

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate]
 an *ex gratia* payment, we do not accept bonus as some sort of charity, so long as in the present society there is a gap between the existing wage and the living wage, we accept bonus as a deferred wage which will partially fill up the gap between the existing wage and the living wage. If that principle is accepted, and if the Khadilkar formula is accepted—today he seems to have become helpless—if this is accepted it would be possible for the Government to sit with the trade union and say that we accept this sound principle, we accept the principle of bonus, we accept the principle of parity in public sector, but there are no adequate resources, let us sit together and let us try to find out how the trade unions in the country, the railways, the government and the people can mobilise more resources, and when resources get developed in a phased manner, the implementation of the principle of bonus and also the principle of parity in the public sector can be established.

Such a constructive proposal ought to have been brought forward rather than always saying that George Fernandes has indulged in anti-national act. If George Fernandes alone is coming in the way, I would say that take him to the nearest poll and hang him by the shortest rope. But, for the sake of the so-called sins of George Fernandes do not punish the entire organised working class in the country. Though George Fernandes is the president of my party, I am prepared to say that if he is coming in your way, take him to the nearest poll and hang him by the shortest rope. Nobody will shed tears if you will be able to do it. But the working class will not allow you to take Fernandes to the nearest poll to hang him by the shortest rope.

Therefore, in conclusion I want to say this. Shri Sharma said that six demands were already put forward and accepted. If the six demands, on the basis of which Shri L. N. Mishra

has been speaking eloquently, are in favour of the working class, then Shri Sharma's Federation would have signed the agreement on these six demands and would have appealed to the working class to accept them. Then the working class would have thrown them away, because these six demands do not fulfil the aspirations of the people. So, I conclude by saying this on this occasion. Because you have a majority in this House, we know that you will defeat this vote of no-confidence motion. But I tell this House and assure this House that though you may defeat our no-confidence motion in this House by your brute majority, lakhs and lakhs of workers who have gone on strike have voiced their no-confidence, and they do not care whether this House passes it or not.

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have listened, I do not know for how many hours, whether 10 hours are over or not....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: 9½ hours.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: But the time you have finished, it will be well over 10 hours.

We have heard, more or less, the same arguments which had been made day before yesterday, the day before that and, perhaps even the day before that—I do not know; I have not been in the House during several of those occasions. I really did not understand the purpose of this no-confidence motion except perhaps that there was a need for the Opposition to show that they are united. Rather than blaming us for creating this unity, if they want to say anything about it, they should have applauded it. It is a laudable thing if they are united. If they had been united for a positive purpose, I would be the first to welcome it. I do not know what positive

results they expected from the no-confidence motion.

To say that our policy is anti-labour is the most preposterous statement that anybody could make. I would like to know—all these people have formed the Government at one time or the other—which of them have done anything more for labour than we have done during our time. The last speaker spoke just now about the way in which they had fought for the rights of the landless, about land-grabbing and all that, but when they formed the Government, how many of them passed any laws about land ceilings? We have passed them. In the last year we have not done anything to stop strikes. There have been far more strikes than ever before.

We have always negotiated; we have always spoken and, in many cases, we have conceded what was asked for.

Did that create an atmosphere of co-operation? Did that create an atmosphere of greater production? Did that create an atmosphere of the Opposition leaders saying, "You have made concessions; you have done something good and, on this, at least we can applaud you."? On the contrary, the concessions we have made have led to further demands almost immediately.

Today, we are not considering merely what is to be given to Railwaymen. We are considering whether we can go along this road of giving more and more at a time when we have less and less. This is the question. It is not a question of only the Railways. If we have made a mistake previously, that is no reason to continue to make such mistakes. We have always acknowledged our mistakes. We have tried to correct them. If we have made mistakes, we shall, certainly, not only try but I hope succeed in correcting them.

Enough has been said about the Railways all these days. I do not think any new idea can be thought of. Many persons from our side, my colleagues, have expressed our deep appreciation of the sense of patriotism and dedication of railway workers. They have run, our trains in times of danger, in times of war, in the midst of bullets and bombs. I personally shared the excitement in 1965 when I was going by train to see the effect of bombing in Punjab and our train was also shelled.

I agree with what Hon'ble Member Mr. Frank Anthony has said about the devoted work of railway engine drivers and others. I myself have seen the special feeling almost personal attachment they have to the engines of which they were in charge. All this we appreciate. I do not say that Railways should be denied a higher wage that some other sections are getting. As many of our speakers have mentioned, our society is not divided into only two sections; bank workers and Railway workers. There are many crores or millions in between or rather, below them all.

