

(d) I. Books published.

- (i) 'India Today and Tomorrow' (Azad Memorial Lectures by Shri Jawaharlal Nehru)—translated by Shri Hem Barua).
- (ii) 'Kalki' (by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan—translated by Shrimati Nilima Dutta).

III. Assamese translations of the following titles are in various stages of preparation and publication.

- (i) 'Jwalamukhi'.
- (ii) 'Aspects of Science'.
- (iii) 'Educational Reconstruction in India'.
- (iv) 'A Tale of Two Cities'.
- (v) 'Lachit Barphukan and His Times'.
- (vi) 'Akbar'.
- (vii) 'Lakshminath Bezbarua'.
- (viii) 'The Grand Rebel'.
- (ix) 'Judy and Lakshmi'.
- (x) 'One World and India'.
- (xi) 'The Transposed Heads'.
- (xii) 'Introduction to Indian Art'.
- (xiii) 'Neel Durpan'.
- (xiv) 'When the World was Young'.

12 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

(i) CERTAIN REPORTED REMARKS OF U.S. AMBASSADOR *re* INDIA'S DEFENCE FORCES

Mr. Speaker: We shall now take up Calling Attention Notices.

Shri Warrior (Trichur): Under Rule 197, I call the attention of the Minister of Defence to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"U.S. Ambassador Mr. Galbraith's remarks about India's defence forces as revealed in the newly-released U.S. Congressional Committee Report."

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India has no responsibility nor any desire to condition the opinions expressed by His Excellency the Ambassador of the United States in India. So far as this particular matter is concerned, as I referred to before, they can only be regarded as estimates by an observer. I have stated to the House that all forces in the world are ill-equipped, that is, in regard to the making of new arms. It is very wrong to convey the impression that the Indian Army is weak and is incapable of meeting any reasonable contingency that might arise. I am sure that was not the purpose of the U.S. Ambassador. Obviously, our equipment would be lower in quality and in modernity than those of countries which receive foreign aid or military aid from other places.

The next part of the question relates to our relative relationships or lack of them, our allergy or lack of it, in regard to China and Pakistan. I have also stated in the defence debate that the defence policy of this country is conditioned by the protection of our frontiers and wherever the aggressors may come, we will do our best to safeguard ourselves. So, we do not choose between evils the way.

The third part relates to the estimate of the Ambassador about the relative reliance or otherwise that the Prime Minister places on his colleagues. I am not aware that the Prime Minister has communicated or is likely to communicate or is likely to have inferences drawn about the relative values of his colleagues in the cabinet system of Government. I have no other comments to make on this.

Shri Warrior: May I know how His Excellency Mr. Galbraith got all the details in regard to the information about our forces? He states that it is about half a million strong, etc., etc. How did he get this information which

[Shri Warrior]

is confidential? These are considered to be confidential matters.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Galbraith himself must be knowing. Is there any answer to this?

Shri Krishna Menon: No, Sir. It is not necessary to answer. He can say what he likes.

Mr. Speaker: From what sources did Mr. Galbraith get this information? Has the Government any clues?

Shri Krishna Menon: We have not given any information.

Shri Warrior: May I know whether the Government is making any enquiries to this effect? This is a leakage.

Shri Nambiar (Tiruchirapalli): It is a serious leakage in respect of military matters.

Shri Vasudevan Nair (Ambalapuzha): Has it come to the notice of the Minister that between the statement made by the U.S. Ambassador in India and the statement made by the Indian Ambassador in the United States recently which was very much disputed, there is so much of similarity, especially regarding the equipment problem? If so, may I know whether the Government has enquired whether there was any exchange of views between the two?

Shri Krishna Menon: I submit that it does not arise out of this question.

(ii) FIRE IN CONNAUGHT PLACE

श्री बागडी (हिमाचल) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं नियम १६७ के अन्तर्गत गृह-कार्य मंत्रों का ध्यान निम्न अविलम्बनीय लोक महत्व के विषय की ओर आकृष्ट करना हूँ और चाहता हूँ कि वह इस सम्बन्ध में अपना वक्तव्य दें :—

कनाट प्लेस में भीषण आग दुर्घटना में फायर ब्रिगड को लापरवाही।

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): Last night, a fire broke out in Connaught Place at about.....

श्री बागडी : स्पीकर साहब,—

कुछ माननीय सदस्य : हिन्दी में।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : क्या मिनिस्टर

साहब हिन्दी में बयान दे सकेगे ?

श्री रामसेवक यादव (बाराबंकी) : वह बहुत अच्छी हिन्दी जानते हैं।

Shri Datar: The question was put both in English and Hindi.

Shri Priya Gupta (Katihar): Sir, I rise to a point of order. Is it because that the hon. Minister does not know Hindi that he has sat down?

Mr. Speaker: Yes; but he has asked his colleague to answer it. Where is the point of order?

Shri Priya Gupta: Thank you, but we should know it.

Mr. Speaker: But hon. Members also must know what the point of order should be.

गृह-कार्य मंत्री (श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री) : पिछली रात को करीब ६ बज कर ५ मिनट पर कनाट प्लेस में एक जगह आग लगी। आग बतलाया जाता है कि कुछ बिजली की खराबी का वजह से लगी। पहल पहल डा० राम नाथ कोई इंजिनियर हैं, उनकी दुकान में वह आग लगी फिर वह चारों तरफ आसानी से फैल गयी और उसमें जो दवाएँ थीं और कुछ दूसरा सामान जो डेटिसट्स का था, वह जल गया। आग उस के बाद आसपास के दूसरे मकानात में फैल गयी और आसपास के मकानात और खाम तोर से हाउसिंग सोसाइटी जो बिल्कुल बगल में थी उसका भी कुछ सामान और फाइने आदि जल गयीं। उस के बाद वह आग और आग बढ़ी और साहनी कम्पनी का जो गुदाम था वहाँ आग लग गयी। वहाँ पर दवाएँ और कुछ