

A statement showing (i) prices of Sunn Hemp at Benaras (U.P.) and Guntur (Andhra Pradesh) during 1956 and 1957, and (ii) exports of Hemp raw from 1954-56 and January-July 1957 is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 89.]

12 hrs.

POINT OF INFORMATION

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): I want to point out....

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member must resume his seat.

Shri Hem Barua: I am not referring to the Question.

Mr. Speaker: The point is this. I have said once twice or thrice that unless a matter comes in the Order Paper, I am not going to allow any sort of representation to be made in the House and thus the time of the House being taken away from the regular transaction of work. If any hon. Member wants any particular matter to be raised here, he should write to me or talk to me. If I admit it and put it in the Order Paper, he can raise it. If I refuse to do so, he should not stand up here. If he still disobeys, I will have to take very serious disciplinary action in the matter. If anything suddenly crops up like a stranger getting into the chamber, then, even without notice, he can raise it. That is all he could do.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

HAPPENINGS AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE ELECTRIC TRAIN SERVICES AT HOWRAH

Now we will take up the question of the adjournment motion.

Shri Sadhan Gupta (Calcutta-East): I was also present at the inauguration.

Mr. Speaker: I am now calling upon the Railway Minister.

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): I rise to make a statement on the happenings at the inauguration of the Electric train services at Howrah on the 14th of this month, when two persons were unfortunately killed and several were injured.

The police arrangements for the occasion had been settled at various meetings (between the Railway administration and the West Bengal Police representatives) and necessary personnel were drafted for the purpose by the police authorities.

The General Manager had issued invitations to 3,500 guests, out of which about 2,500 arrived and were seated in a portion of the main concourse which had been cordoned off for the purpose. 500 of these were invited to accompany the train and were seated in a special enclosure arranged in the concourse from which they alone could have direct access to the platform, where the special train had been berthed. The train consisted of 11 bogies and 2 electric engines, one leading and another in rear.

To ensure protection of the special inaugural train which was to leave from platform No. 8, this and platforms Nos. 6, 7 and 9 were closed for the reception and departure of trains for the afternoon and barricades were provided between platforms 9 and 10, 5 and 6 and 1 and 2, to prevent unauthorised persons infiltrating on to platform No. 8.

The Prime Minister was due to arrive at Howrah station at 3-30 P.M. Some time before this a crowd started collecting round the protected area. A portion climbed the barricades or circumvented them through the yard, thus gaining access to the platforms which had been closed. The Police and Railway staff on duty tried to clear them, but the crowd soon came back. By the time the Prime Minister left the concourse for the special train the crowd on all the platforms had increased considerably and had even gathered in large numbers on the tracks.