

11-04½ hrs.

**PARLIAMENT (PREVENTION OF  
DISQUALIFICATION) BILL**

**LAI'D ON THE TABLE AS RETURNED BY  
RAJYA SABHA WITH AMENDMENTS**

**Secretary:** I lay on the Table of the House the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Bill, 1958 which has been returned by Rajya Sabha with amendments

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** With regard to this Bill, we have not been able to understand the full implications of what has been done by the Rajya Sabha because the words 'director or member' have been deleted. Now does it mean that a person can be a director as well as a member

**Shri Ranga (Tenali):** He can be a member as well as a director, but not the president

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** (Hissar) The words are 'director or member'

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sure the hon. Member does not expect the Secretary to explain it. It is for hon. Members to construe or send it back as they like

11-06 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**LAY-OFF BY ASSAM RAILWAY TRADING  
Co**

**Shri Muhammed Elias (Howrah):** Under rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel to the following matter of urgent public importance

and I request that he may make a statement thereon.

"The reported lay-off of 800 workers by the Assam Railway Trading Co due to reduced coal allocation"

**The Minister of Steel Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh):** So far as the fact could be ascertained, it appears that workers of Namdung, Ledo and Baragola collieries of Assam Railways and Trading Company, Margherita, went on strike on the morning of December 15, consequent upon the laying off of approximately 800 workers due to a shortfall in the off-take from these collieries during the last two or three months. The North East Frontier Railway are the main consumers of the produce from these collieries and it appears that they could not take the full quota allotted to them from these collieries. During the last one month period they could take only 14,000 tons against the normal allocation of 18,000 tons. This has resulted in accumulation of some stocks in the collieries in question. As soon as this was brought to the notice of the Coal Controller, he took steps to allocate part of the surplus from these collieries to the Tea industry in that region. Further, it is expected that from January, 1959 onwards, the North East Frontier Railway will take 20,000 tons per month. In the circumstances, there was no obvious justification for laying off of workers by the Assam Railways and Trading Company and the consequent strike by the workers. More details of the subject matter of the notice are not yet available, but the latest information shows that the strike was called off on the 17th December, 1958.

11-07½ hrs.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Mr. Speaker:** The Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House in their Eleventh Report