

4225 Written Answers PHALGUNA 16, 1885 (SAKA) Statement re: 4226
recovery of
Explosives at Rangiya
Railway Station, Assam

(a) whether it is a fact that the General Manager of Rourkela Steel Plant recently visited West Germany to finalise arrangements for import of machinery for expansion of the Rourkela Steel Works;

(b) if so, the extent of machinery to be imported for the purpose; and

(c) the extent to which the capacity of the plant would be expanded thereby?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) to (c). The capacity of the Rourkela Steel Plant is being expanded from one million tonnes to 1.8 million tonnes. Orders for import of plant and equipment have already been placed. General Manager of the Plant left for West Germany on 22nd February, 1964, to sign the contracts with the various firms. About 78,000 tonnes of machinery is likely to be imported.

Small Industries in Assam

975. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of Industries of Assam State Government in his discussions in New Delhi with State Trading Corporation and Planning Commission's representatives appealed to Government to make increased allocations of raw materials for the small industries in Assam for the ensuing financial year; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). The Minister of Industries of Assam State has had discussions with the Chairman of the State Trading Corporation regarding allocation of certain raw materials to the Assam State for immediate requirements. In pursuance to those discussions an *ad-hoc* allotment of 50 tons of caustic has been made to the small scale industries in Assam State. Release of Mutton Tallow to eligi-

ble small scale units of Assam will also be made by the State Trading Corporation from the shipment expected shortly.

The Minister of Industries, Assam State did not have any discussion with the Planning Commission regarding increased allocation of raw materials for small industries in Assam for the ensuing financial year. Some references regarding allocations of raw materials to Assam have, however, been received and these are being sympathetically considered.

12 hrs.

ARREST OF MEMBER

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House that I have received the following telegram, dated the 5th March, 1964, from the Magistrate, First Class, Cuddapah:

"Shri Y. Eswara Reddy, Members, Lok Sabha, was arrested by Inspector of Police, Cuddapah and detained in the sub-jail."

12.0½ hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE TWENTY-FIRST REPORT

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-first Report of the Public Accounts Committee on Audit Report (Civil) on Revenue Receipts 1963.

12:01 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. RECOVERY OF EXPLOSIVES AT RANGIYA RAIL- WAY STATION, ASSAM

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Hajarnavis): Sir, on behalf of Shri Nanda, I make the following statement:

[Shri Hajarnavis]

In connection with a calling attention notice from Shri G. G. Swell, a statement was made in the Lok Sabha on February 27, 1964, on the reported seizure by the Assam police of certain quantities of explosives near Rangiya Railway Station. Further information has since been received from the Government of Assam and is to the following effect:—

On the morning of February 22, 1964, two unknown persons got into a rickshaw with a bed-roll and an air bag and came to a tea stall near Rangiya railway station. The unusual weight of the bed-roll and the air bag made the rickshaw puller suspicious and he reported this to a constable working under the Excise Department. The Excise Constable, on arrival at the tea stall, did not find the two persons; nevertheless, he searched the bed-roll and the air bag and found in the bed-roll 8 packets of gelignite containing 120 pieces marked "Special Gelatine Torch Brand" and 5 packets of 100 sticks of detonators each, bearing the marking "Mark six feet U.K." From the air bag, he recovered 1,365 detonators marked "Thistle Brand, Glasgow, Great Britain". No live cartridges were recovered with gelignite and detonators. The two persons, whom rickshaw puller had earlier seen near the railway station before reporting to the Excise constable, became untraced. The Excise constable reported the matter to the Rangiya police, who seized the explosives and registered a case under the Explosive Substances Act. The same afternoon two persons—Sepoy Kharag Bahadur of 3/3 Gurkha Rifles and Dhan Bahadur, a local carpenter—came to the tea stall and inquired about the bed-roll and the air bag left behind by the two unknown persons. The Police, who had been informed by the stall-keeper, came and interrogated them. It transpired that the uncle of Sepoy Kharag Bahadur had lost his bedding in the train and, therefore, having learnt that the Police had found one

unclaimed bedding, Sepoy Kharag Bahadur came to Rangiya to see if it was his uncle's. A preliminary inquiry established that a bedding was indeed lost by Kharag Bahadur's uncle and was traced at Tezpur railway station. However, on March 1, 1964, the police have taken Kharag Bahadur into custody and are continuing further investigation into this case.

I can assure Members that the State Government which is concerned with the matter of investigation will go into this case thoroughly with a view to finding out if the recovery of explosives has anything to do with internal security.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): On a point of clarification, Sir. I am sorry to say that during the last so many months, though the emergency is still on, the Government has taken very lightly what many of us this side as well as on the other side have been saying in all seriousness and earnestness about espionage, subversion and such activities in Assam. I would plead with the House, and urge the Government to take very drastic steps—and take it in greater seriousness and earnestness—and smash this spy ring, either Pakistani spy ring or the joint Sino-Pakistani spy ring in Assam, West Bengal and other parts of India as soon as possible lest worse befall us.

