

a copy of the Memorandum on the Sixth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on Hirakud Dam Project. [See Appendix VII, Annexure No. 1.]

DEATH OF SHRI P. S. LAHOTI

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before we proceed further, it is my painful duty to draw your attention to the recent death of Mr. Lahoti who was a Member from Hyderabad. He was an industrialist and took a great deal of interest in education of boys and girls and we are very sorry that he passed away very recently. As a mark of respect to his memory I would request you to stand for a minute.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for a minute.)

THE LUSHAI HILLS DISTRICT (CHANGE OF NAME) BILL, 1954

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to change the name of the Lushai Hills District.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH (Madras): Before these matters are taken up by this House

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will be over in a minute. The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to change the name of the Lushai Hills District."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE STATE ACQUISITION OF LANDS FOR UNION PURPOSES (VALIDATION) BILL, 1954

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR P. S. DESHMUKH): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to

validate the acquisition under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, of lands by certain State Governments for the purposes of the Union, and orders passed and proceedings held in connection therewith.

MR CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to validate the acquisition under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, of lands by certain State Governments for the purposes of the Union, and orders passed and proceedings held in connection therewith."

The motion was adopted.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Sir, I introduce the Bill

THE KUMBH MELA TRAGEDY

SHRI H. D. RAJAH (Madras): Sir, I rise to a point of order. Before the Government business is taken up, I urge the Government spokesman to make a statement on the greatest tragedy which has taken place in the country

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Prime Minister is here.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: Sir, we did not know That should be told to us.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): By your leave, Sir, I should like to say a few words. I do not propose to make a statement as the hon. Member just wanted, in regard to the Kumbh Mela tragedy, but I think it is right and fitting that we should, at the beginning of this session of the House, express our deep sympathy and sorrow and send our condolences to the relatives of the bereaved and in fact to the vast numbers of those who have felt the shock of this tragedy. It will not be fitting, I think for us at this stage to consider this matter in any detail and therefore I am not going into it for two major reasons apart from any others. One is that it