

12:58½ hrs.

PETITION RE: GOLD (CONTROL) BILL

Shri Tulshidas Jadhav (Nanded): I beg to present a petition signed by Shri Nabhi Ram Joshi and others, relating to the Gold (Control) Bill, 1963, as reported by the Joint Committee.

I may also state, Sir, that the petition has been signed by 20 lakhs of people.

Mr. Speaker: I have ordered that the petition shall be circulated to the Members of this House.

12:59 hrs.

RE: POINT OF ORDER

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Sir, on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: He raised that point of order yesterday.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Yesterday, at that time, you were not in the Chair, and the hon. Deputy-Speaker, who was in the Chair, rejected the point of order that I raised then. I say this with due respect to the Chair. (*Interruption*)

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Let all these talks that are going on stop first. Then I shall proceed.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My point of order is this. Even today a petition has been received asking this Government to drop or amend the Gold Control Bill which has come out of the Joint Committee. Yesterday, when I pressed my point of order, the reply from the hon. Deputy-Speaker was that action has been taken by the Petitions Committee and both the petitions submitted by me and by Mr. Surendranath Dwivedy have been circulated. I relied on the observations of Mr. Ayyangar, the then Speaker and also on rule 307(3). Later on, I also referred to the *Directions by the Speaker*.

13 hrs.

The Deputy-Speaker asked me whe-

ther I could quote any definite ruling on this. I consulted the *May's Parliamentary Practice* also and I found that there was no parallel case. But there is a case of something pending before a Joint Select Committee and not before the Petitions Committee and the House can ask for the discontinuance of that particular thing. I want to draw an analogy from that. That Petitions Committee is also a committee of the House appointed by you. According to rule 307(3), which you know better than me, Sir, they have not only to circulate the petition, but they have to fulfil certain other things also. Yesterday it was pleaded that circulation was the only job.

I would like to remind you, Sir, of another petition which was presented in this House signed by the employees of Howrah-Amra Light Railway. That petition was referred to the Petitions Committee, which was then headed by Shri A. C. Guha. The committee not only circulated it to the members, but also recommended nationalisation of that railway. It was not accepted by the House.

I now refer to Direction No. 94, which says:

"After the presentation of a petition to the House, the Committee on Petitions shall meet to consider it as early as possible."

A petition has just now been presented. The other petitions might have been disposed according to the Deputy Speaker's ruling, but this petition has just been presented and you, in your wisdom, have said that it shall be circulated. That is good. But the Petitions Committee has not yet met to consider this petition. The Direction further says:

"Provided that in the case of a petition on a Bill pending before the House, it shall meet as soon as possible after it has been presented to the House and submit its report to the House or direct the circulation of the petition to the members as the case may be, well