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his mind and wishes to speak in English as before. However, the hon'ble member can do so, but he cannot be allowed again to carry on a debate ordinarily in any other language. I must say, however, that this does not prevent the President from calling upon any individual member on a particular occasion, as a special case, to address the Council in any language in which he is proficient.

The debate may now be resumed on yesterday's resolution about the granting of gun licenses.

RESOLUTIONS.

GRANT OF GUN LICENSES IN AREAS NEAR RESERVED OR PROTECTED FORESTS.

Babu JALESHVAR PRASHAD: As we all remember, Sir, when the last committee was appointed to consider the question of issuing licenses to people under the Arms Act, it was almost unanimously agreed upon that only one principle shall be observed in the matter of issue of licenses to all persons. It was on account of this that persons, who were previously exempt under the Arms Act, were asked to take licenses, though as a matter of course licenses were granted to them. I understand that in certain other provinces in India licenses are given to them where it is thought that arms are necessary for their safety. We are simply asking for the extension of that same principle to this province. It is true that the Arms Act is especially a matter for the Government of India. Our Government has only to make recommendations. Therefore, in this connection, if I cite before this House an example from another province, I think I shall not be out of order. We all know that in the frontier provinces not only arms are issued to the people, but villagers there are trained to fight, because they are in constant terror of the trans-frontier tribes.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT: May I remind the hon'ble member that the resolution is confined to the granting of licenses? That is the only issue raised, and we are considering whether the issue of licenses in a particular tract should be more liberal.

[B. Jaleshvar Prashad]

Babu JALESHVAR PRASHAD: Sir, I was coming to that point. I do not request the Government to train people in these areas to shoot tigers. If in one province Government have gone to the length of training people, in this tract, where also the danger to the lives of the people inhabiting these quarters is no less, I submit, Sir, the least that the Government ought to do is to grant licenses more liberally. It is more for political reasons than for anything else that the Arms Act has been imposed upon us, but what I submit is that where the question of safety is concerned, politics ought not to be allowed and any consideration of a political nature ought not to come in. Sir, every year we find in the annual report a number of lives lost on account of these wild animals. What would be the feeling of those villagers who live in those quarters if they are not allowed the means of protection under the mighty British rule? We are always told that the one advantage, and one very great advantage, of this rule is that our lives are safe. I ask, Sir, where is that advantage in that case? Is our life to be safe only from our fellow brethren, whether they are men of this country or some other country, and not from the ravages of the wild animals? What it is, Sir, that this Government wants us to become? Are we to have any strength in ourselves to defend ourselves not from any tactics of any trained army, but from the wild animals who are superior to us in nothing but brute force? Certainly no question of intellect comes in here. I submit that when there is a question only of brute force, when there is a comparison of strength only, shall we not be allowed the right of using weapons which any man in any other country is allowed for his own safety. It is difficult to understand the reason which has led Government to enforce the Arms Act in those tracts where the lives of the people are in constant danger. Any man who goes out feels that when he goes out, he is not certain whether he will come back. I remember, Sir, the story of a friend of mine, who was engaged in an election campaign and was touring in Chota Nagpur. It was rather nightfall and a fierce tiger came before his motor-car. Fortunately for him, my friend had a gun with him and he could from a distance scare away the tiger. But, may I ask, how many of us.....

The Hon'ble Sir HUGH MOPHERSON: Did he fire the gun?

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Babu JALESHVAR PRASHAD: He had a more useful thing than the gun, the light of the motor, which helped him in scaring away the tiger. Otherwise, no doubt, he would have used the gun.

It is impossible for me to think of any other reason except a lurking suspicion in some corner of the mind of Government that these people may some time or other use these weapons for some other purpose. What I say is that before issuing any license take as much care as you can to see that the man is quite a safe man and then issue license, but please do issue license. Do not have the same limitations, do not apply the same restrictions in the case of the villages in these tracts as you generally apply in other places.

Mr. E. L. L. HAMMOND: May I know how many licenses in these tracts have been applied for and how many have been refused?

