

Darbhangha Centre and the performances at Srinagar from August, 1970, to November, 1970. However, complaints have been received against the working of the Song and Drama Division from time to time including some against the Director personally. Necessary enquiries have been made on receipt of these complaints. As a first step, instructions were issued that rehearsals in the Song and Drama Division should be held only during normal office hours and in any case, they should not extend beyond 6 00 P.M. Participation of guest artists in any capacity in rehearsals/performances in the Song and Drama Division without the prior permission of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has been prohibited. Certain staff transfers were also effected. Some other measures to remedy the deficiencies of this Division are under consideration.

**Lathi Charge on Retrenched Railway
Electrification Workers at Bilaspur
(Madhya Pradesh)**

4119. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU :
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Home Guards of Madhya Pradesh State Government lathi-charged the workers who were demonstrating against retrenchment before the Railway Electrification Office, Bilaspur and injured some 40 workers on the 8th April, 1971 ;

(b) whether the injured persons include several women also ; and

(c) whether Government propose to hold an enquiry into the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) to (c). According to the information received from the Madhya Pradesh Government, on 8th April, 1971, a violating demonstrating crowd entered the office premises of the Engineer-in-Chief in charge of electrification of the Rourkela-Durg Section of the South Eastern Railway and started damaging office furniture, telephones, window panes etc. and set fire to office records. The Home Guards who tried to prevent their entry into the office, were pushed back resulting in injuries to many Home Guards. Then the police entered the

office along with the Home Guards to prevent further damage. There was no lathi charge. Hence the question of injuries to any person as a result thereof does not arise.

Since, however, allegations of misconduct had been made against the police and the Home Guards, the District Magistrate, Bilaspur, had ordered a magisterial inquiry into the incident as provided in the Madhya Pradesh Police Regulations.

**Arrest of Railway Electrification Workers
at Bilaspur (Madhya Pradesh)**

4120. SHRI GANGADHAR SAHA :
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Section 144 of the Cr. P. C. has been promulgated at the Railway Colony area, Bilaspur following an incident of *lathi* charge upon the Railway Electrification workers on April 8, 1971 ;

(b) whether the Railway employees are being indiscriminately arrested at Bilaspur since 8th April, 1971 and they are being constantly haunted by the Policemen throughout the city ; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by Government in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. Pant) : (a) According to the information received from the Madhya Pradesh Government, Section 144 of the Cr. P. C. was promulgated on the mid-night of 8th April, 1971, at the Railway Colony area, Bilaspur, after violent demonstrating crowd had entered the office premises of the Engineer-in-Chief in charge of the electrification of the Rourkela-Durg Section of the South Eastern Railway and started damaging office furniture etc. and set fire to office records. There was, however, no *lathi* charge on the workers.

(b) and (c). As certain allegations were made against the Police, the district Magistrate, Bilaspur had ordered a magisterial inquiry into the incident as required under the Madhya Pradesh Police Regulations. The report of the inquiry is awaited.