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**Title:** Made a statement regarding calling off the strike by Group C and D employees of Government Hospitals in Delhi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House may recall that on 23rd July, I had informed the House that Group C & D employees of hospitals/dispensaries of the Central Government, Government of NCT of Delhi, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, New Delhi Municipal Council, Employees State Insurance Corporation, and All India Institute of Medical Sciences had proceeded on an indefinite strike with effect from 20.7.1998 to press for the acceptance of their demands. Their major demands included: (i) Three Time Bound Promotions to all the Health Employees; (ii) Better pay-scales to be given to all Group C & D Employees; (iii) Night Weightage Allowance, Risk & Hazard Allowance, Washing Allowance to be paid to them. (iv) Patient Care Allowance prevailing in various hospitals/institutions be given at par to all Deprived Health Employees and Patient Care Allowance should be 25 per cent of the basic pay; (v) All anomalies/disparities arising out of recommendations of 4th and 5th Pay Commissions be removed and uniformity in recruitment rules be brought out; and (vi) Implementation of the agreement signed on 23.9.1997, between Joint Action Committee of Hospital Karamchari Union and the Director General of Health Services.

To resolve the situation created by the strike, meetings with the representatives of the Joint Council formed by the Unions of striking employees, were held on 30th June, 7th July, 14th July and 22nd July, 1998 by the Director General of Health Services. Negotiations with the employees were conducted by the Health Secretary on 26th, 27th and 28th July, 1998. I also held meetings with them on 19th July, 26th and 28th of July, 1998.

Simultaneously, the Government on 2.7.1998 set up a Group of Ministers to examine these demands. The Group of Ministers consists of: (i) Shri Yashwant Sinha, Minister of Finance; (ii) Shri Dalit Ezhilmalai, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare; and (iii) Shri Kadambur M.R. Janarthanan, Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Banking, Revenue, and Insurance).

The situation was constantly monitored by the Group of Ministers and all demands of the employees were examined in detail.

I am now glad to inform the House that the strike has now been called off with effect from today. The Government has agreed to increase the Hospital Patient Care Allowance from Rs. 75 per month in the case of Group D employees to Rs. 695 per month and from Rs. 80 per month in the case of Group C employees to Rs. 700 per month. The Patient Care Allowance has been increased from Rs. 70 per month to Rs. 690 per month for all Group C & D employees of Central Government Health Service Dispensaries. It has also been decided to extend the Patient Care Allowance to those employees who are involved in Patient Care in National Malaria Eradication Programme, National Institute of Communicable Diseases, RAK College of Nursing, Lady Reading Health School and Rural Health Training Centre, Najafgarh. Similarly, the Washing Allowance being paid at the rate of Rs. 60 per month to uncommon category of Group C & D employees in Central Government Hospitals/Dispensaries will be extended to the employees of the five institutes referred to above. A broad based Committee will be set up to look into the Hospital and allied technical groups/categories of employees under Directorate General of Health Services in order to rationalise the staffing pattern and improve career prospects of Group C & D employees working there.

I am glad to inform the House once again that the strike has been called off and all employees have resumed duties.

17.00 hrs.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (QUILON): It seems you have accepted all the demands. (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Why did they take so much of time to solve the problems?...  
(Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : What about the patients who had suffered a lot due to the strike? They should be compensated. The Government should have avoided this strike. We have seen the pictures of the pitiable conditions of all the hospitals in the newspapers. It should have been avoided.

सभापति महोदय : खुशी की बात है कि हड़ताल समाप्त हो गई है। अब हम इंडस्ट्रियल अंडरटेकिंग्स बिल पर बहस करना प्रारम्भ करते हैं।

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सभापति महोदय : सभा की सहमति हो तो सदन का समय एक घंटा बढ़ा लें। आठ माननीय सदस्य अभी बोलने शेष हैं।

श्री बसुदेव आचार्य (बांकुरा) : आधा घंटा कल बहुत रहेगा।

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (IDUKKI): What is the urgency? We can have it tomorrow.

संसदीय कार्य मंत्री तथा पर्यटन मंत्री (श्री मदन लाल खुराना): एक घंटा बढ़ा दीजिए, कल दूसरा बिल लेना है, इसको आज ही खत्म करेंगे। जो घंटे इसके लिए रखे थे वे पूरे हो गये हैं।

श्री बसुदेव आचार्य : कल होगा, आज नहीं।

We do not agree. You may adjourn the House.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : May I make a point? The hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister does not have any business. He somehow wants to drag on the Session.

