

## SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

## Strike at the Bokaro Thermal Power Station

+

S. N. Q.  
No. 1.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:  
Shri Panigrahi:  
Shri Biren Roy:  
Shri S. C. Samanta:  
Shri Naushir Bharucha:  
Shri Bimal Ghose:  
Shri Subiman Ghose:  
Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:  
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:  
Shri Prabhat Kar:  
Shri B. Das Gupta:  
Shri Nath Patil:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers and technical staff of the Bokaro Thermal Power Station have gone on strike since the 12th January, 1958 and are still continuing the strike;

(b) what are the demands of the striking workers and technical staff;

(c) what efforts were made by the Damodar Valley Corporation authorities to meet the point of view of the workers and to avert the strike;

(d) how the Power Station is being run at present in view of the fact that the majority of workers and technical staff are staying away from work; and

(e) whether there is any prospect of an early settlement of the strike?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A list of demands is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 76].

(c) The Corporation in their desire to redress the genuine grievances of the workers and to come to an amicable settlement with them discussed the charter of demands with the Staff Association for 3 days, indicating the extent to which the demands could be met and assuring them of further

consideration of some other demands. Instead of accepting the concessions offered, the Staff Association served a strike notice on the Corporation on the 28th December, 1957, stating that the Bokaro Thermal Power Station workers would go on strike from January 12, 1958, unless their demands were conceded.

(d) The Power Station is being run with the help of the workers who have not gone on strike and the supervisory staff.

(e) It is hoped that the Staff Association will soon reconsider their decision and call off the strike.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know the number of technical staff and non-technical staff workers who were employed at the Bokaro thermal power station just before the strike and the number in each category who had gone on strike?

Shri S. K. Patil: There are in all 900 workers at the Bokaro thermal power station in the Damodar Valley Corporation. The number of the people who have gone on strike is somewhere about 480 or roundabout.

Shri Nath Patil: Is it a fact that about nine workers have been dismissed and 23 have been arrested as a result of this strike, and secondly, whether the workers tried to have an amicable settlement during the past three days and they were rejected, the Government asking that they must first surrender unconditionally before anything is considered?

Shri S. K. Patil: The number given by the hon. Member does not seem to be correct. Seven persons, according to my information, have been dismissed; five by the Corporation and two by its subordinate officers. There are five cases pending. Show-cause notices have been issued by the Corporation to about a dozen people as to why disciplinary action should not be taken against them.

So far as the last part of the question is concerned, the strike has been declared illegal and therefore there

is no question of negotiation until the strike has been withdrawn.

**Shrimati Renu Charkravarty:** In view of the fact that many of the demands which were made by the DVC Staff Association were withdrawn, namely, certain allowances and free accommodation which had already been given, may I know whether during the negotiations the Minister said that Government was prepared to come to a settlement with them, and may I also know what were the terms of settlement which the Government offered?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** It is a large question. The point is, there are two unions in Bokaro station. The first union threatened to go on strike and made certain demands. The Government appointed a conciliation machinery, and the conciliation machinery gave its verdict after a month or so.

The second union also made some demands but some of their demands were included in the first conciliation machinery on which a decision was taken, and naturally, the discussions that followed with the Staff Association were in respect of those demands which were not covered by the conciliation machinery. While those demands were under discussion, they gave strike notice and went on strike.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** In view of the statement just made by the hon. Minister that they are not prepared to enter into any negotiations with the DVC Staff Association during the pendency of the illegal strike, is the hon. Minister in a position to hold out an assurance that if the strike is withdrawn then he will be prepared to sit with the representatives of the Association or the DVC authorities and give a sympathetic consideration to their demands with an open mind?

**Mr. Speaker:** Before the hon. Minister answers, I want to know whether we are taking up the case one side or the other and are arguing this matter, or, is the Question Hour intended for the purpose of eliciting information.

**Shri Prabhat Kar rose.—**

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes; Shri Prabhat Kar.

**Shri Prabhat Kar:** In view of the fact that the strike is continuing for more than a month and in spite of the fact that strike has been declared illegal, may I know whether the Government could take steps to see that a settlement is arrived at and the normal working in Bokaro resumed?

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not allow this question either. Even this question ought not to be put. Government will take all steps.

**Shri Tangamani:** In the statement which contains the demands, there are as many as 20 demands. The hon. Minister has said that certain demands were formulated by the first union. May I know what are the demands which were formulated on which conciliation proceedings have started?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** It is a long question. As I said, there are several demands and then counter-demands. But their main demand was, if the House is interested to know it, that they should be recognised. That cannot be brought about in this fashion by going on strike. If the strike is withdrawn, then there is a possibility of considering it. There are our statutes, rules, etc., under which recognition is given. All those processes will be continued when the strike is withdrawn.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** That was not the demand.

**Shri Nath Pal:** It is a wrong impression given to the House.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. I am going to the next item.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Coir Research Institute

\*150. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been made for the establishment of a Coir Research Institute in Andhra Pradesh; and