

(b) if so, when it is expected to be completed ? 11.55 hrs.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) and (b). The Tripura Administration have reported that a scheme costing Rs. 1.44 lakhs for draining out of waters of Buri river has been taken up by them for execution. The scheme was programmed to be completed by March, 1971, but has been held up due to delay in land acquisition.

Closure of a Match Factory in Tripura

1625. SHRI BIREN DUTTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a match factory of Tripura has been closed resulting in unemployment of all the labourers ; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to reopen it ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Broad Gauge Line from Katpadi to Tirupati and Katpadi to Guntakal

1626. SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a survey has been undertaken to convert into broad gauge the present metre gauge track from Katpadi to Tirupati and Katpadi to Guntakal on the Southern Railway ; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) No.

(b) Due to paucity of funds and inadequate traffic justification such a survey is not being contemplated.

RE. PUBLICATION OF THE LIST OF MEMBERS

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : The list containing the residential addresses and the telephone numbers of members and Ministers has not been printed yet. May I request you to direct the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to let us have at least a cyclostyled list. We do not want a printed one. We should get this list as early as possible.

MR. SPEAKER : It is still under print and will be out in a day or two.

We have also asked for certain details from the hon. Members and many hon. Members have not sent their bio data to us. You should kindly ask all the Members, your friends to send this data so that the who's who can also be handed over to you during this session.

SHRI. S. M. BANERJEE : I want to take one minute; I shall finish before 12 O'clock at any rate.

MR. SPEAKER : We shall take up the call attention now; will get time at the end.

11.57 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported decision of the British Government to scrap the Indo-British Trade Agreement of-1939

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) : I call the attention of the Minister of Foreign Trade to the following matter of the urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

"The reported decision of the British Government to scrap the Indo-British Trade Agreement of 1939 following their insistence on slapping a 15 percent import duty on Indian textiles from January 1, 1972"

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in April, 1971 the Government of India had

[Shri L. N. Mishra]

stated that they would take all possible steps to convince the British Government of India's case in the matter of the imposition of a 15% duty on imports of cotton textiles from the Commonwealth preference area including India with effect from 1st January, 1972. As the House is aware, the British Government had made a request for a waiver to release them from their obligations regarding textiles under the Indo-UK Trade Agreement of 1939.

Official level discussions as well as Ministerial level discussions were held in London from the 5th May, 1971 between the representatives of the Indian Government and the British Government.

During the Ministerial discussion I had reiterated India's opposition to the British proposal. I strongly impressed upon them that present proposal was discriminatory, unequal, had been taken unilaterally and must be reversed. This was also inconsistent with international obligations of the UK towards developing countries like India. I had explained at great length the serious adverse effects that this move would have on India's exports of cotton textiles to the U.K. market without providing the expected protection to the British textile industry.

The Government of India is not aware of the reported decision of the British Government to scrap the Indo-British Trade Agreement of 1939.

The British Government's reply, when received, will be examined by the Government of India with a view to taking further appropriate action.

12 hrs.

SHRI PILOO MODY : Sir, I am particularly interested in this matter because I think that my father had a great deal to do in the days before the 1939 agreement was signed particularly in the matter of textile preferences. At one time, in 1948 and the early fifties, India exported one billion yards of cotton textiles and was the largest exporter of cotton textiles in the world. Then Japan nudged us into the second position, and today we are in the fourth position and pretty soon we will sink probably as low as the 10th position, we had developed a quota system with the United Kingdom where they will accept 201 million yards of

our textiles without charging any duty whatsoever. We have not even been able to fulfil those quotas. We have been averaging something like 150 million 160 million yards per years, and last it plummeted down to less than 60 million yards.

