

on capital works. That is not so and cannot be so.

ELECTIONS IN ANDHRA

SHRI N. PRASADARAO (Andhra): Sir, I wish to draw your attention to one matter of urgency. Regarding the elections in Andhra, the Minister for Home Affairs said in the other House about three weeks ago that within one week the days for the elections would be announced but so far they have not been announced and the rumours are—all the press in Andhra have reported—that the elections will be indefinitely postponed. I want to know what is the position and what is the stand of Government.

THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND STATES (DR. K. N. KATJU): Sir, I am very sorry I came here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you had not come here, he would not have put the question.

DR. K. N. KATJU: So far as I know, and so far as the intentions of the Government go, for the present; the inclination is to hold the elections at the earliest possible moment in the month of February, to finish them early in March and get the new Government going before the end of March. That is the present intention.

SHRI N. PRASADARAO: Will it.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no.

SHRI N. PRASADARAO: Will this intention be modified in the future?

DR. K. N. KATJU: Sir, I would like to give a bit of advice to my hon. friend and ask him not to be carried away by speculations in the newspapers, because speculations are speculations.

SHRI N. PRASADARAO: But your ex-Chief Minister.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: No no, that will do.

REPORTED PROSECUTION OF MAHE LEADERS

SHRI B. GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I am raising another matter of importance and urgency. It seems from press reports that important leaders of Mahe—Mr. I. K. Kumaram and 50 others—are being prosecuted from today for alleged offences committed in the liberation struggle of October 1948. It is a shameful thing and.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. No comments.

SHRI B. GUPTA: I want a clear assurance from the Government that the prosecution will be immediately dropped.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He refers to some report in some paper which says that some people who took part in the liberation struggle in 1948 are about to be prosecuted today.

SHRI B. GUPTA: From to-day.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is right.

THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND STATES (DR. K. N. KATJU): Sir, I want notice.

ELECTION TO COURT OF DELHI UNIVERSITY

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Anup Singh being the only candidate nominated for election to the Court of the University of Delhi, I hereby declare him duly elected to be a member of the said court.

MOTION REGARDING REPORT OF JOINT SITTING OF COMMITTEES OF PRIVILEGES

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI C. C. BISWAS): Sir, I beg to move:

“That this House approves the recommendations contained in the Report of the Joint Sitting of the

Committees of Privileges of the Lok Sabha and the Council of States, which was presented to the House on the 23rd August 1954."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House approves the recommendations contained in the Report of the Joint Sitting of the Committees of Privileges of the Lok Sabha and the Council of States which was presented to the House on the 23rd August 1954."

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION REGARDING ENHANCEMENT OF EXPORT DUTY ON TEA—*Continued*

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA (Bihar): Mr. Chairman, before I proceed with my speech today, I would like to correct an obvious slip which occurred in my speech of the other day. I said that the dividend declared by the tea companies in 1953 related to the year 1952. Obviously that is not the fact and the dividend declared in 1953 does not relate to the working year 1952. The fact is that the tea companies fared badly in the year 1952.

On the last working day, I explained at some length that there was a rise in both the internal and the external demands for our tea and consequently the prices were high. I was referring to the Economic Adviser's wholesale price index which includes both the prices—the prices in the internal and the external markets, for our tea. You will find that taking 1939 as the base year, the price indices in the year 1950, for the months of August, September and October were very high, being 461, 460 and 460 respectively.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.]

For the year 1951, the highest figure was in August, being 439. In 1952 the price index went very low, being 191 in October 1952. But in 1953, you will find that there has

been a tendency for an increase in the tea prices. The year opened with a figure of 235 in January 1953 but by December it went up to 474. This rising tendency was continued during the year 1954 and it stood at the very high figure of 705 in September of this year. It will thus be seen that there was an increase of 350 per cent. between the years 1950 and 1954 and a rise of as much as 500 per cent. between October 1952 and September 1954. Therefore I emphasise that the price of tea is very high, not because of the duty, but the duty was levied because of the high prices. We should not, therefore, have any fears that the consumption of tea would fall because of the imposition of this duty, or that this duty would be passed on to the consumers. I am pretty sure that this duty will come out of the windfall of profits that the industry and trade are making today.

Sir, I would now refer to a very disquieting feature in our export trade. Today we are governed by the International Trade Agreement of 1950-55, so far as exports are concerned and I understand that Government have released 129 per cent. for export. The system of export quotas for tea was devised as long back as 1933 and the primary object at that time was to restrict or rather to curtail the tea crop in India. This system of quota has since then not been changed in any manner so as to meet adequately the changing circumstances; and this is now more urgent because the production has lagged behind the demand. The most disquieting feature of this out-dated system of export quotas for tea is that it allows persons not in the remotest manner connected with the tea industry to take away sizable chunks of the profits. Several tea producers do not have enough production to meet the full quota allotted to them and this is where precisely the outsider comes in to manipulate and take advantage of the situation.

In view of these facts, it is imperative that the present system of export quotas be drastically overhauled and