

11.48 1/2 hrs.

New Delhi, for the year 1986-87.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

*[English]***Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Programme Implementation for 1989-90**

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAV SINH SOLANKI): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Planning for 1989-90. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—7744/89]
- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Programme Implementation for 1989-90. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—7745/89]

Annual Report etc. of and Review on Central Council of Indian Medicine, New Delhi, for 1986-87 and Annual Report etc. of Dr Barooah Cancer Institute, Guwahati for 1987-88 and statements re delay in laying these papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council of Indian Medicine, New Delhi, for the year 1986-87 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Central Council of Indian Medicine,

(2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7746/89]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute, Guwahati, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute, Guwahati, for the year 1987-88.

(4) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 7747/89]

11.49 1/2 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Hundred and forty ninth and Hundred and fifty first Report*[English]*

SHRI R. S. SPARROW (Jullundur): Sir, I beg to present the Hundred and forty ninth and Hundred and fifty first Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee.

11.50 hrs.

Statement Re Strike by Port and Dock Workers in Major Ports*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in

[Sh. Rajesh Pilot]

view of the prevailing condition in the ports and the strike, the Government thought that it should keep the House informed of the upto-date situation.

The last wage settlement for port and dock workers in the 10 major Port Trusts and 7 Dock Labour Boards was effective till 31.12.1987. To evolve a new Statement to be effective from 1.1.1988, a Bipartite Committee comprising representatives of Major Port Trusts, Dock Labour Boards, Indian Ports Association, Federation of Associations of Stevedores, Ministry of Surface Transport, All India Port and Dock Workers' Federation (HMS), Indian National Port and Dock Workers' Federation (IN-TUC), Port, Dock and Waterfront Workers' Federation of India (AITUC) and Water Transport Workers Federation of India (CITU) was set up in January, 1988. The Federations presented a charter of demands in November, 1987 which involved 66% increase in the wage Bill.

The Bipartite Committee held 9 sittings from January, 1988 to February, 1989 to discuss the various issues including the suggestions of the Port Management for the elimination of practices which impede efficient operations and accelerated growth in productivity. The last bipartite meeting was held on 22.2.1989 with the above federations. In the meantime, the All India Port and Dock Workers' Federation (Workers) who had been agitating for long to be associated in the negotiations, was held to be eligible for such bipartite negotiations by order of Court on 15.3.1989. The next bipartite meeting was due to be held on 17.3.1989, on which date the four federations decided to serve strike notice on all the major Port Trusts for organising a strike from 17.4.1989. Accordingly, the unions affiliated to the federations served notices of strike on the individual ports. The All India Port and Dock Workers' Federation (Workers) also served strike notice.

Chief Labour Commissioner (Central)

commenced conciliation proceedings on 7.4.1989 with the representatives of the above mentioned four federations as well as with All India Port and Dock Workers' Federation (Workers). After initial procedural wrangling raised by the first four federations raising objection to Chief Labour Commissioner holding joint discussions with all the five federations including All India Port and Dock Workers' Federation (Workers), the Chief Labour Commissioner held negotiations with the first four federations and All India Port and Dock workers' Federation (Workers) separately. The offer made by the management during the conciliation proceedings was not acceptable to the labour. In keeping with Government's firm belief in negotiated settlement of workers' demands, the representatives of the Ministry of Surface Transport also held separate discussions with the representatives of the labour federations. In the meanwhile, some of the public sector units had arrived at long term wage settlements involving about 14 to 15% increase over pre-revised wage bills. Government had offered to arrive at a settlement on the above lines. However, the minimum demands put forward by the Federations at the conciliation talks would have required an increase of about 30% over the pre-revised wage Bill. Government continued the efforts to arrive at a negotiated Settlement and to avert the strike till the mid-night of 16th April, 1989, but despite these efforts, the strike commenced from the mid-night of 16/17th April, 1989.

The strike has commenced during the pendency of the conciliation proceedings and is therefore illegal, under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. Government views this development with great regret. This is a development not of our choosing and has been forced upon us. We hope that the labour federations participating in this illegal strike will desist from it at the earliest opportunity. But at the same time, Government have taken steps to minimise the difficulties that the strike will cause by making arrangements to continue the handling of essential commodities such as crude oil, petroleum products, edible oil, defence cargo, etc.

I would like to reiterate that Government firmly believes in settling industrial disputes through discussions. Government has considered with sympathy and understanding the genuine demands of the workers. The offer made by Government is a fair one and it is regretted that the Federations have led the workers into an illegal strike. I would also like to reiterate my hope that the workers who have gone on the strike would find their way to discontinue it. The doors of Government for discussions are always open.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We want a discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: We will see.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): You allow a discussion on this. We are also distressed by the fact that the negotiations broke down. But he is not telling the whole facts. It is not true that the question of a parity with the public sector is the main issue involved.

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU (Madras North): The Government should be a model employer.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Do you intend to hold any further talks?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT. I have said that the doors for discussions are always open.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Open means what?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Open means you can come at any time. Just for the facility of the union leaders, I had been working in my office for 24 hours. They can come at any time.

11.57 hrs.

STATEMENT RE LIBERALISATION OF ORDERS FOR IMPROVING REPRESENTATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES COMMUNITIES IN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT POSTS

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): From time to time, Government have taken a number of decisions to protect and promote the interests of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the matter of employment in Government. Government have, to a large extent, fulfilled the mandate of Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution.

Today, I have great pleasure in announcing two decisions which are intended to benefit those belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

- (i) There will be a ban on dereservation in all cases of direct recruitment in Groups A, B, C & D vacancies. This implies that if sufficient number of suitable Scheduled Castes and/or Scheduled Tribes candidates are not available against the share of vacancies reserved for them, the shortfall will not be filled up by general category candidates and such vacancies will be kept unfilled as backlog vacancies till suitable Scheduled Castes and/or Scheduled Tribes candidates become available. In future, dereservation may be permitted only in Group A vacancies, in rare and exceptional circumstances and only after obtaining the approval of the Ministry of Personnel.
- (2) The present restriction that reservation in promotion would be appli-