I am not expressing my inner feelings now, because I do not wish unnecessarily to irritate you all. I am not attributing any motives. But what is the result? A few days ago, and even today, some people came to me and appealed to me to intervene. Many members, Shri H. M. Patel and others, have lectured to us; they have given us the lectures which they should have aimed at the other side. Have Government threatened the strike? Have Government provoked the strike? (*Interruptions*) I am afraid that it does not matter how much you shout; it does not change facts. (*Interruptions*).

AN HON. MEMBER: Tell us the facts.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: That is exactly what I am doing; I am telling you the truth. There was no indication at any time of any desire

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on the other side to withdraw the strike. Even though negotiations were going on, nobody there gave the impression that the strike would not take place. We were doing our utmost to try and prevent it until the very last moment....

AN HON. MEMBER: By arresting.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: No. Arrests came at a very late stage. When it was obvious—Some people have tried to make fun of what Shri Lalit Narayan quoted. But that was not the only newspaper that has published such speeches. I have not heard about the Dhanbad paper. But I know that the news has appeared in English and language newspapers in other parts of the country also. I do not have the newspapers here; even if I had them, I have no intention of quoting them. But that does not change the fact of those reports, those speeches appearing and giving an indication of exactly what the labour leaders had in mind.

We are genuinely concerned about the interests of railway workers, but we have to be more concerned about the larger interests of the country. And if, at any moment, a strike is going to affect the larger interests, then action has to be taken. I am not talking about this strike or any particular strike. But when the larger welfare of our people is in stake, when sabotage is threatened—even today we have the news of a train being derailed—, we have to take action. Had we not taken the action which we considered appropriate, then the nation as a whole would have blamed us. *(Interruptions)* It was our assessment that this was one way in which the situation could be helped, and we acted. I personally feel that it had the right result—not in the sense that the strike has taken place because the strike was coming anyhow. Had we felt that there was even a one per cent chance of the strike being avert-

ed, believe me, the arrests would not have taken place and a lot of other things would not have taken place...

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: You are wrong.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: How do you know the feelings that I had? I am telling you my information and my feelings. How can you say that I am wrong? You can talk about your feelings.

There was one point on which we are agreed on all sides, and that is that the country is passing through an extremely difficult economic situation....

SHRI PILOO MODY: Quite true.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Of your making.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: You have been saying so since the split. You have said it here almost every week, Shri Mishra. I have no doubt you will continue to say it, but it will have no effect on the people.

SHRI PILOO MODY: You mean you have given up the hope of getting him back?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: The second point was that the strike is bound to bring about a deterioration in the situation and worsen it. These were the two points on which everybody agreed. Now, knowing that, the strike notice was given. Knowing that all preparations, open and covert ... *(Interruptions)*. Yes, overt and covert, whatever it is, I am not a Professor in English....

SHRI PILOO MODY: Nor am I.

AN HON. MEMBER: Otherwise, it would have been worse.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Sometimes it could. I agree with you!

SHRI PILOO MODY: I use language only for communication and no other purpose.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: The strike is affecting the poorest and the weakest sections of the country. Now, you look to us to stop the strike. How can we stop the strike? We did not give notice of the strike. The strike was not called by the Government, not caused by the Government, not precipitated by the Government.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Release and resume negotiations.... (Interruptions).

SHRI PILOO MODY: Obviously, they do not think you can look after yourself. What a liability to carry!

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: What should we do?....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: In your speech you asked a question and you got the answer.... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: In the early hours of the morning, perhaps people are more chivalrous! (Interruptions) Did I give the notice of the strike? This was the question we asked. Is it said that we gave it? What happened was....

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Your Shri A. P. Sharma started the strike.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I am not concerned with the number of strikers. I do not want to debate how many trains are running or are not running. At least we heard one Member who had a ride by train and obviously he could not have arrived had the trains not been running. It was an Opposition Member....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: One only. All your *Paniwalas* are on strike.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: He started on the 7th.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Even among those who have refrained from coming to work there are several if not many—because it depends on what 'several' means and what 'many' means—who would not have refrained, had they not been intimidated. Only yesterday we heard an Hon. Member of the Opposition who is not favourably disposed to us, telling this House of the large number of telegrams he was receiving from railway workers in different parts of the country informing him of threats, intimidation and so on....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Why talk about Anglo-Indians?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: It does not matter whom he talked about. What he stated was that these people—whether they are Anglo-Indians or Christians or Muslims or Hindus or anybody else, the fact is that they were intimidated, that they sent him telegrams asking that they be given protection. That is the point.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Intimidation? Was not your Railway Minister everyday threatening to sack them?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: That came at a much later stage when there was the question of sabotage, when there was.... I do not want to go into the details because there has been sabotage already and we know that it was planned....

