

## PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

## OFFICIAL REPORT

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## HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Wednesday, 31st March, 1954

*The House met at Two of the Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

3 P.M.

## CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

## HYDROGEN BOMB TESTS; DROWNING NEAR JAMMU

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I have received two notices calling attention of the Government to matters of public importance, one by Shri A. K. Gopalan relating to the experiments with the Hydrogen bomb, and the other by Shri V. P. Nayar relating to the tragedy at Jammu in which 44 army personnel have been drowned.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam):** The Minister of Defence is not here.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Order, order. I am also looking round.

شکشا و پروا کرتک سلسلہ میں تہا

ویکھا تک انسداد میں ملتی (مولانا آزاد):

معاملہ کیا ہے۔

[The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): What is the matter?]

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** मामला यह है।

Two notices calling the attention of the Government to matters of impor-

35 P.S.D.

tance have been received by me. One was given by ten Members, relating to the evil effects of the hydrogen bomb experiments in the Pacific Ocean, and the other relates to the drowning tragedy of 44 Indian Army personnel in Jammu. The Government may have taken note of it possibly, but if they want time to make a statement to the House they may say so.

مولانا آزاد: جناب جہاں تک پہلے

معاملہ کا تعلق ہے اس بارے میں ابھی دو تین دن ہوئے ہیں پرائم منسٹر بہت تفصیل کے ساتھ اپنا خیال ظاہر کر چکے ہیں میں نہیں سمجھتا اس بارے میں یہاں اور کیا بحث ہو سکتی ہے۔

[Maulana Azad: Sir, as far as the first matter is concerned, the Prime Minister has expressed his views at length before two or three days only. I do not see what more we can discuss about it.]

मिस्टर डिप्टी स्पीकर: दूसरे के बारे में क्या ?

**Shri A. K. Gopalan (Cannanore):** No statement was made in the Parliament.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Minister states that two or three days ago the Prime Minister has spoken in detail about this and has expressed his views. But he is not here now. When he comes, we will

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

know more if he has anything further to say. Therefore, that will stand over.

What about the other matter?

**The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi):** I am very sorry to inform the House that it is a fact that 43 personnel, including a J.C.O., were drowned in the river Tawi near Jammu, on the night of 26/27th March during a Divisional Exercise.—There is an exercise of crossing rivers—and that exercise was going on at a place a couple of miles to the south-west of Jammu, where about 1,200 to 1,500 personnel had already crossed the river. Two brigades were crossing the river, and this was the last batch of one of the brigades, and while the batch was crossing, unfortunately this accident occurred and all the 43 personnel got drowned in the river.

Now, a court of inquiry has been appointed by the Western Command to look into the circumstances in which the accident occurred. It will be very early for me to come forward with any reasons because the court of inquiry is looking into the matter. It is surprising indeed that they should have drowned at the tail end after all the other troops had crossed over. It seems to me that this platoon or last part of the company might have strayed and might not have adopted the same path and the same route as others had adopted—may be some mistake of reconnaissance or some mistake of their not being able to identify the marks which were placed by the Army. I am not quite sure as to what the reasons were, but the facts are as have been narrated (*Interruption*).

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** No further questions.

**Shri V. P. Nayar (Chirayinkil):** We want to know the names of the persons drowned because there are lots

of people whose families are in consternation over this tragedy.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member suggests that the names of those who were drowned may be given.

**Shri Tyagi:** Whenever such accidents occur, information is always sent to the next of kin by telegram usually within an hour, and so all the parents or guardians of these boys have already been informed. As regards the reasons, as I have already stated, it will be too early for me to attribute any grounds for the accident. It is being enquired into and I shall be in a position to know it only when I receive the report of the court of inquiry.

#### DEMANDS\* FOR GRANTS—Contd.

DEMAND NO. 85—MINISTRY OF REHABILITATION

DEMAND NO. 86—EXPENDITURE ON DISPLACED PERSONS

DEMAND NO. 87—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF REHABILITATION

DEMAND NO. 133—CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF REHABILITATION

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The House will now continue the consideration of the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Rehabilitation.

The hon. Minister.

पुनर्वासि मंत्री (श्री ए० पी० जैन) :  
 श्रीमान जी, कल मैं ने कुछ सवालों का जवाब दिया और कुछ सवाल छोटे छोटे थे कि जिन का जवाब देने का मेरा कोई इरादा नहीं है। हां कुछ सवाल ऐसे हैं जिन के सिलसिले में मैं कुछ बातें कहना चाहता हूँ।

\*Moved with the previous sanction the President.