

I have received the following communication from Shri S. C. Banerjee, Magistrate, First Class, Chinsurah, District Hooghly, West Bengal:—

"I have the honour to inform you that Shri Prabhat Kumar Kar, Member of the Lok Sabha, was tried today, the 22nd day of September 1958, before me at the Chinsurah Court on a charge of having intentionally caused interruption to the proceedings of this Court. The trial having lasted for this day only, I have today found him guilty of the offence of having intentionally caused interruption to judicial proceedings punishable U/S 480 of the Code of Criminal Procedure read with section 228 of the Indian Penal Code, and have sentenced him to suffer simple imprisonment for one day in default of payment of a fine of Rs 25. The sentence of imprisonment will be executed in the Hooghly Jail.

"No application for leave to appeal has been filed.

"The Superintendent, Hooghly Jail, has been directed to intimate to you the date of release of Shri Kar from the Jail".

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta-Central): May I make a submission to you about Shri Prabhat Kar's conviction? It so happens that under the rules, the Magistrate concerned is under an obligation to let you know immediately on arrest. Now Shri Kar underwent his sentence, has come back hale and hearty and is attending the House. I think the obligation of intimation to you is an obligation which should be insisted upon, and there should not be any delay.

We have heard of other instances of sentences being pronounced by Magistrates which occurred, chronologically speaking, after Shri Kar's case. I think this rule should be very strictly construed and you should in your wisdom take whatever steps are necessary to tell the

magistracy that it will not delay intimating to you news of the detention and conviction of any Member.

Mr. Speaker: I hope the hon. Home Minister will look into this matter.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): Yes, I will.

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

FOURTH AND FIFTH REPORTS

Sardar Hukam Singh (Bhatinda): I beg to lay on the Table the Fourth and Fifth Reports of the Committee of Privileges.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

TWENTY-SEVENTH AND TWENTY-EIGHTH REPORTS

Shri B. G. Mehta (Gohilwad): I beg to present the following reports of the Estimates Committee:—

(1) Twenty-seventh Report on the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-first Report of the Estimates Committee (First Lok Sabha) on Track-Renewal, Steel, Sleepers and Rolling Stock;

(2) Twenty-eighth Report on the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-third Report of the Estimates Committee (First Lok Sabha) on a general survey of the Railway Budget, 1956-57.

12.45 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

HAUL OF ILLICIT WEAPONS IN AMBALA

Shri Warior (Trichur): Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the

[Shri Warior]

following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

A haul of illicit weapons in Ambala, Punjab.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): A person by the name of Ranbir Singh. (laughter).... I am giving the father's name also so that there should be no mistake—son of Jwala Prasad, resident of Jullundur, was arrested by the Jaipur Police under section 109 Cr. P. C. on a charge of vagrancy. The Jaipur Police referred the arrested person to the Ambala Police for certain enquiries in connection with which the person was brought to Ambala where further interrogation resulted in the accused giving information about the existence of some arms and ammunition which, according to him, lay buried in village Kajheri, District Ambala. This information was followed up with a search which resulted in the recovery of the following weapons on 14th September, 1958 (and not 15th September 1958 as stated in the Call Attention Notice):—

- 1 Revolver .38 bore (Webley & Scott-English make).
- 1 automatic pistol 9 mm (Canadian make).
- 10 live hand grenades (single grenades Army type).
- 17 detonators relatable to item (3) above.
- 185 revolver/pistol cartridges [relatable to items (1) and (2) above].

The above was found buried under the ground in two glass jars securely sealed with wax in a cattle shed belonging to one Bawa Harbhajan Das of village Kajheri.

Investigation into the matter continues. The accused says that he is a graduate of the Punjab University

and his father is employed in the P. & T. Department at Patiala. It has not been possible as yet to establish definitely the source of the arms and ammunition recovered. The accused is making varying statements. One of them was to the effect that he was planning to hold people to ransom and commit dacoities.

STATEMENT ON ACTION ON TEXTILE ENQUIRY COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Mr. Speaker: There is another Call Attention notice by Shri S. M. Banerji and Shri Tangamani. Under Rule 197(3), not more than one Call Attention notice can be admitted for the same sitting. But today being the last day of this session, a second Notice has been put down, but the statement in respect of that may be laid on the Table in accordance with Direction No. 47A. The statement will be laid on the Table by the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): I lay the statement on the Table as directed.

Statement

The Textile Enquiry Committee have dealt with the closure of textile mills in Chapter IX of their Report. Particular reference is invited to paragraph 1 of this chapter which shows that the problem of closure of mills is not peculiar to this year. Even in past years, a good number of mills have remained closed for one reason or other.

The Committee recognised that the possibility of a number of the mills that are now closed, being able to reopen at all was remote considering the extremely poor condition of the mill machinery and equipment. In fact, they have recommended that some of these concerns should be liquidated.

Apart from this, the Committee have recommended certain measures