The main reason why this country has been reduced to such a position is the high cost economy which successive budgets in this country have managed to bring about and we have had a brilliant example of it only a few days ago from Mr. Chavan. Cotton production in this country has remained stagnant since 1964, producing only about 56 lakh to 58 lakh bales per year. The industry does not get modernised because of its low profitability, the return being somewhere between one and five percent on the capital employed. In November, 1970, six months ago, a scheme was prepared for getting machinery which would also help the machine manufacturers here, which would modernise at least the exporting mills, but for six months, Government has taken no decision on it whatever. The Minister has often in the past misled us by saying that the fourth Plan has provided Rs. 180 crores for modernising the textile industry. It is really an eye-wash, because no funds have been earmarked so far for doing so.

The Manubhai Shah Committee in 1969 made certain recommendations, but no decision has been taken by the Government of India on the recommendations of the Manubhai Shah Committee. The 1939 agreement which grew out of the old imperial preferences which are now called the Commonwealth references, allowed us to exports free of duty in return for which we are supposed to give British exports to India a 10 percent preference over their competitors from the rest of the world. The GATT agreement between developing and developed nations also stipulates that no further burden should be cast on the developing countries. This particular move of the British Government is a violation not only of the 1939 agreement between us but also of the GATT.

Now, in moving in this direction, the British have calculated that whatever damage we can do to them is no way the same as the damage that they can do to us. We have an adverse trade balance with the United Kingdom which is made up by Aid

which finances British exports to India. So, it is a well-considered move, and this move will also affect us in case the agreement is cancelled, and if we are not on our toes, and if we are not lively enough, it is likely to effect the exports of tea, jute, hides, tobacco, oil-cakes and God knows what percentage of our textiles.

We cannot possibly continue to enjoy this sort of Commonwealth preferences for all times to come. We talk a great deal of being self-reliant. We talk about standing on our own legs. Is it not true that Mr. Harold MacMillan, when he was Prime Minister of the U. K., had warned us that they wished to join the Common Market and these Commonwealth preferences would come in the way of their joining the Common Market and therefore, the Commonwealth the countries should do something about easing this out and had recommended that we start gradually accepting an increase in import duties on our exports? In spite of all this, I find that this Government has done nothing in this respect. It just lives from day to day, accepting events as they overcome them. When the Minister had gone to the U.K., I thought it was because he was not in good health and he had gone for medical treatment. I am very glad to see that he is back here hale and hearty. I wish he had improved his condition instead of allowing himself to attend that meeting, because I see that nothing has emerged out of that meeting.

I wish to ask the Government, what steps are you taking to modernise the Indian textile industry, to increase cotton production and to bring about a low cost economy in this country? Are you going to sabotage the entire agreement covering all the commodities, because of the duty that the British have demanded on textiles? The British have been pleading with us, "You are unloading 25 percent of your exports on us. Why don't you spread it around to other European countries?" But this Government, having a good thing in hand, does not want to do anything to make us self-reliant in this matter. Therefore, I would appreciate it if the Minister could give me some categorical replies about modernisation, cotton production and the high cost economy.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : Regarding high cost of production and non-fulfilment of quota. That is not the problem which was discussed. None of the Ministers or senior officers raised the problem that our product is costly. They did not ask us to modernise the machinery. That is our internal problem. Here is a question of a unilateral decision by the British Government and we are protesting against that. We can come to modernisation and cotton production later; they are our internal problems. Here is a problem which is affecting not only our national economy but the economy of many developing countries. Before entering the E.E.C., they want to do this. We impressed on them, "After your decision to give arms to South Africa, you are going to take this decision. It will have a very adverse effect on the Asian countries, especially the developing countries. On the one hand you say you want to help us in our development; on the other, you are going to withdraw the rights and privileges we had enjoyed since 1939."

Mr. Mody asked whether we are sabotaging other items. No, Sir. At the moment, it is confined to textiles. On an average, we earn about Rs. 21 crores of foreign exchange on textile export to Britain. We are protesting against this decision and we have impressed our case not only on Britain, but we are in touch with the E.E.C, also. We had a meeting with Mr. Taken Dorf, the British Minister for E.E.C. I told him, "You must ask Britain to remember their obligations to India." They have their obligations to New Zealand in respect of butter, and to West Indies in respect of sugar. They have their obligations to India in respect of textiles. Before they enter E.E.C., these are the problems they must answer to the other nations.