श्री मदन लाल खुराना: दो बिल तो अभी बाकी हैं।

सभापति महोदय : यहां से पास होंगे तो राज्य सभा में भी जाएंगे।

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Six or seven Bills are pending which we have to pass before the 3rd. ...  
(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We do not agree. Everyday the House is being extended. What is this?

कल होंगे, आज नहीं।

श्री मदन लाल खुराना: सभापति जी, इनको नियम १९३ के अन्तर्गत डिस्कशन भी चाहिए। वीमैन पर अत्याचार के बारे में लगातार तीन दिन डिस्कशन हुआ है, उसमें भी ज्यादा टाइम इनको चाहिए, इसमें भी इनको ज्यादा टाइम चाहिए, तो हाउस कैसे चलेगा।

श्री बसुदेव आचार्य : अब आपके पास कोई बिजनैस नहीं है, यह कल होगा।

SHRI P.C. CHACKO :They have no respect even to the Business Advisory Committee. The Government is taking unilateral decisions. Why should they ask us to sit late? This is not the way to run the House. We are not against cooperating with the Government for any business to be transacted. But the fact is that we are not convinced that late sitting is necessary. Every day it is happening in the House.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: You see, my request is, there are two Bills in the list, let one Bill be passed today. ...(Interruptions)

श्री बसुदेव आचार्य : आप अभी हाउस एडजर्न कीजिए।

सभापति महोदय (श्री रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह): यह बिल राज्य सभा में भी जाना है। इस पर ६-७ सदस्यों ने अभी बोलना है।

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There are two hon. Members to speak from our side. There are many hon. Members who want to speak on this Bill.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY): Sir, let them cooperate in passing this Bill. The next Bill can be taken up tomorrow.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Extension of time requires the consent of the House. He should understand that.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : If the entire House agrees, we can extend the time of the House.

श्री मदन लाल खुराना: इनको दो घंटे जीरो आवर के लिए चाहिए और नियम १९३ के अन्तर्गत भी डिस्कशन करना है। ऐसे में हाउस का समय नहीं बढ़ेगा तो कैसे हाउस का बिजनस पूरा होगा?

... (व्यवधान)

डा. शकील अहमद (मधुबनी) : यह माननीय सदस्यों का अधिकार है

... (व्यवधान)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : That is the prerogative of the House. Why does the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs find fault with us for having discussions under rule 193? This is the right of the hon. Members of this House. (Interruptions) This is an insult. We will move for taking up other issues also under rule 193. Why should they object? The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should understand our rights.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (QUILON): It depends on the decision of the hon. Speaker and not theirs.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Why is the hon. Minister complaining that we are raising discussions under rule 193.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : This is the first time that even the recommendations of the BAC are not taken into consideration.

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री सिकन्दर बख्त): मैं सिर्फ इतना कहना चाहता हूँ कि कल मुझे राज्य सभा में रहना है। वहां इंडस्ट्री मिनिस्ट्री के सिलसिले में डिस्कशन है। मैं इस पर लम्बा-चौड़ा भाषण नहीं करना चाहता। मैं अपनी स्पीच पांच मिनट में खत्म कर सकता हूँ। इस बिल के प्रति तमाम माननीय सदस्यों का ऐटिट्यूड बहुत अच्छा रहा। उन्होंने इस बिल को पसन्द किया। अगर बाकी के ऑनरेबल मैम्बर्स बोलना न चाहें तो मैं पांच मिनट से ज्यादा तकरीर नहीं करूंगा।

सभापति महोदय : इस बिल पर बोलने वाले कुल सात-आठ माननीय सदस्य हैं।

... (व्यवधान)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : All the hon. Members will participate.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (BASIRHAT): We are not agreeing to this.

सभापति महोदय : कई माननीय सदस्यों का बोलना बाकी है।

... (व्यवधान)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We do not agree for an extension. Every day, the House is being extended.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : If the Cabinet is deciding on extending the House unilaterally, why should we be consulted? We have a lot of things to attend to in our constituencies. The Government is not taking it into consideration.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : After the decision of the BAC, the Government decided to extend the House up to the 5th August. Actually, on Friday, we agreed to extend the House only up to the 30th July.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : This Government does not have the experience. We understand that. But the fact is that the BAC's decisions are being flouted and the Cabinet is steamrolling things. When this is happening, they cannot expect our cooperation. The BAC is taking one decision and they are trying to steamroll things. They cannot get our cooperation.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : We are in total disagreement with them.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We do not agree to this.

सभापति महोदय : सदन की कार्यवाही २९ जुलाई, १९९८ के ११.०० पू.म. तक के लिए स्थगित की जाती है।

1810 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on

Wednesday, July 29, 1998/Shravana 7, 1920 (Saka).

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