

the money, they hope to reimburse. Money is to be spent first by the Government which will be reimbursed later on; I want to know whether Government considers, in view of the elections taking place, that such practices are good and for the healthy development of democracy itself?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Perfectly good. As a matter of fact, I happen to know about this Rs. 2,000 personally quite well and so I can answer it from personal knowledge. This has nothing to do with transport, food or any other bill, but with certain other payments. I do remember that two and a half years ago when the last elections took place, certain payments had to be made, such as ferry charges, charges for construction of rostrums—which unfortunately the police insist on making themselves because they say that the others do not know how to make them properly, for security and other reasons—for which they ask to be paid what they have spent. In this case, I remembered that and I informed the Congress Committee that this matter should be settled beforehand so that no money may be due from them in this way. The Congress Committee paid Rs. 2,000 for any possible incidental expenditure. It had nothing to do with food or transport or accommodation at all.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: I should just like to have one clarification. As admitted both by the Prime Minister as well as by the Press Note issued by the Travancore-Cochin Government, expenses were incurred in connection with not only accommodation but food and transport also. My question, therefore, is whether the same facilities and conveniences would be extended or have been extended to leaders of other parties, namely Government giving transport and food and then having the charges reimbursed by the particular parties in the State?

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: If the parties have no money.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: It is for the local parties to come to an arrangement with the State Government. It is not for the Centre to handle this.

BURNING OF INDIAN FLAG IN GOA

***306. DR. RAGHU VIRA:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Portuguese authorities in Goa publicly burnt the Indian flag at Sanguem on the 25th December 1953, and at Chapora on the 26th January 1954 when the Indian flag was hoisted by the people during the Christmas and Republic Day celebrations respectively; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in the matter?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) The Government of India have seen reports that the Indian flag was hoisted by nationalist workers over an old fort at Chapora on Republic Day and that the village Patel removed the flag and burnt it. The Portuguese authorities have admitted that the flag was found hoisted over the fort, but have denied that it was burnt. They have stated that the flag was removed and kept in police custody. There have been reports of the hoisting of Indian national flags at various other places in Portuguese India, including Savor-dem and Sanguem, but there has been no report of the burning of the flag at these places.

(b) The Government will take appropriate action if it is confirmed that there has been any disrespect to the flag.

PROPERTY CLAIMS OF DISPLACED PERSONS

***307. SHRI M. VALIULLA:** Will the Minister for REHABILITATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to