We are not happy with the proposal made in 1969 by Mr. Crossland of the Labour Party Government and it is being followed by this Government also. Therefore, I request Mr. Mody to think of this problem at the moment. So far as modernisation is concerned. I am told that the machinery has been ordered in some cases. The textile industry, barring a few mills under N.T.C., is in the private sector. It is for them to modernise the machinery and there are funds provided for that. I am told machinery has been ordered for the modernisation of some of the mills,

[Shri L. N. Mishra]

Shri Mody is a very well-informed person. He knows the condition of the British textile mills. They are much worse than ours. Their production costs are much higher than our production costs. They are out-dated and out-moded. Everyday 30 to 40 mills are getting closed in Britain because they are very inefficient. They are backward scientifically and technologically. They are backward in development. Therefore, to decry our industry is not correct. Here it is a question of international trade.

श्री फूल चन्द वर्मा (उज्जैन) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने जो वक्तव्य सदन के सामने अभी दिया, उसे मैंने बड़े ध्यान-पूर्वक सुना और पढ़ा है। उन्होंने अपने वक्तव्य में इस बात को स्वीकार किया है कि ब्रिटेन का जो प्रस्ताव है वह भेदभावपूर्ण है, एक-तरफा है और समानता की परवाह न करने वाला है। इससे जो भारत और ब्रिटिश व्यापार करार 1939 का है वह समाप्त होगा। यदि वह समाप्त होता है तो भारत के सूती कपड़ा व्यवसाय के ऊपर काफी गम्भीर असर पड़ेगा। ब्रिटिश सरकार ने भारत के सूती माल के ऊपर जो 15 प्रतिशत आयात कर लगाया है उससे केवल दक्षिण कोरिया और ताइवान का फायदा होने वाला है। एक बात जरूर है कि ब्रिटेन इससे बचा रहेगा और जो राष्ट्रमंडल के अन्य देश हैं, जैसे सिंगापुर और हांगकांग, उनको कोई फायदा नहीं होगा। ऐसी स्थिति में जब कि भारत राष्ट्रमंडल से पहले ही नराज है क्योंकि दक्षिण अफ्रीका को शस्त्रास्त्र देने के कारण उसने पूर्व ही अपनी नराजगी प्रकट कर दी है, यदि ब्रिटिश सरकार भारत के सूती माल पर 15 प्रतिशत का आयात कर लगाना चाहती है और उसका कोटा समाप्त करना चाहती है, तो, जैसा मंत्री महोदय स्वयं स्वीकार किया है स्थिति भारत के राष्ट्रमंडल में रहने के अनुकूल नहीं है।

मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि यदि ब्रिटिश सरकार ने हमारा कोटा समाप्त कर दिया और

आयात शुल्क में 15 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि कर दी तब क्या हम राष्ट्रमंडल से अपना सम्बन्ध विच्छेद कर लेंगे? दूसरी बात यह कि यदि भारतीय आयात पर 15 प्रतिशत का आयात शुल्क लग रहा है तो क्या हम ऐसी स्थिति में हैं ब्रिटिश सरकार के जो उद्योग धन्धे यहां चल रहे हैं, जो उनकी इंडस्ट्रीज हैं, कैपिटलज हैं उनके विरुद्ध जवाबी कार्रवाई कर सके? इसके साथ साथ एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ। 8 मई के दिन जब ब्रिटिश प्रधान मंत्री एडवर्ड हीथ भारतवर्ष आये तब उन्होंने भारत की प्रधान मंत्री श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी से इस सम्बन्ध में चर्चा की थी। राष्ट्रमंडल सम्मेलन सिंगापुर में हुआ था वहां श्री स्वर्ण सिंह ने इस सम्बन्ध में विशेष रूप से चर्चा की थी। लेकिन इस चर्चा के बावजूद ब्रिटिश सरकार यह निर्णय लेने में असमर्थ है कि जो 15 प्रतिशत का शुल्क है उसको समाप्त कर दे। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि हमारी सरकार कौन सा निर्णय लेने जा रही है जिससे माननीय सदस्यों को इस बात का सन्तोष हो कि भारत के सूती उद्योग पर इसका कोई विपरीत असर नहीं पड़ेगा। यदि फिर भी विपरीत असर पड़ता है तो जो 25 करोड़ ६० का माल हम प्रति वर्ष ब्रिटेन को भेजते हैं अगर हम उसको न भेजे तो हमारी आर्थिक स्थिति पर कोई प्रभाव नहीं पड़ेगा और उससे भारत की कमर भी नहीं टूटेगी, बल्कि ब्रिटेन को शिक्षा मिलेगी और वह अपनी नीति में परिवर्तन करने के लिए बाध्य होगा।

