

12.08 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

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

"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 23rd November, 1962, agreed without any amendment to the Customs Bill, 1962, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 21st November, 1962."

12.08½ hrs.

MANIPUR (SALES OF MOTOR SPIRIT AND LUBRICANTS) TAXATION BILL*

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the levy of a tax on sales of motor spirit and lubricants in the Union territory of Manipur.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the levy of a tax on sales of motor spirit and lubricants in the Union territory of Manipur."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I introduce† the Bill.

12.09 hrs.

RE: CEASE-FIRE

Shri Ranga (Chittoor): Are you proceeding to the normal business of the House?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Shri Ranga: What about the statement by the Prime Minister?

Mr. Speaker: I have received many notices about the cease-fire at Tezpur. Is the hon. Prime Minister making any statement on that?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): No, Sir. There is no further news to give.

Shri P. K. Deo (Kalahandi): I beg to submit that to fully understand the implications of this cease-fire proposal we must have a big map in the library, because we are not able to follow the November 1959 line and the real intention of the Chinese. So, we must have a map before us.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri (Berhampur): Today's papers have reported that the Law Minister, accompanied by the Secretary-General of the External Affairs Ministry, is going to Cairo and to Ghana to explain our point of view with regard to the cease-fire to the Governments of UAR and Ghana. May I know whether there is any attempted mediation by these two Governments with regard to cease-fire?

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री (बिजनौर):

अध्यक्ष महोदय, चीन की ओर से युद्ध-विराम का जो प्रस्ताव रखा गया है और इसके सम्बन्ध में नवम्बर सन् १९५९ की रेखा के पीछे चले जाने का उन्होंने अपनी ओर से सुझाव दिया है, प्रधान मंत्री जी का कहना

*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II—Section 2, dated 26th November, 1962.

†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री]

है कि ८ सितम्बर, १९६२ के पहले की लाइन तक उनको पाँछे हटना चाहिए ऊपर से देखने में ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि चीन का जो प्रस्ताव है वह हमारे प्रस्ताव से कहीं अधिक उदार है लेकिन जो आज परराष्ट्र मंत्रालय के एक प्रवक्ता का वक्तव्य प्रकाशित हुआ वह सर्वथा भिन्न है तो क्या मैं यह जान सकता हूँ कि उस भ्रम को अपने देश में और दूसरे देशों में दूर करने के लिए भी जब परराष्ट्र मंत्रालय का एक प्रवक्ता वक्तव्य दे सकता है तो परराष्ट्रमंत्रा भी क्या आज इस स्थिति में है कि वह इस सम्बन्ध में अपने देश का और दूसरे देशों के भ्रम का भी निराकरण करे कि हमारी सरकार की स्थिति क्या है ?

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): My calling-attention notice is about the actual position in Tezpur so far as the civil administration is concerned. I have just now got a copy of an order issued on the 22nd November by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies to the Government of India stationed at Shillong asking the Central Government servants in Assam to evacuate their families from Assam. If that is so, is it not sufficient to create panic among the rest of the population?

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Yesterday it came out in the newspapers that the Government of India have asked for certain clarifications on the cease-fire move of the Chinese Government. I would like to know as to what points are being asked to be clarified. Could the hon. Prime Minister throw some light on that?

Shri Ranga: I am glad that at long last they have done the right thing in deputing the hon. Law Minister to go to some of these countries and explain India's position. We would

like to know whether an effort has been made to put wise all these various governments and peoples and also the press of all the countries in the world as to India's attitude in regard to this Chinese proposal which so many of us from different parts of the House do consider as a treacherous and a very tricky one. If so, how soon would it be possible for the Government to let the country know what attitude they have taken in regard to this matter, apart from asking for this clarification? We would also like to know the significance of these enquiries that the Government of India has made for clarification. With what intent is it? Is it in order to make it possible again to go into negotiations as the Chinese Government has suggested, or is it for any other purpose?

Mr. Speaker: What is the use of carrying on all this correspondence if the whole thing has to be stated as to what their intention is? Shri Daji.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Clarification.

Shri Daji (Indore): There are confusing reports about our Army personnel who were supposed to have been trapped or surrounded. Can the Government clarify as to what has become to our Army between Se La and Bomdi La?

Mr. Speaker: There are so many different aspects to the various questions that have been asked here. I have also received several notices and I have sent those notices on to the Government. But so far as these questions are concerned, I would leave it to the hon. Prime Minister whether he is prepared to make any statement and what information he can give in respect of them.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): I would also like to know....

Mr. Speaker: After I have finished?

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: I could not catch your eye because you were looking to the other side.

Mr. Speaker: I thought one hon. Member from his group had spoken.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: What I want to say is a different thing. He spoke about his 'Calling-attention notice'. What I want to know is this. Is the Government of India considering taking up or raising this question in the UN? We find from today's newspapers that Shri Chakravarti has said that we will raise this question if it will be advantageous to us.

Mr. Speaker: It is not that we will take it up. He has not committed himself. He has said that the possibility cannot be ruled out.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Has this also been considered by the Government of India?

Shri Ranga: He was awaiting instructions from Delhi.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There have been so many questions of different types that I am a bit confused and may forget answering some of them.

Mr. Speaker: My intention was only to bring to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister all these questions. The hon. Prime Minister might choose which are to be answered at this moment.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I shall answer as many as I can remember here and now.

