

Now, again the national programme has been advanced to 8.30 P.M. Naturally Tamil programmes cannot be telecast till 9.30 P.M. I would like to know whether any of the Central Ministers see this national programme on T.V. Before I conclude, I demand that the earlier timing must be revived, so that Tamil programmes can be telecast upto 9.30 P.M. With these words, I conclude my speech extending my support to the Bill of Shri Satya Gopal Mishra.

(English)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This discussion on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill moved by Shri Satyagopal Mishra can be continued next time. Let us go to the next item.

RESIGNATION OF MEMBER

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have to inform the House that the Speaker has received a letter from Shri Nar Bahadur Bhandari, an elected Member from Sikkim constituency of Sikkim resigning his seat in Lok Sabha. He has accepted his resignation with effect from today, i.e. the 15th March, 1985.

STATEMENT RE SITUATION IN SHRI LANKA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : Sir, Many Members have expressed serious concern over the situation in Sri Lanka, and its repercussions on us. From time to time, Government have shared with the House its views on this extremely important and sensitive subject.

2. The situation in Sri Lanka continues to be tense, and its fall out on us has been severe. A very large number of refugees has left Sri Lanka over the last month; more than 15,000 have arrived in India over and above the 50,000 who have been here since July, 1983. This is a matter of deep concern to us, and places a severe strain on the State Government of Tamil Nadu as well as on us. While we are providing temporary shelter and food to the

refugees, we have conveyed to the Sri Lanka Government that there should be no army excesses, that Sri Lanka should ensure that no more refugees come to India, and that conditions are created so that refugees can return to their country in honour and safety, capable of pursuing their peaceful avocations.

3. In the past few month, there have been incidents in the Palk Straits where our fishermen have been killed, injured or arrested. We have expressed our concern to the Sri Lanka Government in the strongest possible terms, and sought compensation for the loss of lives and property. Full protection is being provided to our fishermen inside our own maritime zone and Coast Guard and Naval Patrolling has been intensified. Since last month, additional air surveillance has been introduced. I assure the House that Government will ensure the safety and security of our citizens.

4. While the situation in Sri Lanka continues to be unstable, it would be unwise to enter into an exchange of recriminations. All parties need to consider the problem in a constructive and sympathetic spirit. We continue to believe that only a political solution within the framework of Sri Lanka's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity, acceptable to all concerned can resolve the ethnic problem. Violence, from whatever source, is not the answer.

5. I should like to inform the House that Government is in touch with the Sri Lankan Government to explore all possibilities that would defuse the situation and facilitate an enduring settlement. The House will recall that with a view to having a personal exchange of views which might facilitate the resumption of the political dialogue in Sri Lanka, at the Prime Minister's suggestion, the Sri Lanka President sent his National Security Minister, Mr. Athulathmudali as his emissary to Delhi early last month. They had useful talks. The Prime Minister had emphasised to him that the Sri Lankan Government

would have to find a political solution to the problem. We conveyed to the Sri Lankan Government that we would be willing to help in any appropriate way if they so desire.

6. A number of suggestions have been made. All these have to be viewed in the totality of the situation prevailing in Sri Lanka and its fall out on us. As the nature of our ongoing discussions is confidential, I cannot divulge any details at this moment. However, at the appropriate time, we will take the House into confidence.

DR. A. KALANIDHI (Madras Central) : They have committed enocide...

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam) : Sir, this is very vague...
(Interruptions)

MR. DEUPTY-SPEAKER : Please. This is a statement made by the Minister. You cannot make a speech now. (Interruption)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. No. This is a statement made by the Minister. Therefore, we cannot discuss at this moment.
(Interruption)

DR. A. KALANIDHI : As a protest, we are walking out.

(At this stage, Dr. A. Kalanidhi and some other hon. Members left the House.)

STATEMENT re : CONSTITUTION OF THIRD WAGE BOARD FOR SUGAR INDUSTRY

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : The First Wage Board

*Not recorded.

for Sugar Industry was constituted by the Government of India in 1957 and it submitted its report in 1960. The Second Wage Board for the Sugar Industry was constituted in 1965 and its recommendations were received in 1970. These recommendations were accepted by Government. The Third Wage Board could not be constituted for a variety of reasons particularly as the major sugar producing States notified the revised rates of wages for sugar workers in their respective States on the basis of decisions reached at the Tripartite at State level.

After the change of Government in 1980 representations were received that the Third Wage Board for Sugar Industry should be set up. Having carefully examined the matter in consultation with the major sugar producing States, I am happy to inform the House that the present Government has now decided to constitute the Third wage Board for Sugar Industry in the interests of workers, the industry and the economy as a whole. With this decision a long pending demand of the workers in the sugar industry will have been met.

Steps are being taken to compose the new Wage Board and the Board will be requested to complete its work within one year after its constitution.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to re assemble tomorrow at 5 p.m.

18.07 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Seventeen of the Clock on Saturday March 16, 1985/Phalgun 25, 1906 (Saka)