मैं अपेक्षा करता हूँ कि माननीय मंत्री महोदय इन प्रश्नों के सन्दर्भ में अपने उत्तर दें। इसके साथ ही उन्होंने अभी मशीनें मंगाने की बात कही थी। भारतवर्ष में जो मशीनें आयेगी, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उनमें से कितनी सरकार ने मंगाई हैं, कितनी प्राइवेट फर्मों ने मंगाई हैं और कितनी सोसायटी ने मंगाई हैं। भारतवर्ष में जब मशीनें आ जायेंगी

तो उससे मजदूर जगत में छंटनी हो कहीं ऐसी बात तो नहीं है ?

श्री एल० एन० मिश्र : माननीय सदस्य ने बहुत सी बातें उठाई, जिनमें मैं अभी नहीं वह अन्दरूनी बातें हैं और उनको हम बाद में तय कर लेंगे। जहां तक माननीय सदस्य की इस शंका का सम्बन्ध है कि हमारी टेक्सटाइल्स पर असर पड़ेगा, तो इसको हम ने भी कहा है और हम मानते हैं कि यह एक बड़े दुर्भाग्य की बात है। जो ब्रिटिश इंडस्ट्री है उस का फायदा होने नहीं जा रहा है। जो इम्पीरियलिस्ट कंट्रीज हैं, जैसे पोर्चगाल, कोरिया, ताईवान, वहां से तो ब्रिटेन को माल लेना ही होगा, और उन लोगों का जो एक्स्ट्रा का एग््रीमेंट है उसके मुताबिक वह करना चाहते हैं। हम ने सारी बातों को उनके सामने रक्खा और जिन भावनाओं का जिक्र माननीय सदस्य ने किया है कि हमारे कामनवेल्थ के रिश्तों पर इसका असर पड़ेगा, इसको भी उन को समझाया। हमने कहा कि हमारा नया संसद आया है, जिसमें नए नए लोग आये हैं, नए नए विचार के लोग, प्रगतिशील विचारों के लोग, उन पर भी इसका असर पड़ेगा और संसद को अपने साथ ले चलने में हमको कठिनाई होगी। हमने इन बातों को उनके सामने रक्खा। अभी तक जो फैसला हुआ है उसको ध्यान में रखते हुए हमने कहा कि हर चीज पर दुबारा विचार किया जाये और हीथ साहब के सामने जब हमने बात उठाई तब उन्होंने आश्वासन दिया कि हम विचार करेंगे। सिंगापुर में श्री स्वर्ण सिंह ने भी इसको उठाया और विलायत में हम लोगों ने उसको दोहराया। मैं माननीय सदस्य के साथ हूँ कि इसकी बहुत बुरी प्रतिक्रिया देश में होने वाली है और विलायत की सरकार को भी अभी वक्त है कि वह इस प्रकार का विचार करे और निर्णय को बदले।

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) :
 At the very outset I must express my surprise at the manner in which my hon. friend,

Shri Piloo Mody, has championed the cause of the British Government. When he was putting his question it appeared to me that he was a member of the House of Commons or of the House of Lords and not of this Parliament. He has accused the Government of India of sabotaging the agreement. He has cited certain facts. The Government of the United Kingdom has violated one of the clauses, a very salient clause, of the Indo-U.K. Trade agreement of 1939. We never violated it. The Minister says :—

“During the Ministerial discussions I had reiterated India’s opposition to the British proposal. I strongly impressed upon them that the present proposal was discriminatory, unequal, had been taken unilaterally and must be reversed. This was also inconsistent with international obligations of the U.K., towards developing countries like India.”

