

12.15 hrs.

## MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

**Secretary:** Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha:—

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 125 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 3rd December, 1962, agreed without any amendment to the Warehousing Corporations Bill, 1962, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 29th November, 1962."

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 97 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the East Punjab Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners (Delhi Amendment) Bill, 1962, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 4th December, 1962."

12.15½ hrs.

## EAST PUNJAB AYURVEDIC AND UNANI PRACTITIONERS (DELHI AMENDMENT) BILL

LAI'D ON THE TABLE, AS PASSED BY  
RAJYA SABHA

**Secretary:** Sir, I lay on the Table of the House the East Punjab Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners (Delhi Amendment) Bill, 1962, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

12.15½ hrs.

## ARREST OF ALLEGED SPY

**The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):** I made a statement the other day about the arrest of Budhabir Singh and the hon. Members wanted further information.

One Budhabir Singh, son of the late Ratnabir Singh of village Makhantol, Kathmandu, Nepal, was arrested by the Gauhati Police on the 28th October, 1962, as he was found in possession of two cameras and loitering in suspicious circumstances in the Fancy Bazar, Gauhati. He was brought to the Gauhati Police Station and interrogated. He had been living with his family in Kalimpong since 1960. He arrived in Gauhati after a visit to Imphal on the 26th October accompanied by his servant. He admitted having taken some photographs at Shillong, Imphal and Gauhati. After his arrest on the 28th October, 1962, the hotel in which he was staying was also searched but nothing incriminating was found. On the 29th October, he was produced before the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Gauhati, along with his servant and orders were passed remanding them to jail till the 12th November, 1962. Bail petitions were moved on the 30th October, 1962 through a pleader at Gauhati, and the Additional District Magistrate granted both of them bail for a sum of Rs. 500 each with one surety each.

Reports received from the Kalimpong Police showed that there is nothing adverse against either Budhabir Singh or his servant on the police records. The statement made by Budhabir Singh to the Police at Gauhati was also found to be correct on local verification. The films found in the seized cameras were developed but did not reveal anything to indicate that Budhabir Singh or his servant were engaged in any espionage activity. However the matter is being further investigated.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad):** On a point of clarification, may I ask whether it is a fact, when bail was granted or was about to be granted by the magistrate concerned, the police who had arrested this particular individual protested very strongly against the grant of bail, and on a paltry sum of Rs. 500 at that, that in spite of the

protest of the police, the magistrate granted bail, and that since then he has absconded? What action has been taken against the person who stood surety for him? Has he been arrested?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** Why should any action be taken, I do not understand, unless something incriminating was found from either his pocket or the photographs he has taken?

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Against the surety?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** Why should any action be taken unless it is found or proved that he was engaged in espionage activity? Then it could be considered what action should be taken.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** The Minister said it was still under investigation.

**Mr. Speaker:** The surety guarantees the production of the accused whenever the magistrate wants him. That contract to produce him has not been fulfilled.

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** He is not absconding. He is available. The point does not arise.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** He did not say that before.

**Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati):** When this gentleman was arrested, he was arrested on the suspicion that he was a Chinese spy who was taking photographs of the Brahmaputra bridge.

**Shri Baid (Kharagone):** What was the object of the photographs?

**Shri Hem Barua:** In this context, why is it that this particular man who was arrested as a spy was granted bail at all?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. The whole ground is taken out of the feet. I do not think there is any substance in the allegations that are made. The man is granted bail. He is there. The surety can produce him whenever he is wanted.

**Shri Hem Barua:** He ran away, he absconded and there was a lot of trouble about it in the papers and all that, and then afterwards he came back, rather produced himself before the magistrate or before the police, whatever it may be, but he absconded for the time being, there is no doubt about it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. If he is there now and if an enquiry is being made, there is nothing further for the Members to enquire or find out. It will be seen afterwards if that enquiry reveals something. He is there and an enquiry is being made. What more do they want now.... (Interruptions).

**Shri Hem Barua:** Did he not abscond for a time or not?

**Mr. Speaker:** He is there now and he will offer his explanation.

**Shri Baid:** I want to know whether he was arrested under the Defence of India Rules and what was the object of these photographs?

**Mr. Speaker:** That would be known after the investigation. How can they say it just now? That is what the investigation is for..... (Interruptions.) Order, order. We shall take up the next business.

12.21 hrs.

#### WORKING JOURNALISTS

#### (AMENDMENT) BILL—contd.

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri C. R. Pattabhiraman on the 5th December, 1962, namely:—

"That the Bill further to amend the Working Journalists (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955 and the Working Journalists (Fixation of Rates of Wages) Act, 1958, be taken into consideration."

The time allotted for the general discussion was four hours. 2 hours and 45 minutes had already been taken and 1 hour and 15 minutes remain. Shri More was in possession of the House. He may continue his speech.