

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri A. M. Thomas):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Gratuity at the rate of half month's pay for each aggregate year of embodied service in the Territorial Army subject to a maximum of 9 months' pay, is admissible, provided an individual has a minimum of 4 years' aggregate embodied service to his credit. Service pension is not admissible for service rendered in the Territorial Army under the existing rules.

Pension or gratuity earned on account of service in the Regular Army remains unaffected by joining the Territorial Army except that in the case of officers pension is held in abeyance during embodiment or when employed on the permanent staff of a Territorial Army Unit.

Territorial Army Officers

4337. Shri Krishnapal Singh: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether any of the Territorial Army Officers has been considered for command of Territorial Army Units;

(b) whether they have also been considered for appointments in the Territorial Army Directorate; and

(c) if so, how many and in what ranks?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri A. M. Thomas):

(a) Yes, Sir. In the past, four TA officers in the rank of Lt.-Col. commanded TA Units. At present, 3 Majors and 4 Captains are commanding minor TA Units.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) One TA Officer in the rank of Major is holding a Grade II staff appointment in the TA Dte. Two officers are holding staff appointments in the rank of Lt.-Col. at HQ Commands and 7 other Majors and one Captain at lower formation HQrs.

Reported Discourtesy to President of Israel

4338. Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to refer to the statement made in reply to Call Attention Notice regarding reported discourtesy to the President of Israel and state:

(a) the number of hostile demonstrators arrested in Calcutta;

(b) whether they are being prosecuted; and

(c) the stage which the prosecution has reached?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) 11 Arab students were arrested in Calcutta for violating Section 144 and subsequently released on bail.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The next hearing of the case is due this week.

12 hrs.

RE: MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT
AND CALLING ATTENTION
NOTICES

EXPLOSION IN TINSUKIA-NEW JALPAIGURI PASSENGER TRAIN ON 23-4-1966

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of thirteen adjournment motions and 27 call attention notices on the rail disaster. But I also received intimation that the minister wanted to make a statement. We have the statement first and then take up the adjournment motion.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): We are told that Dr. Ram Subhag Singh is still there. Has he returned or not?

Mr. Speaker: Not yet. The hon. Minister.

श्री मौर्य (प्रलीगढ़) : स्टेटमेंट के बाद इस पर बहस होनी चाहिये।

The Minister of Railways (Shri S. K. Patil): I regret to have to apprise the House that so soon after the outrage committed on 20 Down Passenger train on the evening of 20th April, 1966 attendant with heavy casualties, a similar incident took place on the evening of 23rd April, 1966.

On this date, Tinsukia-New Jalpaiguri passenger train No. 20 Down arrived at Diphu station (32 KMs from Lumding) at 20.50 hours. Immediately thereafter at 20.57 hours an explosion, similar to the one which occurred on 20th April, 1966 at Lumding station, took place in a third class coach marshalled third from the train engine. As a result of the explosion, 33 persons were killed on the spot and seven more expired subsequently. In addition, eighty persons sustained injuries.

Immediately after the explosion, the injured were attended to by the local doctors. On receipt of information about the accident, medical van accompanied by railway doctors and other medical staff was rushed from Lumding and it reached Diphu at 22.10 hours.

Of the injured, 7 were taken to the Jorhat Military Hospital, 12 to Dimapur Military Hospital, 21 to Railway Hospital at Lumding and 19 to Diphu Civil Hospital. Twenty-one injured persons were discharged after giving them first aid. Of the 59 injured persons still in the hospitals, injuries of 19 have been classified as grievous.

As a result of the explosion, electricity failed and the whole station area plunged into darkness. Emergency lighting sets were rushed from Lumding. One Naga who was found moving in suspicious circumstances has been detained by Army authorities.

Senior railway, civil, police and army officers are at the site. Ex-

gratia payments are being arranged. All facilities, such as issue of telegrams to the near relatives, free passes etc. are being given.

The Inspector General, Railway Protection Force is at present in the affected area closely liaising with the Inspector General of Police of Assam State with a view to take all possible preventive measures. These two officers arrived at Diphu station within a few hours of the incident.

The Minister of State for Railways, accompanied by a senior Member of the Railway Board is also on the spot making detailed enquiries into these two incidents.

I have just received a communication from my colleague, the Minister of State, Dr. Ram Subhag Singh and I am reading only portions that are important. He says the bombs used were of very high power and perhaps of foreign make and this seems to be a clear case of well-organised sabotage. So far only two arrests each at Lumding and Diphu had been made.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Ram Sevak Yadav may ask for leave of the House.

श्री राम सेवक यादव (बाराबंकी) : मैं अपने स्थगन प्रस्ताव को रखने के लिए सदन की आज्ञा चाहता हूँ।

Mr. Speaker: Those who wish leave to be granted may rise in their places.

There are only 46 in all. I am sorry leave is not granted.

Shri Priya Gupta (Katihar): What about the Government? They do not feel anything about the accident. (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I also thought that it was important.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi (Jodhpur): You should allow a discussion, Sir,

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Communications (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): The Government is prepared to initiate a debate.

[Shri Satya Narayan Sinha]

About the time, you may fix it in consultation with the House, either tomorrow....

Mr. Speaker: At 4 O'clock today.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: No, no. I think tomorrow will be better.

Mr. Speaker: Let Dr. Ram Subhag Singh also come. (Interruption).

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: We are prepared to have a discussion.

Shri Priya Gupta: Those who have given notices should be given a chance to speak.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: It does not matter; if you like, Sir, you can fix some time today, for the discussion. (Interruption).

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): The Railway Minister said, today.

Mr. Speaker: All right; at 4 O'clock we take it up.

Shri Priya Gupta: At least those who have given notices, if not everybody, should be given a chance to speak on this.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. That is a different thing. I cannot promise just now.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Today, at 4 O'clock?

Mr. Speaker: At 4 O'clock today.

Shri Priya Gupta: What about the Calling Attention Notice about 3 fasting Railwaymen at Pandu... (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: In this manner, I am not prepared to answer.

Shri P. K. Deo (Kalahandi): I had given notice of an Adjournment Motion about the starvation deaths in my constituency....

Mr. Speaker: There is no case for any Adjournment Motion. I have not

allowed that. Raja Sahab will kindly resume his seat.

Shri P. K. Deo: I request you to reconsider it.

Mr. Speaker: Not in this manner.

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंगेर): मैंने एक विशेषाधिकार सम्बन्धी ...

अध्यक्ष महोदय: जब स्टेटमेंट करेंगे तब मैं आपको इजाजत दे दूंगा और आप उठ कर सवाल कर लेना।

श्री बागड़ी: (हिसार) अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरी बात भी आप सुन लें। मेरे पास पांच तार आए हैं। अकाल पड़ा हुआ है। लोग भूखों मर रहे हैं। लोक सभा में अगर भूख का सवाल नहीं उठाया जायगा....

अध्यक्ष महोदय: इस तरह से नहीं आप उठा सकते हैं।

श्री बागड़ी: मैं आपकी अनुमति मांग रहा हूँ।

12.07 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATIONS UNEDR CUSTOMS ACT

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri L. N. Mishra): On behalf of Shri B. R. Bhagat, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following notifications under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

- (i) G.S.R. 486 published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 1966.
- (ii) G.S.R. 527 published in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 1966.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6129 '66].