Then he says :—

“The British Government’s reply, when received, will be examined by the Government of India with a view to taking further appropriate action.”

On the 6th April in the other House the hon. Minister stated the same thing and said that we did not like it; this was very bad and we shall take up the matter with the U.K. Government. Even before that, when he returned from the ECAFE Conference at Manila, he said that he had a talk with the Governor-General there and that Hon Kong and India both would fight the issue jointly. I read this in the newspapers and I have got cutting of it.

This is a deliberate attempt by the British who bled our country white and who are obstructing our progress at every step. They are trying to humiliate our country in the eyes of the other countries. Even in the matter of supply to Pakistan at this hour when they are using that massive aid for bleeding the common people in Bangla Desh, they have not been responding to the request of the Prime Minister. So, we know the character of British Imperialism and we should not be surprised at it.

Today, the world market, as far as export of cotton textiles is concerned, in South-east Asia is captured by China and Japan and our country shall be facing a serious crisis if this is not waived by the British Government. So, I would like to know how long the Government of India is

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

going to wait and whether this is not high time that we also give them some sort of an ultimatum and confiscate the British interests in this country or take some retaliatory measures by which they will come to their senses. We should also pay them in their own coin. Apart from a protest, why should we not give them some sort of an ultimatum and threaten them with the consequences of this because we know the maximum foreign interest in our country is the British interest? I would like to know whether retaliatory measures will be taken or not.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : We have to face this problem with a little patience and also firmness. So far as retaliatory measures are concerned, I would not like to discuss them at this stage. I would only say what are the remedial measures that we are attempting. We are trying to diversify our trade and are trying to build up our textile trade in a number of other countries. If the hon. Member wants, I can give the names of the countries also where our efforts are to increase our exports. We are also in touch with the EEC countries.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I would like to know the names of those countries. We want to know who our friends are.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : Our exports to UK during the last two years have been declining. Efforts are being made to increase our exports to the following countries, namely, USA, Australia, New Zealand, Western Europe, Soviet Union, Sudan and a number of other rupee countries, that is, Eastern Europe. Our effort is to see that our export does not come down. Our total export to UK is about Rs. 21 crores and if this is implemented by the UK, it would affect our exports to UK. I do not think it will affect 100 percent but it will affect us very considerably, might be 50 per cent or even more. We are only trying at the moment to impress upon Britain to reconsider her decision and to see the reaction of this House. Similar is the feeling of members of my own party. They have come and met me and have told me that if UK is going to take this decision unilaterally, why we do not react a little more firmly.

No country can humiliate, much less Britain, so far as India is concerned. So, there is no question of humiliation. We cannot be humiliated. But here is the question of our right, specially as a developing country. If Britain feels as they claim that they are helping the undeveloped countries to developed and, at the same time, scraps this agreement which has been there since 1939, it not only will not look well but will also have a very bad effect on this country's economy and sentiment. We have conveyed this to the British Government. When they take the decision, we will examine the problem.

SHRI PILOO MODY : Shri Banerjee seems to think that his nationalism is of a higher order than mine because I made a plea for self-reliance in our textile industry, I do not know on whose behalf he was making his plea.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Not on behalf of the textile magnates.

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order.

SHRI PILOO MODY : Either you should have stopped him or you allow me, because he gets away by saying that I belonged to the House of Commons.

MR. SPEAKER : You should get up with my permission and not abruptly.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I used the words "appeared to be".