Mr. Speaker: What is the clarification that he has sought?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Let him tell us what they have done.

Mr. Speaker: I am just telling the hon. Member that he stood up saying that he wanted a clarification. What clarification does he want?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: What have they been doing about this matter so far?

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): I seek a clarification from you.

Mr. Speaker: From me?

Shri Hem Barua: From the Government then. As a matter of fact, I am very much perturbed about this because the security of Assam is in a very bad state and it is not for the first time that explosives, arms and ammunitions were discovered in this particular area. I might say that this area has become the honeycomb of anti-national elements.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members are only making statements.

Shri Hem Barua: The incident took place on the 22nd February and I just want to know from the Government whether Government have succeeded in establishing if any Pakistani or Chinese agents are involved in these nefarious activities now going on in the frontier State of Assam.

Shri Hajarnavis: Till the investigation is complete I will not be able to make any kind of a statement. But all possible clues are being followed. I might assure the House that the responsibility in the matter is realised both by the State Government and by the Central Government. Investigation has been undertaken and is being pursued vigorously and we will certainly try to bring to book the culprit.

Shri Hem Barua: May I make a very humble submission? The incident took place on the 22nd February; on the 27th I tabled an adjournment motion and some hon. friends tabled a call-attention notice and all that. Now, on the 22nd the incident occurred but on the 27th the Government could not give us any information. Today it is the 6th March and Government has not got the requisite information. If they fail to establish this very fact . . .

Mr. Speaker: What does he want me to do?

Shri Hem Barua: You should give them a direction that they should be prompt and quick. This particular place, Rangia . . .

Mr. Speaker: He will kindly resume his seat. The answer given is it is being investigated and pursued vigorously and both the Central and State Governments shall take steps . . .

Shri Hem Barua: They have already arrested two Nepalis connected with this incident. That is my information.

Mr. Speaker: That is what he has said.

Shri Hem Barua: Why is it that they have not been able to find out who are the connected persons?

Mr. Speaker: It has to be found out whether they are really guilty or not.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): From the statement of the hon. Minister it is clear that it is only the cycle-rickshaw puller who suspected something and informed the Police authorities. I want to know whether the cycle-rickshaw puller gave any statement to the Police, something in detail, about it. Secondly, according to the hon. Minister, it is written there "Made in Great Britain" or something like that. Is it a part of the ammunition which was supplied to us by Great Britain during the emergency?

Mr. Speaker: These are things that will be known after the inquiry and not now.

Shri Jashvant Mehta (Bhavnagar): The hon. Home Minister has said that the Assam Government have reported to the Central Government. I want to know whether the Central Intelligence Department has investigated this case and what is the finding of the Central Intelligence in this matter.

Shri Hajarnavis: Primary investigation is being carried on by the State Government into the offence that has been registered. That is their responsibility and that is being

[Shri Hajarnavis]

done. But we have our own source of information which will be made available for the purpose of bringing to book the culprits . . . (Interruption).

Shri Hem Barua: It is not a simple matter of law and order. Therefore, to say that the State Government is doing it is shelving the responsibility. This is a frontier State.

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): As it has caused a lot of anxiety not only to this House but the country at large and there have been cases after cases of this nature in that area and also in Kashmir, may I know if the Government has taken some steps to reinforce their Intelligence Department in that area?

Shri Hajarnavis: If there is a further need, we shall certainly do it. I am grateful to the hon. Member for expressing his anxiety . . .

Mr. Speaker: The question is whether the Central Government has actually reinforced it or not.

Shri Hajarnavis: I would not be able to give . . . (Interruptions).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is not a discussion on that.

Shri Hajarnavis: . . . exactly the figure. But I believe, we have got a fairly adequate service there.

Shri Tyagi: May I inform my hon. friend that intelligence is never carried on through paid servants and Government servants alone. We have to have many other sources.

Mr. Speaker: He can pass on that experience to the hon. Minister. But in this manner we cannot proceed.

Shri Ranga (Chittoor): May I make this suggestion that in view of the dissatisfaction prevailing among the various sections in this House as well as outside in regard to the failure and

inadequacy of arrangements made regarding intelligence and so on, the Minister concerned may take an early opportunity of inviting the leaders of different Parties and Groups in this House and take them into confidence and assure them about the various steps that are being taken in order to tighten up our own defence in regard to this matter?

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

Shri Hem Barua: The Central Government has taken no steps and they have left it to the State Government

Shri Ranga: It is for the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs too.

Mr. Speaker: The suggestion has been made and the Minister would take note of that.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): What was the suggestion, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: That was for the Home Minister. He has taken note of it.

Shri Hajarnavis: Yes, Sir.

12-12 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing 9th March, 1964, will consist of—

- (1) Further discussion of General Budget for 1964-65.
- (2) Submission of Demands on Accounts (General) for 1964-65 to the vote of the House.
- (3) Discussion and voting of:
Supplementary Demands for