

Mr. Speaker: Even within these few days, I have found—I am very sorry to make this remark—that the hon. Member takes pleasure in these things.

श्री बागड़ी : हिन्दी में समझा दीजिए ।

12.09 hrs.

RE: CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE

Firing on Policemen from Chinese Trade Agency, Kalimpong.

Mr. Speaker: The calling attention notices are in the names of Shri Bade, Shri Brij Raj Singh, Shri Lahri Singh, Shrim Hem Barua and Shri Ram Sevak Yadav regarding firing from inside the Chinese Trade Agency at Kalimpong. Has the hon. Prime Minister any information to give to the House?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The only statement I can make is that we have no knowledge of it. We shall enquire.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): This has been published in the papers. The trouble about it is this, and I want to be very frank about it. Whenever anything of this sort happens that involves the security of the country, it is always the Members who have to draw the attention of the Ministers concerned, and at times the press has done a laudable service by helping the Members in getting this information. Now, here is an information that a member of the Indian Police Force was shot at.

Mr. Speaker: What does he want to say? That information we have got.

Shri Hem Barua: My trouble is this. Even though it is in the papers, even though it is said that it is an old matter, even though it is said that a member of the Indian Police

Force has been shot from the Chinese trade agency, the Prime Minister stands up and tells us that the only thing that he knows is that he does not know anything about it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am rather surprised. The information has been published this morning, and probably the Government might be doing its best to get the information that it can from its own sources. It has come in the morning's papers and that has come to everybody's notice. Does the hon. Member expect that the Government must have had prior information, before it was published? Everybody has drawn that information from the papers, and the Government representatives also must have known it from the papers, but they must be having their own sources and must be trying now to get that information, and when it is got, they can give it, not now.

श्री राम सेवक यादव : (बाराबंकी) इस घटना को घटे एक महीना हो गया है, श्रीमन ।

Shri Hem Barua: It comes to this that the papers have a better agency than the Government. It is the Government that should have an agency and machinery to collect the information and tell us.

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): The whole thing is supposed to be one month old. On that there is no misunderstanding. The papers have stated that the incident took place one month ago, and that was perhaps time long enough for the Government. That is the whole submission.

Mr. Speaker: That is right, but now I would just suggest that even if it be the negligence of the Government, the House has its own methods and measures to adopt. What can I do here at this moment? If the Government says this information is not with them, it is for the House to adopt ways and means to get that. What can I do if the Members make these charges?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): Is he calling for a report on this matter from the West Bengal Government? That is the point. The Police Force is involved. Is he calling for a report from the West Bengal Government on this matter and laying it before the House as soon as it comes?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Kamath is making a suggestion. Certainly the Government will take it into consideration.

Shri Hem Barua: You have said like this. We are in your hands entirely, but we want you to help us in getting the information.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member knows more than myself what measures can be adopted, and he says that I should guide him as to how to compel the Government. I am helping him certainly when I am allowing him so many questions and interference and interjections and even interruptions and obstructions. Certainly I am helping him so much. Now I crave his indulgence that I may be allowed to go further.

Shri Nath Pai: The Prime Minister is willing to say something.

Mr. Speaker: This is what is desired, that this information may be got from the West Bengal Government.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Naturally, now that the matter has attracted attention here, it would be got. We have not received any information so far as I know. I have heard nothing about it. This is the first time I have heard, and I cannot answer it. Whether it was a matter of great importance or less importance depends on the context of things. Anyhow, I have no information. I can only enquire and if it is important, will let the House know.

12.13 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

SCARCITY OF PRINTING PAPER IN MADRAS

Shri Umanath (Pudukottai): Under Rule 197 I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Commerce and Industry to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising out of the scarcity of printing paper in Madras."

The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): There is now no scarcity of printing paper in Madras City. The paper mills are releasing stocks as usual. There was, however, dislocation of movement on the Calcutta-Madras line because of a train accident which occurred some time last month. Normal traffic was resumed within a few days and special trains were run from Dalmia Nagar to Madras in order to carry paper from Rohtas Industries. The dislocation of traffic was only for a few days, and the situation now is normal. Paper is moving to Madras as usual, and no scarcity has been reported.

Shri Umanath: May I know whether the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to a report in the Madras Mail last week that there was scarcity in Madras City and there was scrambling for printing paper and that the paper mills were not going to release the paper to the traders till a decision was given by the Government of India on the revision of prices sought by them? May I know whether the hon. Minister's attention has been drawn to that Press Report?

Shri Kanungo: If there is such a report in the Press, it is entirely wrong.