MR. SPEAKER : You should at least have the courtesy to ask my permission.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE (Betul) : He rectified it later on and said, "He appears to be a member of the House of Lords."

SHRI PILOO MODY : I think, it should be clarified that self-reliance is not anti-national although beating the British may suit some philosophy that he might have.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Sir, this is a very serious matter. The question is whether the Government of India is going to sabotage the agreement. who sabotaged the

agreement? It is the British Government that has done it and not the Government of India. Instead of defending the Government of India, he tried to defend the other people. It is a shame.

SHRI PILOO MODY : I said the same thing you are saying.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Banerjee, you should try to avoid such things. You should not use such words.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : You ask the reaction in the House. Everybody says, he is not talking like a Member of this House.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri P. K. Deo—absent.

12.25 hrs.

RE-PAYMENT OF DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND OTHER MATTERS

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Sir, with your permission, I wish to raise a very important question regarding the payment of dearness allowance to the Central Government employees. According to the present formula of the Second Pay Commission and also that of the Gajendragadkar Commission, once there is an average rise of 10 points in the cost of living index, the Central Government employees throughout the country get entitled to another slab of dearness allowance. According to the figures available to us through the Reserve Bank various other agencies, the cost of living index figure has risen from 215 to 225, that is, there is an increase of 10 points. So, the Central Government employees are entitled to another slab of dearness allowance. I would request the Government and, specially, the Finance Minister to make an announcement in the House that another slab of dearness allowance will be given to the Central Government employees. Since he is not in a position to accept the Call Attention Notice, I would request you and, through you, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Government and the Finance Minister that, while replying to the General Budget, he must announce it.

श्री एन० एन० पांडे (गोरखपुर) : गोंडा में रेल दुर्घटना हुई है जिसमें दस से ज्यादा आदमी मारे गये हैं और काफी लोग घायल-वस्था में अस्पताल में पड़े हैं। मैं आज ही सुबह वहाँ से स्पार्ट पर इनक्वायरी करके लौटा हूँ। वहाँ स्थिति बहुत ही गम्भीर है। हुआ यह कि एक गाड़ी 184 डाउन पार्सल खड़ी थी और दूसरी गाड़ी 32 डाउन गोंडा कचहरी को उसी लाइन पर एलाउ कर दिया गया और टक्कर हो गई। यह बहुत बड़ी ट्रेजीडी वहाँ पर घटित हुई है। इस छटी लाइन पर आये दिन ऐसी गलतियाँ होती हैं और एक्सीडेंट हो जाया करते हैं। माननीय उप मंत्री जी भी वहाँ गए थे। उन्होंने जो एक बयान दिया है उसमें उन्होंने मरने वालों की संख्या बहुत कम बताई है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस सारी दुर्घटना की अच्छी तरह से जांच हो। इस प्रकार से घटने वाली दुर्घटनाओं पर रोक लगनी चाहिये। मैं चाहता हूँ कि आप एक हाई टेक्नीकल बाडी एप्वाइंट करें और वह इस चीज की जांच करके वास्तविकता पर पहुँचे ताकि आये दिन इस तरह की दुर्घटनाओं से बचा जा सके। मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ और आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि आप इसके ऊपर डिसकशन के लिए समय निर्धारित करें ताकि सारे मामलात इस सदन के सामने आ सकें।

श्री भोगेन्द्र भा (जयनगर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपकी आज्ञा से एक महत्वपूर्ण विषय की ओर सरकार और खास कर रेल मंत्री जी का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ। सदन को भी ज्ञात है कि बरौनी के इलाके में रेल मजदूरों ने हड़ताल की थी। उसको टालने के लिये 22 मार्च को मैंने रेल मंत्री को लिखा था और हड़ताल 25 मार्च को शुरू होनी थी। रेल मंत्री जी ने उसका जवाब देना भी मुनासिब नहीं समझा। 25 तारीख को मैं और श्री कल्याणसुन्दरम इत्यादि उनसे मिले