AN HON. MEMBER: *Agent provocateurs.*

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: It is very easy to say, but it is not true.

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM: That is the use of English language.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: The strike is an unfortunate one. Again I repeat that we on this side are not against strikes. In fact, we are for strikes if they are legitimate strikes. But there comes a time in the life of a nation when other things are more important and urgent and it is such a time today. This is a time when each must see how the present situation cannot be improved. There is no doubt that the strike will not really help railwaymen. It is going to adversely affect the poorer people. It is going to cause inconvenience to the general public. And it will equally touch the future of the railwaymen and their children.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Why not try to settle it?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: We have tried our best to settle it. We think it will worsen the situation and if the situation worsens, so does the inconvenience to the poor people of the country. As Babuji said, lakhs and lakhs of people will not get food, will not get coal and all their other necessities. I am aware of the difficulties of railwaymen. These difficulties are not only theirs, they are shared by practically all sections. But the burden is far greater on those who are not organised today, those whose voice cannot be heard so loudly, and as Shri Priya Ranjan said, on the unemployed youth of the country. The more that is given to any organised section, the less is available for the unemployed and for all other sectors.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: In one year alone educated unemployed has increased by seventy-five per cent. in West Bengal.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: That strengthens my argument. The problem can be solved if everybody sits down together to see how it can be solved. Our problem is not that of the railway strike isolated from the

rest of the country. The problem is a much larger one. On our part we are ready to talk and to reach agreement on all that is reasonable and in the interest of the country. That is why even after the strike notice was given in the midst of negotiations, we continued the talks. We were always ready for talks.

But we have to consider who is threatening whom. The strike was a threat to us. It was hitting at the very foundation of our economy. The whole talk was one of threatening us. We were not threatening anybody. We were threatened that certain consequences would take place. (*Interruptions*)

It was only the Unions sitting there which were in a position to threaten and act. All we could do was to be on the defensive which we did. We took the actions which we consider necessary. We do not wish to use the B.S.F. or the police or the army against strikers as some hon. Members have alleged. We use them only to safeguard the interests of the railways, which are closely linked with the interests of the people at large.

श्री फूल चन्द वर्मा (उज्जैन) : रेल कर्मचारियों को घरों के बाहर निकाल कर पीटा जा रहा है।

श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी : ग्राम लोग पीटते हैं तो कुछ नहीं होता है? कितने लोगों को ग्राम लोगों ने पीटा है।

MR. SPEAKER: May I request you all not to interrupt her all the time?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: My colleague, the Railway Minister, has explained the extra burden which we have agreed to bear. That increase is over and above that which was due to the pay revision and the grant of D.A. to neutralise the rise in prices. But, hon. Members know that the demands now made are far more

sweeping. In fact, I think, some Members have said in private that they know that these demands would be extremely difficult for Government to agree to. (*Interruptions*)

It is my information. Again, yours may be quite different. I must tell you that one particular group at one time or another has mentioned this.

We know that the wage structure in the country is not what it should be. We know that there is a great deal of injustice in it and that it is riddled with anomalies and contradictions. In the olden days, there was a bias against labourers and workers. We have done a great deal to correct this. This does not mean that we have got rid of the contradictions or that we have reached a satisfactory stage. I do realise that it is absolutely necessary to bring about some rationality in the wage structure. But this is a tremendous task which cannot be achieved overnight. It has to be done without causing too much dislocation. The matter is under the earnest consideration of the Government and I shall certainly welcome any constructive suggestions which the hon. Members or others would like to give. I do think that this is one of the most urgent problems which we face. But it cannot be settled unless we stop adding to the wage bill at least for a short time. There are real difficulties and we must do our utmost to solve them. We have to keep in view the repercussions of each action. We have agreed to other demands. Whether those demands were just or not, merely because we have agreed to some, this has led to other demands. Each section says that since we have given increases to a particular section, why should we not also give to them? This is a continuing process. We have come to a stage when we do not have the wherewithal. Even if we had it, I do not think that it would be a right thing to do at this stage of our development, which is extremely critical and delicate.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA:
You have given a go-by to the development.

[*Shrimati Indira Gandhi*]
Well, for my hon'ble friend opposite, probably the whole purpose of his participating in this debate was not so much to talk about the railway strike but to get in some words about the Plan.

If it had not been so late I could have entered into a discussion on that matter also.

