

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I do think the gravity of the situation is no doubt there and I suppose it is appreciated as much by Members of the Government as by the hon. Member opposite but I do submit that great situations are met in a different way and not by the Government or anyone else being hurried into action without due thought. That is why I submit it should be met in all seriousness after due thought and consideration and as soon as I can. I shall invite the attention of the House to what we propose to do.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I have already disallowed these adjournment motions. I am not giving my consent. I feel that these motions are out of order.

So far as law and order is concerned, it is primarily within the jurisdiction of the State Government. So far as the destruction of Railway property is concerned, the hon. Minister of Railways will gather information and place it before the House. If these adjournment motions are intended to ask the Government or force the Government to take any particular step, I shall not be a party to it. I will not allow these adjournment motions. Therefore, hon. Members on this side or on the other side should be patient and should not exhibit impatience on the floor of the House. There are other methods which can be adopted. All that I can say is that I am not going to allow these adjournment motions. Whatever may be the objects, they are not relevant to this House and it is not the obligation of the Ministers here nor of the Central Government to take charge of the situation.

#### RUBBER POSITION IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Now I will proceed to another adjournment motion which has been tabled.

**Mr. Punnoose** has given notice of this motion:

"The situation that has arisen in Travancore-Cochin by the sudden stoppage of the purchase of rubber by the purchasing department of the Dunlop Rubber Company, Kottayam, and consequent fall in prices, dislocation of credit facilities, distress and unemployment."

**Dr. S. P. Mookerjee:** This is more elastic, Sir.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** This question of stocking of rubber and the reduction in purchases was brought to the notice of the Government some time back and Government asked the Rubber Production Commissioner to let us know the position. I have got a telegram from the Rubber Production Commissioner dated the 15th which I would like to read if the House is willing to listen. (*Hon. Members:* Yes, yes.) It says:

"Dunlops Kottayam report following purchases from 1st to 13th December, 360 tons for Dunlop and 463 tons on behalf Firestones of which 70 tons and 62 tons respectively were purchased from 10th to 13th December. Also understand Dunlops Factory and Kottayam Purchase Depot are closing down for annual stock taking. Local enquiries reveal that rubber market is very dull at present for want of buyers on any considerable scale."

This is the information that I have got and as the House will find from the 1st to the 13th December, the purchases have been nearly 800 tons. The total production in December which is perhaps the peak production expected in any month between now and the next August 1953 is 2400 tons and I do not know what Government can do at this stage. If possibly, Dunlops are closing for their annual stock taking or for any other purpose, it is likely that their purchases will drop. If the firm says that they are closing down for that purpose, it is not possible for Government to do anything about it.

The Rubber Board have been making certain recommendations as there has been a slight over-stocking. The total stock of rubber now—on the 1st of December—is about 8769 tons, as against 8200 tons previous month. There has been a slight increase in stocks of about 500 tons. The position, therefore, is that the law of demand and supply seems to operate. What the Government have done is, we have written to the Rubber manufacturers, who have been importing to the extent of four to six thousand tons every year, asking them to put a stop to their imports. I have not got any reply from them yet.

This is all that the Government could do at the present stage. I think it is a trifle premature to comprehend a very serious situation so far as rubber position in Kottayam is concerned.

**Shri Punnoose (Alleppey):** The hon. Minister said that it is a matter of demand and supply. It is not correct because the export of rubber is banned and so, the free play of demand is not allowed. The Dunlop Co., and the Firestone Co., have almost a monopoly of the purchase of rubber.

Secondly, the producer of rubber in Travancore-Cochin, which gives 80 per cent of the total production in India, is almost a small producer: two lbs., three lbs. a day. If the hon. Minister goes there, he can see every evening these people going with two lbs. of rubber for their rations. It is that which is being stopped.

The hon. Minister says it is not a very serious matter. I have had occasion to talk to him this morning. I am very sorry he does not appreciate the situation. There is also growing unemployment in the estates. I beg to submit I consider this a very serious matter, and Government has to proceed immediately to see that misery is relieved.

**Shri B. S. Murthy (Eluru):** Will the Government allow export?

**Shri A. M. Thomas (Ernakulam):** May I know whether, if this company was closing for annual stock-taking, it was so closed in previous years?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** My information in that regard is not as good as the hon. Member's.

**Shri K. P. Tripathi (Darrang):** If there is such a surplus of rubber, may I know why the Government does not take a decision to stop imports instead of requesting the firms that they should agree to reduce their imports?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** There seem to be a number of suggestions to be made and a lot of other information to be elicited. There is also a short notice question which I have sent to the hon. Minister. It is in the course of transmission. I do not think I should spend the time of the House on this adjournment motion.

**Hon. Members:** When can we expect a reply?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Before we disperse, I think.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

### HOURS OF SITTING

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I have to make an announcement so far as the timings of the House are concerned. The House will sit on the 18th from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. and from 2-30 P.M. to 6 P.M. On Friday and Saturday, there are no Questions and so the Question-hour is not there. Therefore, we may sit from 10-45 A.M. to 1 P.M. and 2-30 P.M. to 5 P.M. instead, of from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. as we have been doing for want of time. This may also be included in the Bulletins.

### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

**The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda):** I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following Reports:

(i) Report of the *Ad hoc* Committee in connection with the investigations of the River Valley Projects [*Placed in Library. See No. IV. M.4 (24)*],

(ii) Report of the Advisory Committee on Hirakud Dam Project, June 1948, [*Placed in Library. See No. IV. M.4 (11)*],

(iii) Report of the Advisory Committee on the Kosi Project 1952 [*Placed in Library. See No. IV.M.4 (27)*], and

(iv) Report of the Advisory Committee on Hirakud Dam Project, March, 1952 [*Placed in Library. See No. IV. M.4 (11)*].

### STATEMENT RE COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** Sir, with your permission, I wish to make a statement on the Commonwealth Economic Conference which I recently attended in London on behalf of the Government of India. The purpose of this Conference was to hold consultations between the Commonwealth countries as to the economic policies that should be adopted by the sterling area countries for strengthening their balance of payments and as to the action that could be taken towards the expansion of the world production and trade. The conclusions of the Conference were published in a Press Communique in London on the 11th December 1952. I am laying copies of this Communique on the Table of the House for the information of the hon. Members. [*See Appendix IX, annexure No. 7*].