

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATION re: KHADI AND VILLAGE
INDUSTRIES COMMISSION ACT

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): On behalf of Shri Kanungo, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956, a copy of Notification No. S.R.O. 3629, dated the 16th November, 1957 making certain amendment in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Notification No. S.R.O. 1310 dated the 23rd April, 1957. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-413/57].

NOTIFICATION re: MOTOR VEHICLES ACT

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): On behalf of Shri Raj Bahadur, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of Section 133 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, a copy of Notification No. F. 12(50)/57-MT&CE/HOME, dated the 2nd September, 1957, making certain amendments to the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-414/57].

STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY GIVEN TO
QUESTION

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement correcting the reply given on the 27th August, 1957 to a supplementary on Starred Question No. 1219 regarding Egyptian Air Force Personnel. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 64].

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

Secretary: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha:—

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 97 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Bill, 1957, which has been passed

by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 28th November, 1957".

BILL, AS PASSED BY RAJYA
SABHA—LAID ON THE TABLE

Secretary: Sir, I lay on the Table of the House the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Bill, 1957, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MAT-
TER OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCEREPORTED BURNING OF PRINTED
COPIES OF INDIAN CONSTITUTION

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri (Nabadwip): Under Rule 197 I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"Reported burning of printed copies of Tamil version of the Indian Constitution at a number of places in Madras State."

Raja Mahendra Pratap (Mathura): My name is also there.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Minister will make a statement covering all the points.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): Sir, as the House is aware, a special convention of the Dravida Kazhagam was held at Tanjore on the 3rd November to consider ways and means of bringing about caste abolition. A resolution was passed at the convention giving 15 days' notice to Government to delete the provisions in the Constitution dealing with safeguards for religious freedom failing which it was threatened that copies of the Constitution would be burnt on the 26th November, and if the burning of the Constitution did not have the desired effect, portraits and statues of Gandhiji would be removed and broken and that if even

[Pandit G. B. Pant]

that produced no results they would ask their followers to kill Brahmins and burn their residential localities.

In order to effectively deal with the threatened agitation of the Kazhagam, the Madras Legislature enacted recently the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1957. Under the provisions of this Act, the wilful burning or desecration of or insult to the Constitution, the effigies and pictures and portraits of Gandhiji and the Indian National Flag and damage to or destruction of any statues or busts of Gandhiji are offences punishable with imprisonment.

On the 26th November some members of the Kazhagam burnt copies of the Constitution in various parts of the Madras State. Necessary action has been taken against them by the State Government. In the Tiruchirappalli district some members of the Kazhagam threatened some Brahmins at a bathing ghat on the Cauvery river and cut their sacred threads and portions of the tufts of hair of a few of them. The police have registered a case in this regard and investigations are proceeding.

According to the information available 2,884 persons in all were arrested on or prior to the 26th November in connection with the Constitution burning agitation. The public has evinced little or no interest in the agitation and the situation which is being carefully watched is well under control.

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): In reply to a supplementary question by Shri Bose on 13-11-57 regarding price structure of the petroleum product, I had mentioned that one of the oil companies was considering to give some further reduction on the oil products distributed in Assam. In actual fact some

reduction in the prices of their petroleum products sold in Assam market had already been effected by the Assam Oil Company with effect from the 15th October, 1957. According to the Assam Oil Company, the revision in the prices will reduce their recoveries from the Assam market by about Rs. 52 lakhs per annum. They have been asked to give the details of this calculation.

POINT OF ORDER

Raja Mahendra Pratap (Mathura): On a point of order, Sir. The burning of the Constitution resorted to by some unruly elements in the South is a serious matter in regard to our culture, religion and our society. It affects the future of the country and the unity of the country. So, I would request that this matter must be taken up very seriously. After 10 years of Congress rule such things are happening. The Brahmins are being killed...

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. With respect to such statements where information is given, there are a number of methods by which the matter can be brought up. No questions are asked on any statement that is made in the House by any Hon. Minister.

STATEMENT RE: REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 208

Shri Narasimhan (Krishnagiri): On the 18th November, 1957 on a supplementary to S.Q. No. 208 regarding Shri Pataskar's report on Madras-Andhra Pradesh border dispute I asked the Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs whether since the Pataskar Report had been published and accepted, Government had received any representation from two villages of Krishnagiri taluk which had been recommended for transfer from Andhra and urging the maintenance of status quo.