

High School. A plot of land measuring about half an acre in the Indraprastha Estate was allotted to the Society in October, 1955, for the construction of a High School. On account of the set-back restrictions along the National Highway imposed by the then Delhi Development (Provisional) Authority, the Society was left with very little land for construction of the building. The Society, therefore, requested in July, 1956, that an alternative site may be allotted to them in the Lodi Road area. A plot of land measuring about one and a half acre was accordingly allotted to them in September, 1956 in the Lodi Estate locality.

SHRI V. K. DHANGE: Has the Gujarati Education Society accepted this land?

SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA: Yes, Sir. I believe they have already constructed their building.

**OPENING OF A ROUTE TO GOA via
SAWANTWADI**

*107. **SHRI V. K. DHAGE:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open another route to Goa via Sawantwadi; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) and (b). Government have at the moment under study the opening of another route to Goa. The existing route via Majali and the facilities available at Majali are inadequate to the demands of the present traffic. Further, Government have received representations that passengers travelling to Goa from the districts of Bombay State to the north of Goa have to take a circuitous route. The opening of a new route, however, presents its own problems such as transport, additional customs and police personnel, amenities for passengers

and proper roads and these aspects have to be fully examined before a decision can be reached.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Is there only one route to Goa or more than one route?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: It is only one route, the Majali route.

SHRI B. V. (MAMA) WARERKAR: May I know, Sir, whether the temporary steamer service to Goa is being started now?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: There have been reports in the newspaper that the dock workers might lift the ban and the steamer service might begin.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: What is the information of the Government in this regard, apart from the newspaper report?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: There are two types of ocean-going vessels. Some are foreign vessels about which we have no authority to deal with them and I think the question of dock workers especially refers to them. They refrain from helping them in loading and unloading, etc. Therefore, these foreign vessels have been affected. The others may be some local service. I am afraid I do not exactly know what those small local services are doing now.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: May I know, Sir, whether the decision will be taken very soon and the route will be opened before the monsoon sets in?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: The whole matter is under consideration. The speed with which the route will be opened will depend upon the decision reached.

DR. A. R. MUDALIAR: Indian passenger steamers were going to Goa at one time. Since our differences with the Portuguese Government, these services have been suspended. The

passenger service, after touching at Goa, used to go to some other places. Because these services could not touch at Goa, the other places cannot be visited by the passenger service. Therefore, the suggestion has been made that at least the passenger services may be allowed to go to Goa. Will Government consider this?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I am not at present acquainted with this matter. We shall consider the hon. Member's suggestion.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Now there is a passenger service to Karwar.

*108 and *109. [*The questioner (Moulana M. Faruqi) was absent. For answers, vide cols. 675—78 infra.*]

COVERAGE OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS BY A.I.R.

*110. **SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there exists any committee for directing the coverage of the proceedings of Parliament by the All India Radio;

(b) if so, what is the composition of that committee; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, who actually directs this coverage?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. B. V. KESKAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) It is the duty of the Director of News Services to supervise the coverage. The News Division of A.I.R. gets detailed reports from the Press Trust of India and it has also correspondents who attend the proceedings and make their reports.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether it has occurred to the hon. Minister that, whereas in covering

the proceedings the statements and the position of the Government are played up out of all proportion, the position of the opposition and their critical speeches made in Parliament against the Government policies are correspondingly played down, showing an element of bias?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: The News Services have to function more or less as newspapers, keeping the objectivity, accuracy and the news value of what they are giving in fifteen minutes. A kind of condensation of all news has to be kept in consideration. If there are Government statements which are very important and if the public wants to know them, they have to be given. At the same time I might point out that important opposition criticism is always given. In fact we have issued a special directive to see that it is given. At the same time we have to remember that the news service is for ten to fifteen minutes, and it has to condense not only parliamentary news but other important news. All these facts are taken into consideration. The Director has to strike a balance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no playing up or playing down.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I had this thing examined for at least three or four sessions before I formulated this question. Now, Sir, ten minutes are all right, but in the matter of condensing this thing, a few words that we utter in praise are played up, but the main substantial criticism is not played up. This is how it is done misleading the public. May I know whether, in view of this thing, Government would consider the advisability of placing before the Secretariat of this House and the other House the scripts which are read out on the broadcast so that Members of Parliament and the Secretariat concerned may have a chance of checking up this kind of broadcast?

SHRI RAGHAVENDRARAO: You cannot interfere with the right of the news editor.