

[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.