

12.15½ hrs.

MOTOR TRANSPORT WORKERS BILL

EVIDENCE BEFORE JOINT COMMITTEE

Shri Mulchand Dube (Farrukhabad): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the evidence given before the Joint Committee on the Motor Transport Workers Bill, 1960.

—
12.16 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: INCIDENTS NEAR GURDWARA RAKABGANJ

Mr. Speaker: There is a 'Calling Attention' notice. Shri P. G. Deb— He is absent. What can be done?

An Hon. Member: The answer may be laid on the Table.

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. Home Minister has no objection, he can lay it on the Table.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): I beg to place it on the Table.

STATEMENT

In commemoration of the martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur, the Gurdwara Prabandak Committee of Delhi organised a dewan at Gurdwara Rakabganj on the 24th November, 1960. Earlier the local Akali leaders had announced their intention to take out a procession from the Gurdwara towards Parliament House in order to make a demonstration before Parliament. As this was in contravention of orders passed under Section 144-Cr. P. C. prohibiting processions and demonstrations without permission in the vicinity of Parliament House, the local authorities has taken measures to deal with the unlawful procession, should it be taken out. From early morning of the 24th November, a large number of persons collected near the walls of the Gurdwara on Queen Mary Avenue and began shouting highly provocative and vulgar solgans. Some Akalis con-

tinuously incited the demonstrators by shouting solgans from inside the Gurdwara and the solgans were relayed over loudspeakers. At about 1.45 P.M. a large number of demonstrators came out of the Gurdwara gate and crowded the sides of Queen Mary Avenue. They continued to shout provocative solgans and to behave in a vulgar manner. The police officers on duty requested the demonstrators to clear the pavements but instead of complying with these directions, some of the demonstrators threw sand into the eyes of the police personnel. A little later, a jatha of 21 Akalis led by a proclaimed offender pushed forward in the direction of Parliament House in an attempt to force through the police cordon. They were followed by a large number of other demonstrators. The police arrested 26 persons including the leader of the jatha. The demonstrators then became violent and started throwing boulders, brickbats, stones pieces of glass, broken furniture and other missiles at the police. The police personnel on duty continued to act with considerable restraint though a large number of them had been injured. The demonstrators continued to throw missiles at the police and to commit acts of extreme provocation and obscenity in spite of repeatedly being warned by the Magistrates and police officers on duty to desist from their unlawful behaviour. At about 3.45 P.M. a large body of demonstrators suddenly surged forward in an attempt to take out the projected procession towards Parliament House. Attempt was made by the police to hold them back. This was again met with a prolonged shower of missiles. The Additional District Magistrate on duty repeatedly warned the demonstrators to desist from their violent acts failing which he would be compelled to order the use of force to disperse them. All these warnings went unheeded and as the violence did not abate, the Additional District Magistrate declared the assembly unlawful and ordered to disperse. As this did not have the desired effect, the Additional District Magistrate directed the