

12 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATIONS ISSUED UNDER ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following notifications under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

- (i) G.S.R. No. 1 dated the 2nd January, 1961.
- (ii) The Sugarcane (Control) Amendment Order 1961 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 48 dated the 14th January, 1961.
- (iii) The Sugar (Movement Control) Amendment Order, 1961 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 49 dated the 14th January, 1960. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-2669/60].

12.01½ hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

THIRTY-THIRD REPORT

Shri Barman (Cooch-Bihar—Reserved—Sch. Castes): I beg to present the Thirty-third Report of the Public Accounts Committee (1960-61) on the Appropriation Accounts (Railways), 1958-59 and Audit Report, 1960.

12.02 hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

HUNDRED AND SEVENTH REPORT

Shri Dasappa (Bangalore): I beg to present the Hundred and Seventh Report of the Estimates Committee on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixty-third Report of the Estimates Committee (First Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Defence—Training Institutions.

12.02½ hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): With your permission, I rise to announce that Government business in this House for the week commencing 27th February, 1961, will consist of:

- (1) Consideration of any part-discussed item carried over from today's Order Paper.
- (2) General Discussion on Railway Budget.
- (3) Discussion and voting of:

Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1960-61;

Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1961-62.

As Members are already aware, the General Budget for 1961-62 will be presented on Tuesday, the 28th February, 1961 at 5 P.M.

12.03 hrs.

RE: ARREST OF A MEMBER

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): Sir, before you proceed to the next item of business, may I invite your attention to rule 229 of the Rules of Procedure? I was under the impression that you might have received intimation of the arrest of a Member of this House. According to the rule, whenever a Member of the House is arrested, the authority who arrests him is immediately required to intimate to you about the arrest of the Member.

Mr. Speaker: I am aware of the rule. But what is the point? Let us not go into the details about the reasons for the arrest.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: The wording of the rule is this.

Mr. Speaker: Who is the Member who has been arrested?

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Shri P. N. Singh.

Mr. Speaker: When?

Shri Braj Raj Singh: He was arrested yesterday last evening, at Bombay. I received a telegram in the night. The news has been published in the papers. My point is this. Oftentimes, the newspapers receive the news but you have not been told of it. It is so not only in this case but in other cases also. When a Member of this House is arrested, the news of his arrest is to be intimated to you. The rule says as follows:

"When a member is arrested.... by a court or is detained under an executive order, the committing judge, magistrate or executive authority, as the case may be, shall immediately intimate such fact to the Speaker indicating the reasons for the arrest,...." etc.

You have not been informed of the arrest.

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. Member might have kept quiet until the intimation actually is received here. Anyhow, I shall answer his point. I do not know what "immediately" means. Possibly, when a Member is arrested, what the authorities can do is to send a telegram about it; they give the telegram to the post office, but, if the post office takes time in transmitting it, how is that gentleman responsible? Possibly, the newspapers may have teleprinters. Anyway, I shall make enquiries about it. At any rate, instructions and reminders may be issued that as soon as the arrest of a Member of this House is made, immediately this House must be informed about it through me. Let them be a little more rigorous. Let not such things occur hereafter.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: I had received the telegram last night. So, the post office cannot be at fault. When I can receive the telegram, such a telegram could also have been sent to you.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member's point is that while he has received a telegram, I must also have received such a telegram. I am sorry. The hon. Home Minister will see to it that instructions are issued.

12.06 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)—1960-61— contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up further discussion and voting on the supplementary demands for grants. Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri may continue his speech.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri (Barrampore): As I was saying yesterday, the main apprehension that comes to our mind with regard to these projects is whether the Government has at all made up its mind in this regard. There is one characteristic feature about the Ganga Barrage project. Although it has been mooted as early as 105 years ago, no Government up till now has had either the time or the foresight to take a final decision with regard to it. That observation applies both to the previous British Government as well as to the Government of independent India. I find from the explanatory note the following:

"During the current financial year, an expenditure of Rs. 3 lakhs is anticipated which will be met by re-appropriation of savings within the Grant."

I therefore tried to consult the budget of the current year and I found that no appropriation was made under the head "Ganga Barrage project" for this year. But in the previous year, that is, 1959-60, a grant of Rs. 3,75,000 was made. No grant was taken in the year 1960-61. It seems that Government is anticipating that the savings that had been carried over from 1959-60 would be sufficient for the current year also and that only a token grant is necessary.

But what intrigues me most is the fact that so far as the Ministry of Irrigation and Power is concerned it is often concerned with the investigation of the project and the field works in connection with the investigation. What the country is interested to know and particularly what my State of West Bengal is interested to know