Babu JALESHVAR PRASHAD: My only answer is that people have been so much scared away by the Arms Act rules that they do not apply for license.

The Hon'ble Sir HUGH McPHERSON: May I inform the hon'ble member that the number of licenses has trebled during the last five years?

Babu JALESHVAR PRASHAD: I am quite sure that although the number of licenses has trebled it has not increased appreciably.

The Hon'ble Sir HUGH McPHERSON: We cannot issue licenses unless the people apply for them.

Babu JALESHVAR PRASHAD: I can assure the Hon'ble the Leader of the House and the Chief Secretary that if they would issue license only on applying for it—and if the people of those tracts know of it—certainly there will be no dearth of applications.

There is one other point which I want to make clear and it is this: that this resolution which has been moved by an Oriya friend of ours should not be restricted, if it is accepted by the Government, to that tract only.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT: The resolution is in general terms. It does not specify any particular tract.

[B. Jaleshvar Prashad]

Babu JALESHVAR PRASHAD: I think, Sir, that this is the least that the Government can do to save these people from the terrors of these wild animals. The people of these parts do stand in need of some sort of protection. I know, Sir, that the officials who are there do take some trouble of going to these places whenever they know or come to know that there is any wild animal which they can kill; but such protection is not of much use. I do not suppose that the Government can engage any body of men specially for this purpose. If the people cannot protect themselves, it is impossible to protect them in this way. No such palliative will be of any use. So I think that the resolution, which is a very modest one, should be accepted by the Government.

Mr. W. SWAIN: Sir, I should like to assure hon'ble members that in this matter of killing man-eating tigers, they have my sympathy, and shall have, so far as lie in their power, the assistance of the police. Sir, I have had in my time some experience of *shikar* and I know the terror of being followed through the jungle by a man-eating tiger. My hon'ble friend who represents North Puri himself wrote and asked me to go and assist in exterminating the man-eating tigers of Banpur and I informed him that I should be very glad to do so, if I had the time and money. If my hon'ble friend would assure me a fair passage for my budget, I might even now change my mind and go and spend a month or two in North Puri, before I go on leave. Unfortunately our last two Superintendents of Police in Puri were not *shikaris*, but at the moment we have there a young and very keen *shikari*. I will remind him of the injunction the King-Emperor has laid on us, namely, "people" and I will lay on him the duty, so far as power, of ridding that portion of the country which represents, from the terror of these man-eating tigers.

One other point which I should like to touch is that of the granting of licenses and the discouragement of by the police. My hon'ble friend the mover was good say that caution in this matter on the part of the natural; but I would point out to him that in the applying for licenses it is not necessary to approach the all, as has already been explained by the hon'ble Secretary. Applications should be made to the District Magistrate who, if he thinks fit, may consult the police. I shall be

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direct the Superintendent of Police to instruct his officers to bear in mind the necessity of getting rid of these tigers when any such applications are referred to them for opinion.

Rai Bahadur DWARKA NATH : I move that the question be now put.

Babu LAKSHMIDHAR MAHANTI : Sir, I do not like to take up any more time of the Council. I simply ask the members of this Council to remember that this is not a question of sentiment. It is a question of absolute necessity. The question comes to this. It is admitted that there is this danger ; it is admitted that in certain quarters people constantly live in danger of their lives ; it is admitted that traffic is even closed for a certain period of the year. Now in the face of these circumstances, is it unreasonable to ask the members of this Council to pass a modest resolution like the one which I have brought forward. I hope the members of this Council will remember the urgency of the resolution and will carry it.

The Hon'ble Sir HUGH McPHERSON : Sir, we have had quite an interesting debate in this Council. It has given members of this Council an opportunity of airing their views on various questions, such, for example, as how inoffensive tigers grow into man-eaters. I confess it is the first time I have heard the conjecture that the operations of the forest department may have the effect of driving these animals from their natural haunts to infest the homes of men. I can understand a forest fire having this effect but not the ordinary work of a department which has for its sole object the preservation of forests. I think that the explanation of the Hon'ble Chief Secretary is more near the truth.

