

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Thursday, 1st April, 1954

The House met at Two of the Clock
[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

2-55 P.M.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE
STATIONING OF FRENCH POLICE FORCE
OUTSIDE INDIAN CONSULATE IN
PONDICHERRY

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have received a notice from Shri Raghuramaiah calling attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of public importance and requesting him to make a statement thereon:—

“The stationing of a French Indian police force at the gates of the Indian Consulate in Pondicherry, the interrogation of persons entering the Consulate by that force, the repressive policy of the French Indian Government, the occupation of two villages in Nettapakkam Commune by the Liberation group and the hoisting of the Indian Union tricolour in those villages.”

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): For the present, Sir, if you wish, I can confirm one or two facts, and if it is the desire of the House, I can make a fuller statement in a day or two.

68 P. S. Deb.

It is a fact, we are informed, that some policemen belonging to the French police, have been stationed in front of the Indian Consulate in Pondicherry and that they interrogate and take down the details of those who come in and go out of the Consulate. It is also a fact that some villages in the Nettapakkam Commune are in the occupation of persons in favour of merger with India, and it is also a fact, to our knowledge, that a great deal of repression is being exercised by the French authorities.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT NEAR GORAKHPUR

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have received another notice from Shri Kasliwal requesting the Minister of Railways to make a statement on the following matter of public importance:

“A serious railway disaster on the North-Eastern Railway between Lucknow and Gorakhpur on the night of 31st March. It is reported that some policemen were carrying dynamite sticks in a passenger compartment which blew up and a large number of casualties took place—about 37 killed and 50 injured.”

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): I have to inform the House with regret that an accident took place to 313 Up Kati-har-Kanpur Passenger train at Jagat-bela station at 8-33 P.M. last night