SHRI SHAMNANDAN MISHRA:
You have killed it stone dead and, therefore, you say this is a calamity on the country.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI:
This is the time when our undivided energies should be devoted to overcome the economic crisis. I personally do not think that the Plan is dead. We do have to make certain adjustments, because the increase in the price of fuel and various other items is bound to change the picture, but programmes have been taken in hand to increase our own power resources, fuel resources. Other programmes which are just as much part of the Plan are continuing. We are going ahead in spite of these obstacles and we are going to overcome them. The way to lighten the hardship is not by causing new hardships, not by preventing food movements, and coal movements, not by damaging production and exports and the country's economic wherewithal. It is a time when our undivided energies should be devoted to overcome this crisis, to increase production and to ensure fairer distribution. I do realise that distribution at this point is not at all fair, but this cannot be done immediately, especially at a time of economic difficulty. When it is a time to unite—although the Opposition seem to be united amongst themselves on this issue—on the

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whole, they have chosen this moment to divide the country, to set group against group, and to sow distrust and cynicism.

SHRI PILOO MODY: You had your party elections today.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: But our party elections have not sown cynicism or distrust of any kind. They have been peaceful and friendly, and we congratulate all those who have won, and even those who have not won. This is how democracy functions.

Opposition leaders have not hesitated to proclaim that their aim is to weaken the Government and it is not just one person's speech. You have only to see the newspapers of any single day, and you will see a number of such statements in magazines and newspapers. It does not matter if it is only the Government or the Congress Party which is weakened or which suffers, but it does matter if the country is weakened.

From the day that the Congress took office immediately after Independence, it has devoted itself to the promotion of the workers' right and the workers' welfare. In the last few years, our policies have been even more pro-labour than earlier. I would even say that more has been done for the workers in the last five years than ever before in the history of our country. But to be pro-labour does not mean that one accepts all demands that are made—whether they are reasonable or not. We are pro-labour, but we are even more for the country. The country's interests come first and they are above the interests of any one section. Today we cannot afford the exorbitant demands that have been made, or the others that are being hinted on behalf of other sections. Should we agree to these demands.....If we agree to these demands, it would be satisfying a few lakh people at the expense of many crores.... (Interruptions).

0.01 hrs. (10-5-74)

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN (Wandiwash): How is it possible? They are in jail.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Shri Indrajit Gupta normally makes quite balanced speeches, but I was astonished to hear him make a remark referring to Government going all out to please big business in India and the United States Ambassador or the United States administration or some such thing.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Rs. 130 crores.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: It is needless to say, if I may use a phrase of my father's, that "it is fantastic nonsense".

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: This is the first time that we are hearing it from her.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I am absolutely dumb-founded at this.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: That just shows how little the Hon'ble Member had to say about the subject under discussions, when he resorted to such allegations.

The Government and my party are always being accused of seeking scapegoats. Much vocal vehemence is spent on developing this theme and gallons of ink are used up in our newspapers and other areas for this purpose.

SHRI PILOO MODY: That is, if you find newsprint.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: They seem to find plenty of it. I do not see any shortage in the newspapers either for advertisements or for abusing; both have plenty of them.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: This is completely wrong.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Now, I would like to put another point of view. Does not the Opposition make a scapegoat of me for everything, their lack of initiative and inability to provide an alternative programme?

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: We are blacked out. They are full of praises for you.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: "That is quite true. He will find that all the newspapers in India are all supporting the Congress and not one newspaper has even mentioned a word about the Opposition"...What nonsense such statements are.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Except mine. Mine is not supporting the Congress.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I thank Shri Piloo Mody.

SHRI PILOO MODY: That is the only one, I maintain.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Has any body heard a more fantastic statement than this? Our party does not have its own newspapers amongst all the millions of newspapers that come out...

SHRI PILOO MODY: Obviously, Mr. Dikshit has not informed her.

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM: She has All India Radio.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: We certainly have the All India Radio, and we shall continue to have it, and I want to state that the purpose of the radio is to project the policies of the Government. Let me put it very clearly here. They are not the policies of the Congress. They are the policies which are accepted and passed by this Parliament and the State Assemblies. The radio or the TV....

SHRI PILOO MODY: According to the Prime Minister, Parliament consists of only Government or the majority. I am sorry that is not my idea of Parliament.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Mr. Mody is free to have any idea he likes. But normally legislation is passed by a majority and not by a minority anywhere in the world.

SHRI PILOO MODY: I am not talking about legislation. When she talks about Government policies, there is a policy in the Opposition also, and both policies should be put squarely before the people.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Governments are committed and pledged to follow the policies that are passed in Parliament and in the Legislatures. That is Government's major job.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: All other points of view must be blacked out?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: It is not blacked out. But that is the major job. It is not blacked out. It is not true to say that it is blacked out...

