

[Shri C. G. K. Reddy.]

is a fact or is merely a misuse of powers of the Cantonment Boards. If it is a fact, I should like him to consider whether it is not desirable to see that this sort of restriction which is not only unwarranted, but also goes against the principles of democracy, is removed and to see that no permission is insisted so far as public meetings are concerned, so far as social gatherings are concerned and, so far as even political meetings are concerned, be it Defence Ministry property or common property. In some areas, in the Defence Ministry property, in the so-called Defence Ministry property—because they own large tracts of land within the Cantonment Boards—there are certain parks and other public grounds as playing fields and also for entertainment. Now, I want to know whether the Cantonment Boards will allow the public to enjoy the same rights which they enjoy in other municipalities and areas.

RAILWAY BUDGET—1953-54

THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (SHRI C. C. BISWAS): Sir, in the absence of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, I beg to lay on the Table a Statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India for the year 1953-54, in respect of Railways. [Placed in the Library. See No. IV.U.(a)(86).]

As the hon. Minister in charge of Railways is in the other House and will shortly be speaking there on this subject, what will be done is, that copies of the speech will be available to the Members as soon as his speech is over.

CANTONMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1952—Continued

5 P.M.

SARGAR S. S. MAJITHIA: Mr. Deputy Chairman, I am very grateful to my friend Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor for replying to most of the observations made by Shri Bhupesh Gupta. It has definitely lightened my task, and

I should not like to waste very much of the time of the House. I should only like to say in passing that the Opposition is still keeping their eyes shut to what is an established fact. We have got independence and we are working on the democratic system, but the Opposition is still continuing in the old vein of running down everything that comes from the Government. The military officers and the civilian officers are Indians who are fully patriotic and are no longer the chattels of a foreign country. They are responsible to this House through the Defence Ministry, and as such I feel that there should be absolutely no ground for running down these officers of integrity for just merely being military officers or officers of the civil service.

My friend Shri Bhupesh Gupta has also referred to the amendments brought up by this amending Bill. As I said, these are the amendments which the Ministry found were called for, and the Patil Committee gave a unanimous decision on the advisability of incorporating them, and we are doing that. The other points on which there was disagreement relate to intricate problems which are not so simple as they appear to our friends in the Opposition. I have already said that by the middle of this year I hope to come to definite conclusions regarding them, and very soon after that you will find that we will bring forward another amending Bill dealing with those particular questions. So far as this Bill is concerned, it is really a very, very simple and innocuous Bill and I see no reason why it should not have been passed in very much less time than it has taken already.

A regards the representation of the people, my friend Mr. Kapoor has already told this House that more than 1,000 opinions were got and they have been carefully analysed, and as a result of that we have been strengthened in our views, and therefore we are bringing this amending legislation before this House.