

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

3801

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Wednesday, 16th September, 1953

The House met at a Quarter Past
Eight of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

9-15 A.M.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT ✓

LATHI CHARGE AND FIRING ON WORKERS OF COCHIN PORT

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Mr. Punnoose regarding the indiscriminate lathi charge and firing on workers of Cochin Port resulting in the death of three workers and injuries to many on the 15th September, 1953. What is the basis of this charge?

Shri Punnoose (Alleppey): The news appeared in the *Times of India*, *Hindustan Times* and in almost all other papers. I have also got telegrams.

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): The labour concerned is being employed by private companies. In other words the employees of the port are not concerned. The issue on which they have created trouble seems to be the result of a rivalry between two Unions. We are waiting for a full

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report from the Administrative Officer of the Cochin Port. ✓

I would like to say that the matter is one on which we cannot accept an adjournment motion because the labour concerned is not employed by the Port authorities. The law and order position is the concern of the State.

Shri Punnoose: May I make a submission before you give your ruling, Sir?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Did the firing take place within the Port?

Shri Punnoose: It took place in the vicinity of the Cochin Port Police Station.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Police Station is not in the vicinity of the Port.

Shri Punnoose: This question of rivalry between the two Unions has been brought before the Transport Minister once before. The Administrator there is, of course, the representative of the Government of India and acts in a way that rivalries are cropping up again and again resulting in all these troubles, so that this Minister is answerable for all the troubles there. ✓

Shri A. M. Thomas (Ernakulam): Unfortunately this disturbing news comes from my constituency. The incident happened in Mattancherry and not the port premises. However, Sir, it is reported that there has been stoppage of work in the port. It is reported that the trouble arose when two sections of the stevedore

[Shri A. M. Thomas]

labour in Cochin Port belonging to rival trade unions clashed over the question of unloading cargo. I have tabled a short-notice question concerning this matter, so that all the details may be obtained.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has given his own information. An hon. Member tabled an adjournment motion and another hon. Member has tabled a question. There is no harm. He comes from that area. Nobody exactly knows what happened except for what has appeared in the papers.

So far as this matter is concerned it does not appear that any incident took place within the port premises. I also read the news. I looked into the newspaper report. Some people were arrested there on account of having created some trouble which arose on the clash of two sections of the rival unions over the question of unloading cargo. They were taken into custody; they were locked up in the Police Station. A number of persons pelted stones and then the police opened fire. That is the information in the newspaper.

Now it is admitted by Mr. Punnoose that the firing did not take place inside the port premises. It is outside and therefore that is a matter of law and order.

Further this does not relate to any of the employees of the port as such. Two contractors were employed who have got some employees under them; it is a quarrel between them. Under those circumstances I do not think that we are concerned with this matter. Of course, the Central Government may take into consideration the law and order question. It is for them to consider it.

Regarding the recognition of the Unions and so on, I am afraid, I cannot give permission to move this adjournment motion.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have to inform hon. Members that I have received the following letter from Shri Gulzarilal Nanda:

"I am undergoing treatment at Trichur and shall not be able to attend the current session of the House of the People. I, therefore, request that I may be granted leave of absence from the current session of the House of the People."

Is it the pleasure of the House that leave be granted to Shri Gulzarilal Nanda to be absent from all the meetings of the House of the People during the current session?

Hon. Members: Yes.

Leave was granted.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

COUNCIL OF INDIAN INSTITUTE OF
SCIENCE, BANGALORE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have to inform the House that upto 12 NOON on Tuesday, the 15th September, 1953, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the purpose of election of one member to serve on the Council of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, in place of late Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, only one nomination was received. As there is only one candidate for the vacancy, I declare Shri G. R. Damodaran to be duly elected to the Council.

RESOLUTION RE PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION ON PEPSTU

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): I beg to move:

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation issued by the President on the 4th March, 1953, under article 356 of the Constitution assuming to himself all the functions of the Government of the Patiala and East Punjab