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: It is blacked out.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: If they want it to be that way, I can tell Shri Gujral to do so, if that is how they want it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Do it. (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: The very fact that they are all saying 'Do it' means that it has not been done so far.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Go on doing it.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: You are saying that as an after thought; Anyhow, we are not going to be bullied into doing any wrong by your shouting.

The Motion criticises Government for failure; in reality, it is a confession of the Opposition's frustration at their own failure and Government's ability to handle and overcome all the obstacles that they are constantly putting in our path. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: All the problems in the country are the creation of the Opposition!

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: They are not.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: The Opposition is ruling the country!

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: It just shows that you take no trouble to listen to me or to read what I have said.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I have done it with great attention.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: No, you do not, because I have never said this.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: How do you know I do not read papers?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I can say that I have never said that the Opposition is to blame for all our difficulties.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Everyday your Ministers are saying it, day in and day out.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: We are not.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Any discontent among the people is caused only by the Opposition!

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: No; I have said that the Opposition exploits the discontent of the people. I do not think anybody can deny it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You have created it; we exploit it.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Some difficulties are created by our mistakes. I have admitted it. But a lot are not created by our mistakes but by circumstances beyond our control, by outside aggression, by international crises. There is a combination of many things. It is not any one of these things. I am not claiming that Government have made no mistakes. We have made mistakes. We are human. One mistake we have just admitted. When we find that we have made a mistake, we always try to rectify it. I have never stood on prestige or pride or anything of that kind. (*Interruptions*) I have said very clearly that if I were sure that by releasing those who have been imprisoned this problem would be solved, then there would be no hesitation.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Take our word, heed our voice.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I am very sorry. I do not think that that particular gentleman will heed your voice. I wish he would. But I do not think he will.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Everyone of us says it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You may not open the doors of the jail, but at least open the doors of negotiation.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: For how long? For a week more? Then again something dramatic will unfold itself. How does that help?

SHRI H. N. MUKHERJEE (Calcutta—North-East): Because you

anticipate prolongation of the struggle, you are not ready to adopt a step which statesmanship or even commonsense suggests.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I have heard many of your speeches and I can only say that I differ from your definition of statesmanship as well as commonsense.

SHRI H. N. MUKHERJEE: Is that the answer from a head of Government? Is this a children's debating society?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: You have used worse words about me before and you can say what you like. But if I were to say half in the same vein, you would have a fit.

I do not want to prolong this debate. I repeat that we have full sympathy with the suffering of the railway people. We do not want them to suffer in any way or their families to suffer. We have always been prepared to talk and to alleviate their grievances. What we have done to meet their grievances has been explained by the Railway Minister, by Shri Qureshi and others. Many of their points have been met. I know they have been met. I think his will go a long way in removing some of the basic hardship.

There are one or two points on which Government are not able to agree. I think everyone of you, if you consider the matter in depth, will realize that those are things we simply cannot think about now. We cannot even say that we agree on principle because then it would open the door to further demands by other sections. But we are thinking about the entire wage structure. With all our effort not to create dislocation I am afraid any basic change will create dislocation. At that moment, all Honourable Members opposite will be here to exploit the situation which will arise because of that dislocation. And if there is someone who is not getting a raise or may be getting a

little less than others, then their unions—they are not our unions—will be incited to go on strike. So, this is the situation. This is what I mean when I say that the Opposition creates trouble. I do not mean that they are creating the shortages or they are responsible for all developments.

Many Honourable Members themselves confessed that the main purport of the no-confidence motion was not no-confidence at all, and that the motion was brought merely because yesterday a debate was not allowed—actually, this had nothing to do with the Government, because we were not asked... (*Interruptions*) No, we did not interfere with the Speaker's ruling in this case. He looked up the rules and several Members, including those of the Opposition, aided him about what the rules said. So, I hope that all these considerations... (*Interruptions*) We are not at this moment discussing the ruling. All I am saying is that several Honourable Members from the Opposition began their speeches yesterday by saying that this no-confidence motion would not have come, had an adjournment motion or a debate been allowed the day before.....

AN HON. MEMBER: Yesterday.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Not yesterday but the day before, because it is already the 10 (*Interruptions*). Therefore, now that they have had their debate, and they have all had their say, I hope they will withdraw their no-confidence motion.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Sir, I have heard the Prime Minister with rapt attention and I must tell you that I have never been so disappointed as I am today. The speech of the Prime Minister was hollow and empty and full of self admiration and it was nothing but a tailored speech. Today, of course, she spoke *ex-tempore* and therefore we could see what is really inside the mind of the lady here.