

the local administration. The Government of India consider it necessary, in the conditions which are now developing, to control the entry of persons from Pondicherry and Karaikal into India. Ordinarily, single-journey visas will be given for visits to India, but the Consul-General will be empowered to give multi-journey visas in special cases. He will also have complete freedom to refuse visas at his discretion.

14. The Government of India are disturbed by reports which have reached them of acts of hooliganism against Indian citizens. There have been reports of attacks on the library attached to the Consulate-General and on the quarters occupied by Indian press correspondents in Pondicherry. The Government of India are making enquiries about this matter and they will take necessary action to safeguard their rights and interests.

15. It is clear from the developments that are taking place that the demand for immediate merger with India without a referendum has the general support of the people. The movement is completely spontaneous and is led by persons who until recently were responsible members of the Administration. Other political groups and leaders have also declared their support of this popular movement. Repression cannot kill a movement which is based on the natural desire of the people to form part of India. The people of the French possessions form an integral part of the great Indian family. Economically, culturally and in other ways, they have the closest links with India. A political system which keeps them separate from India and subject to foreign rule is wholly unacceptable to them and to the Government and people of India.

16. It is the hope of the Government of India that this system will be changed peacefully by means of a friendly settlement. It cannot in any case continue much longer for the

people have declared their firm intention to terminate it. The Government of India have, therefore, again requested the Government of France to consider the suggestion which they made in October 1952. They have stated the reasons which prevent them from accepting the proposal for a referendum. All important political groups have rejected this proposal on grounds of principle and also because conditions in the French possessions are such that no free referendum can be held. As the wishes of the people have been made known so clearly by the elected representatives of almost 90 per cent. of the population, a referendum is in any case unnecessary.

17. The Government of India have made it clear that the cultural and other rights of the people will be fully respected. They are not asking for the immediate transfer of the *de jure* sovereignty of France. Their suggestion is that a *de facto* transfer of the administration should take place immediately, while French sovereignty should continue until the constitutional issue has been settled. Both India and France will have to make necessary changes in their respective Constitutions. All this will take time, while the demand of the people is for immediate merger without a referendum. The Government of India are convinced that the suggestion which they have made will help to promote a settlement, which they greatly desire. They will gladly enter into negotiations with the Government of France on the basis suggested.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

(1) REPORT OF TARIFF COMMISSION ON FAIR RETENTION PRICES OF STEEL PRODUCED BY INDIAN IRON AND STEEL CO. LTD.

(2) MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY RES. NO. SC(A)-2(89)/52, DATED 25TH MARCH, 1954.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy

[Shri T. T. Krishnamachari]

of each of the following papers, under sub-section (2) of section 16 of the Tariff Commission Act, 1951, namely:—

- (i) Report of the Tariff Commission on the Fair Retention Prices of Steel produced by the Indian Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., and
- (ii) Ministry of Commerce and Industry Resolution No. SC (A)-2(89)/52, dated the 25th March, 1954.

[Placed in the Library. See No. S-107 54.]

NOMINATIONS TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS' SALARY AND ALLOWANCES, AND ABBREVIATIONS

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House that I have nominated Shri N. C. Chatterjee and Diwan Chaman Lal to serve on the Joint Committee on payment of salary and allowances to and abbreviations for Members of Parliament, in the two vacancies caused by the death of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee and the retirement of Shri Amolakh Chand, of the House of the People and the Council of States respectively.

The Chairman of the Council of States has agreed to the nomination of Diwan Chaman Lal to the Joint Committee.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now resume discussion on Demands for Grants relating to the Ministries of Home Affairs and States. The time allotted is up to 5 P.M. when I shall put the Demands to vote. As the Minister of Home Affairs and States will take about forty-five minutes for replying to the debate, I shall call him at 4-15 P.M.

Thereafter from 5 P.M. to 7 P.M. the Demands relating to the Ministry of Irrigation and Power will be taken up.

Shri N. Rachiah (Mysore—Reserved—Sch. Castes): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was pointing out that the hon. the Deputy Home Minister was interpreting the words of article 335 of the Constitution in the interests of the Government and the privileged few. The incorporation of this article in the Constitution was with a view to giving adequate representation to the Scheduled Castes in all branches of administration, both at the Centre and in the States. But the test of any provision lies in its interpretation. So I would request the hon. Deputy Minister to interpret article 335 in a manner as to give special protection to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the administration of the country.

3 P.M.

Even according to the report of the Home Ministry only a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs has been provided for more than 5 crores of Scheduled Castes. Sir, according to the report of the Ministry of Rehabilitation Rs. 201.02 crores has so far been spent for the welfare of the displaced persons and Rs. 30.44 crores has been provided this year. So much money is being spent on these 79 lakhs of Refugees, while for nearly six crores of untouchables, who were displaced about two thousand years ago, you are only providing a meagre sum of Rs. 50 lakhs per annum. But no sincere attempt has been made by the Home Ministry. The Home Ministry is a very wide, vast and big department having a large amount of work on its hands. As such the Scheduled Caste problem would not and cannot be dealt with properly by the Ministry of Home Affairs. I therefore suggest that this work may, as in the case of rehabilitation, be entrusted to a separate Ministry so that the work of emancipating or uplifting the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes could be