लोग हैं, क्या वे इस के बारे में कुछ नहीं कर रहे हैं। यह भी मैं जानना चाहूँगा?

**SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN:** The hon. Member, Shri Madhu Limaye, appears to be very pleased with himself for the answer he gave in Yugoslavia. I have, certainly, not changed my position. If at all any definite answer is there, that answer I am repeating again. In principle, Government has taken a decision to abolish privy purses and privileges. But at the same time, I cannot indicate any target date in this matter because these matters have to be tackled with patience and understanding.

श्री मधु लिमये : एक साल हो गया, आप कोई अवधि नहीं बतायेंगे? अध्यक्ष महोदय, अगर कोई निश्चित तारीख नहीं तो दो, तीन या चार महीने की अवधि ही बतायें। आप कोई अवधि भी नहीं बतायेंगे और काम भी नहीं करेंगे।

**MR. SPEAKER:** That is all.

12.12 hrs.

**QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE  
AGAINST THE DEPUTY  
PRIME MINISTER**

**MR. SPEAKER:** I have got notice of a privilege motion against the statement made by the Deputy Prime Minister signed by a number of Members, Shri Madhu Limaye, Shri S. M. Banerjee and so many others.

**SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai):** Before that, may I draw your attention to an adjournment motion submitted to you about the strike resorted to by the press workers?

**MR. SPEAKER:** I have a number of adjournment motions, not one, with me. Some I am allowing; some I am not allowing. Only one can be allowed a day. I wanted to hear this also.

I had taken a tentative decision. Later on, it was argued by a number of hon. Members belonging to different parties. They came to me. Now, I want to hear them. One of them may try to tell me what the case is so that I can request the Deputy Prime Minister to give me facts before I take a decision.

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंबई) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आज मुझे अपना फर्ज अदा करना पड़ रहा है। यह बहुत कटु कार्य है लेकिन आवश्यक है इसलिये मैं करने जा रहा हूँ। आज उप-प्रधान मंत्री, मन्त मोरारजी के लिए कसौटी का क्षण है और इसलिये मैं चाहूँगा कि मैं जो सवाल आज उठाने जा रहा हूँ उस का फैसला प्रिविलेज कमीटी के हाथ हो। वह कमीटी इस सवाल के सभी पहलुओं पर सोचे और जो उस को अपना अन्तिम निर्णय देना हो वह दे। केवल बहुमत के आधार पर इस सवाल को टालने का या खत्म करने का प्रयास नहीं होना चाहिये।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप को याद होगा कि 30 अप्रैल को और पहली मई को जब इस सदन में वित्त विधेयक पर बहस हो रही थी