

DISTURBANCES IN KANPUR

JANAB M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHEB (Madras) : Sir, before we begin the discussion on the subjects in the Ust of business, I want to make a submission.

You may be aware, Sir, that distressing news of certain unhappy happenings is coming from Kanpur in U. P. for two days now. It is unfortunate that the feelings of the people, the Muslims, have been wounded and roused in this manner. While I want the people to obey the law and maintain law and order, I request the Government to take adequate steps to redress their grievances and soothe their feelings. In this connection I want to know whether the Government has got any information about the present position and what steps they are taking to give relief to the wounded feelings of the people.

THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (SHRI N. GOPALASWAMI) : Sir, this surprise has been sprung upon me this morning. The incident is really one within the sphere of the State Government. I understand that the State Government is taking adequate action but whatever fell from my hon. friend, I will pass on to my hon. colleague, the Home Minister.

THE RESERVE AND AUXILIARY AIR FORCES BILL, 1952—(continued).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Further discussion on the motion moved by Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar on the 12th :

That the Bill to provide for the constitution and regulation of certain Air Force Reserves and also an Auxiliary Air Force and for matters connected therewith as passed by the House of the People, be taken into consideration.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU (Madras) : Mr. Chairman, I should really congratulate the hon. the Defence Minister for having brought

forth this enactment. Of course, it was long overdue and we know, Sir, that in these days when wars are won mainly by Air Forces, and when countries are devastated only by Air Forces, no amount of having any territorial force would do good to our country and I feel sure that India is getting air-minded.

The Indian Air Force came of age during the War when it won the reputation of being the "Eyes and Ears" of the 14th Army in Burma. We have also seen, Sir, recently when the hon. the Prime Minister addressed our House on Kashmir, how our Indian Air Force had played a great part in capturing an air-held at Srinagar in time, and but for our Air Force we would have certainly lost Kashmir. I am really grateful, Sir, to the hon. the Defence Minister for having brought forth this legislation at this stage. In these days, oceans are no barriers for enemies and mountains are also no barriers. We have got to forget our Himalayas and we have got to forget the vast oceans surrounding our country and unless we have got a strong Air Force, unless we have got a strong Air defence, I do not think we can successfully protect our country from future wars.

I would only read a few passages from the small book "Defending our Frontiers", at page 4 :

"Hardly had the internecine upheaval in the Punjab subsided when our soldiers and airmen were called upon to defend Jammu and Kashmir against invaders. And while they were still engaged in the Kashmir operations, the Indian Army and Air Force had to fulfil another obligation in Hyderabad State. Some of their achievements during this period will rank among the outstanding feats of arms in the long course of our military history."

And, again, in the same book at page 27:

"This was immediately followed by an unexpected call to action in Kashmir. Despite unfavourable flying conditions and mountainous terrain, the I. A. F. carried out some of the most difficult tasks assigned to it during the Jammu and Kashmir operations. From the besieged town of Poonch alone nearly 35,000 refugees were flown out to places of safety. In flying to Leh, the Dakotas negotiated heights of 20,000 feet and over with improvised flying facilities. The I. A. F.,