

## PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

## OFFICIAL REPORT

3795

3796

## 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

[Shri L. B. Shastri]

(the 31st March 1954), when an explosion occurred in the third class bogie No. 320, which was the fourth coach from the engine. Jagatbela is the third station after Gorakhpur on the Gorakhpur-Gonda section of the North-Eastern Railway. This coach was completely smashed and the two adjoining third class coaches also suffered slight damage. Besides ordinary passengers, a few civil policemen, who were carrying some explosive, were also travelling in the coach. As a result of the explosion, 28 persons were killed, including five policemen and 35 were injured, of which 16 were serious cases. Of these 16, three died on the way to the hospital. An ambulance special with principal Railway officers left Gorakhpur at 9-30 P.M. for the site of the accident and the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police followed them in a motor trolley. The Chief Medical Officer happened to be travelling by the ill-fated train and rendered first aid to the injured. Twenty-four injured passengers were admitted to the Civil Hospital, among which 7 are serious and 8 were admitted to the Railway Hospital, among which 6 are serious. The condition of one patient in the Railway Hospital is reported to be very serious. The District Magistrate and the Senior Deputy General Manager, North-Eastern Railway, visited the injured in the hospital at 1 A.M. this morning. Of the killed, only 5 policemen and 7 passengers have so far been identified. Through running of trains has not been interrupted.

3 P.M.

**Shri Kelappan (Ponnani):** May I know if explosives are allowed to be carried in carriages occupied by passengers?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I cannot allow questions. The hon. Member may give notice of a question, if necessary.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—*continued.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The House will now proceed with the consideration of the Demands for Grants Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 111, 112 and 113 relating to the Ministry of Communications.

Members and Leaders of Groups may hand over the numbers of the cut motions which they select to the Secretary in fifteen minutes. I will treat them as moved if those hon. Members in whose names those cut motions stand are present in the House and they are otherwise in order.

The usual time-limit on speeches will be observed. I will place the Demands formally before the House.

DEMAND NO. 5—MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,43,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955 in respect of 'Ministry of Communications'."

DEMAND NO. 6—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES)

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,64,26,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955 in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (Including Working Expenses)'."

DEMAND NO. 7—METEOROLOGY

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,05,01,000 be granted to the

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\*Moved with the previous sanction of the President.