

NEWSPAPER (PRICE AND PAGE)
BILL

Secretary: Sir, I lay the Newspaper (Price and Page) Bill, 1956, as passed by Rajya Sabha, on the Table of the House.

ARREST OF MEMBERS

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House that I have received the following telegram dated the 17th August, 1956 from the Superintendent of Police, Ahmedabad City:

"Shri A. K. Gopalan, Member Lok Sabha was arrested today, the 17th August, 1956 at 19-30 hours for being a member of an unlawful assembly and holding a meeting in defiance of Additional District Magistrate Ahmedabad's ban on processions and meetings in Ahmedabad. He refused to bail offered on personal recognition. Further report follows."

I have also to inform the House that I have received the following telegram dated the 19th August, 1956, from the Superintendent of Police, Gorakhpur, U. P.:

"I have the honour to inform you that I found it my duty in the exercise of my powers under section 551 Criminal Procedure Code to direct that Shri Shibbanlal Saksena, Member of Lok Sabha be arrested since a report had been made against him along with others on the 9th August, 1956 at police station Shyamdeorwa, District Gorakhpur for cognizable offences under section 148/440/427/436 I.P.C. and a reasonable suspicion existed of his having been concerned with the above offences. Shri Shibbanlal Saksena, Member, Lok Sabha, was accordingly arrested at 1-30 P.M. on the 19th August, 1956, and is at present lodged in the District Jail Gorakhpur."

RESIGNATION OF MEMBER

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House that Dr. Indubhai B. Amin has resigned his seat in Lok Sabha with effect from the 14th August, 1956.

INDIAN COTTON CESS (AMENDMENT) BILL—concl'd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Dr. P. S. Deshmukh on the 14th August, 1956:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Cotton Cess Act, 1923, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Shri K. K. Basu was in possession of the House.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): As I was saying the other day, though this Bill is a short one, dealing with the composition of the Board, we are really worried as the hon. Minister has not given us any information as to the extent to which the cess collected on cotton has been utilised for the improved production of cotton in our country. As I was stating the other day, this movement for our locally manufactured cloth, and Gandhiji's economic movement, Khadi movement and Charkha movement were all based on the theory that we should produce cloth which we can wear and not import from Lancashire. But even today, really 9 years after our independence, we find that we have to import a large quantity of cotton from outside. It may be argued, because the hon. Minister comes from a cotton-growing area, that the conditions are not such that we can produce that quality of cotton which we used to get from that part of India which has now become Pakistan, and therefore we have to import from America or Egypt. I would like the hon. Minister to take this House into confidence and say that all efforts have been made so that in course of time we shall be in a position to produce quality cotton, at least of the