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Babu Hon'ble member from North Puri suggested another he larger issue of licenses, for which, by the way, we have evidence whatever that there is any demand in this if they were area beyond the extent to which they have been people of dearth of a

suggested, however, that the more extensive issue of gun There could serve the double purpose of stopping the tiger is this : that also enabling the raiyats to protect their crops from friend of fations of deer, pigs and other animals which cause Governme of crops. That may be so, but possibly the gun licensees

The more attention to the deer than to the tiger, in which terms. I attentions of the tiger might increase. For I have

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often seen it stated that one of the causes of tigers becoming man-eaters is a scarcity of their natural food.

The debate has also given members of Council an opportunity of airing their views on the general policy of the Local Government in the administration of the Arms Act Rules. Well, Sir, we have listened with attention to their remarks and will take note of them, but, as I have already explained, the Local Government have themselves adopted a liberal policy in this matter and nothing has been said which indicates that there has been any serious local deviation from that policy. The hon'ble member from Saran rather conveyed by his speech that the Government had followed an illiberal policy in the administration of the Arms Act Rules.

Babu JALESHVAR PRASHAD: Sir, I rise to a point of personal explanation. I did not say that the Government are illiberal but what I said was that the Act itself is illiberal.

The Hon'ble Sir HUGH MCPHERSON: Sir, I am afraid it would be impossible to discuss here the principles of the Arms Act or the Arms Act Rules. But his argument was based on the supposition that applications for licenses were wrongly refused in numerous cases. In this particular area, however, with which we have been dealing where the number of licenses granted has trebled within the last five years, the number of cases in which licenses have been refused has been negligible. We have had information on this point from the local officers. Moreover, as I have said before, if there has been in any particular area any deviation from the general policy of Government, the local residents have the remedy in their own hands. They can represent the matter to the Commissioner, if they are not satisfied with the District Magistrate's action.

Now in view of the discussion which has taken place on the resolution, in view of the assurances I have given regarding the general policy of Government, and the fact also that we have given special attention to this particular area and have taken steps, and are taking steps, to protect the people as far as we can from the depredations of tigers, in view also of the personal assurances which have been given by the Inspector-General of Police, I hope the hon'ble mover will see his way to withdraw the resolution. The resolution places Government in a somewhat awkward position. We do not oppose the spirit of the resolution but we say that it is superfluous, and also wrong in form,

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because there is no question of making a recommendation to the Government of India. It is unnecessary, because Government are already not only adopting a liberal policy as regards gun licenses, but they are also taking special measures to free the inhabitants of this tract from the troubles from which they are suffering. In view of all this I trust the hon'ble member will see that no particular object will be secured by pressing his resolution further, and will consider it desirable to withdraw it.

Babu LAKSHMIDHAR MAHANTI: Sir, I wish the resolution to be put to vote.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT: The question is:

That this Council recommends to the Government to recommend to the Government of India that in areas in the neighbourhood of reserved or protected forests in which, owing to the destruction of human lives by man-eating tigers, Government announces special rewards for killing tigers and intends itself to adopt measures to kill them, it be pleased to grant licenses for guns, unless abuse of guns is proved against them, to all such residents, agriculturists and men of business residing or carrying on agriculture or business, as the case may be, within an area of five miles from the boundary of such forests, as apply for such licenses.

The motion was adopted.

CONSTRUCTION OF WAITING SHEDS AT GARHWA ROAD AND RAJHARA RAILWAY STATIONS.

Babu NAGESVAR BUX RAY: I beg to move:

This Council recommends to the Government that they be pleased to request the authorities concerned,

- (i) to construct a waitingroom for 1st and 2nd class passengers immediately at Garhwa Road railway station (a station on the Barun-Daltonganj section of the East Indian Railway line), and
- (ii) to construct a *musafr-khana* at Rajhara railway station on the same branch line.

In support of this resolution, Sir, I beg to submit that this resolution seeks to supply a local need. The Garhwa Road station is an important station on the Sone East Bank-Daltonganj section of the East Indian Railway system for which station first and second class passengers are very often booked. This lies on the bank of river Koel and is the connecting station