The first thing is about the hon. Law Minister and the Secretary-General going to Cairo and Accra. That is true. Very probably the Deputy Foreign Minister, Shrimati Lakshmi Menon, will go to some countries, that is, Burma, Indonesia and possibly Cambodia. These countries are those that have been invited by the Ceylonese Government to go very soon, early in December, to

Colombo to discuss these matters connected with our conflict with China. We were not, naturally invited and we were not even informed of it. Afterwards we heard about it. The countries invited are the UAR, Ghana, Indonesia, Burma and Cambodia. I think, that is the whole number; I cannot think of any others. So, we decided to send my colleague the Law Minister and the Secretary-General to Africa, to these two countries invited from Africa and the Deputy Foreign Minister and probably some senior official of the External Affairs Ministry to the countries in Asia. That is apart from any others whom we may send to other places. Their object is to explain our position more thoroughly in regard to these so-called proposals of the Chinese Government so that there may be no confusion in their mind as to what we think about them.

About the other questions, I really forget,....

Shri S. M. Banerjee: About clarification.

Shri Ranga: What about informing all other Governments? Press campaign?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We, of course, inform all Governments through our Ambassadors and in other ways. But, these we specially decided to approach because they were going to meet in Colombo soon at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Ceylon.

The hon. Member asked for clarification. It is natural to ask for clarifications of various points which are not clear and in so far as they can be cleared it will be desirable so that our reply should be based not merely on any doubt about these matters. We have not received a full reply yet. Possibly in a day or two we will get it.

Shri Ranga: Does the Prime Minister expect to receive their reply so

[Shri Ranga]

soon in the light of the way in which the Chinese have been taking so long a time in all their replies?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Sometimes their replies come soon. Sometimes they take a long time. I cannot say precisely.

Shri Hem Barua: Position of civil defence in Tezpur.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I think the position in Tezpur is almost normal now. The hon. Member mentioned something about evacuation.

Shri Hem Barua: There is an order by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Movements and Liaison Officer with the Government of India. It says:

"Employees whose homes are outside Assam may, however, be anxious to send away their families; this the State Government desires should be done in as orderly a manner as possible. Arrangements are accordingly being made to give all facilities for such employees to send their families home."

I say, any order after the Cease-fire was announced, would it not create panic among the rest of the population in the State?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: May I know the date of that?

Shri Hem Barua: It was issued on 21st November, 1962. It was circulated to the different offices on the 22nd November: this month.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am afraid this notice was issued by some official in the Assam Government.

Shri Hem Barua: No. He is an officer with the Government of India stationed at Shillong. Here it clearly says: Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Movements and Liaison Officer with the Government of India,....

The Minister of Railways (Shri Swaran Singh): That means Assam Officer for liaison work with us.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Assam Government's officer in liaison with our Government. I cannot say in what conditions he sent it. But, it does not represent our view point. I agree with the hon. Member that there should be broadly speaking no question of anybody withdrawing from where he is. This refers, I think, to women and children chiefly.

Mr. Speaker: Women and children.

Shri Hem Barua: Central Government employees....

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): This should be rescinded by the Government here.

Shri Hem Barua: Withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Now that it has been brought to the notice of the Government, the Government has a definite opinion about that and the Government would act accordingly. There was one other proposal whether it would be possible to place a map of those lines in the Central Hall so that Members may have an idea and might be able to appreciate what the difference is.

Shri Ranga: How is that such an important order came to be passed without the knowledge at all of the Government of India? (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Under the shadow of a previous event, some officer issued it. (*Interruption*). Order, order.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Certain orders were issued, I believe, some little time ago that in the event of any contingency arising, what should be done so that they may be prepared for it.

Shri Hem Barua: It is not like that. The language is different.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I quite agree with the hon. Member that it was undesirable to issue this order. And those orders were perhaps misinterpreted or exaggerated by the local people.

Mr. Speaker: In regard to the maps, can anything be said for the present?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I shall endeavour to have some kind of map placed in the Central Hall.

Mr. Speaker: Is there any information about those jawans of ours who were taken in between Se La and Momdi La?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Some of them have returned. I believe—I am not quite sure—about a thousand of them have returned.

Shri Hem Barua: There are conflicting press reports that the number is between 1000 and 3000.

Shri Indrajit Gupta (Calcutta South West): What is the estimate of the number of those persons?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: They have not returned actually to headquarters. A few of them have been brought back when they were traced by our helicopters. The exact number is not known. It is an estimate. I hope that those people will be soon back. But that does not comprise of all those; it is possible that some of them, quite a fair number, may be in a different column round about.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: Some of us had given calling-attention-notices about the evacuation of Tezpur and the present position there. The Prime Minister said that Tezpur was almost normal. That is what the papers report. But in connection with the evacuation of the civil administration, both the Central Government's civil administration and the State Government's civil administration, various reports have been appearing in the papers, in the Calcutta papers, in the Assam papers and also in the Delhi papers. It is also

reported that one Deputy Commissioner who actually fled or disappeared has been suspended. Of course, he has only been suspended; actually, he ought to have been dismissed....

Shri Frank Anthony (Nominated—Anglo-Indians): He should have been shot.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: or court-martialled; but, anyway....

Mr. Speaker: Dismissal would not have preceded suspension.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: Anyway, about this whole episode of the evacuation of Tezpur....

Mr. Speaker: What information does the hon. Member want?

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: I want a full statement to be made by the Home Minister who was there.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: I had asked a question about raising the issue at the United Nations. I want to know whether Government are thinking of it.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not remember the exact words used by our Permanent Representative at the UN, but if he said what the hon. Speaker mentioned....

Shri S. M. Banerjee: He has said that it is not ruled out.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is a thing which it is always open to us to do when we want to. But we do not at present intend doing it.

Shri Hem Barua: May I add to what my hon. friend Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri has said. There is a report that the civil administration evacuated from Tezpur....

Mr. Speaker: He wants a statement from the Home Minister, I suppose. I shall find out if the Home Minister has got certain facts to give. I shall pass on that notice to him.